



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Networks (ITN)**

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All questions and answers are also published on:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faq.html>



## CONSORTIUM SET-UP

### **Q1: Can organisations from Third Countries and International Organisations participate in the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call?**

**A:** Participation of Third Countries and International Organisations in the Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call is possible.

To be considered as a beneficiary, Third Countries (TC) are divided into two groups:

1) Those countries listed in the General Annex A of the Work Programme are eligible to receive funding provided that the minimum eligibility requirements of the consortium have been met.

2) For those TCs *not* listed in the above mentioned Annex A of the Work Programme and for International Organisations (IO), the funding of these organisations can be permitted in exceptional cases, if endorsed by the expert evaluators and if one of the two following conditions is met:

- the participation is deemed essential for carrying out the action;
- such funding is provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement between the European Union and the country in which the legal entity is established.

Applicants wishing to include organisations from TC not listed in Annex A of the Work Programme or IO in their consortium should focus on demonstrating that their participation is essential for carrying out the proposed project. This will be assessed by the experts during the evaluation.

In this case the participation of TC and IO will be based on the judgment that the participation of the entity in the project, offers unique benefits to the consortium. These benefits may include, for example, outstanding/unique competence and expertise, access to unique research infrastructures, access to geographical environments, etc.

### **Q2: Can partner organisations in the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call be from the same country as the Coordinator?**

**A:** Yes. partner organisations can be from any country, any discipline and any sector. Under EID (European Industrial Doctorates), please note that there is a rule that at least 50% time of the fellowship must be spent in a non-academic sector. This inter-sectoral mobility must be between beneficiaries and/or partner organisations located in different countries.

### **Q3: Is there a recommended number of partner organisations in the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call?**

**A:** No. There is not a recommended number of partner organisations in the Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call. The number of partners will depend on each individual research training programme and on each partner organisation's added value to the programme. Each partner organisation should demonstrate a real and active role in the project.



**Q4: Does the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call allow for mono-site consortia?**

**A:** No. Mono-site consortia are not allowed for the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call under the H2020 rules. However, mono-site doctoral programmes can now be co-funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND action. Please refer to the Work Programme: at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016\\_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca_en.pdf)

**Q5: What is meant by academic and non-academic sector in the context of the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call?**

**A:** The definition is specific to the MSCA Work Programme. Academic Sector means 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 as they are defined in Article 2 of the Horizon2020 Rules for Participation. Non-Academic Sector means socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon2020 Rules for Participation. The non-academic sector typically includes for example industry organisations and business, government, civil society organisations, such as non-profit or charitable organisations (NGOs, trusts, foundations, etc.), cultural institutions, museums, hospitals, international organisations (like UN or WHO), etc. However, the status of the entity is automatically determined by the information inserted in the beneficiary register by the participants and reflected in Part A of the proposal.

**Q6: Is non-academic sector participation essential in an MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposal?**

**A:** Yes. The participation of the non-academic sector is considered essential. As the Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call aims to improve the employability of researchers through exposure to organisations in both the academic and non-academic sectors, an essential part of any ITN is the involvement of organisations from different sectors. For European Industrial Doctorates (EID), note that the participation of the non-academic sector as a beneficiary is an eligibility criterion. The degree of involvement of organisations from the non-academic sector will be assessed by the expert evaluators according to the evaluation criteria.

**Q7: Can a network have as beneficiaries only research organisations and companies under the rules of the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call? How will the PhD degree be awarded?**

**A:** For European Training Networks (ETN) it is possible that group of beneficiaries are composed of only research organisations and companies. However, almost all Innovative Training Networks (ITN) have universities among the beneficiaries and/or partner organisations which make it possible to award PhD degrees through that institution.



For 2 beneficiaries European Industrial Doctorates (EID), it is possible to have as beneficiaries only research organisations and companies. However, a university entitled to award a doctoral degree must be associated to the project as a partner organisation.

For multi-site EIDs, it is possible. However, since EID is a doctoral programme, it is expected that universities also participate at beneficiary level in the project.

For European Joint Doctorates (EJD), the above-mentioned set-up is not allowed. The participation of 3 beneficiaries which are academic institutions entitled to award doctoral degrees and located in 3 different Member States or Associated Countries is an eligibility criterion for the type of action.

For more details please see the Work Programme and the Guide for Applicants: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016\\_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn_en.pdf)

**Q8: Can universities not offering doctoral degree programmes (e.g. universities of applied sciences) apply for the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call?**

**A:** For European Training Networks (ETN), such universities may participate as beneficiaries, as long as they recruit, host researchers at their premises, and provide research training. In such a case, the fellow may be enrolled in a PhD programme by another academic beneficiary or partner organisation entitled to award doctoral degrees.

For European Joint Doctorates (EJD) and European Industrial Doctorates (EID), such universities may also participate. However for EJD they do not count as one of the academic beneficiaries required for the minimum eligibility rules as they are not entitled to award doctoral degrees.

For EID should none of the academic beneficiaries be entitled to award a doctoral degree, a university entitled to award a doctoral degree must be at least associated to the project as a partner organisation.

## PROPOSAL – PART A

**Q9: What is the main difference between the MSCA European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID), and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) types of action?**

**A:** While European Training Networks (ETN) should be constructed as a joint research training programme where recruited fellows may be enrolled in various local doctoral programmes, European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) proposals should demonstrate a coherent doctoral programme in which all fellows participate. The doctoral programmes should contain all common features as well as mode-specific features as described in the Work Programme, including individualised research projects. The



evaluation criteria of EID, EJD and ETN will be applied according to the objectives of the type of action in question, which is described in the Work Programme.

**Q10: Can an organisation submit a proposal to each of the three MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) types of action?**

**A:** Yes. However, applicants must demonstrate that the scientific and training programme of each proposal must be unique and original to avoid a potential risk of double-funding. In addition, should they receive funding for more than one project, they should demonstrate that they have the capacity to participate in each project to the extent indicated in the proposal.

**Q11: Are re-submissions of previous MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposals allowed?**

**A:** Yes. Each proposal shall be evaluated against the 2016 Work Programme evaluation criteria. In the case of proposals that have been submitted in the past two years in response to a call for proposals in Horizon 2020, the previous Evaluation Summary Report will be disclosed at the consensus stage of the evaluation. If necessary, the evaluators will be required to provide a clear justification for their scores and comments should these differ markedly from those awarded to the earlier proposal.

**Q12: Why is it necessary to select descriptors in the proposal Part A during submission of the proposal for a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call?**

**A:** The descriptors will play a role in the identification of the most suited experts to evaluate the proposal. To help to select the most relevant descriptors, a document providing a breakdown of each research area into a number of descriptors can be found on the call page on the participant portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2056-msca-itn-2016.html>

**Q13: The project duration of a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project is usually 4 years. Are projects of a longer or shorter duration acceptable?**

**A:** Project duration is limited to a maximum of 4 years. This gives the consortium sufficient time to recruit the fellows and to appoint them for the maximum 36-months period. Shorter durations of the grant agreement are possible but not recommended.



## PROPOSAL – PART B

**Q14: In the project proposal under MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) calls what should be included in the table 1.1 "Work Package List"?**

**A:** In the project proposal table 1.1 must list all of the Work-Packages and the Work-Packages should cover all aspects of the project. Depending on the size of the network, the scientific content can be presented in more than one research Work-Package. Another Work-Package should be dedicated to training. It is good practice when drafting the proposal to add separate work packages on management, exploitation and dissemination of results, as well as communication activities targeted to different audiences.

**Q15: – In the project proposal under MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) should the proposal Section 1 (Excellence) include information about individual research projects or should those be indicated in Section 3?**

**A:** In section 1.1, in the table 'Work-Package list', you can indicate the Early Stage Researcher (ESR) involvement. Depending on your project set-up, you may describe the involvement of the researcher in a particular Work-Package. In section 3, table 3.1.d will provide a more detailed description of the individual research projects. Please ensure consistency between the two tables.

**Q16: How should individual Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) projects be structured and described?**

**A:** The individual projects should constitute a collaborative research programme with strong inter-sector and multi-disciplinary components.

**Q17: How should training programme be structured and described in a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project proposal?**

**A:** The proposal has to describe the training programme consisting of network-wide and local trainings. Network-wide training (research specific and complementary skills training) should be innovative in content and methods, and contain multi-disciplinary aspects. Applicants should ensure that the network-wide training is accepted at the local level with European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) recognition under the umbrella of accredited universities. In addition the fellows may use the beneficiary's local trainings since they are typically enrolled in the PhD programme/doctoral schools. Please follow the Part B proposal template for training and proposal structure.

**Q18: Should the list of deliverables distinguish between scientific and management deliverables in MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project proposals?**

**A:** Yes. Deliverables should be divided into scientific deliverables and management, training, recruitment and dissemination deliverables. They should follow the structure of Work-



Packages and the number of Work-Packages must be reasonable and commensurate with their content. They should be spread throughout the project lifetime to allow an adequate monitoring of the progress. Note that during implementation, the submission of these deliverables to the Research Executive Agency (REA) is a contractual obligation to allow monitoring of project progresses.

**Q19: Must all partner organisations be involved in the supervisory board of a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project?**

**A:** Yes. The supervisory board will be composed of representatives of all beneficiaries and partner organisations and may also include any other stakeholders of relevance to the training programme, including those from the non-academic sector.

The participation of external stakeholders (e.g. future employers) in the supervisory board is not compulsory. However, such an involvement of external stakeholders can be very beneficial as they can bring added value to the supervision of the training programme.

It is also considered best practice to include a representative from among the recruited Early Stage Researchers (ESR).

**Q20: What is meant by “Independent Research Premises” in the table under section 5 “Participating Organisations” of Part B of the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposal?**

**A:** The principle is that each beneficiary must have dedicated premises – owned or rented – to host the fellows, e.g. a newly established campus company/university spin-off that neither owns nor rents premises would not be considered to have independent research premises. Partner organisations hosting secondments should demonstrate that they have independent dedicated premises as described above.

**Q21: Is there a template for the letter of commitment for MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposals?**

**A:** All partner organisations must include a letter of commitment in the proposal to demonstrate their real and active participation in the proposed network. There is no template for the letters of commitment. The partner organisations should describe their commitment to the additional research and transferable skills training and/or secondment opportunities which they will provide as described in the proposal. In both cases, letters should be signed by the legal representative of the organisation.

For European Joint Doctorates (EJD) letters of commitment must also be included for each beneficiary that would award the doctoral degree. For more information please see annex 4 point 2 of the 'Guide for Applicants'

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn_en.pdf)



**Q22: How can the concept of 'Open Science' be addressed in a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposal / project?**

**A:** Open Science describes the on-going evolution in the modus operandi of doing research and organising science. These changes in the dynamics of science and research are enabled by digital technologies and driven by the globalisation of the scientific community. They have an impact on the way research is produced, accessed and utilised. Innovative Training Networks (ITN) projects could e.g. offer training on the use of Open Access, and seek to ensure that the results, data and publications produced by the project are available in Open Access repositories. ITN projects should also ensure that procedures are in place to promote and manage the issue of research integrity within the project consortium. Training on research integrity and ethics should also be provided.

**Q23: Where should we include a table of contents in Part B of the proposal?**

**A:** A table of contents is neither expected nor required. However, should the consortium wish to add one, then this would count towards the total 33 page limit applied to document 1 of the Part B, and specifically the two pages which must include the List of Participants and, if relevant, the Data for non-academic beneficiaries and the Declarations table. In any case, Section 1 of Part B must start on page 4. The expert evaluators will be strictly instructed to disregard any content above these pages limits.

## **PROPOSAL EVALUATION**

**Q24: Will the evaluation of the MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) differ from that for European Training Networks (ETN) types of action?**

**A:** All European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) proposals will be evaluated by experts in the scientific field(s) of the proposal like in European Training Networks (ETN). In all cases, the evaluation criteria will be used by the experts according to the implementation mode as indicated in the Work Programme. EID and EJD proposals will be ranked in two separate panels, as there is a specific budget allocation for these two implementation types of action in the Work Programme. Therefore, EID proposals will only compete against each other and not against ETN or EJD proposals. The same principle applies to EJD proposals. ETN proposals are ranked according to the scientific panel.

**Q25: What is meant by operational capacity assessment during the evaluation of MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposals?**

**A:** Operational capacity assessment is carried out during the evaluation. The experts will assess whether each participant has the operational capacity (such as number and qualifications of staff and the facilities and equipment available on-site) to carry out the tasks



allocated to them, based on what is presented in the proposal. Information contained in the table 'Data for non-academic beneficiaries' and section 5 in the proposal part B ('Participating Organisations') will be assessed in this context. The applicants are advised to fill in this data completely and accurately in order to ensure a proper assessment. If the experts determine that a particular entity does not have the operational capacity to implement their role in the project, the proposal will be evaluated excluding the participation of that entity.

## **BUDGET**

**Q26: Are applicants required to indicate the amount of the estimated EU contribution in the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposal?**

**A:** No. The EU contribution will be automatically calculated from the recruitment information provided in Part A of the proposal.

**Q27: What happens if more researcher-months are requested than the maximum indicated in the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) 'Guide for Applicants'?**

**A:** For MSCA funding, the 540 person months is the upper limit which may not be exceeded in European Training Networks (ETN), European Joint Doctorates (EJD) and European Industrial Doctorates (EID) projects with a minimum of three beneficiaries, while 180 person months is the upper limit for EID projects with two beneficiaries. If the proposal contains person months in excess of these limits, the applicants run the risk of negatively affecting the evaluation of their proposal. In these cases, the applicants will have to indicate clearly that own sources will be used to finance the excess person months.

**Q28: How is the 40% rule calculated in MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposals?**

**A:** All Innovative Training Networks (ITN) proposals (except for European Industrial Doctorates (EID) with only two beneficiaries) should take into account that no more than 40% of the total EU financial contribution may be allocated for the benefit of organisations within one single country.

**Q29: How will the MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call budget be distributed?**

**A:** The Innovative Training Networks (ITN) call budget distribution is indicated in the relevant Work Programme. European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) proposals will be ranked in two separate lists since there is a specific budget allocation indicated in the Work Programme. For European Training Networks (ETN), the proposals are ranked under eight major panels (areas of research). The budget for ETN is



allocated to each of these panels in proportion to the number of eligible proposals submitted to the panel.

**Q30: Is the EU contribution calculated the same way for MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) compared to European Training Networks (ETN) type of actions?**

**A:** Yes. All researcher unit costs (monthly living allowance, mobility allowance, family allowance) and institutional unit costs (research, training and networking costs, management and indirect costs) are calculated in the same way for each of the three types of Innovative Training Networks (ITN) action.

**Q31: Can partner organisations in MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) be reimbursed for the costs of training and/or hosting of seconded researchers?**

**A:** Yes. Costs incurred by partner organisations can be reimbursed by a beneficiary organisation. These costs are covered by the EU contribution under the cost category relevant for the activity/ies carried out by the partner organisations.

**Q32: Are the costs related to face-to-face meetings, joint workshops between doctoral candidates and their supervisors (i.e.i.e. travel costs) eligible under MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) projects?**

**A:** Yes. These costs can be covered by the institutional unit cost 'Research, Training and Network Costs'. For more details, please see the 'Guide for Applicants': [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide-appl16-msca-itn_en.pdf)

**Q33: How are Management and indirect costs distributed between the beneficiaries in a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project?**

**A:** The unit costs related to management and indirect costs are calculated based on the units declared by each beneficiary. The beneficiaries may agree to redistribute this budget category within the network according to their needs. As this is the internal decision of the network no information or request has to be submitted to the Research Executive Agency (REA). Therefore, it is possible that, for example, the coordinator will receive a larger share of management and indirect budget to cover the higher managerial expenses. It is advisable to address the distribution of costs already at the proposal stage with the administrators of all beneficiaries in the project and eventually address this issue in the Consortium Agreement if applicable.



**Q34: What is the role of invited visiting researchers mentioned in section 4.1 of the 'Guide for Applicants'? How can their related costs be reimbursed in a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) project?**

**A:** Visiting researchers, who are outstanding researchers in their field, typically may provide specific training to the researchers, contribute to summer schools, share their experience, etc. The reimbursement of their costs may be covered under the institutional 'Research Training and Networking' cost category.

## RECRUITMENT

**Q35: Can Experienced Researchers be recruited in MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN)?**

**A:** No. Only Early Stage Researchers are eligible to participate in all Innovative Training Networks types of action, specifically the: European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) of the H2020 programme.

**Q36: Has the definition of Early Stage Researcher (ESR) changed from FP7 to H2020?**

**A:** No. The definition of Early-Stage Researchers (ESR) has not changed. ESRs shall, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him or her to embark on a doctorate, (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited) even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged. Part-time research experience will be counted pro-rata.

**Q37: Can an organisation participate in the consortium without recruiting a fellow in a MSCA European Training Networks (ETN) project?**

**A:** Yes. They can participate but only as a partner organisation. All beneficiaries in the consortium must recruit at least one fellow.

**Q38: Is it possible in a MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) action that a third party hires the fellows on behalf of the beneficiary?**

**A:** In H2020 MSCA there are no third parties to the grant agreement. It must be the beneficiary that gives the employment contract to the researchers and there are no exceptions to this rule. The beneficiary must recruit, host at its premises, and provide training to the researchers.



**Q39: Shall the beneficiaries provide full-time contracts to the researchers working on MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) projects?**

**A:** As a rule the researcher must be recruited under a full-time employment contract. Part-time employment must be agreed in advance by the Research Executive Agency (REA) and may be accepted:

- subject to prior approval by the Agency
- on personal or family grounds only and
- not for professional reasons.

**Q40: Is it mandatory to appoint fellows for the maximum 36-month period under the MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and the European Joint Doctorates (EJD) types of action?**

**A:** Although not mandatory, these types of action are designed to fund doctoral research programmes and therefore Early-Stage Researchers are generally appointed for the maximum 36-month period. Shorter appointments (the minimum duration is 3 months) must be carefully explained and justified, and must be assessed by the expert evaluators during the evaluation procedure.

**Q41: If MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) are doctoral programmes, why can Early-Stage Researchers only be appointed for a maximum of 36 months when many will take longer to complete their PhDs?**

**A:** In those countries where the duration of PhD study is formally 4 years, additional funding from other sources should be secured by the participant in order to fund the 4<sup>th</sup> year of doctoral studies. In those cases the applicants should indicate their commitment to fund the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

**Q42: What is the definition of the date of recruitment and how does the mobility rule apply to it?**

**A:** The term ‘Date of recruitment’ normally means the first day of the employment of the researcher for the purposes of the action (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract). The Research Executive Agency (REA) may however exceptionally accept a different date, if it is linked to the recruitment and is justified (e.g. by differences in the employment procedure in the country of recruitment).

It has to be kept in mind that it is the beneficiary who bears the final responsibility to the REA in verifying the eligibility rules and has to ensure that sufficient evidence of eligibility is maintained for a potential check or audit.

**Q43: How is the family status taken into account during the recruitment and is it possible to modify it in the course of the project (e.g. if a researcher has a child)?**

**A:** Family is defined as persons linked to the researcher by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this



relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are supported by the researcher. The family status of the individual ESR is determined at the time of recruitment and cannot be changed during the lifetime of the project.

**Q44: Is it compulsory for the ESRs enrolled in a PhD to defend their thesis within 3 years?**

**A:** No. In the researchers must be enrolled in the doctoral programme. In case of EJD it shall be a joint doctoral programme leading to the award of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees. However, in cases when a doctoral degree is awarded after 3 years or even after the end of the project the Research Executive Agency (REA) may check if the commitment to provide doctoral training was fulfilled.

## SECONDMENTS

**Q45: Are secondments important under the MSCA European Training Networks (ETN) type of action?**

**A:** Yes. Secondments are expected. Secondments can contribute to the inter-sector experience and may also contribute to the multi/inter-disciplinary experience of the researchers. They will be assessed by the expert evaluators under the criterion "excellence". Secondments can only be to other beneficiaries or partner organisations and may not exceed 30% of a fellow's recruitment period.

**Q46: Does the 30% rule apply to MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) types of action?**

**A:** No. European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) proposals may plan secondments. However, the limitation of secondments to 30% of the recruitment period does not apply to EID and EJD insofar as time spent at other participating organisations occurs in line with what is described in the proposal.

**Q47: Is it possible to arrange secondments to partner organisations in the same country where the PhD is hosted?**

**A:** Yes it is. For ETN and EJD projects, secondments within the same country are permitted, although international secondments are strongly encouraged in the Innovative Training Networks (ITN) calls. For EID projects, however, note that inter-sectoral secondments (ie. between the academic and non-academic sectors) must be to partner organisations or beneficiaries located in different countries.



## **EUROPEAN JOINT DOCTORATES (EJD) / EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES (EID)**

**Q48: Will it be checked whether the doctoral degree has actually been awarded in MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) types of action?**

**A:** Fellows recruited under European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD) types of action must be enrolled in the doctoral programme and are expected to complete their studies (and under the rules of the EJD type of action must receive the joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees). For EJDs, a formal commitment to award joint/double/multiple doctoral degrees is required in the proposal. Since the doctoral degree may be awarded after the EID or EJD project has finished, it may not be feasible in all cases to check during the project lifetime as to whether the final degree was actually awarded. However, such checks may take place after the conclusion of the project.

**Q49: Is it necessary that the joint doctoral degree is accepted in all countries involved in a MSCA European Joint Doctorates (EJD) project?**

**A:** No. The joint doctoral degrees awarded under the European Joint Doctorates (EJD) type of action shall be recognised by the countries awarding the joint/double/multiple degree.

**Q50: Under the MSCA European Joint Doctorates (EJD) type of action, is there a recommended duration that each fellow must spend in each host institution?**

**A:** No. The Work Programme does not specify how much time the fellows must be hosted at each institution for under the European Joint Doctorates (EJD) type of action. The hosting arrangements for every fellow have to be described in the proposal.

In EJDs the creation of a joint governance structure with joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment is mandatory. One of the evaluation criteria is the quality of the joint supervision of the fellow and it is therefore expected that the institutions providing the joint degree have an active role in the supervision, monitoring, and training of the fellows for a meaningful period of time.

**Q51: In a two-partner MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) can the academic beneficiary, not awarding doctoral degrees, be a research institution?**

**A:** Yes. It is possible. If the academic beneficiary is not entitled to award a doctoral degree, a university entitled to award a doctoral degree must be associated to the project as a partner organisation. However, the obligation of the beneficiary to recruit, host, and train the researcher remains unchanged. Since the Early Stage Researchers (ESR) enrolment in a doctoral programme is a requirement for European Industrial Doctorates (EID), the proposal will have to clearly describe the role of each participant in the programme.



**Q52: In MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (EID) is it possible that only one Beneficiary (academic or non-academic sector) recruits all Early Stage Researchers throughout the whole duration of the project?**

**A:** Yes. This is possible only in a 2-beneficiary EID. Please note that in a multi-beneficiary EID (3 or more beneficiaries) a maximum of 40% of the total EU financial contribution may be allocated for the benefit of organisations within one country. Therefore, recruitments (and related budget) must be planned accordingly. The arrangements in the consortium must be made keeping in mind the obligation of hosting and training the ESRs for at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector and the inclusion of the fellows in the doctoral programme.

**Q53: The Work Programme states that for EID “the consortium must be composed of at least two independent beneficiaries located in two different MS/AC”. Would it be possible to create an EID consortium of more than two beneficiaries, involving only two countries?**

**A:** No. The Work Programme also foresees that not more than 40% of the requested EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country. This rule applies to all ITN except to EID with only two beneficiaries. As a consequence, EID proposals involving more than two beneficiaries must be implemented in at least three countries (MS or AC).