

# MSCA ITN 2020 Overview and Evaluation Process

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# IMSCO ITN 2020 Support

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- Handbook

Available @ [www.iua.ie/mariecurie](http://www.iua.ie/mariecurie) under “Resources, Events and Training”

- Webinars

Available @ [www.iua.ie/mariecurie](http://www.iua.ie/mariecurie) under “Resources, Events and Training”

- On-Site Clinics

- Proposal Reviews (Mid Nov-Dec 2019)



# Other resources

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- **MSCA Work Programme 2018-2020:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf)

- **FAQs:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faq.html>

<https://mariecurieactions.blogspot.com/search/label/H2020%20-%20ITN%20-%20Application>

- **Statistics and Success stories:**

<https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/>



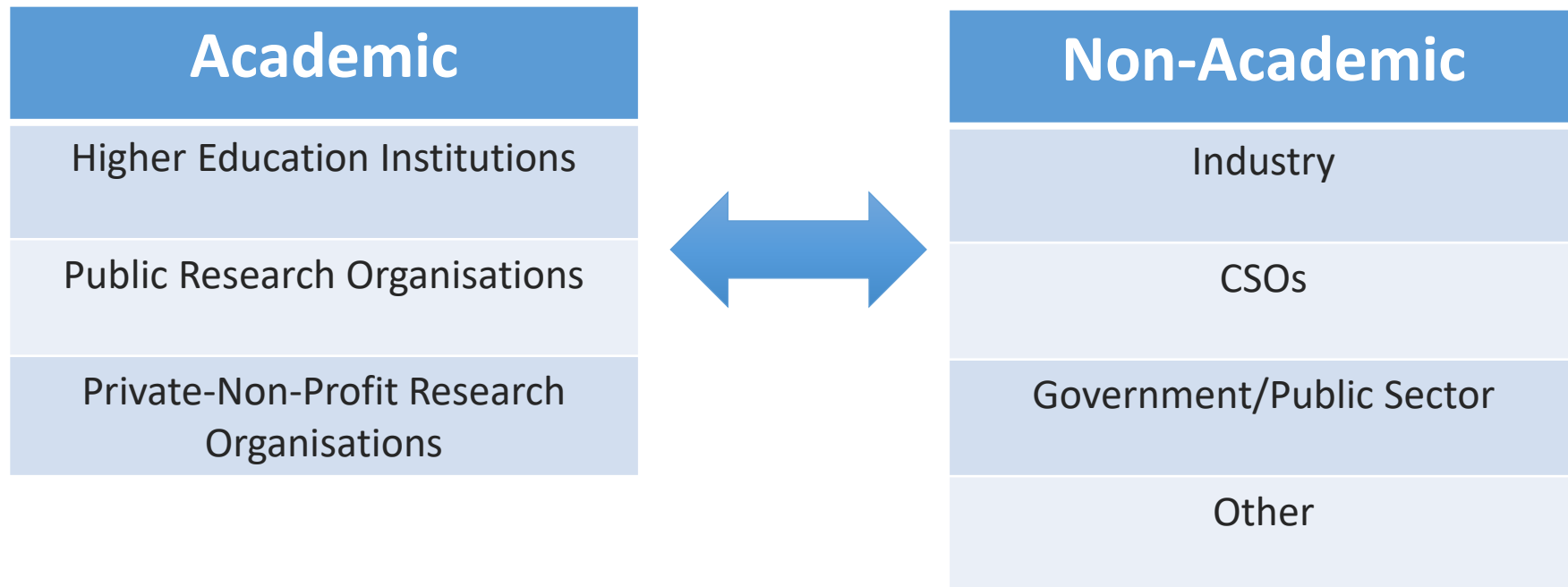


## Quality of Research Training

- Policy Objective: to train a new generation of **creative**, **entrepreneurial** and **innovative** researchers
- A Research Training Programme for Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)
  - Less than 4 years' research experience after undergrad
- Strong focus on intersectoral and international cooperation



# Two Sectors in MSCA



**Participation by the non-academic sector is necessary**



## Secondments (Structured and hands on training)

- Spending time in another organisation during the fellowship as part of research project (max 30% of recruitment period).
- If a beneficiary/primary supervisor is in the academic sector the ESR(s) can be seconded to the non-academic sector.
- If a beneficiary/primary supervisor is in the non-academic sector the ESR(s) can be seconded to the academic sector.

## Short visits (days)

- Trips outside the main supervisor's organisation e.g. data collection, shadowing, workshops in the other sector etc.

## Co-Supervision

- Additional supervisor to complement the main supervisor's expertise and sector.



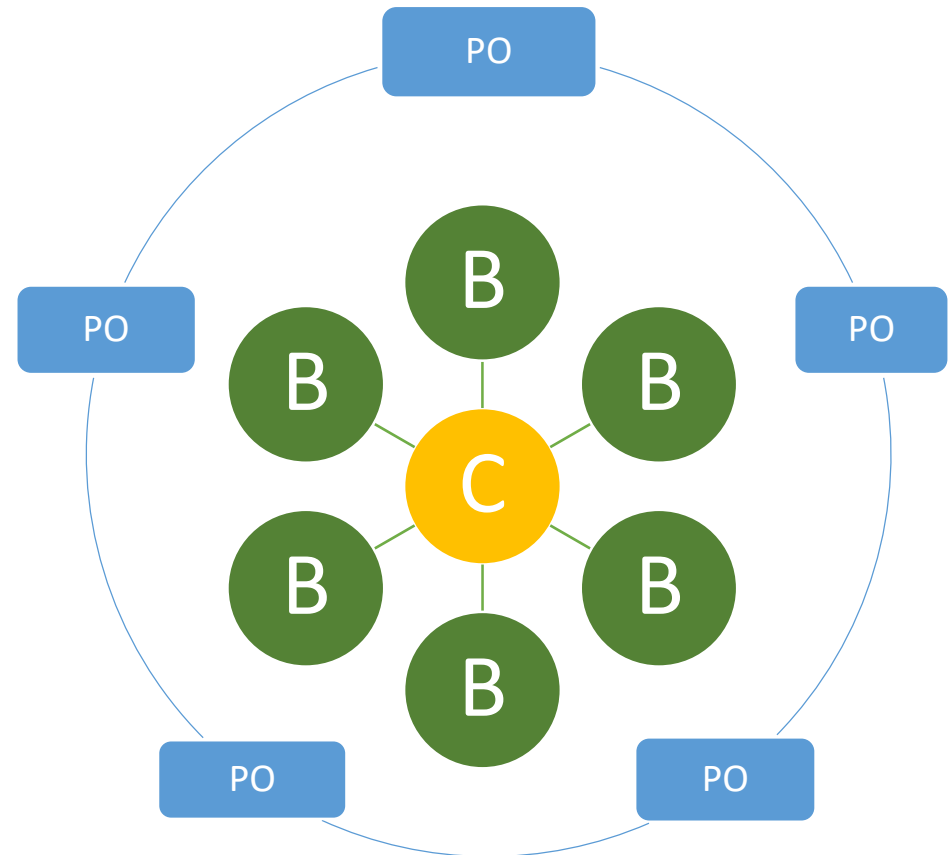
# A Typical ITN

- Consortium of organisations from different countries and sectors
- Propose a joint research training programme
- Recruit researchers across the consortium– each researcher has an Individual Research Project
  - Recruits must adhere to the MSCA [Mobility Rule](#) – have lived in the country of their host organisation for no more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to recruitment
- Advanced [research](#) skills and [transferable](#) skills training – local and network-wide
- Networking events
- Secondments for each researcher [to another sector](#) (academic to non-academic, or vice-versa)



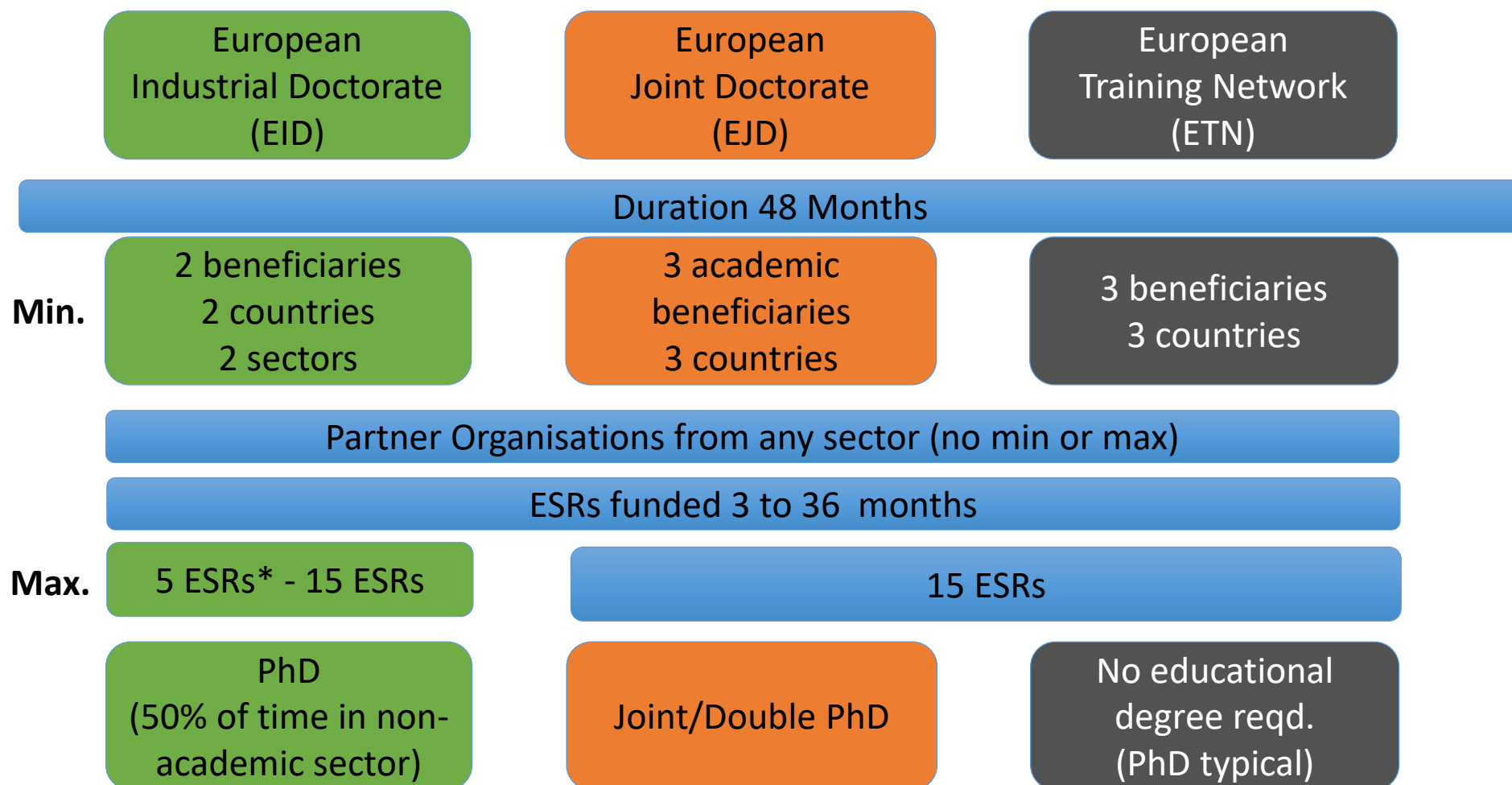
# Participants – Two Types

1. **Beneficiaries (B):**  
recruit and train  
researchers (include  
the Coordinator (C))
2. **Partner  
Organisations (PO):**  
host short  
secondments and/or  
contribute to  
training activities





# Three ITN Modes



\* For a two-beneficiary project



# Consortium - Which countries?

- MS and AC\* can participate as beneficiaries or partner organisations
- Can have >1 beneficiary from same country but:

**no more than 40% of the budget can go to one country**

(except in 2 beneficiary EID)

- OK to include non-European “third” countries\* as beneficiaries or partners– but “high income” countries (e.g. US, Australia, Japan) are better off applying as **Partner Organisations**.



\* [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm)



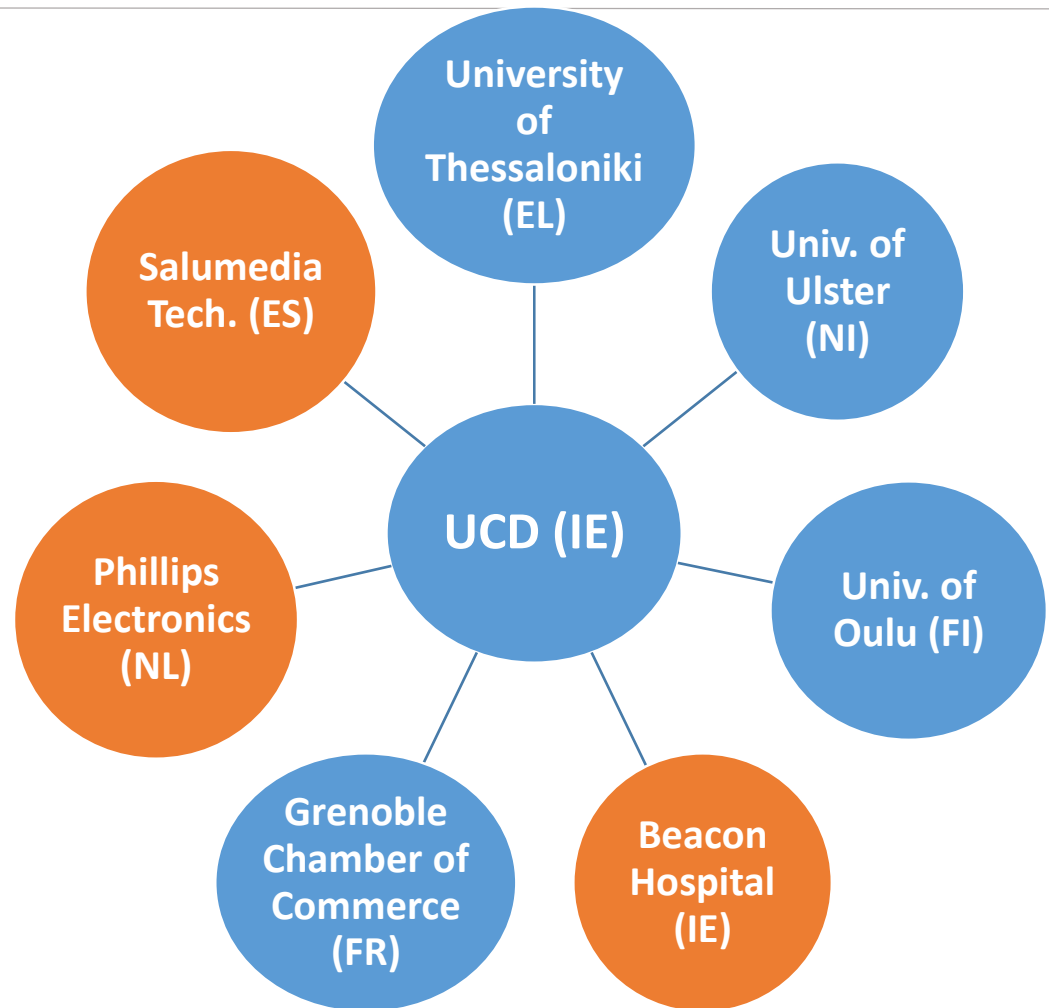
# European Training Network

CHES  
“Connected Health Early  
Stage Researcher Support  
System”

€3.95 million

8 Beneficiaries

10 Partner Organisations



# European Industrial Doctorate

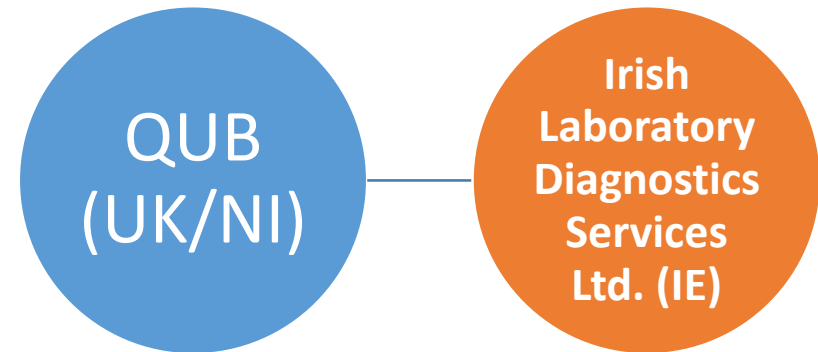
MET-A-FOR

“Metabolomic analysis for the forensic detection of drugs of abuse in performance and food producing animals ”

€820k

2 Beneficiaries

No Partner Organisations



# European Industrial Doctorate

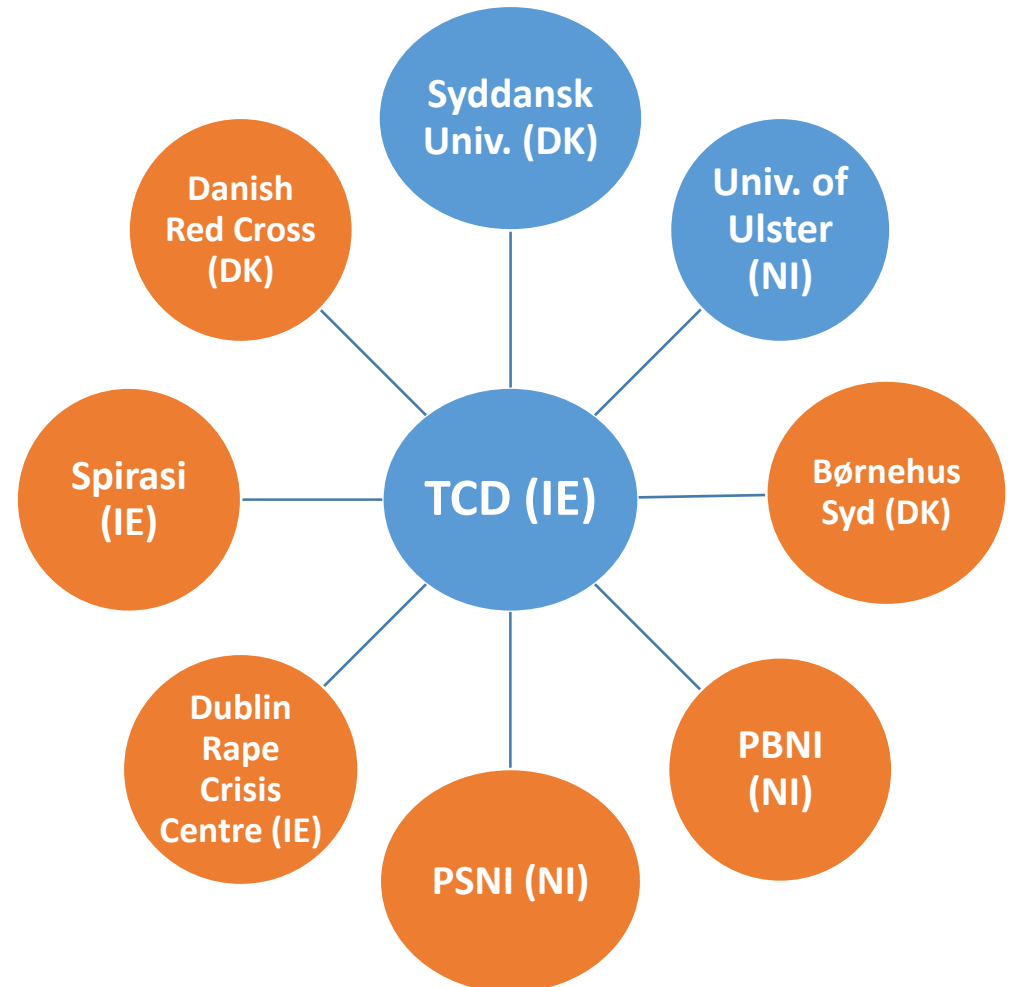
## CONTEXT

“Collaborative Network  
for Training and EXpertise  
in psychoTraumatology”

€3.95 million

8 Beneficiaries

No Partner Organisations



# European Joint Doctorate

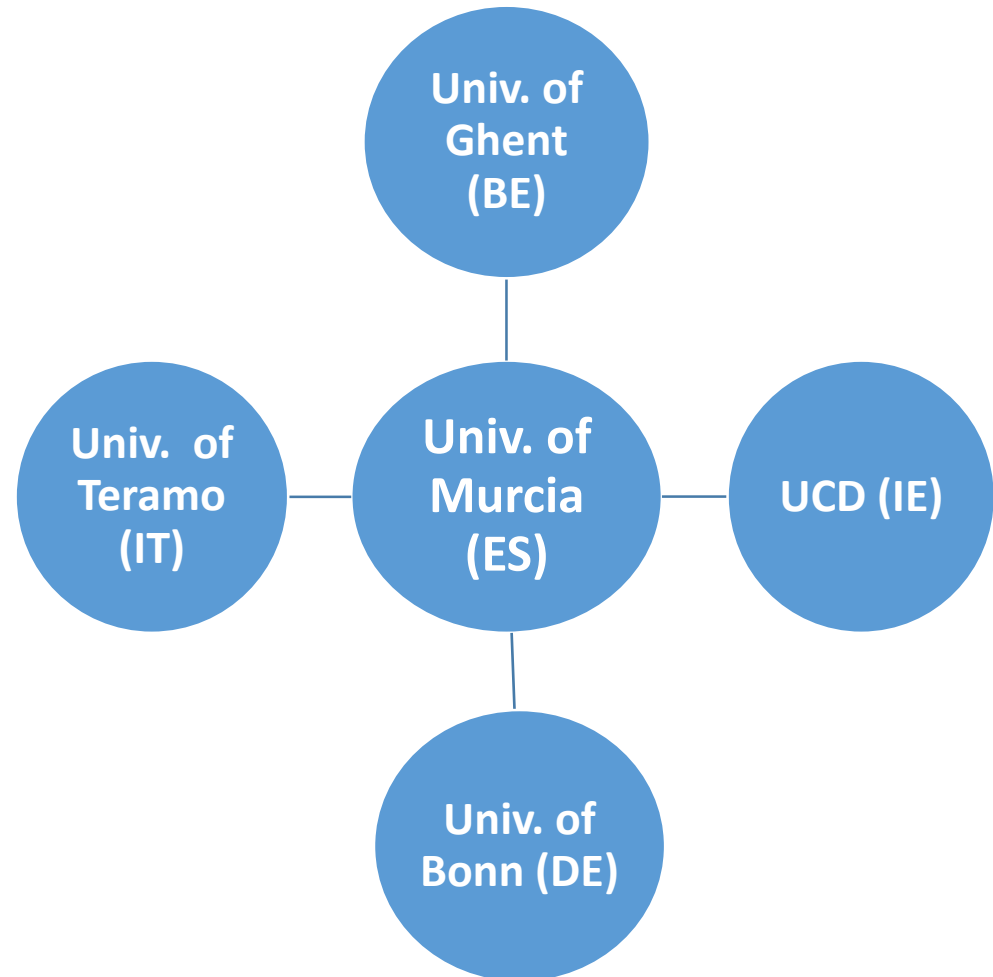
REP-BIOTECH

“European Joint Doctorate in  
Biology and Technology of  
Reproductive Health”

€3.8 million

5 Beneficiaries  
(All Academic)

9 Partner Organisations



# Funding Model 2018-2020

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researchers/seconded staff member PER MONTH				Institutional costs PER MONTH	
	Living allowance (LA)	Mobility allowance (MA)	Family allowance (FA)	Top-up allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action						
ITN (100%)	3 270	600	500	--	1 800	1 200
IF (100%)	4 880	600	500	--	800	650
RISE (100%)	--	--	--	2 100	1 800	700
COFUND (50%)	ESR: 1935* ER: 2740*	--	--	--	--	325*

- All researchers in ITN, IF & COFUND must be employed
- Salary = LA+MA(+FA) but the figures are inclusive of employer's pay costs
- A country coefficient applies to the LA
- \*Commission-funded costs



# ITN is a Research Training Programme

Neither aspect can be  
neglected for success!





# Proposal Template

## Part B1 - max. 30 pages

### Excellence (50%)

1.1

#### Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects)

- Introduction, objectives and overview of the research programme
- Research methodology and approach
- Originality and innovative aspects of the research programme

1.2

#### Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter-multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender aspects)

- Overview and content of the training (ETN) or doctoral programme (EID/EJD)
- Role of the non-academic sector in the training programme

1.3

#### Quality of the supervision

- Qualifications and supervision experience of the supervisors
- Quality of the joint supervision arrangements

1.4

#### Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations

- Contribution of all participating organisations to the research and training programme
- Synergies between participating organisations
- Exposure of recruited researchers to different (research) environments, and the complementarity thereof

### Impact (30%)

2.1

#### Enhancing the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development

2.2

#### Contribution to structuring doctoral/early-stage research training at the EU level and to strengthening EU innovation capacity, including the potential for:

- a) Meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training
- b) Developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (EJD)

2.3

#### Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the results

- Dissemination of research results
- Exploitation of results and IP

2.4

#### Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the activities to the target audiences

- Communication and public engagement strategy

### Implementation (20%)

3.1

#### Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

- WP description
- List of Major Deliverables
- List of major milestones
- Fellows' individual projects

3.2

#### Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including quality and risk management

- Network organisation and management structure
- Joint governing structure
- Joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures (EJD)
- Supervisory Board
- Recruitment Strategy
- Progress monitoring and evaluation of individual projects
- Risk management
- IPR
- Gender Aspects
- Data Management Plan

3.3

#### Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations

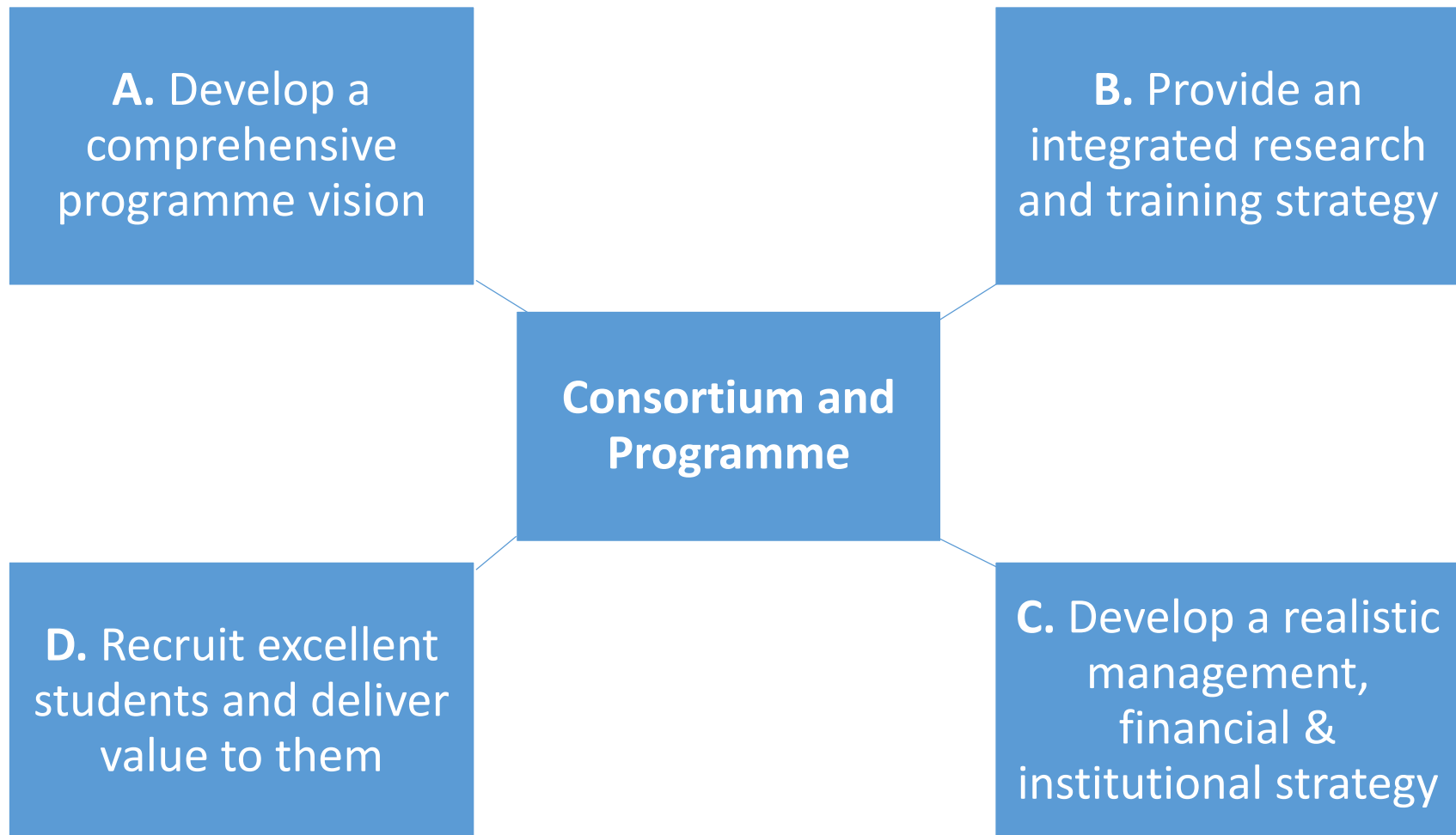
3.4

#### Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme

- Consortium composition and exploitation of participating organisations' complementarities
- Commitment of beneficiaries and partner organisations of the programme



# ITN Quality Components



# A. Programme Vision

Identify the “Unique Selling Proposition” of the programme

Identify the overall research goal and key research objectives and how the consortium will deliver it, including through secondments that are designed to maximise research excellence and intersectoral exposure

Identify why this consortium should deliver the programme. What is the European added value and how will it be joined up?

Consider how the consortium and programme can be sustainable after this ITN

Understand how the graduating ESRs will be employable, by whom and why

EJD: Research the doctoral examination processes in place across the consortium and clearly identify those that will be used for each ESR.

EJD: Can show how the graduating ESRs are provided with recognisable degrees and how these are “joined up” across the consortium.



# B. Integrated Strategy: Research, Training, Assessment, Supervision

Develop a cohesive, timely, credible, excellent research programme with balanced supervision processes and workloads across the consortium

Provide the ESRs with access to the best training, research tools and facilities. Excellent training will have a strong hands-on research component, and network-wide taught research and transferrable skills

Ensure the assessment mechanism for the ESRs are coherent/balanced across the consortium

Implement formal continuous progress monitoring

Provide a collaborative research/communication platform for all ESRs and staff

Ensure effective inter-cultural awareness across the consortium



# C. Integrated Strategy: Management, Financial, Institutional

Identify which administrative units are responsible for ESRs

Plan the finances and allow for risks and contingencies

Plan for a consortium agreement including IPR and research integrity issues

Ensure that the ESRs have employment contracts

Implement a programme-wide quality assurance process: internal feedback and quality review, and external quality assurance

Implement a dynamic marketing strategy, including attracting international ESRs



## D. Recruit Excellent ESRs

Recruit and select the “best equipped” ESRs

Ensure the ESRs are well supported logistically (visas, accommodation etc.)

Support the ESRs academically and culturally to integrate into their new environment, including into local doctoral schools

Join up resource availability across the consortium e.g. infrastructure, equipment, IT capabilities

Prepare the ESRs to maximise their career potential



# The Evaluation Process



# Evaluation Panels

## Choose from one of eight panels:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Physics (PHY)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- ICT and Engineering (ENG)
- Social Sciences & Humanities (SOC)
- Environment & Geosciences (ENV)





# Descriptors (Keywords)

Can add up to five (minimum three) descriptors **in order of importance**:

- The **1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup>** descriptors must be chosen from the list provided for the scientific panel you have chosen.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup>** (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) descriptor(s) can be chosen from any of the eight scientific panels.

**These descriptors will help with matching your proposal to evaluators with appropriate expertise**

**A list of Descriptors can be found at the back of the Guide for Applicants**



# Evaluation Process

- Each proposal is scored remotely by 3 different remote evaluators. Their review form has the same headings as the proposal template.
- Each evaluator gets approx. 8 proposals to assess in a short timeframe. Clarity and readability of the proposal, both from a content and a formatting point of view, is vital.
- Each remote evaluator scores the Excellence, Impact and Implementation criteria out of 5. A “Vice-Chair” acts as rapporteur, and puts together the comments of the remote evaluations, to deliver the draft Consensus/Evaluation Summary Report back to the remote evaluators for discussion.
- The strengths, weaknesses and scores in the draft Consensus Report are discussed and agreed by the 3 remote evaluators online, through a chat-like system called “SEP”. The starting score is often the average of the 4 scores for each criterion. The Vice –Chair makes sure the comments match the score, i.e. 3 is Good, 4 is Very Good, 5 is Excellent.
- Proposals scoring above 70% are discussed and ranked by a panel of Vice-Chairs in Brussels.
- ETN – proposals are ranked by disciplinary Panel, e.g. CHE, and the distribution of awards across Panels is proportional to # of proposals received
- EID and EJD – final ranking in separate EID and EJD panels



# Thank you!

Questions? Email [mariecurie@iua.ie](mailto:mariecurie@iua.ie)

[www.iua.ie/mariecurie](http://www.iua.ie/mariecurie)



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