CONFAP Call for Complementary Funding to MSCA Doctoral Networks

Call for complementary funding for proposals submitted to and approved under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks (MSCA DN) programme, in coordination with Horizon Europe.

1. Objective:

The National Council of State Research Funding Agencies (CONFAP) supports the 2026 Doctoral Networks Call under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA DN) of Horizon Europe and invites Brazilian researchers and institutions to participate in proposals for international doctoral training networks, with the possibility of receiving financial support from the participating State Research Funding Agencies (FAPs), subject to the approval of the projects under the European call.

The objective is to provide complementary funding, through the State Funding Agencies participating in this Call, to researchers based in Brazil for their participation in projects selected under the European MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 call.

Within the scope of the MSCA/Horizon Europe programme, Doctoral Networks aim to implement doctoral training programmes through partnerships among organisations from different sectors, across Europe and beyond. These programmes contribute to the development of researchers' skills and career prospects. They may involve doctoral training through international networks, the integration of academic training with experience in the non-academic sector, or joint training programmes offered by institutions awarding joint or multiple doctoral degrees.

2. Background:

This Call is launched by CONFAP based on the Administrative Arrangement signed in 2021 between the European Commission (DG RTD), on the one hand, and the National Council of State Research Funding Agencies (CONFAP), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), and the Brazilian Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP), on the other hand, concerning mechanisms to support cooperation between the European Union and Brazil in research and innovation activities.

3. Scope:

Horizon Europe is the European Union's (EU) flagship research and innovation programme, covering the period from 2021 to 2027. Within Horizon Europe, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) support researchers' career development and training across all scientific disciplines, with an emphasis on innovation skills through international and intersectoral mobility.

Among the actions supported by the MSCA, the Doctoral Networks (DN) programme aims to implement doctoral training programmes through partnerships among organisations from different sectors, across Europe and beyond. Its purpose is to train highly qualified doctoral candidates, foster their creativity, enhance their innovation capabilities and, in the long term, improve their employability. The programme comprises the following modalities:

- *Doctoral Networks (Standard);*
- *Industrial Doctorates; and*
- *Joint Doctorates.*

MSCA DN projects are designed for international consortia comprising universities, research institutions, companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and other non-academic organisations. Consortia must include at least three independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State or a country associated with Horizon Europe. In addition to this minimum requirement, organisations established in any other country worldwide may also participate in the consortia. However, the European programme provides financial support to entities established in EU Member States, countries associated with Horizon Europe, and other third countries eligible for funding. Brazil is not automatically eligible for EU funding under MSCA DN. In this context, CONFAP, through the State Funding Agencies (FAPs) participating in this Call, offers the possibility of complementary funding to support Brazilian participation in approved projects.

Proposals in all fields of knowledge are eligible, with a project duration of up to four years. For Joint Doctorates, the duration may be up to five years. Individual fellowships may last from 3 to 36 months, extending to 48 months in the case of Joint Doctorates. EU funding under MSCA DN for eligible beneficiary institutions includes resources for doctoral candidates' living and mobility allowances, including mobility periods at Brazilian institutions participating in the projects, as well as allowances for family, long-term leave and special needs, where applicable. Financial support for the participation of researchers affiliated with Brazilian institutions in the projects will be provided by the FAPs participating in this Call, in accordance with their respective funding rules and schemes.

4. Participation in MSCA Projects with Co-Funding from Brazilian State Funding Agencies

The Brazilian State Funding Agencies (FAPs) participating in this Call (listed in Section 7) may support the participation of Brazilian researchers or institutions in MSCA Doctoral Networks proposals, in accordance with the following requirements:

a) The 2026 MSCA-DN European call published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal;
b) This Call published by CONFAP;
c) The specific rules or guidelines issued by the participating FAPs, which may establish additional requirements.

Eligible applicants seeking financial support from the FAPs participating in this Call shall apply through the respective funding schemes of their FAPs to support their participation in MSCA DN 2026 proposals.

The participating FAPs may provide specific rules or guidelines with instructions on how to apply for such support.

In addition, Brazilian participants must comply with the rules of the general Horizon Europe – MSCA DN 2026 call published on the European Commission's portal, available at this link.

First, an eligible consortium of institutions, including Brazilian partners, must submit an MSCA DN proposal by the deadline specified in the European call through the European Commission's Funding & Tenders Portal, using the link mentioned above.

In addition, representatives of the Brazilian institutions involved in the proposals must also submit a summary proposal to their respective FAPs, following the instructions set out in this Call and in accordance with their FAP's funding schemes.

5. Eligibility:

Eligibility Consultation: Applicants from Brazil must consult the respective FAP to verify their eligibility. The eligibility consultation provides guidance on the conditions and rules to be followed by the Brazilian side.

Eligible Host Organisations: Eligible host organisations may include Higher Education Institutions, Research Institutions, or entities from the non-academic sector, depending on the eligibility conditions established by the FAP concerned, provided they are based in Brazilian states covered by the participating FAPs.

Flexibility and Specific Requirements: Each FAP participating in this Call may establish specific eligibility criteria for applicants and host organisations in its respective state. These may include thematic priorities, types of eligible entities, or specific conditions for participation.

Eligible Applicants: Brazilian partners cannot act as coordinators of MSCA DN proposals, as they are not automatically eligible to receive EU funding and therefore cannot be responsible for the overall administrative and financial management of the project. They may participate only as associated partners within the consortium.

6. General Information for the Applicants

6.1. Preparation and Submission of Proposals:

a. Following the eligibility consultation, proposals must be submitted to the FAPs after the closing date of the general MSCA DN call (24 November 2026), as the full project proposal submitted by the international consortium must be attached to the summary proposal submitted to the FAPs.

b. The proposal submitted to the participating FAPs must clearly demonstrate that the Brazilian partner in the respective state has made a significant contribution to the design of the full proposal submitted to the MSCA DN call. This may include leading work packages and/or tasks, or playing a fundamental role in carrying out specific activities described in the MSCA DN proposal. The resulting collaboration should aim to contribute to the scientific, technological and socioeconomic development of the Brazilian states involved.
c. The Brazilian partner's involvement, as described above, must also be clearly stated in the MSCA DN proposal.
d. Proposals involving Brazilian partners from more than one Brazilian state must be submitted independently to the FAPs of all states involved in the proposal.

6.2. Guidelines for Applicants

Proposals submitted to the participating FAPs must:

a. Comply with the guidelines established by the FAPs for this specific Call.
b. Clearly state that the project is associated with a proposal submitted to the MSCA DN call
c. Include the title and acronym of the proposal submitted to the MSCA DN call, details of the EU-based project coordinating institution, and information about the partners involved in the consortium.
d. Include a short section (maximum of two pages) explaining why the Brazilian partner's participation is relevant to the MSCA DN international doctoral training network project and how this collaboration will contribute to the scientific and technological development of the Brazilian state(s) involved.
e. It is essential that reviewers and panel members of the participating FAPs clearly understand the scientific relevance of the collaboration with the Brazilian partner, how it is integrated into the EU proposal, and how it is critical to the success of the overall proposal and the international doctoral training network. It is also essential to clearly demonstrate that the Brazilian partner(s) actively participated in the conception and preparation of the proposal. **The Brazilian partner(s) are responsible for clearly presenting these elements in the proposal submitted to the FAPs.**
f. The proposal, containing all the elements mentioned above, must include a complete copy of the proposal submitted to the MSCA DN call through the European Commission's Funding & Tenders Portal, including all mandatory accompanying annexes.

6.3 Proposal Evaluation

6.3.1. The evaluation of proposals submitted to the participating FAPs will follow their respective standard procedures for the assessment and selection of research proposals. The contents of the proposals submitted for evaluation will be kept confidential.

6.3.2. Proposals will be funded by the participating FAP(s) only if they are also selected for funding by the European Commission and the European Research Executive Agency (REA). The FAP Grant Agreement will be made

available for signature only after the submission of the Grant Agreement under which the EU awards funding to the consortium

6.3.3. All personal information contained in the proposals will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring the appropriate protection of personal data and the privacy of the individuals concerned. This commitment to confidentiality covers the contents of the proposals and the annexes referred to in Section 6.2(f), and extends to strict compliance with applicable data protection laws.

7. Participanting FAPs and Contact Information

7.1. Participanting State Funding Agencies:

The FAPs listed below support this Call in accordance with their respective guidelines, which will be communicated directly by the agencies. The participating FAPs are:

1. State Funding Agency of Paraná – Fundação Araucária;
2. State Funding Agency of Amazonas – FAPEAM;
3. State Funding Agency of Espírito Santo – FAPES;
4. State Funding Agency of Paraíba – FAPESQ;
5. State Funding Agency of Ceará – FUNCAP; and,
6. State Funding Agency of Rondônia – FAPERO.

7.2. Contact Information:

- General inquiries regarding the overall scope and characteristics of this Call may be sent to: internacional.confap@gmail.com
- Specific questions regarding eligibility requirements and additional rules for participation and submission should be addresses to the respective FAPs.

8. Deadlines:

- Submission of proposals to Horizon Europe MSCA DN: 24 November 2026.
- Notification of call results to applicants by the REA: April 2027 (to be confirmed).
- Submission of proposals to the participating FAPs: Dates will be announced at a later stage by the respective FAPs.