



MSCA Industrial Doctoral Network

15 PhD positions – 1. Sept. 2025 to 31. Aug. 2028
Pre-announcement

The doctoral research network “Co-Construction in the field of social welfare” COCOSO brings together 6 universities and 16 partners from the non-governmental and public sectors in Europe. This industrial doctoral network is dedicated to research about participation and co-construction as a core dimension of democracy and innovation in social welfare.

The COCOSO doctoral research and accompanying training programme are designed to address the pressing demand for meaningful and efficient participation of citizens involved in social services and policies: people with experience of using social services, practitioners, decision and policy-makers. Citizens experiencing welfare systems are often subject to one or several factors of inequality and vulnerability, which directly or indirectly hinders their participation. To effectively address contemporary challenges in co-construction of social policies and practices requires research and practice tools in four key areas:

- identify conceptual and practice understandings of participation and co-construction (Work Package 1);
- overcome power, trust and management barriers to embed co-construction in policies and services (Work Package 2);
- address limitations in co-construction due to inter-sectional inequalities (Work Package 3);
- enhance the potential of digital tools for participation (Work Package 4).

Cocoso will thus contribute to develop:

- (a) research- and practice-based evidence and knowledge about barriers and facilitators to co-construction;
- (b) cutting-edge methods to embed co-construction in practice and collaborative research (networking of universities, NGOs, users, local authorities)
- (c) effective implementation of co-construction by highly skilled researchers who will be well prepared to face the challenges experienced by organisations and policy-makers in their relationships with citizens facing vulnerability.



The research will be fulfilled by 15 PhD candidates under close collaboration and supervision of senior academic and industrial / practice partners from different disciplines including social policy, education, sociology, communication sciences and history; as well as different sectors such as local authorities and non-profit social organisations.

As an 'industrial doctorate', each PhD project has been designed together with a social sector organisation and the doctoral researcher will spend a minimum of 50% their time working there. Each PhD project will have one academic and one social sector supervisor.

COCOSO researchers will be supported by an intensive training programme delivered by research and social sector partners. The training will include international study blocks every six months in a different European country, online work package meetings as well as individual training opportunities for each researcher. The ultimate aim of the training is to support research-related careers in the social sector, which could include consultancy, programme development, training and evaluation.

The COCOSO consortium looks for researchers who wish to work in a highly collaborative, international and mobile partnership between the research and social welfare sectors.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101169183>

15 doctoral candidates will be recruited under MSCA Doctoral Network conditions. Contracts will run from 1st September 2025 till 31st August 2028.

According to the rules of the Marie Curie Doctoral Network programme, researchers funded by Industrial Doctoral Networks:

- must not have a doctoral degree at the date of their recruitment
- can be of any nationality
- should be enrolled in a doctoral programme during the project
- should spend at least 50% of their time outside academia as part of the project
- should comply with the mobility rules: in general, they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date

The EU provides support for each recruited researcher in the form of

- a living allowance (*a work contract with the employer mentioned below*)
- a mobility allowance
- if applicable, family, long-term leave and special needs allowances

The MSCA allowances are subject to income tax, social security payments and employer contributions based on the national laws in the country where the doctoral fellow is employed. Gross salaries will be listed in job advertisements and the employment contracts.

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





Calls for applications will be launched in January 2025 for the following PhD positions

Doctoral candidate 1

Project title: **COMPARED PERSPECTIVES ON CO-CONSTRUCTION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**– WP1

Employer: Department of Sociology and Social Work - University of Aalborg (AAU) - DENMARK

Secondment: Aalborg Municipality - DENMARK

DC 1 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in social work or a related discipline with high relevance to the PhD topic
- stay in Aalborg from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- have an intermediate level of spoken Danish by the end of the first 12 months or attend a Danish course upon arrival.

Doctoral candidate 2

Project title: **POWER, GENDER AND PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION**– WP1

Employer: Faculty of History, Universität Innsbruck (UIBK) - AUSTRIA

Secondment: Asociația Centrală de Formare și Evaluare în Asistența Socială (CFCECAS) Bucharest - ROMANIA

DC 2 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in history or a related discipline
- stay in Innsbruck for 18 months and in Bucharest for 18 months
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- a good level of spoken German is desirable
- basic knowledge of Romanian language is useful, but not compulsory.

Doctoral candidate 3

Project title: **CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISON OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDINGS OF CO-CONSTRUCTION**- WP1

Employer: ISCSP, University of Lisbon - PORTUGAL

Secondment: Jovesolides – Valencia - SPAIN

DC 3 will be expected to

- have a Master degree highly relevant to the PhD topic OR Bachelor degree together with substantial relevant professional experience
- stay 18 months in Lisbon and 18 months in Valencia
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- good knowledge of Spanish language desirable.

Doctoral candidate 4

Project title: **MULTI-ACTOR CO-CONSTRUCTION IN LOCAL WELFARE POLICIES. CHALLENGES, AND CRITICAL FACTORS IN THE POST-COVID PERIOD** WP2

Employer: ISCSP, University of Lisbon- PORTUGAL

Secondment: Municipality of Amadora - PORTUGAL

DC 4 will be expected to

- have a Master degree highly relevant to the PhD topic OR Bachelor degree together with substantial relevant professional experience
- stay in Lisbon from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language.





- good knowledge of Portuguese language desirable.

Doctoral candidate 5

Project title: **CO-CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP APPROACH IN NGO SOCIAL SERVICE SECTORS** WP2

Employer: Social Science Doctoral School, University of Warsaw - POLAND

Secondment: Santa Casa da Misericórdia da Amadora (SCMA) Lisbon - PORTUGAL

DC 5 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- stay 18 months in Warsaw and 18 months in Lisbon
- have excellent knowledge of English language.
- good knowledge of Portuguese language desirable.

Doctoral candidate 6

Project title: **SOCIAL SERVICES AND SERVICE USERS IN FAMILY FOSTER CARE PLANNING : CO-DESIGNING AND CO-EVALUATING LONG TERM PLACEMENT** – WP2

Employer: Department of Social Work, Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) - Komotini - GREECE

Secondment: Scientific Association for the Care of Children and Adolescent (SYMEPE) – Thessaloniki - GREECE

DC 6 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in social work or a related discipline with high relevance to the PhD topic
- have experience in the field of social welfare
- stay in Greece from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language.
- have a good knowledge of Greek language.

Doctoral candidate 7

Project title: **EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF CO-CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIES** - WP2

Employer: Centre de recherches en Education et Formation, Université Paris Nanterre - FRANCE

Secondment: Agence Nouvelle des Solidarités Actives (ANSA) – Paris – France

DC 6 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- stay in Paris from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language.
- have good knowledge of French language.

Doctoral candidate 8

Project title: **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN COMBATTING STIGMA OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS** - WP 3

Employer: Department of Social Work, Democritus University of Thrace - Komotini - GREECE

Secondment: Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos – Kallithea - GREECE

DC 8 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in social work or a discipline with high relevance to the PhD topic of community mental health
- have experience in the field of social welfare
- stay in Greece from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language.
- have a good knowledge of Greek language.





Doctoral candidate 9

Project title: **CO-CONSTRUCTING EVALUATION OF SERVICES WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE ACROSS SERVICES** – WP3

Employer: Centre de recherches en Education et Formation, Université Paris Nanterre - FRANCE

Secondment: Armée du Salut – Paris - FRANCE

DC 9 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- stay in Paris from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- have a good knowledge of French language.

Doctoral candidate 10

Project title : **ROLE OF GENDER FACTORS IN CO-CONSTRUCTING SOLUTIONS WITH HOMELESS CITIZENS** - WP3

Employer: Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Aalborg (AAU) – DENMARK

Secondment: DanChurch Social – Aalborg – DENMARK

DC 10 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in social work or a related discipline with high relevance to the PhD topic
- stay in Aalborg from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- have an intermediate level of spoken Danish by the end of the first 12 months or attend a Danish course upon arrival.

Doctoral candidate 11

Project title: **LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVOCACY IN CHILD PROTECTION IN EAST SUSSEX AND PARIS** WP3

Employer: Centre de recherches en Education et Formation, Université Paris Nanterre - FRANCE

Secondment: East Sussex County Council – Lewes – UNITED KINGDOM

DC 11 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- stay 18 months in Paris and 18 months in East Sussex
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- have a good knowledge of French language.

Doctoral candidate 12

Project title: **DIGITAL VOLUNTEERISM: THE TOOL AND SPACE OF NEW FORMS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION** WP4

Employer: Social Science Doctoral School, University of Warsaw - POLAND

Secondment: Good Network Foundation – Warsaw - POLAND

DC 12 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- research or professional experience with digital tools desirable
- stay in Warsaw from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- good knowledge of Polish language desirable.





Doctoral candidate 13

Project title: **HOW CAN OLDER ADULTS PARTICIPATE IN CO-CONSTRUCTION WHEN CONTACT TO CARERS IS MEDIATED THROUGH TECHNOLOGY?** WP4

Employer: Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Aalborg (AAU) DENMARK

Secondment: Anziani e non solo (ANS) Carpi - ITALY

DC 13 will be expected to

- have a Master degree in social work or a related discipline with high relevance to the PhD topic
- stay 18 months in Aalborg (Denmark) and 18 months in Carpi or Modena (Italy)
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- have a good knowledge of Italian language.

Doctoral candidate 14

Project title: **UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND DIVERSITY IN CO-CONSTRUCTED DIGITAL DISABILITY COMMUNITIES** - WP4

Employer: Faculty of Education, Universität Innsbruck (UIBK) - AUSTRIA

Secondment: Beratungsprojekt und digitale Bibliothek (BIDOK) Innsbruck - AUSTRIA

DC 14 will be expected to

- hold a Master degree in a discipline relevant to the PhD topic
- have research/professional experience of EITHER disability rights OR digital participation tools
- stay in Innsbruck from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language.
- have very good knowledge of German language.

Doctoral candidate 15

Project title: **DIGITAL TOOLS AS ENABLERS OF CO-CONSTRUCTION TO SUPPORT CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN ORGANISATIONS** - WP 4

Employer: Santa Casa da Misericórdia da Amadora (SCMA) Lisbon - PORTUGAL

Secondment: ISCSP, University of Lisbon- PORTUGAL

DC 15 will be expected to

- have a Master degree highly relevant to the PhD topic OR Bachelor degree together with substantial equivalent professional experience in digital solutions for health and welfare
- stay in Lisbon from 1 of September 2025 till 31st of August 2028
- have excellent knowledge of English language
- good knowledge of Portuguese language desirable.

For more information, please join the
online information session

Friday, December 6th 2024 from 4 to 5 PM (Paris - CET)

The information session will give an overview of the COCOSO project, including research, training and communication activities. It seeks to explain the feel of the network and the work that the doctoral researchers will undertake. We will also address practical questions about applying for a PhD post. It is planned that the meeting will be recorded and available on YouTube.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85281270665?pwd=7tCJS5c25fJ70H3tw3bAw4TXDyDoa2.1>



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