



**TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY**  
The Lowy International School



# MSCA at TAU:

What Faculty Need to Know

# Nice to meet you

Na'ama Goldfill  
MSCA Program Coordinator



Na'ama supports faculty throughout the whole MSCA lifecycle, from proposal development to student researcher onboarding, international mobility procedures and reporting.

- 1 The Lowy International School and MSCA Support
- 2 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, The Big Picture
- 3 What Is an MSCA Doctoral Network
- 4 Why Participate as a TAU PI
- 5 Core Requirements: Understanding the Details
- 6 Next Steps and Q&A



# MSCA Introduction Webinar for PIs

Today's Agenda



# International Strategy

The Lowy International School  
Tel Aviv University

*The Lowy International School implements Tel Aviv University's **internationalization strategy***

## **Partnerships**

Develops and sustains long-term, multi-institution academic partnerships that advance research, teaching, and mobility

## **International Students and Researchers at TAU**

Leads the recruitment and integration of international students, PhD candidates, and researchers into TAU's academic ecosystem

## **Internationalization at Home**

Expands global exposure for TAU faculty, staff, and students through mobility, joint initiatives, and cross-cultural engagement on campus

# Who We Are

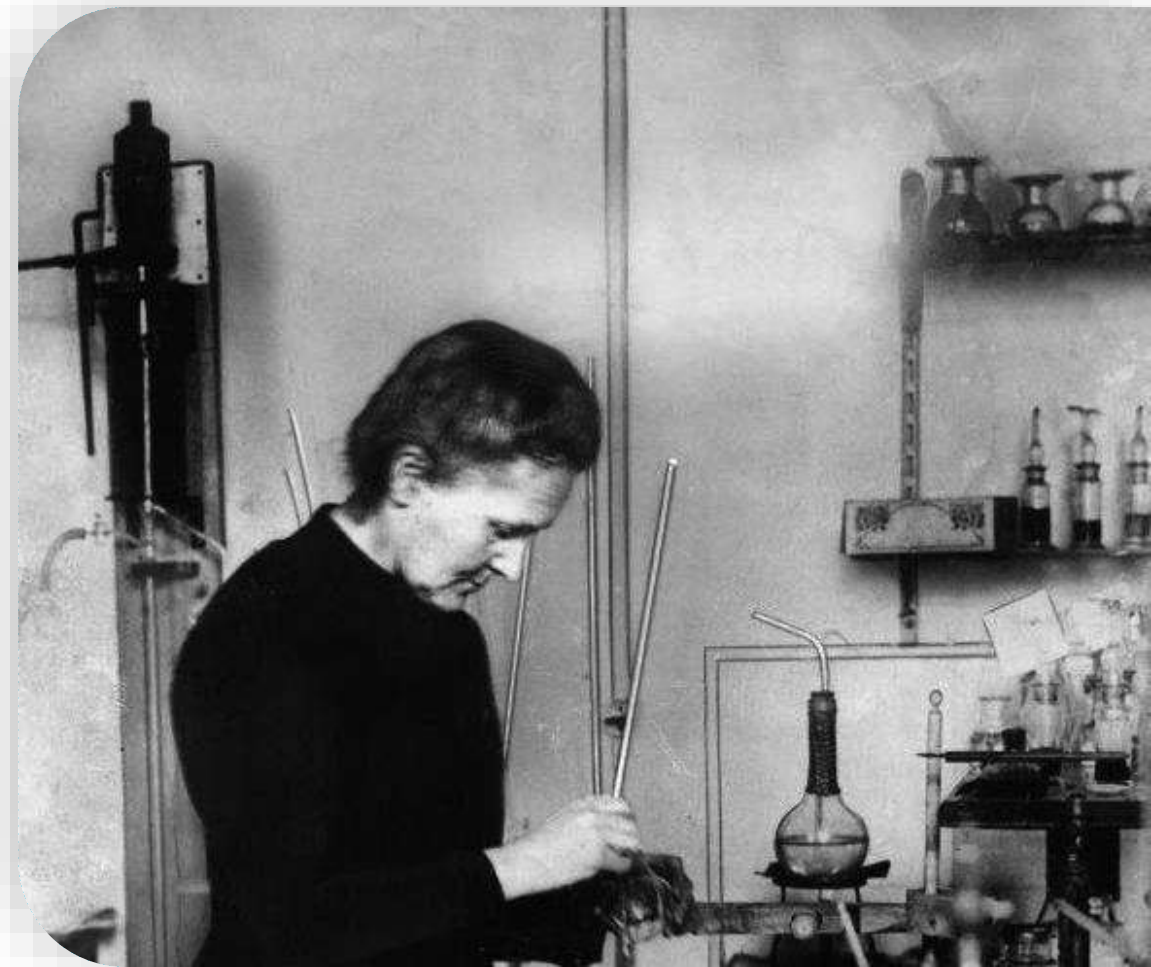
## The Lowy International School



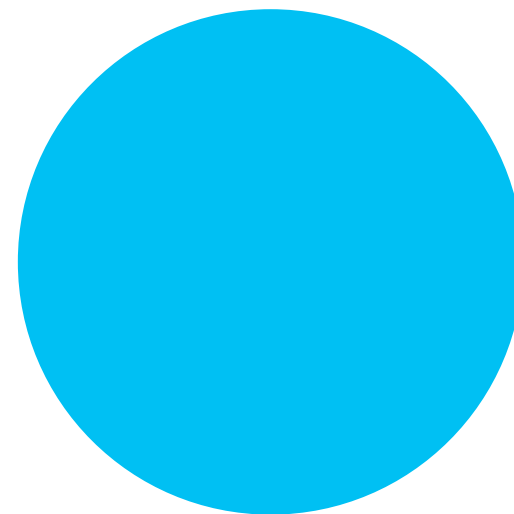
- Responsible for implementing TAU's Internationalization Strategy
- Experienced in managing multi-institution international academic partnerships
- TAU's hub for international students and researchers
- Support ~2,000 international students annually
- Expertise in visas, housing, insurance, and all aspects of student life

# Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions

About the prestigious grant

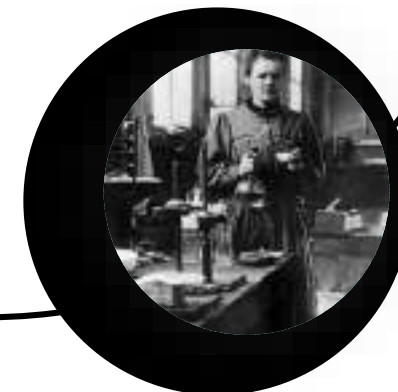


- Part of the EU's Horizon Europe framework (Like ERC)
- Focused on funding the **employment** of excellent international research fellows and developing their research careers
- Strong emphasis on mobility, training quality, and supervision

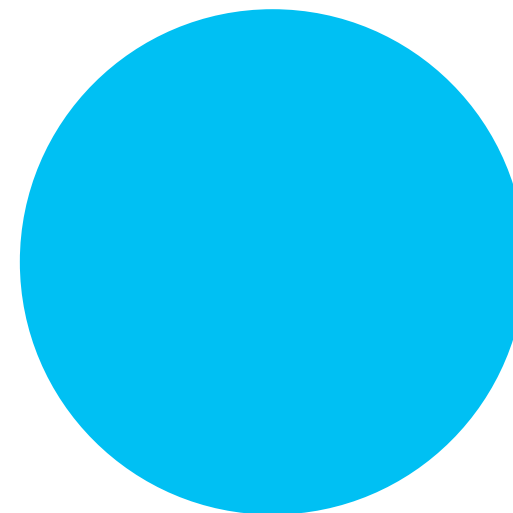


# MSCA

## The Big Picture



- 1 Training & Fair Employment
- 2 Excellence
- 3 Bottom-up Topics (any discipline)
- 4 Industry Collaboration
- 5 International Cooperation & Mobility
- 6 Impact



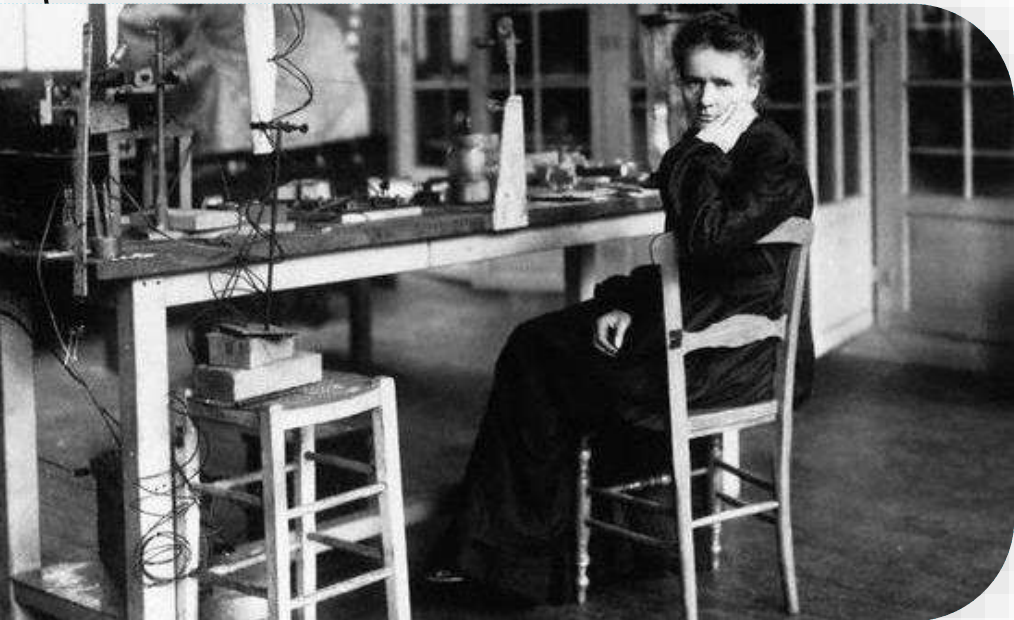
# MSCA

## Guiding Principles



# Benefits for TAU Faculty

"What's in it for me?"



- Recruitment funding
- Access to top global talent
- Better research quality
- Knowledge transfer
- Strategic partnerships through international consortia
- Shape future researchers
- Improve doctoral programs
- Prestige of winning an MSCA

# Horizon Europe Participating Countries

## 27 Member States (MS)



## 24 Associated Countries (AC)



\* Only Pillar 2. Doesn't participate as beneficiary in Marie S. Curie Actions

# Types of MSCA Programs

currently supported at TAU

Program	Who Submits the Proposal	Role in Application	Role of TAU Faculty	Recruitment Stage
<b>Doctoral Networks (DN)</b>	Consortium of institutions	Writing proposal along with consortium	Join or lead consortium; define research project; contribute to proposal	After winning funding, the consortium recruits doctoral candidates; TAU hires them as employees
<b>Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)</b>	Individual postdoctoral researcher	Agree to host researcher who has written the proposal	Act as host supervisor; support proposal	No recruitment by TAU; candidate applies with faculty member

# Where TAU & MSCA Meet

What opportunities are available and who can help me?

- TAU participates as a beneficiary and host institution
- Faculty are encouraged to apply for DNs and host PFs each year
- If awarded grants, international fellows are employed by TAU
- The Lowy International School provides support to **applying faculty, current MSCA research students and international applicants** interested in being hosted at TAU

What is an

# MSCA Doctoral Network?

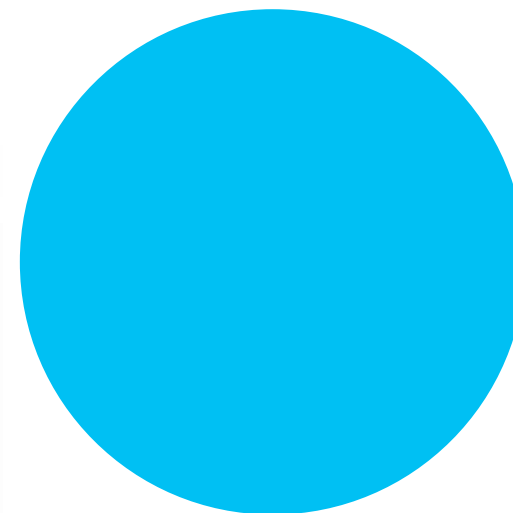


International consortia delivering:

- Joint research projects
- Structured doctoral training
- Recruitment of doctoral candidates
- Career development & mobility
- Interdisciplinary collaboration

- Funded 36 or 48 months of doctoral programs
- Up to 540 person-months funded
- Any research field
- Fellows can be of any\* nationality
- Strong mobility component
- Career development focus

*\*subject to mobility requirements*



## Key Features of **Doctoral Networks**



# Core Requirements

Understanding the Details



# Consortium Eligibility Criteria

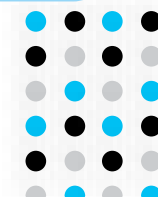
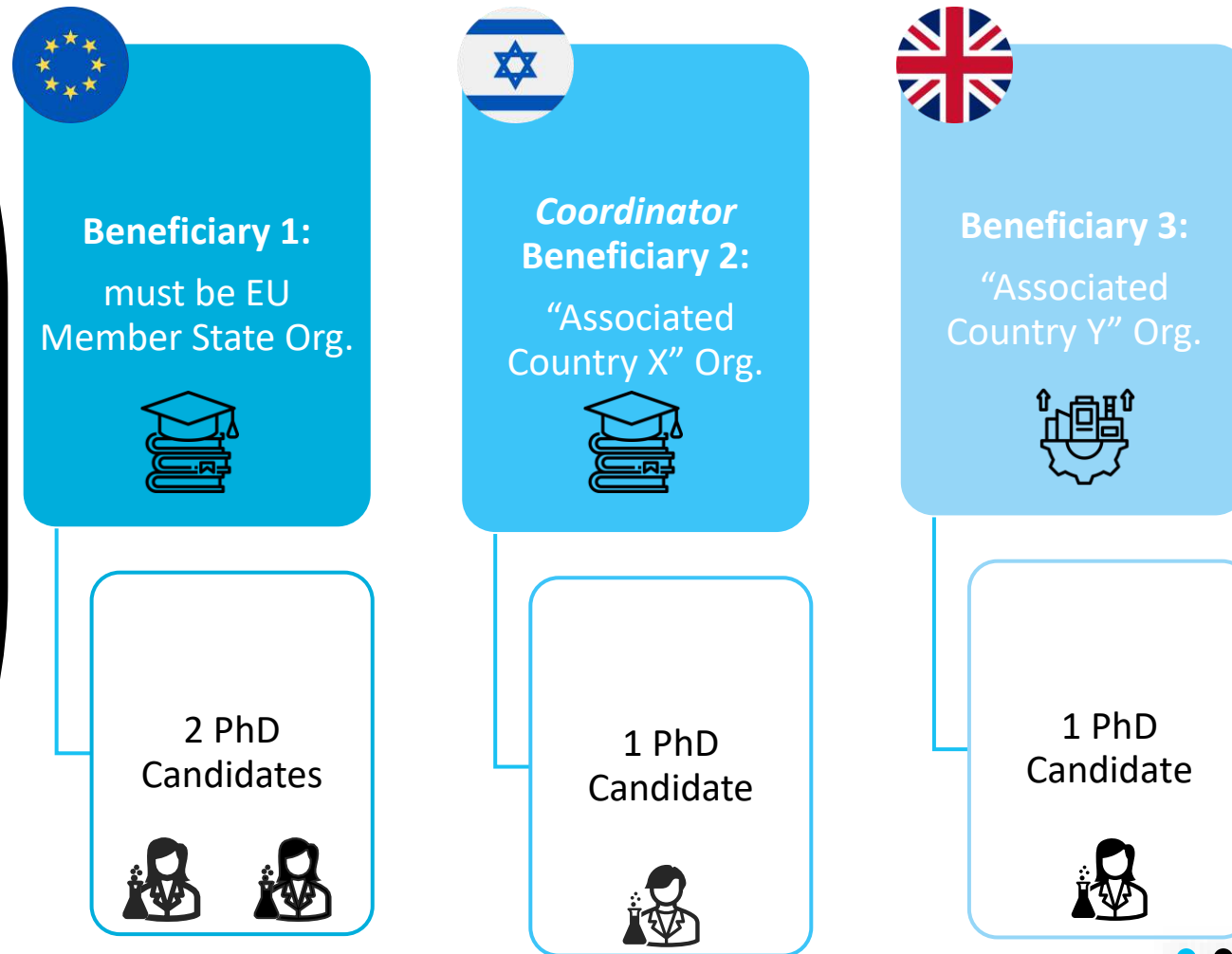
Who applies?



- Independent **legal entities** from **any sector worldwide**
- **Minimum 3 beneficiaries** from at least 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries (at least 1 EU Member State)
- Optional: Unlimited **Associate Partners** allowed
- **Each beneficiary must recruit minimum 1 full-time doctoral candidate**
- EU contribution limited to **40% per country** or single organization
- 1 Main partner serves as Coordinator, can be from Associated Country

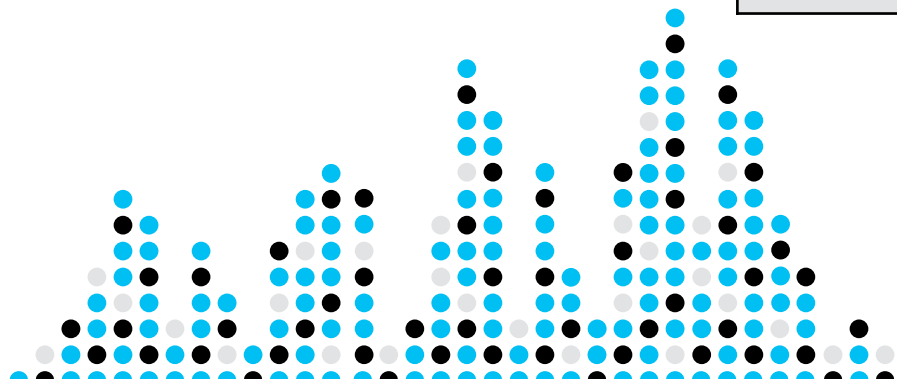
# Consortium Composition

## Minimum Consortium Example



# Doctoral Network Modalities

Standard Doctoral Network (DN-ST)	Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID)	Joint Doctorates (DN-JD)
Joint supervision in academia and/or industry	Candidate spends $\geq 50\%$ in non-academic sector	Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree
	Joint training & supervision in academia & industry	Joint admission & supervision



# Modalities' Duration

	Standard (DN-ST)	Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID)	Joint Doctorates (DN-JD)
Entire project duration	Max. 48 months (4 years)		Max. 60 months (5 years)
Doctoral Candidates' fellowship duration	3-36 months		3-48 months
Doctoral Candidates' person months (funded)	Up to 540 PM = 11-15 Doctoral candidates for full fellowships		
Secondments <i>Short research/training periods at partner organizations worldwide</i>	Up to half of the fellowship duration	No duration limitations	
	Can be divided to several smaller periods		
Supervision and selection	Academic / Industry supervision	Requires <b>joint</b> academic and non-academic supervision	Requires <b>joint</b> admission, selection, training, supervision and governance
PhD enrollment	Candidates must be enrolled in a PhD from an EU Member State/Associated Country		Enrolled in a PhD from Min. 1 EU Member State/Associated Country

# Doctoral Networks Grants

## Unit cost contributions

Contributions for Recruited Researchers (per person-month)		Institutional Contributions (per person-month)	
	Amount		Amount
Living allowance <sup>1</sup>	€4,250	Research, training & networking	€1,600
Mobility allowance	€710	Management & indirect costs	€1,200
Family allowance (if applicable)	€660		
Long-term Leave Allowance	€4,960 × % covered		
Special Needs Allowance	Requested unit × (1/number of months) <sup>2</sup>		

<sup>1</sup>Living allowance: a **country correction coefficient** will apply to ensure equal treatment to all researchers. For Israel, the correction coefficient is **109.8%**. Please Refer to page 140 in the MSCA 2026-2027 Work Program for the full list of countries and their correction coefficients.  
Gross amount for living, mobility and family allowance including all taxes to be deducted by the employer and employee.

<sup>2</sup>Special Needs Allowance would be according to pre-defined units ranging from €3,000 to €60,000.

- Budget Cap Rule: **Maximum 40%** of budget for beneficiaries from same country

Note the Country Correction Coefficient applies to the living allowance (affects the total amount)

Budget Cap Rule violation → **automatic rejection**

- All public bodies must submit their Gender Equality Plan – [contact MSCA Coordinator for TAU's](#)
- Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID) and Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) have additional requirements – be sure to read details



# Additional Requirements

Important to know



# Re-Submissions

When are they allowed?

**Similar** proposals may NOT be re-submitted in the consecutive call if:

- Proposals scored **below 80%** in the 2025 Doctoral Networks Call for Proposals
- Have **70% or more** of the same recruiting organizations

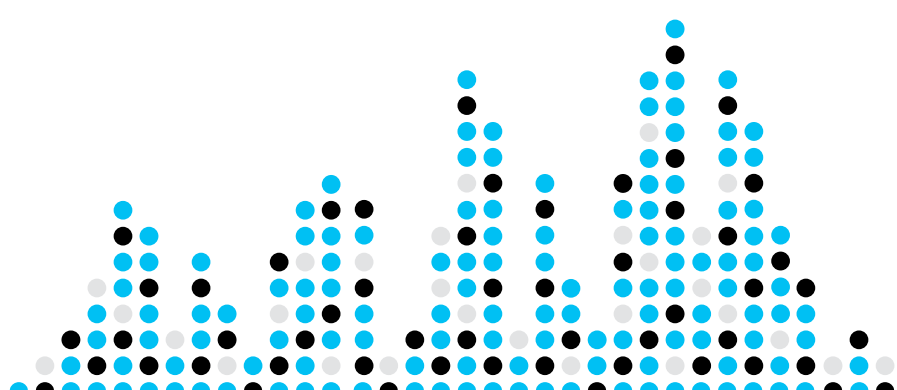
External evaluators will analyze the **similarity of the objectives** and **scientific approach** for proposals meeting both conditions

# Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (50%)

Impact  
(30%)

Implementation  
(20%)



- Ambitious & innovative research objectives beyond state of the art
- Strong recruitment and selection process
- Interdisciplinary / intersectoral / international opportunities
- High-quality training program
- Strong supervision and career development
- Open science practices



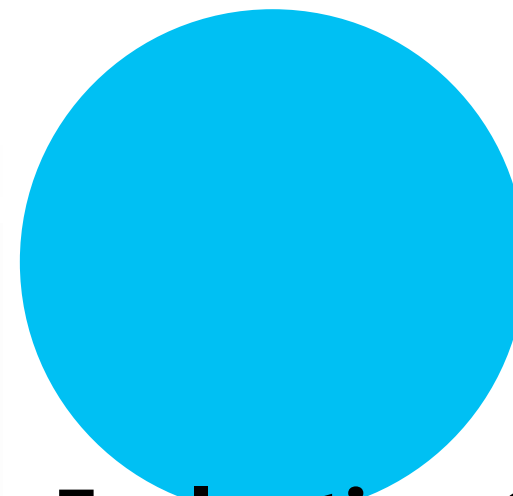
# Evaluation Criteria: **Excellence**

Scientific quality & training  
value



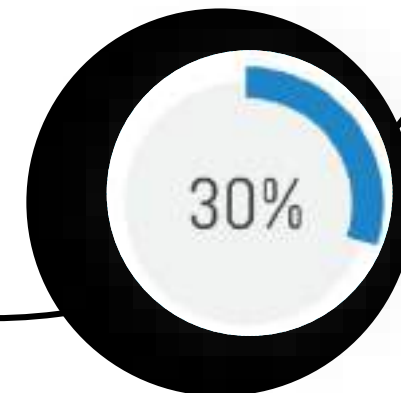
50%

- Improves research practices
- Enhances employability of researchers
- Strengthens skills development
- Strong dissemination and communication plan
- Clear pathway to wider institutional / societal benefit

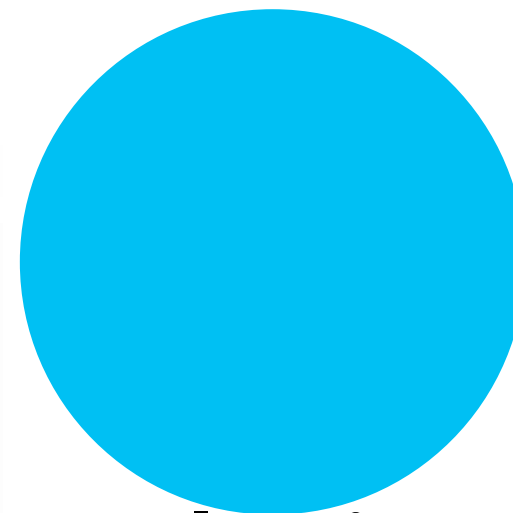


## Evaluation Criteria: **Impact**

Long-term value and researcher careers

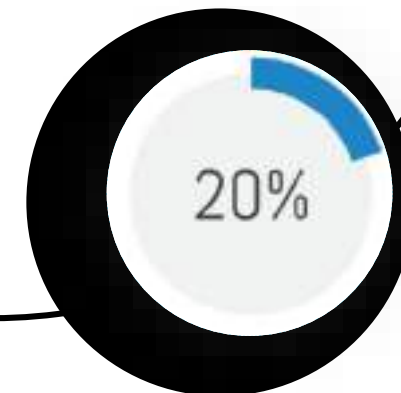


- Credible work plan and timelines
- Strong management structure
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Appropriate workload distribution
- Excellent host institutions and partners
- Right expertise in consortium



## Evaluation Criteria: Implementation

How well can the consortium deliver?

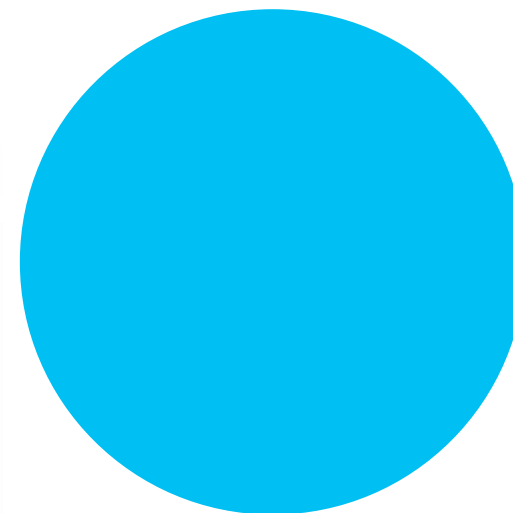


# Next Steps

And where to start



- Existing networks/connections
- [EURAXESS](#) portal
- [MSCA.NET matchmaking platform](#)
- [Funding & Tenders portal partner search](#) - Under "Partner Search Announcements"
- [CORDIS database](#)



# Find a Partner

## Resources

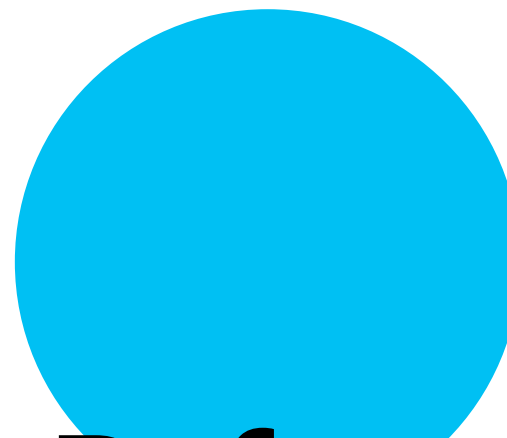


## Partnership & Planning

- Build consortium early
- Clarify roles & parameters
- Hold meetings

## Writing

- Start early
- Use official template
- Align to evaluation criteria
- Submit drafts frequently
- **Send drafts to MSCA Coordinator for editing help**



# Before Applying

What you should know...



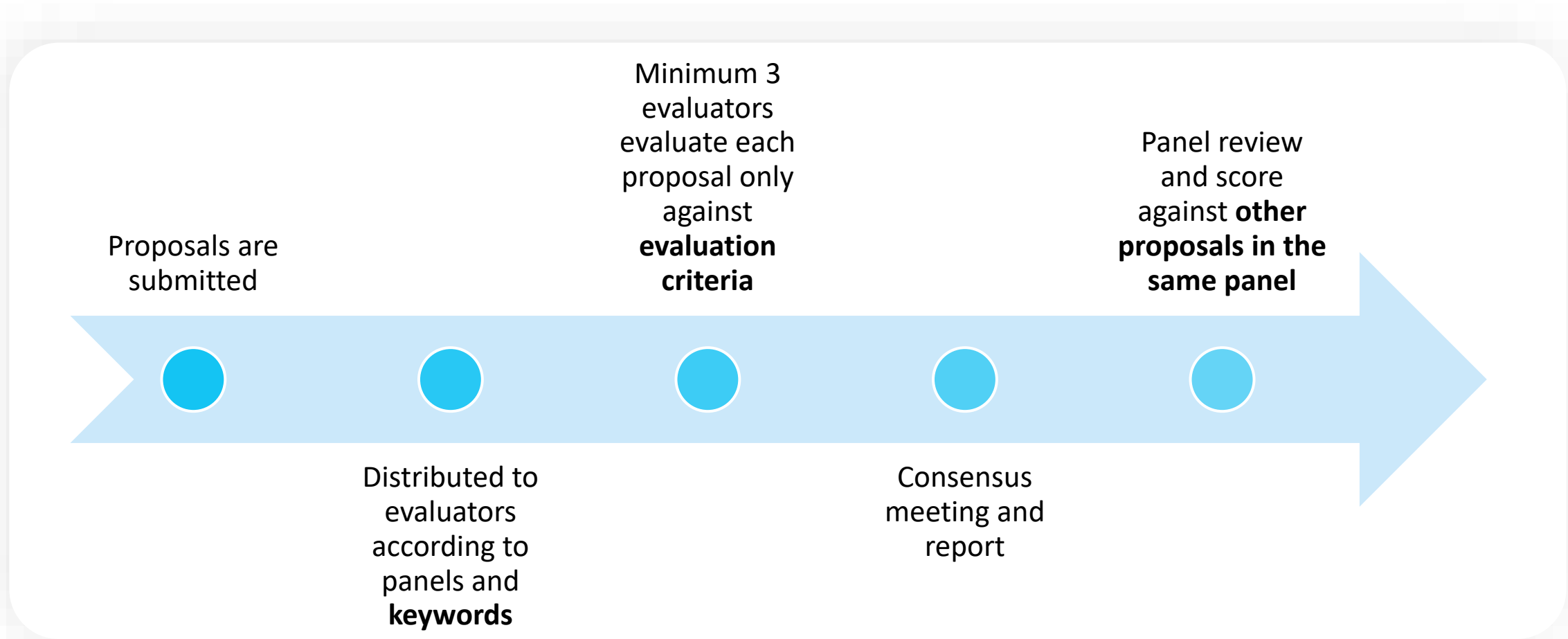
# Timeline & Key Milestones

	May 2026	June- July 2026	Aug. - Sept. 2026	Oct. – Nov. 2026	Dec. 2026– Mar. 2027	April 2027	July 2027	August 2027
<b>May 28, 2026: Call for DN opens</b>								
Pls should Confirm TAU's intended role and participation								
Proposal Drafting Phase								
Summer & Jewish High Holidays <i>*Plan ahead due to reduced availability in Europe and Israel</i>								
Final reviews and institutional approvals								
<b>November 24, 2026: Proposal submission deadline</b>								
Proposals evaluated by the European Commission								
Call results announced								
Grant Agreement& Consortium Agreement preparation and signature								
Project launches and recruitment of doctoral candidates begins								

*\* Dates are indicative and subject to confirmation by the European Commission.*

# Evaluation Process

December 2026 – March 2027



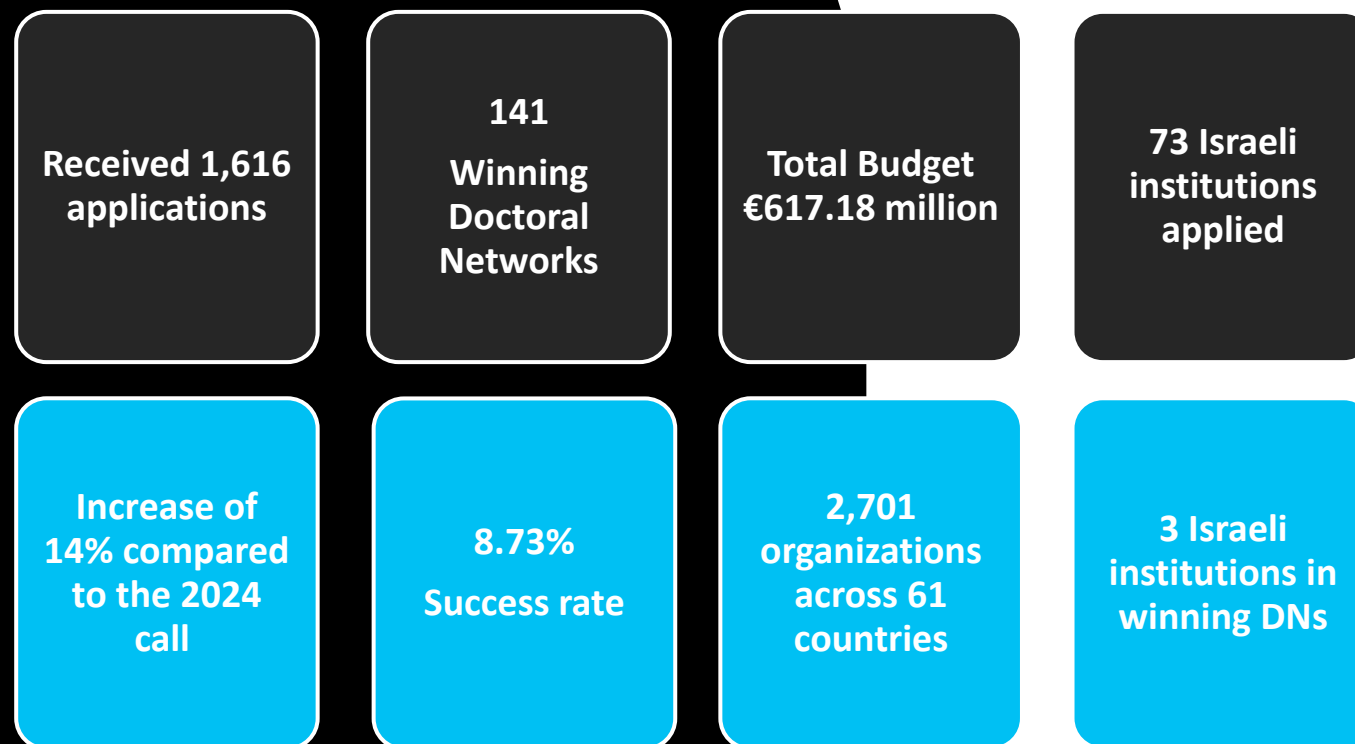
- Administrative support during project launch (signing agreements, budgets)
- Recruiting & onboarding International Research Fellow, including assistance with visa, housing, salary etc.
- Ongoing administrative support throughout the full duration of the grant, including mid- and end reporting



# Post-win Support

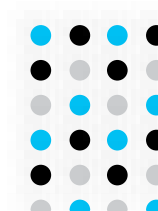
from MSCA Coordinator





# 2025 Call Statistics

MSCA Doctoral Networks



# Resources

In addition to MSCA Coordinator

- ❑ [MSCA Work programme 2026-2027](#)
- ❑ [Doctoral Networks 2025 Guide for Applicants](#)
- ❑ [Doctoral Networks – How to Apply](#)
- ❑ [2025 Doctoral Networks Application Form with instructions](#)
- ❑ [MSCA Financial Guide](#)
- ❑ [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)
- ❑ [European Charter & Code for Researchers](#)
- ❑ [Open Science](#)
- ❑ [MSCA Green Charter](#)
- ❑ [Gender Equality Plan Guide](#) – **Must** for all public bodies
- ❑ [MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 call Unofficial Handbook + Submission Guide](#) – Recommended for proposal writing!
- ❑ [MSCA.NET Doctoral Networks FAQ](#)

● **Questions?**





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# Thank You!

Na'ama Goldfill  
[msca@tauex.tau.ac.il](mailto:msca@tauex.tau.ac.il)

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