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| TO |
| WGS Graduate Schools/Academic Board/Liaison Offices/WLOT |
| FROM |
| CG&LS Reynout Hana/EU-Office Christianne Marcelis |

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| Subject: Internal procedure EU Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Doctoral Networks-Joint Doctorate”Following the call HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01 with deadline **16th November 2021** proposals can be submitted for different types of “Doctoral Networks”:1. Doctoral Networks (DN)
2. Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID)
3. **Joint Doctorates (DN-JD)**

The call text of the European Commission (EC) can be found via the following link <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf>For the instrument mentioned under **3)** (MSCA-DN-JD), the following internal procedure has been drawn up.Guiding principles:Participating in a joint doctorate programme implies entering into a number of obligations at the institutional level. For the above mentioned call, this will be done by signing a pre-agreement letter by the Executive Board of WU.In the following, ‘**joint doctorate programme’** is understood to mean: a joint PhD programme of at least two universities, which is characterized by joint governance, joint admission and joint supervision of PhD candidates, and the awarding of so-called ‘joint degrees’, ‘double degrees’ or ‘dual degrees’. See for more information Appendix 8 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations. In practice, Wageningen University (together with another institution) does not award joint degrees, but double degrees. After the public defence, the candidate will receive two certificates, issued by WU and by the partner institution, to avoid issues with the recognition of a joint degree. An appendix to the certificate will state that the degree was awarded for a single thesis resulting from a joint doctoral programme of the partner institutions. *Nota bene 1*: the EC states in the call that to be eligible for a DN-JD, a consortium needs to be composed of “at least 3 beneficiaries from different MS or AC and with at least 1 of them established in a MS. At least 3 beneficiaries must be entitled to award doctoral degrees, of which at least 2 institutions conferring a joint, double or multiple doctoral degree must be established in a MS or AC” and “mandatory enrolment of all researchers in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least 2 MS or AC” is required. In follow up to the regulations and guidelines established by the Executive Board in 2011 for the participation of WU in Joint Doctorate Programmes (at the time linked to the Erasmus Mundus programme), it is important to note that:* **Prerequisite for signing a** pre-agreement letter is (expected) **approval** of the joint doctorate programme by the **Academic Board.**

A pre-agreement letter will only be signed by the Executive Board if the required personnel capacity and financial resources are guaranteed by the Science Group involved. The Academic Board has set the regulations for the approval of ‘**joint doctorate programmes**, which are incorporated in the Doctoral Degree Regulations in Appendix 8, which read as follows:**Procedure for a joint doctorate programme**These programmes must be approved by the Academic Board of Wageningen University prior to their start. The joint doctorate programme should consist of a number of PhD projects/candidates. The proposal for the joint doctorate programme should describe the entry requirements and end terms that are applicable to all candidates in the programme. The joint doctorate programme should at least meet the conditions described in the Doctoral degree regulations of Wageningen University for the regular PhD programme. A proposal for a joint doctorate programme has to be submitted by the graduate school of the participating chair group(s) to the Academic Board before the start of the PhD projects.The proposal for a joint doctorate programme should include:1. a description of the partner institutions and existing collaborations;
2. a description of the common scientific goal, framework or issue, including the number of intended PhD projects, the added value of the programme for Wageningen University and the planned joint activities such as joint courses as part of the joint doctorate programme;
3. a description of the selection procedure for PhD projects and candidates
4. a format for the supervision and training plans;
5. a budget plan for the joint doctorate programme with special attention to arrangements governing PhD reimbursements;
6. the conditions for admission to the PhD programme, awarding the thesis and the thesis defence (location and procedure) based on the requirements set by Wageningen University at least. Within a programme, a fair distribution (a distribution reflecting the input from the institutions) of the defence ceremonies over the different locations should be pursued;
7. a proposal for the degree(s) to be conferred (joint, double or dual) and for the certificates to be issued, including supplements if applicable.

*Nota bene 2*: the EC states in the call text that agreements have to be arranged between the consortium partners regarding “Mandatory: Joint governance structure with joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures”. **Advice and summary**It is strongly recommended to:* contact as soon as possible the Graduate School of the participating chair group(s), which will submit the proposal to the Academic Board for approval;
* inform the (intended) consortium partners already during the DN-JD proposal preparation about our internal procedure, i.e. that a pre-agreement letter will only be delivered after the Academic Board has approved (at least the outline of) the intended joint doctorate programme
* send a draft consortium agreement to the Academic Board together with the request for approval of the joint doctorate programme. The consortium agreement must contain clear agreements concerning the awarding of the degrees (joint or double/dual degrees) and other implementation aspects (such as appointment/secondment, hosting, financial aspects, etc).

Summary:

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| MSCA call for proposals  | Call identifier HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01 **deadline 16th November 2021** 17:00 hr. Brussels time |
| MSCA action | 🞏 Type of action: Doctoral Networks-Joint Doctorate (DN-JD)Please note: a different procedure applies for the regular Doctoral Networks (DN) and the Doctoral Networks-Industrial Doctorate (DN-ID)  |
| Contact details (name and address) of the main contact person WU |  |
| Names of Consortium Partners (institutions) |  |
| Name of the Coordinating institution |  |
| Contact details (name and address) of the coordinator at the coordinating institution (in case WU is not the coordinating institution) |  |

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| Check WU graduate school | 🞏 Proposal submitted to graduate school: ……….🞏 Proposal formally approved by graduate school: ………… |
| Check WUR legal and financial framework | 🞏 Approval Management Board Science Group🞏 Approval Legal Affairs Science Group🞏 Approval Finance & Control Science Group🞏 Approval Corporate Governance & Legal Services |
| Signing procedure | 🞏 Approval Academic Board, mandated to the Dean of Research |
| Timeline | Submit at least 1 month before the deadline to the Executive Secretary of the Academic Board  |

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