

# Montenegro 2026

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## From Commitment to Delivery

**Working Session IV: Pipeline Development**

*Pipeline: Innovation Ecosystems, Academia and Research Excellence*

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**How to read the pipeline: calls roles ➡ participants ➡ activation**

### 1. Most relevant calls

- Immediate activation lines with a realistic 2026 fit
- Strategic build-up lines that require positioning now
- Focus on the calls that can actually mobilize actors after the conference

### 2. Realistic roles

- Lead / co-lead where Montenegro has system ownership
- Host where strong institutions can attract talent or activity
- Join as partner where participation builds credibility toward future leadership

### 3. Potential participants

- Universities, institutes, hospitals, STP/TTOs, incubators and firms
- Ministries, agencies, VET providers, municipalities and NGOs
- Each call should leave this room with a first, named participant pool

## Logical grouping of the most relevant calls

Pipeline group	Most relevant calls	Main strengths / benefits	Realistic Montenegro role	Best-placed participants	Indicative timing
Quick-entry research access	Hop-on Facility; ERA Fellowships; MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	Fastest route into strong EU networks; attracts excellent researchers; creates quick credibility and early results.	Join existing consortia; host fellows; use secondments and thematic partners.	UoM, UDG, research institutes, Institute of Public Health, hospitals, selected companies.	Sep 2026
Excellence & capacity building	Teaming Synergies; MSCA Doctoral Networks; Excellence Hubs	Builds durable research capacity, doctoral training, and stronger links between academia, business and territory.	Mostly partner / co-design now; position for stronger leadership over time.	UoM, UDG, ministries, STP, hospitals, municipalities, innovation agencies.	Late 2026 - Mar 2027
Commercialisation & startup pipeline	CONNECT-01; EIC Pre-Accelerator; Startup Europe	Strengthens technology transfer, spinout support, market readiness and access to wider startup networks.	Lead or convene where ecosystem actors are already in place; partner where scale-up networks are external.	STP, UoM TTO, incubators, innovation agencies, startups, business support bodies.	Sep-Nov 2026; Sep 2027
Skills & inclusion infrastructure	National Coalitions for Digital Skills; EaSI/ESF+ annual calls	Creates system-wide mobilisation around skills, employment and inclusion rather than one-off projects.	Lead or co-lead national coalition; monitor annual calls and plug in the right delivery actors.	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, UoM, UDG, VET providers, Employment Agency, NGOs, employers.	Oct 2026 onward

This grouping makes the pipeline easier to read: which calls move fast, which build systems, and which actor types are most relevant for each line.

## Immediate activation lines (2026): strongest fit for early mobilisation

Call	Why relevant now / benefits	Realistic role	Best-placed participants	Concrete example	Timeline
Hop-on Facility	Low-entry route into already selected Horizon projects; fast network insertion and visibility.	Join as widening partner.	UoM, UDG, research institutes.	A UoM or UDG lab joins an already selected Horizon consortium in digital health, green tech or advanced materials as the widening partner.	24 Sep 2026
ERA Fellowships 2026	Brings postdoctoral talent, supervision links and future proposal capacity.	Host postdoctoral researchers.	UoM, UDG, Institute of Public Health.	UDG or the Institute of Public Health hosts a fellow in bioinformatics, public health analytics or sustainability with a European secondment.	9 Sep 2026
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	High-quality research talent, training and strong international profile.	Host fellows; use non-academic secondments.	UoM, UDG, institutes, hospitals, companies.	UoM hosts a fellow in AI, climate or blue economy with a company or hospital as a secondment site.	9 Sep 2026
Technology Transfer / CONNECT-01	Turns research into market pathways; strengthens TTO practice and proof-of-concept support.	Lead / co-lead / convene.	STP, UoM TTO, innovation agencies, startups.	STP and UoM TTO set up a pipeline to identify research results, validate market potential and prepare spinout cases.	21 Sep 2026
National Coalition for Digital Skills	System-wide skills mobilisation; aligns education, employers and public bodies.	Lead or co-lead national coalition.	Ministry of Education, UoM, VET providers, employers, NGOs.	A national coalition is launched to map skills gaps, coordinate training offers and connect graduates to sector needs.	1 Oct 2026

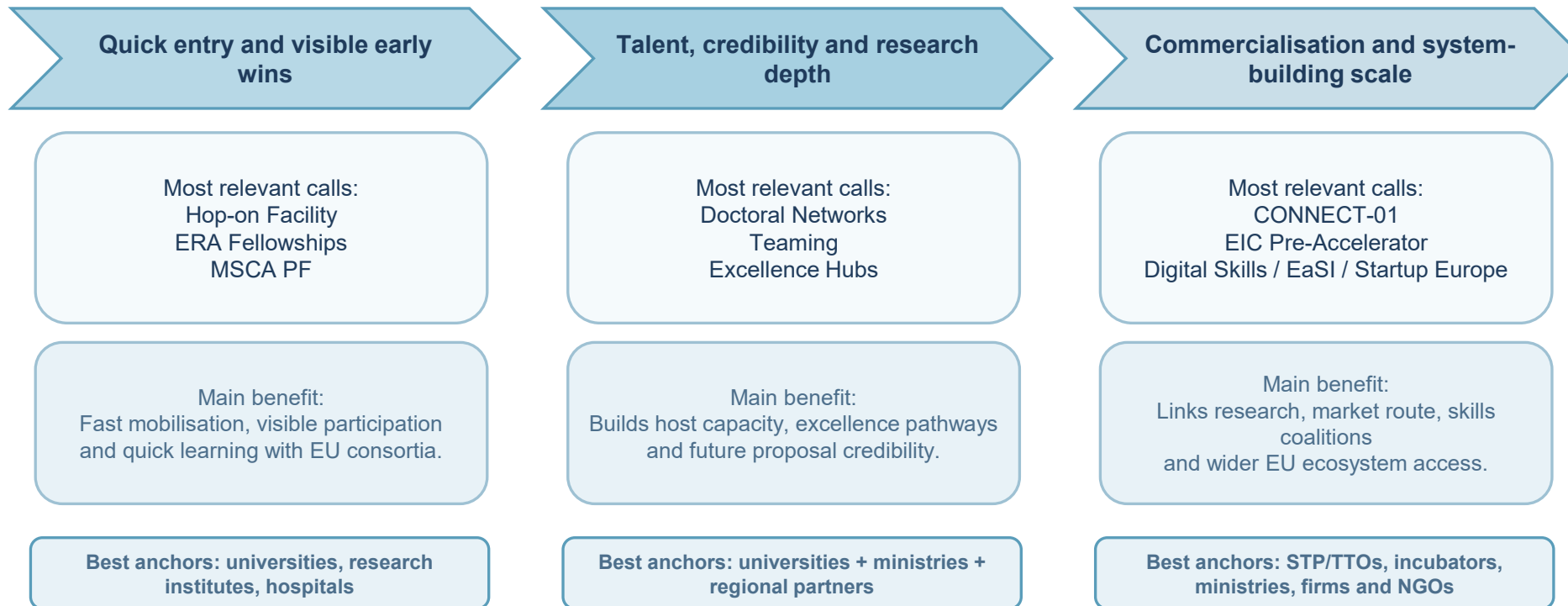
These lines matter because they combine near-term deadlines with realistic roles and visible early results.

## Build-up lines to position now (2026-2027)

Call	Why relevant now / benefits	Realistic role	Best-placed participants	Concrete example	Timeline
Teaming Synergies	Longer-term centre-of-excellence path with institutional strengthening and reform effect.	Partner now; prepare stronger leadership over time.	UoM, UDG, relevant ministry, leading EU institution.	A Montenegrin university and ministry build a concept with a leading EU institution around a focused excellence area such as AI, public health or blue economy.	Late Sep 2026
MSCA Doctoral Networks	Creates doctoral training ecosystems, mobility and university-business links.	Join consortia as academic / non-academic partner.	UoM, UDG, hospitals, companies.	UoM joins a doctoral network where hospitals or firms provide applied cases and secondments.	24 Nov 2026
Excellence Hubs	Connects academia, business and territory; useful for regional innovation ecosystems.	Co-design / partner.	UoM, STP, innovation agencies, municipalities, SMEs.	A territorial innovation hub is framed around green transition or digital industry, linking university research with firms and local authorities.	4 Mar 2027
EIC Pre-Accelerator	Prepares deep-tech startups for stronger EIC and investor pathways.	Convene startup pipeline and support services.	STP, incubators, startups, mentors.	STP curates a group of research-based startups and spinouts for investor readiness, mentoring and EIC pathway preparation.	18 Nov 2026*
Startup Europe	Opens access to wider EU startup networks, soft-landing and scale-up opportunities.	Partner in ecosystem-building action.	STP, incubators, startup networks.	STP joins a cross-border startup support consortium that offers access to markets, mentors and collaboration platforms.	14 Sep 2027
EaSI / ESF+ annual calls	Supports labour-market inclusion, reskilling and employment delivery at scale.	Monitor annual calls and mobilise delivery partnerships.	Ministry of Labour, Employment Agency, NGOs, training providers.	Public bodies and NGOs mobilise annual calls for vulnerable groups, youth employment or reskilling linked to national priorities.	Annual / rolling

\*Indicative date based on the working call list used for MNE26 pipeline preparation. These lines should be positioned early, even where the first role is partner rather than lead.

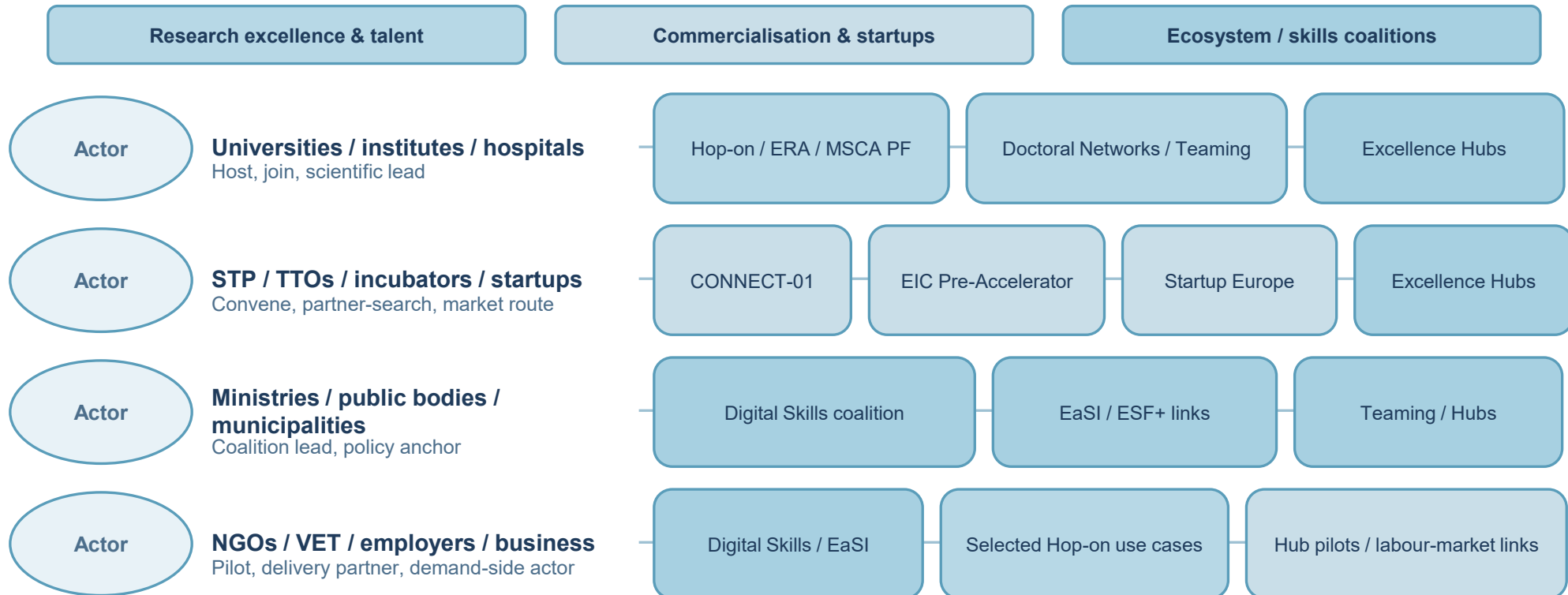
# Strengths and benefits: why these call groups matter



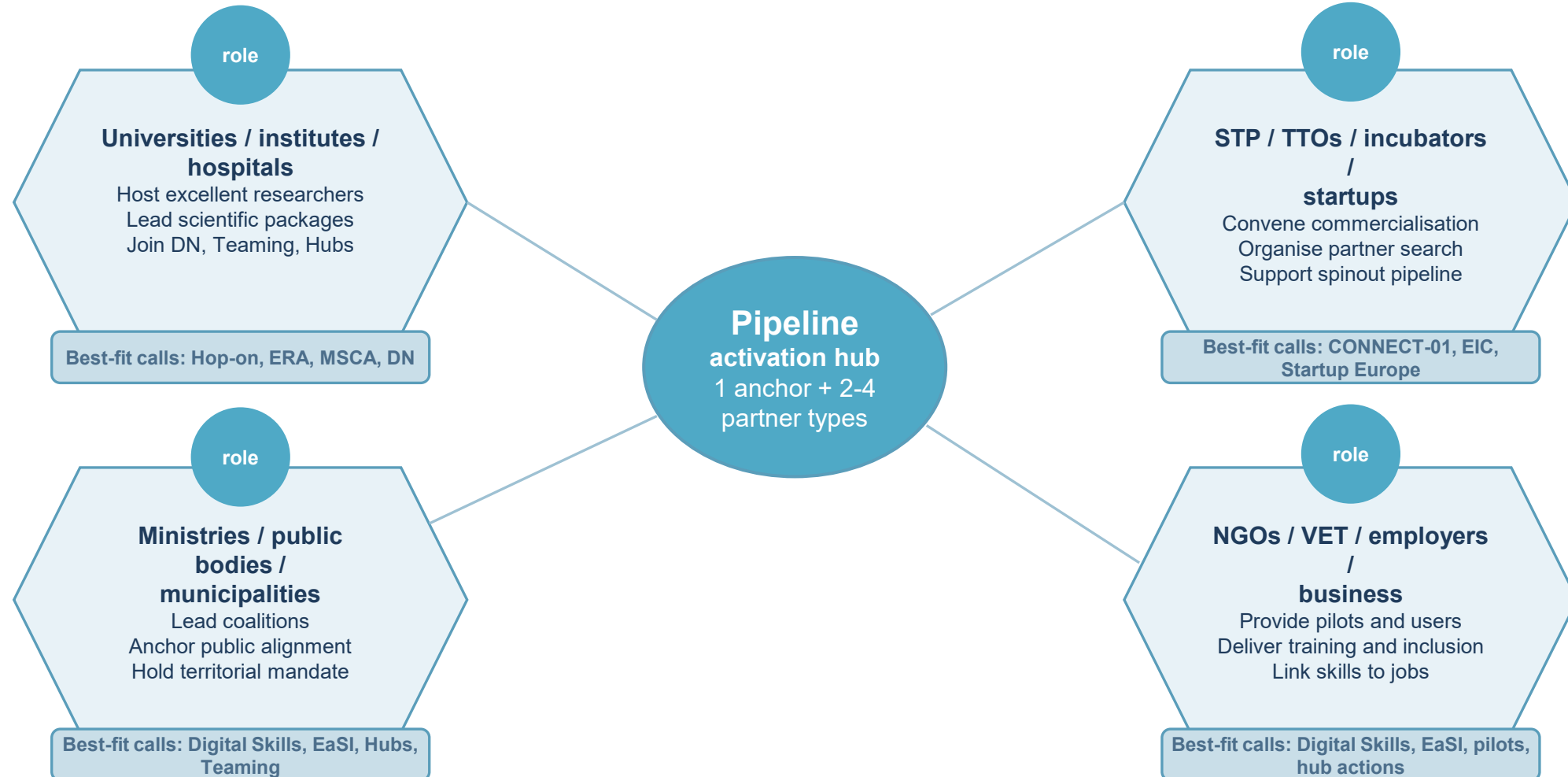
Grouped calls by what they deliver, not just by programme label: entry, capability building, and ecosystem scale-up.

Pipeline logic: early-entry calls create proof, partners and confidence; later calls convert that momentum into stronger consortia and more durable capacity.

# Which actors are most relevant for which call groups

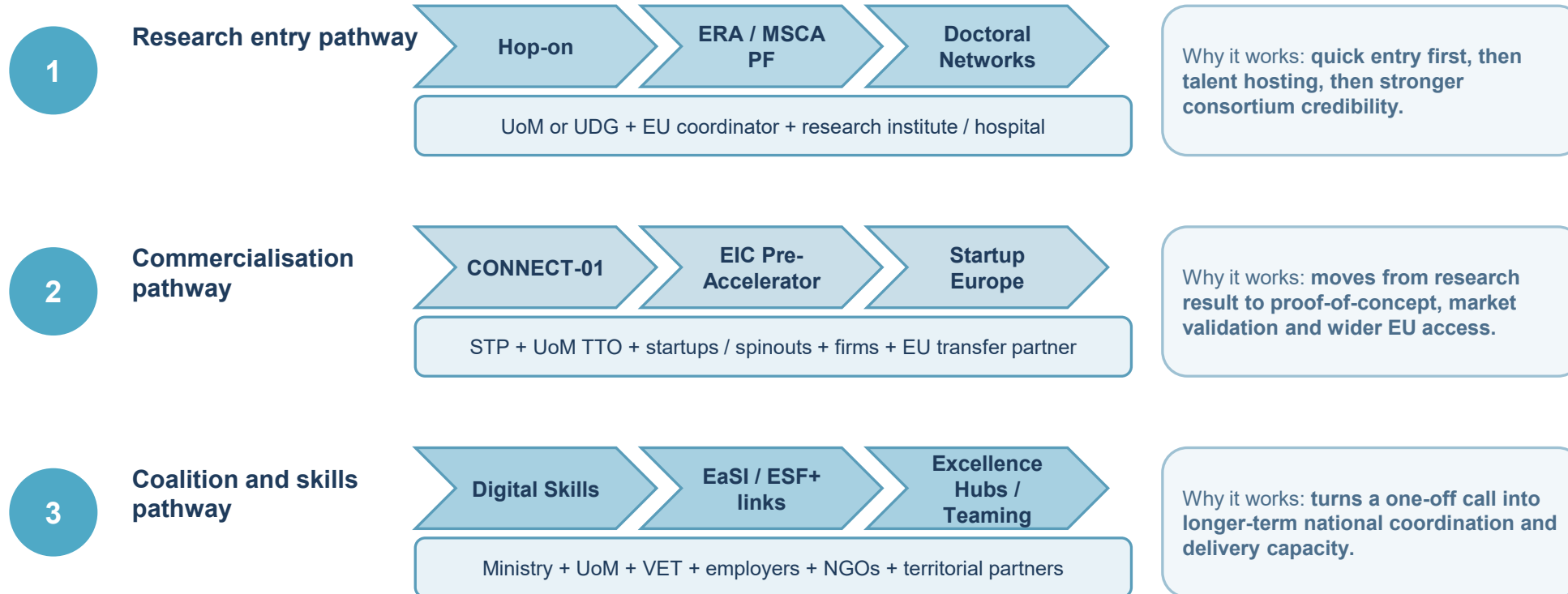


# Relevance for different actors: who should lead, host, join or convene



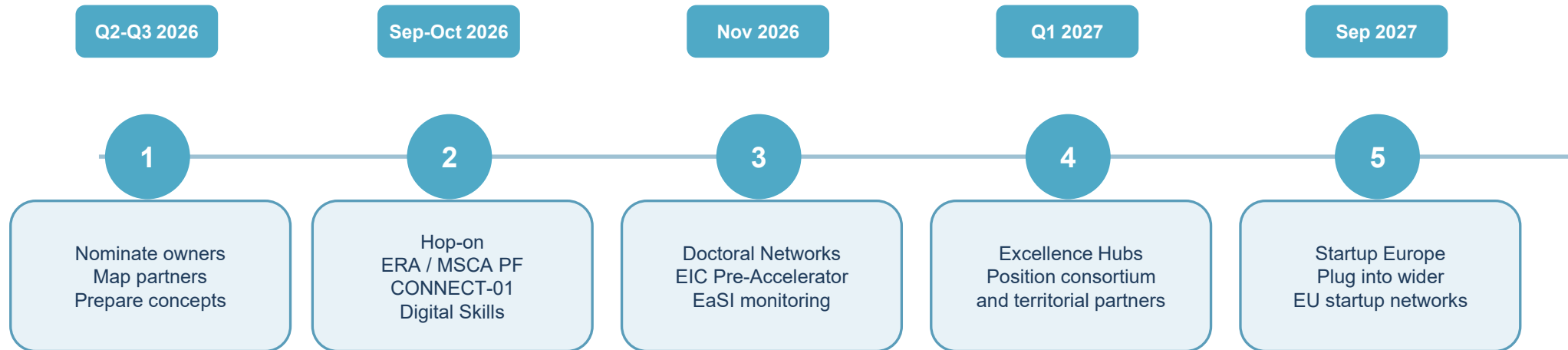
Key message: most calls cut across actor types, but each activation line needs one clear institutional anchor.

# Selected examples: how calls, roles and actors connect in practice

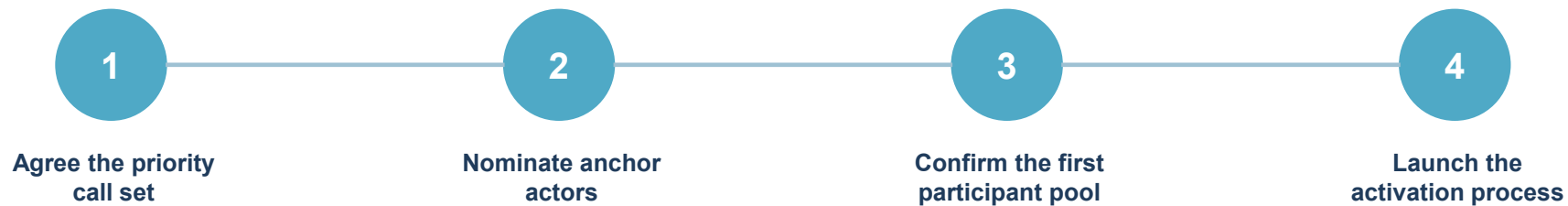


\*These are starter combinations, not fixed consortia; the value is that each example already links a call sequence, a lead actor set and a practical activation logic.

# Indicative timeline and the cornerstones this room should secure



## Cornerstones to secure in the room today



\*The aim is not to predict every step precisely, but to sequence the work so actors know what should happen first, next and later.

## Selected examples: how calls, roles and actors connect in practice

### Example 1 - Quick-entry research integration

- Call(s): Hop-on Facility
- Actors: UoM or UDG + EU coordinator + research institute / hospital use-case partner
- Why it works: fast entry into an already strong consortium, with a realistic partner role and visible early learning.

### Example 2 - Talent attraction and research capacity

- Call(s): ERA Fellowships / MSCA PF
- Actors: UDG or Institute of Public Health + EU supervisor + hospital or company secondment
- Why it works: brings excellent researchers into Montenegro while building networks and future proposal capacity.

### Example 3 - Commercialisation pathway

- Call(s): CONNECT-01; EIC Pre-Accelerator
- Actors: STP + UoM TTO + innovation agency + startups / spinouts
- Why it works: creates a practical route from research results to proof-of-concept, market validation and startup readiness.

### Example 4 - System coalition and skills mobilisation

- Call(s): National Coalition for Digital Skills; EaSI / ESF+ links
- Actors: Ministry of Education + UoM + VET providers + employers + NGOs
- Why it works: turns a call into national coordination infrastructure instead of a one-off project.

**Today, the goal is not to leave with a longer list of calls, but with a clearer path of action — because the real value of this pipeline will not be measured by how many calls we mention today, but by how many actors we align, mobilise, and move into action tomorrow!**