

ITN

Innovative Training Networks Call 2014



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During webinar please
email queries to
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Presentation and Q&A
report will be available
online

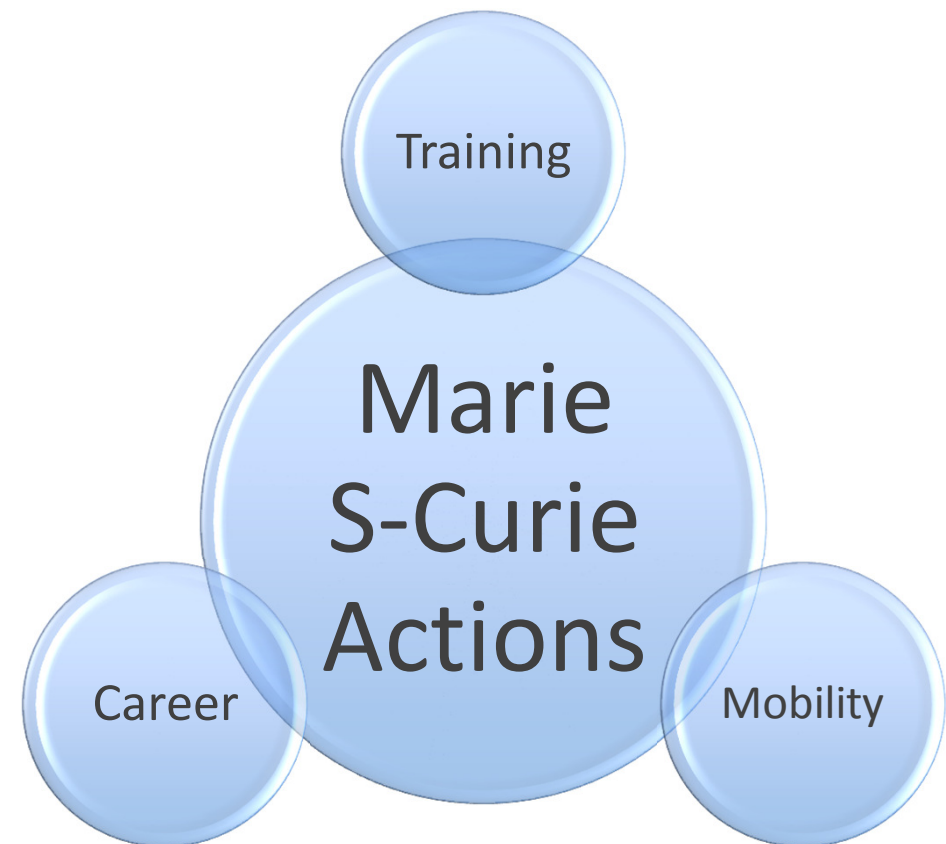


Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions in Horizon 2020:

€6.2 billion budget

Funds **ALL RESEARCH AREAS**
("Bottom up" with no thematic
calls or priorities)

Implemented via Five Annual
Calls for Proposals



Innovative Training Networks (ITN)



Quality of Research Training

- Objective: to train a new generation of **creative, entrepreneurial** and **innovative** researchers
- Key Policy Aspects
 - **Triple “i” dimension** – international, interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral
 - **Knowledge triangle** – research, education, innovation
 - **Employability** and **Entrepreneurship**
 - Exchange of **Best Practice** amongst participating organisations



ITN Calls 2014 and 2015

CALL	Opening Date	Closing Date	Budget
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014	11-Dec-2013	9-Apr-2014	M€405*
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015	2-Sep-2014	13-Jan-2015	M€370**

* M€30 for EJD, M€25.5 for EID

** Indicative, with M€28 for EJD, M€25 for EID

A Typical ITN

- Consortium of organisations from different **countries** and **sectors**
- Propose a joint research programme for Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)
 - Less than 4 years' research experience after undergrad
- Recruit researchers across the consortium – each researcher has an Individual Research Project
- Advanced research skills and complementary skills training
- Networking events
- Secondments for each researcher to another sector (academic to non-academic, or vice-versa)



Two types of Sector

Academic <-> Non-Academic

- **Academic:** consists of public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research, and international European interest organisations
- **Non-Academic:** includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.
e.g. Industry (incl. SMEs), charities, NGOs, government/public bodies, national archives, libraries.....

Two types of participant

1. **Beneficiary**: recruits researchers and receives a budget
2. **Partner**: does not recruit researchers, claims costs back from a Beneficiary

Network Status	Signs the Grant agreement	Recruitment of Researchers	Training and / or Hosting of Seconded Researchers	Participation in Supervisory Board	Directly Claims Costs
Beneficiary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Partner organisation	X	X	✓	✓	X

3 ITN Modes

European Training Networks (**ETN**)

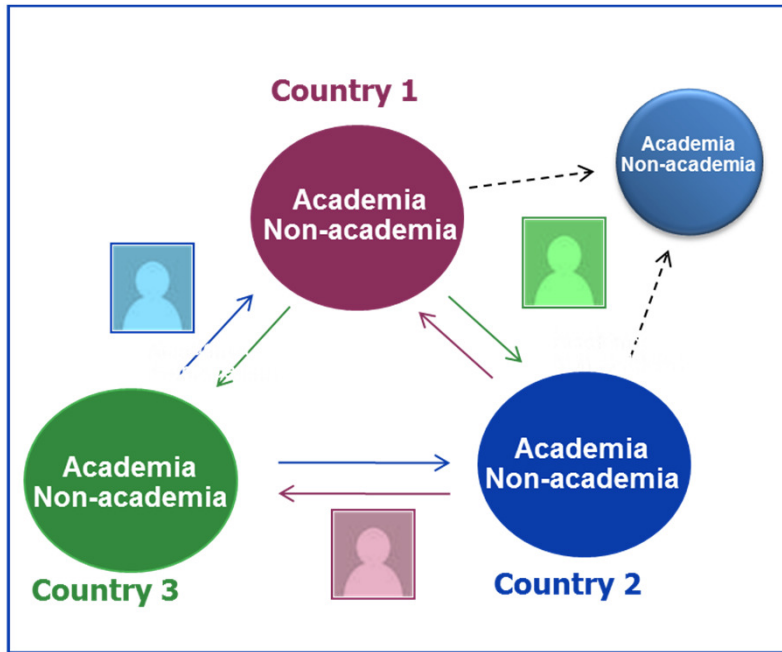
European Joint Doctorates (**EJD**)

Transferred in from Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates

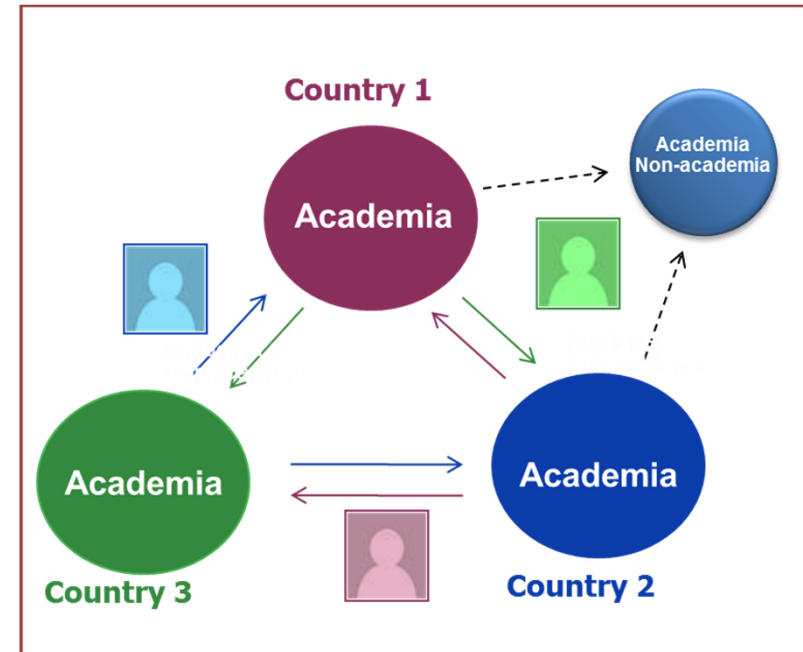
European Industrial Doctorates (**EID**)

Participation by the non-academic sector is a requirement for all 3 modes

ETN

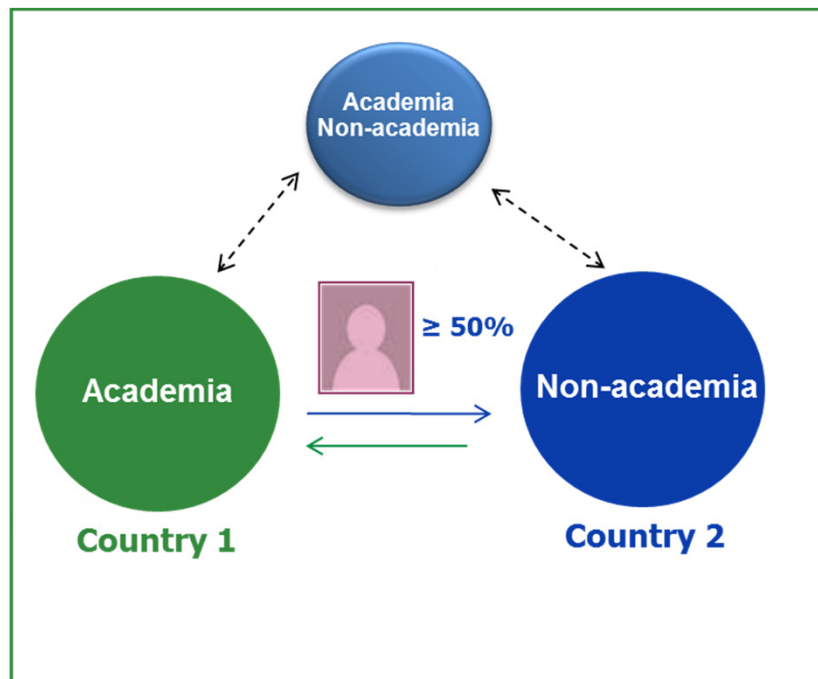


EJD



EID

**Researchers must spend
≥50% of time in the non-
academic sector**



Ellipse = Beneficiary

Circle = Partner
Organisation

Rules and Regulations 1

- Minimum consortium:
 - **ETN: 3** Beneficiaries (from any sector) in **3** countries (Member States/Associated Countries)
 - **EJD: 3 Academic** Beneficiaries in **3** countries (MS/AC)
 - **EID: 2** Beneficiaries in **2** countries (MS/AC). **One academic, one non-academic.**
- No maximum consortium size – typically **6 to 10** Beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries from **any sector** (after minimum)
- No min or max no. of Partner Organisations

Rules and Regulations 2

- ESRs funded 3 to 36 months
- Max 540 researcher-months (e.g. 15 PhDs)
- Usually leads to an academic degree award (e.g. MEng, PhD)
 - Not mandatory in ETN – e.g. 1-year contract in a non-academic partner
 - In EID, must lead to a doctoral degree
 - In EJD, must lead to a **joint** or **multiple** doctoral degree

Can non-European countries participate?

“Other Third Countries” – two types

1. Countries listed in Annex A to the Work Programme (e.g. Egypt, Uruguay) can participate with no restrictions:
 - Can be **Beneficiaries** or **Partner Organisations**
2. Countries **not** listed in Annex A to the Work Programme (e.g. USA, Brazil):
 - Can be a **Partner Organisation**
 - Can be a **Beneficiary** only if:
 - They have an S&T Agreement with the EU
 - Their participation is deemed essential by the evaluators (have expertise not available in Europe). *Anecdotally, evaluators in FP7 have very rarely deemed such participation “essential”.*



Writing an Application: The Basics

Getting Started

Preparing to Write

- Download the call documents from the Participant Portal*
 - 2014/2015 MSCA Work Programme
 - Guide for Applicants
- Read them from cover to cover!
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Overall objective of the Action (Opening pages of GfA and Work Programme)

Preparing to Submit

- All-electronic submission using Submission & Evaluation of Proposals Service (SEP)
- Register with SEP for the correct ITN Mode (ETN/EJD/EID)*
 - Download Proposal Template
- **Must** have the Participant Identification Code (PIC) for your organisation
 - Use [Search Facility](#) or ask your research office
 - Organisation can apply for PIC (temporary one issued to allow submission)
- The deadline is 17:00 **Brussels time!**

* <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>



Proposal Content

Administrative
Forms

Part B
(Proposal)

Administrative Forms

- Prepared electronically within SEP system

Form	Title	Content
Section 1	General Information about the Proposal	e.g. Acronym, Title, Selection of Evaluation Panel, Project Duration.....
Section 2	Data on Participating Organisations	e.g. PIC, legal name, contact details, name of <i>person-in-charge at the host organisation</i>
Section 3	Budget	Request for funding in terms of researcher months
Section 4	Ethics Table	Yes/No answers to series of questions re. ethical issues
Section 5	Information on Partner Organisations	Name, PIC, Country, Academic/Non-Academic, Role: Training and/or secondments



Part B - Proposal Content

1. Summary

2. Excellence

3. Impact

4. Implementation

Overall page limit of 30 pages

No section page limits

Gantt Chart

5. Capacities of the Participating Organisations (tables)

6. Ethical Aspects

7. Letters of Commitment



Evaluation of your Application

Evaluation Panels

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

Proposals are read by at least 3 disciplinary experts

ETN – proposals are ranked by 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



Indicative Call Timetable

Activity	Date
Publication of Call	11-Dec-2013
Deadline	9-Apr-2014
Evaluation of Proposals	June 2014
Evaluation Outcome	September 2014
Signing of Grant Agreements	December 2014



Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weighting	Priority (ex-aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Overall threshold of 70%
No individual thresholds

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
<p>Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)</p>	<p>Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives</p>	<p>Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for EID and EJD projects)</p>
<p>Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)</p>	<p>Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for:</p> <p>a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field</p> <p>b) developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for EJD projects only)</p>	<p>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for EID and EJD projects)</p>
<p>Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for EID and EJD projects)</p>	<p>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and dissemination of results</p>	<p>Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations</p>
<p>Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations</p>		<p>Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme</p>



The “Charter and Code” and Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R)

Embedded in Evaluation Criteria for all MSCA

- **Charter**: researchers’ career management
- **Code**: open and transparent recruitment and appraisal

HRS4R: mainstreaming **C&C** in institutions

- Awarded the right to use “HRLogo”
- In ROI, UCD, UL, NUIG and UCC are awardees (to-date).
- If applicable, should be included in proposal



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Success Rates

- New Programmes, but based on FP7 ITN
- 2013 ITN Success Rates
 - 13% for ITN (precursor to ETN)
 - 20% for EID
 - EJD was not in FP7

Writing an Application: Getting the Impact Right

Expected impact of ITN 2014-2015

- Creating and contributing to high-quality **innovative research and doctoral training**, building capacity, having a **structuring effect** throughout Europe and beyond.
- Triggering **cooperation** between organisations from the **academic** and **non-academic** sectors via research training provided by institutions from different **countries, sectors** and **disciplines**.
- Enhancing **skills development** and knowledge-sharing, researchers' **employability** and providing them with **new career perspectives**.
- Shaping future generations of **entrepreneurial researchers** capable of contributing effectively to the knowledge-based **economy** and **society**.
- In the long term, raising the attractiveness of **research careers** and encouraging young people to embark on this career path.

What's the Impact of your ITN?

Example: *“Delivering a research training programme to train a new generation of researchers in the fields of X and Y, which are important to European economy and society. Researchers will be equipped with key research and complementary skills, and will have the opportunity to work across disciplines, countries and sectors, broadening their career perspectives.”*

How to achieve this impact?

Consortium and Complementarity

Which participants (Beneficiaries and Partner Organisations) do you need to achieve this impact? How will you harness the competencies and complementarities of these partners in order to achieve this impact?

Research Programme

How do you shape the research programme in order to achieve this impact?

Training Programme

How do you shape your training programme to achieve this impact?

Supervision

How will ensure the researchers are properly supported in order to achieve this impact?

Implementation

How will you manage the programme to ensure that the impact is achieved?



Tips and Tricks!

General Comments

- Use a self-explanatory title and a memorable acronym
- Use the proposal template:
 - It matches the evaluation criteria and helps you to put the right information in the right place for the evaluators to find it.
 - Some evaluators use a “checklist” approach to marking – if the information is not in the correct section, they will give you “zero” for that sub-criterion.
- “A picture is worth a thousand words”
 - Use Diagrams, Charts, Tables or Figures where possible - easy to evaluate
- Be aware of the overall weighting of each criterion
 - You need to score well in all sections in order to be funded – don’t spend all your time writing the Excellence section!



Abstract (Admin forms) & Summary (Part B)

Provided to evaluators to help them choose the proposals they will evaluate

- Be concise
- Reflect the whole proposal including proposed impact
- Identify precise & concrete objectives for the whole proposal, not just the research
- But....provide enough technical/research information to help an evaluator with knowledge of the field to select it



Layout of Proposal

Not evaluated but it makes life easier for the evaluators

Template

- Use the Correct Template
- Use the Template sub-headings (provides good structure)
- Provide a Table of Contents with page numbers
- Use the Full Page Limit
- Put the proposal acronym in the Header
- Put Page Numbers (format Page X of Y) in the Footer

Format

- Use charts, diagrams, tables, text boxes, figures.
- Use appropriate font size, line spacing, page margins
- Ensure any colour diagrams etc. are understandable when printed in black and white
- Use highlighting where appropriate (bold, underline, italics) but don't overdo it!

Language

- Avoid jargon
- Explain any abbreviations
- Simple clear text
- Avoid long sentences
- Get rid of repetitions (refer to other parts of proposal if necessary)
- Don't copy text from other documents or websites
- Be consistent with language (UK/US English)



2.1 Quality of research programme

- Educate the Evaluator
 - The majority of evaluators will not be expert in the specific subject area of the proposal so....
 - Write in a style that is **accessible to the non-expert** using figures/tables/charts/diagrams to illustrate where appropriate
- Research objectives
 - Make them clear, focused and up front
 - Relate them to the state-of-the-art and make sure the 'state of the art' is up to date
 - Include a list of bibliographic references (**in footnotes**)



2.1 Quality of research programme

- Provide a clear, focused description of the research methodology (use diagrams to explain/illustrate your point)
 - Include a description of any risks associated with the research and contingency plans in case any of those risks occur
- Highlight originality and innovative aspects of the proposal
 - In terms of the research, but also in terms of existing research/doctoral training programmes – **why does Europe need an ITN in this research area?**
 - Use a list, table, text box etc. to make them stand out



2.2 Quality of the Training Programme

- Spell out the training objectives – remember to explain why this programme is innovative
- Need a good balance of individual training and network-wide training events:
 - Acquisition of advanced research skills, and transferable/complimentary skills must be demonstrated
 - Use of Personal Career Development Plan is required
 - Open up some network events to attendees from outside the Network
 - Explain how any graduate studies programme in the hosts will be incorporated into the training
- Secondments: every researcher must get at least one secondment of reasonable duration (a week or two is not enough) in another sector (academic to non-academic, or vice-versa)
- Clearly articulate the role of the non-academic sector in the training (both Beneficiaries and Partner Organisations)



2.3 Quality of the supervision

- Clearly demonstrate, with hard evidence, the quality of the research supervisor(s)/institution(s) with regard to the training of researchers
 - Can be useful to include number of PhDs graduated, numbers of postdocs mentored, number of Marie Curie Actions they participated in
- Spell-out the joint supervision arrangements, particularly for EJD and EID
- Each researcher should have a non-academic co-supervisor



3.1: Research HR and new career perspectives

In all sections, be specific: provide details of how the impact will be achieved.

- Explain the impact of the research and training on the fellow's careers, e.g.
 - Research skills, transferable skills gained
 - Exposure to non-academic sector
- Look to EU policies on research which refer to training/careers for researchers
 - Europe 2020: Innovation Union; Agenda for New Skills and Jobs; Youth on the Move
 - Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training, and its Implementation Report
 - Final Report of the Expert Group on the Research Profession
 - Most docs are available on the EURAXESS Policy Library
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/services/researchPolicies>
- Don't simply cut and paste from EU docs or "pay lip service" by naming them in the document – present an analysis of how the ITN fits in with their objectives



3.2: Structuring research training and EU Innovation Capacity

- Spell-out the contribution of the non-academic sector to the research training and the impact it will have
 - Refer to EU policies again
- For EJD – you need to articulate how the programme will contribute to developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures
 - E.g. Salzburg II principles - EUA Council for Doctoral Education
<http://www.eua.be/cde/Home.aspx>
- Innovation capacity – refer to the impact of the research – link to Innovation Union objectives, research roadmaps, European Standardisation,.....



3.3: Communication and Dissemination

- Dissemination & Exploitation
 - Ensure you target multiple audiences, e.g. other researchers, policy makers (can link to European excellence), industry, government science advisors, “think tanks”, legislative bodies.....
 - Outline plans to exploit any IP arising from the programme
- Public Engagement
 - Do not underestimate its importance – see Guidelines doc at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/documents/documentation/publications/guidelines_en.pdf for details.
 - Include specifics (**what – who – when**) in a readable format (e.g. table)
 - Target different groups (students at all education levels and the general public) – participation in a **European Researchers’ Night**

Remember to explain the Impact of these activities



4.1: Workplan

- Must have a clear work plan
- Use the standard tables provided, which use the standard EU format of Work Packages, deliverables and milestones – be clear and concise
- Must complete the required Gantt Chart to illustrate timelines
- Don't just have research Work Packages, include, e.g.:
 - Management
 - Dissemination, Exploitation and Public Engagement
 - For EJD and EID, **must include** plans for awarding the PhDs



4.2: Management Structure & Procedures

- Must have a clear management plan, to explain who will do what and when. Tasks include:
 - Recruitment (must be open and transparent)
 - Supervisory board – all Beneficiaries must be represented. Good to have external members
 - Management of risk in the consortium
 - Gender aspects – decision making, and recruitment
 - IPR
 -
- Describe which institutional departments will help with managing the programme (Finance, HR etc.) and what their experience is
- You can use a **PERT chart** to illustrate who will be responsible for what - templates available at <http://www.hyperion.ie/templates.htm>



4.3: Infrastructure, Competences and Complementarity

- Who is doing what, and do they have the necessary infrastructure to do it?
- Infrastructures: technical and other such as office space, access to library and IT facilities etc.
- Clearly explain the complementarities between the partners and how these will be exploited (use a diagram or table)
- Particularly important to show the commitment of the non-academic sector to the programme
- Mutual recognition: how will research carried out at one organisation be recognised by another for PhD award (NB for EID and EJD)



4.3: Infrastructure, Competences and Complementarity - 2

- If you have a Beneficiary from a country who cannot automatically get funding from Horizon 2020, need to explain why they are necessary
- Clearly explain role of Partner Organisations (use a figure or table)
- Have the organisations endorsed the **Charter & Code** – if yes, say so!
 - List at <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/charterAndCode>
- Have the organisations earned the “**HR Excellence in Research**” logo? If yes, say so! List at <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/strategy4ResearcherOrgs>
But....don't assume that evaluator knows what this means. Explain it to them.

EURAXESS



- ‘One-stop-shop’ centralised support on issues related to mobility, incl. immigration
- Linked to central EU EURAXESS Site
- Website in each European Country (and beyond)
- Jobs Portal
- CV Database
- Most Irish HEIs are **EURAXESS Local Contact Points** (list on website) – mention this in the proposal



6: Ethics Issues

- All proposals will be checked for ethics issues
- A separate Ethics Review will be performed if necessary
- Ethics Table is in the Administrative Forms
- If you indicate Ethics Issues in the Table:
 - Clearly describe how Ethical Issues will be managed
 - How does the proposal meet national legal and ethical requirements of the host country?
 - Who will oversee the project's ethical aspects? E.g. institutional ethics committee, Data Protection Officer
 - Provide sample consent forms etc.
 - There is no page limit, so provide as much relevant information as possible



7. Letters of Commitment

For Partner Organisations

- Content is important
- Generic letters are not useful
- Must contain specifics about role and participation of Partner Organisations and their commitment to do so

In EJD, must include Letters from the academic beneficiaries that will award the doctoral degrees (signed by a high-level person)



Gender

- Gender Equality and Gendered Innovations are mainstreamed throughout Horizon 2020
- Gender experts on every Evaluation Panel
- In your proposal, describe
 - Gender equality in decision making, recruitment, supervisory arrangements
 - Any gender aspects in relation to the research e.g. cardiovascular research, crash-test dummies



Want details of the other MSCA?

Watch the MSCA webinar at <http://www.iua.ie/webinar-on-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/>.

Download the Work Programme (2014 and 2015) and Call Documentation at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

Visit www.iua.ie/mariecurie

Questions?

Please email your queries
to

mariecurie@iua.ie

All material will be made
available for download
afterwards

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Deadlines 2014

CALL	Opening Date	Closing Date
H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2014	11-Dec-2013	4-Mar-2014
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014	11-Dec-2013	9-Apr-2014
H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014	11-Dec-2013	24-Apr-2014
H2020-MSCA-IF-2014	12-Mar-2014	11-Sep-2014
H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2014	10-Apr-2014	2-Oct-2014

Download the Work Programme and Call Documentation at
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

Work Programme covers Calls in 2014 and 2015

Funding Model

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researchers (1)			Institutional costs (2)	
	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action					
ITN (100%)	3 110	600	500	1 800	1 200

All values are PER MONTH