

EU Funding Opportunities for SCML

SCML-2026: International Conference on
Symbolic Computation and Machine Learning

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Summary of Opportunities

1. MSCA Doctoral Network for SCML.
2. Using SCML as a forum for matching fellows to supervisors for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.
3. An SCML COST Action.
4. Using SCML to build consortia for targeted Pillar II applications.

1. MSCA Doctoral Networks

The European Commission funds Doctoral Networks through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

- The current call opened on 28th May 2026
- Submission deadline is 24th November 2026
- Notification of awards in April 2027
- First projects start in August 2027.

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/funding/msca-doctoral-networks-2026>

Who can be a Beneficiary?

Beneficiaries are those who receive funds from the project:

- Minimum of three organisations from *different* EU Member States or Associated Countries
 - At least one of these must be from an EU Member State.

EU Member States

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Croatia
5. Republic of Cyprus
6. Czechia
7. Denmark
8. Estonia
9. Finland
10. France
11. Germany
12. Greece
13. Hungary
14. Ireland
15. Italy
16. Latvia
17. Lithuania
18. Luxembourg
19. Malta
20. Netherlands
21. Poland
22. Portugal
23. Romania
24. Slovakia
25. Slovenia
26. Spain
27. Sweden.

Associated Countries

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. **Canada (Pillar II only)**
5. Faroe Islands
6. Iceland
7. Israel
8. Kosovo
9. Moldova
10. Montenegro
11. **New Zealand (Pillar II only)**
12. North Macedonia
13. Norway
14. Serbia
15. Tunisia
16. Turkey
17. Ukraine
18. United Kingdom (except for EIC)

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- New for 2026: Countries from the low-middle income country list also eligible to host *and award* PhDs.

Low and Middle Income Countries List

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam, Yemen Republic, Zambia, Zimbabwe. [LINK](#)

Associated Partners

Associated Partners are organisation that contribute to the project but do not receive EU funding. E.g.

- **Host secondments** for the doctoral candidates.
- Contribute data, equipment, specialist training.

Could be **companies**, charities, universities who are not eligible to be beneficiaries, etc.

	Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Academic/Non academic	✓	✓
Signatories of the Grant Agreement	✓	x
Recruitment of Researchers	✓	x
Training/or hosting of seconded researchers	✓	✓
Participation in Supervisory Board	✓	✓
Directly claim costs	✓	x

Funding available

- Up to 540 Person months in total
(i.e. maximum of 15 fellows on 3-year PhDs).
- Funded through country specific unit rates (Contributions for Recruited Researchers and Institutional Unit Contributions)

The unit rates themselves are generous, but the three-year durations are not.

Standard Doctoral Networks

- Promote international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation to train PhD candidates in various scientific areas, with a focus on promoting entrepreneurial mind-sets, research-related and transferable skills and long-term career prospects

Industrial Doctoral Networks

- Doctoral candidates benefit from joint industry-academia supervision.

Joint Doctoral Networks

- Train PhD candidates through integrated programmes leading to joint or multiple doctoral degrees. Institutions are required to establish joint operational procedures for recruitment, admission, supervision and evaluation of doctoral candidates.

RAISE Pilot in 2026

The 2026 call includes a pilot of the RAISE (Resource for AI Science in Europe) DNs

“Doctoral candidates are to either develop or significantly participate in the development of innovative AI systems, models, tools or methodologies for their scientific domain. These ... must substantially innovate the way in which scientific information is analysed ... that furthers the state of the art in the discipline”.

“The development of the AI tool, model or methodology is to be an integral and indispensable part of the research work and be clearly delineated in the research work package. The scientific advancements of the project are to be directly dependent on the capabilities and application of these AI algorithms...”

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03>



RAISE Pilot Assessment Process

- We apply to the standard MSCA-DN call and indicate that the proposal should be assessed for RAISE. Include extra 1-page justification of fit to RAISE scope
- All proposals first go through the standard DN evaluation process
- A cross-panel list of fundable RAISE proposals will be established with the highest-ranking reserve list proposals (likely to be up to 30 proposals)
- Experts will assess relevance of proposals to RAISE scope
- Final ranking of the RAISE proposals = MSCA score *and* assessment of the proposal to RAISE scope
- €30m *additional* budget for RAISE DN- ~7 projects to be funded

Examples of Funded Doctoral Networks in AI

- Consumer Demand Flexibility in Electricity Use (Led by UCD, Ireland 2024-28). 8 BENs and 17 APs. €3.6m
- Harnessing AI and Data-Intensive Technologies (led by UPM, Spain 2025-28). 9 BENs and 9 APs. € 3.4m
- Doctoral Network for reSilience exPeRts IN future larGe-scale critical infrastructures (led by U. Orleans, France 2026-30). 9 BENs and 10 APs. € 4.3m
- Embedded AI Systems and Applications (led by TU Delft, Netherlands 2025-29). 7 BENs and 15 Aps. € 3.7m

An SCML Doctoral Network?

Could we apply for an SCML Doctoral Network?

Your Thoughts?

2. Other MSCA Opportunities

As well as Doctoral Networks the MSCA Programme also funds:

- Postdoctoral Fellowships (next deadline September 2026)
- Staff Exchanges (next deadline April 2027)

Examples of funded MSCA Staff Exchanges in AI

- [Third wave of AI: Neuro-symbolic AI and Large Language Models](#)
- [Fostering Trust in AI driven Healthcare: SecUre and uNbiased knowleDge guided gEneRative AI](#)

Examples of funded MSCA PFs in AI

- [Exploring Populism in Texts: Leveraging AI for Substantive and Methodological Advancements](#)
- [Robotics, AI, and the Future of Work in China: Transforming Skill Demand and Earning Distribution](#)

MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Funding for up to 24 month fellowship.
- The fellow can be of any nationality.
- The host institution must be EU member state of associate country.
- The project must meet the [Mobility Rule](#): the fellow must not have been living or working in same country as host institution for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the submission deadline.
- Fellow must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before the submission deadline.
- Fellow must not have more than 8 years postdoctoral research experience.

[Eligibility Calculator](#)

Could SCML act as a forum to help link fellows and hosts to apply for these projects?

Your Thoughts?

3. COST Actions

A **COST Action** is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic over 4 years.

- People can join over the project life-cycle; not restricted to original consortium.
- Typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions, and other relevant organisations
- Open to all science and technology fields, including new and emerging fields.
- Next deadline 28th October 2026.

- The funding a COST Action receives primarily covers the expenses of networking activities rather than the expenses of research.
- Used to organise and fund events, training schools, communication activities, grants to attend relevant international conferences and Short-term Scientific Missions.
- Around €150,000 is made available for a COST Action in its first year and then €180,000 per year for the other three years.
- Funding can only be given to organisations in COST Member Countries, but those in others can e.g. be invited speakers at events.
- COST Actions are designed to act as a pre-cursor to other funding instruments: follow-up proposals from COST Actions have 39% success rate.

COST Member Countries

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Austria
4. Belgium
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina
6. Bulgaria
7. Croatia
8. Cyprus
9. Czech Republic
10. Denmark
11. Estonia
12. Finland
13. France
14. Georgia
15. Germany
16. Greece
17. Hungary
18. Iceland
19. Ireland
20. Italy
21. Latvia
22. Lithuania
23. Luxembourg
24. Malta
25. The Republic of Moldova
26. Montenegro
27. The Netherlands
28. The Republic of North Macedonia
29. Norway
30. Poland
31. Portugal
32. Romania
33. Serbia
34. Slovakia
35. Slovenia
36. Spain
37. Sweden
38. Switzerland
39. Turkey
40. Ukraine
41. United Kingdom.

An SCML COST Action?

Could we apply for an SCML COST Action?

Your Thoughts?

4. Pillar II Calls

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*

Exclusive focus on civil applications



Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

27%

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures



Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

≈ €53B

55%

Clusters

- Health 8%
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society 2%
- Civil Security for Society 2%
- Digital, Industry & Space 16%
- Climate, Energy & Mobility 16%
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment 9%

Joint Research Centre



Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

14%

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

4%

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS:

boosting **key technologies** and solutions underpinning **EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals** (6 clusters and JRC – non-nuclear direct actions)



€53.5 billion

All features in every cluster

Five Missions Areas



Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation



Cancer



Healthy oceans, seas, coastal & inland waters



Climate-neutral & smart cities



Soil health & food

What does a Pillar 2 consortium look like?

- Large, multi-partner, multi-country projects.
Typically 10-15 partners
- Mix of research organisations, industry, non-profit
- Minimum 3 organisations in different Member States or Associated Countries - at least one in a member state
- Coordinator usually has prior EU experience.

SCML Opportunities in Pillar II?

There are lots of calls which seek to develop AI. But focussed on applications other than mathematics.

However, we should stay alert for upcoming calls under the RAISE banner. We expect calls on AI to automate scientific discoveries, which may fit SCML work.

Your Thoughts?

Thank you for Listening



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