



Report on Joint European doctoral programmes including the list of awarded European Doctoral Degrees in CIVIS

CIVIS2: Deliverable 10.1

Approved by the Steering Committee of CIVIS
on 17 September 2026

The CIVIS Alliance member universities

Here are the names of the universities and their acronyms as we use them in CIVIS.

Full member universities

AMU	Aix-Marseille Université
NKUA	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
UB	University of Bucharest
ULB	Université libre de Bruxelles
UofG	University of Glasgow
UNIL	University of Lausanne
UAM	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
SUR	Sapienza Università di Roma
PLUS	University of Salzburg
SU	Stockholm University
UT	University of Tübingen

Associate member universities

UH2C	Université Hassan II de Casablanca
UCAD	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
WITS	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
MAK	Makerere University
UEM	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
USF	Université de Sfax

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CIVIS – Europe's Civic University Alliance

CIVIS is formed by the alliance of 11 leading research-intensive higher education institutions across Europe: Aix-Marseille Université, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Université libre de Bruxelles, University of Bucharest, University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Sapienza Università di Roma, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Stockholm University and Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen. Six prestigious African universities join CIVIS as Associate Members: Université Hassan II de Casablanca, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Makerere University, Eduardo Mondlane University, Université de Sfax.

CIVIS brings together a community of more than 470,000 students and 58,000 staff members, including 35,000 academics and researchers in Europe alone. Including Associate Members, the Alliance counts 720,000 students and 75,000 staff members.

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1 Alliance
11 Universities
Countless Possibilities

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CIVIS 2 Work Packages and Streams

The CIVIS2 project is organised around three broad Streams, the Alliance's key areas of activity. Each Stream brings together different operational Work Packages that turn our Alliance's priorities into action.

WP1	Management and Governance	
WP2	Civic Engagement and Challenge-Based Education Strategy	Stream 1: Challenge-Based Education and Civic Engagement
WP3	Challenge-Based Local to Global Educational Activities	
WP4	Local to Global Civic Engagement Projects	
WP5	Enabling the Shared Inter-University Campus	
WP6	Connecting Student Communities through the Inter-University Campus	Stream 2: Inter-University Campus
WP7	Connecting Staff Communities through the Inter-University Campus	
WP8	Embedding Shared Educational Offer	
WP9	Accredited Shared Undergraduate (Bachelor) and Graduate (Master) Educational Offer	Stream 3: Embedded Joint Educational offer
WP10	Doctoral Educational Offer	
WP11	Accredited Modular Educational Offer	
WP12	Consolidation	
WP13	Impact and Dissemination	

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BIP / BIPs	Blended Intensive Programme(s)
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
EDL	Joint European Degree Label
EG	Expert Group
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EQAR	European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education
ESR	Early- Stage Researchers
EU	European Union
EUA-CDE	European University Association - Council for Doctoral Education.
H3Africa	Human Heredity and Health in Africa
MC	Management Committee
MedSysBio	Medical Systems Biology
ML	Machine Learning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions:
MSCA-COFUND	• Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes
MSCA-DN	• Doctoral Networks
MSCA-PF	• Postdoctoral Fellowships
MSCA-SE	• Staff Exchanges
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
RBL	Research-Based Learning
RI	Research Infrastructure
RIS4CIVIS	Research and Innovation Strategy for CIVIS
SC	Steering Committee
SpaXio	Spatial crosstalk in Immuno-oncology
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
WP	Work Package

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Report on Joint European Doctoral Programmes including the List of Awarded European Doctoral Degrees in CIVIS (WP10) provides a consolidated account of the work carried out by CIVIS through the Work Package on Joint Doctoral Education over the course of CIVIS2. Its primary purpose is to document how the Alliance has designed and supported shared doctoral provision — co-tutelles, multiple and joint doctoral degrees — while strengthening the training and career development of early-stage researchers (ESRs). The report summarises the state of play reached by the end of CIVIS2 and the foundations laid for the continuation and scaling of these activities in the next phase of the Alliance.

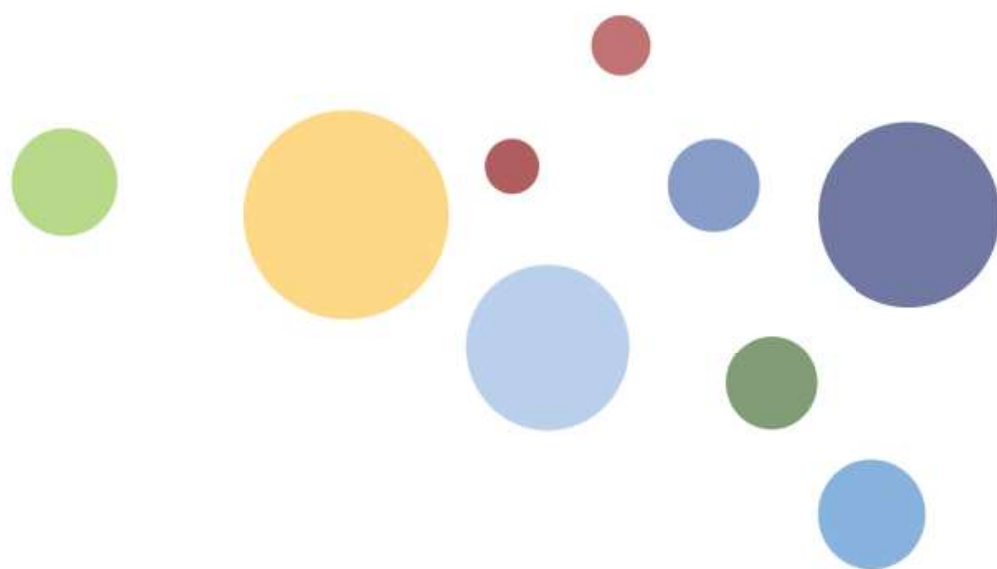
The principal result presented in this deliverable is a portfolio of eight joint doctoral programmes and networks already in place and now under development across CIVIS, spanning the arts and humanities, the social sciences, health and the life sciences. These were identified through two complementary mechanisms: five emerged from the CIVIS incentive scheme for flagship educational activities (a "flagship" is a priority educational activity proposed by a CIVIS Hub and selected, against defined qualification and merit-based criteria, to receive CIVIS2 incentive funding), and three from the 2025 Call for Educational Activities (Strand 1). Validated in 2026, they are now being developed by transnational teams working towards joint curricula, governance structures and accreditation. Among the most advanced, CIVIS MedSysBio (Medical Systems Biology) has entered its final accreditation phase, with a first cohort expected in October 2026; the Transitive Modernities joint doctorate has completed its design package, with delivery foreseen for 2027–2028; while the Museum University Forum has taken a different route, pairing each university with a partner museum and training candidates inside the collections themselves. Co-tutelle agreements continued to grow in parallel: building on the 9 agreements signed under CIVIS1, the number concluded during CIVIS2 rose from 5 in the first year to 12 in the second and 11 in the third year (data for the fourth year currently under collection).

This doctoral work has also fed directly into competitive European funding, most notably the award of the MSCA Doctoral Network SpaXio, which emerged from the CIVIS MedSysBio programme. In total, 17 MSCA projects connected to the Alliance's doctoral activities have been funded.

These programmes are complemented by a dedicated offer of transversal competence training for doctoral candidates and early-stage researchers. Three training offers — one doctoral module ("Artificial Intelligence and Research", four ECTS) and two micro-credentials ("Transversal Competences for PhD Candidates and ESRs", eleven ECTS, comprising nine training units, and "Modern Complex Systems", three ECTS) — were delivered with partner universities from across the Alliance, including the African associate members of Dakar and USF. Further complementary actions include a short-term mobility scheme and a dedicated Post-Doc/Doc job space launched on the CIVIS Digital Campus in January 2026. Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) offered across the Alliance are also open to doctoral candidates.

Taken together, these results establish a concrete and sustainable basis for joint doctoral education within CIVIS, ready to be consolidated and scaled in the next phase of the Alliance.

1



INTRODUCTION

Context

Since 1999, with the launch of the "Bologna Process" and in 2010, with the implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the European Commission has been following multiple strategies in order to promote the development of common programmes within the three cycles of the University educational system. During the Ministerial conference in Bergen in 2005, the ministries called for progress in the 'awarding and recognition of joint degrees, including at the doctorate level'. Over the past two decades Europe has witnessed significant progress in doctoral education. The European landscape for doctoral education has undergone an ongoing development since 2005 when the Salzburg Principles were set as part of the Bologna Process, providing the basis for reforms of doctoral education, and 2010 when the reform process in doctoral education was taken forward via the Salzburg II - Recommendations adding content and guidelines for a diverse landscape of doctoral schools and programmes.

In general terms, the development of joint degree programmes was stimulated strongly by the launch of the EU-funded Erasmus Mundus programme in 2004 and subsequently by the inclusion of European Joint Doctorates in the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA), created with the objective of "promoting international, intersectoral and multi/interdisciplinary collaboration in doctoral-level training in Europe through the creation of joint doctoral programmes, leading to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees.¹

To further support the achievement of this goal, in 2024 the European Commission has launched a flexible roadmap for the implementation of the European degree. This strategy, which will also impact the standardisation of advanced research training, is structured in two phases spanning from an initial implementation of establishing a European label that joint degree programmes, included joint doctoral programmes, would be able to earn by meeting a defined set of proposed European criteria and aligning them with a common European standard. This initial phase will be eventually followed by the full European Degree establishment. The second, more transformative phase, involves the creation of a true European degree. Upon the successful completion of this, a key benefit for doctoral students will be the enhanced recognition and portability of their qualifications across Europe. The degree could be awarded jointly by multiple universities from different Member States which would be particularly relevant for joint doctoral degrees and co-tutelle agreements.

European Universities Alliances are therefore positioned as pivotal actors in this entire process, particularly in establishing standards for advanced research training. They are already deeply engaged in advanced transnational cooperation, placing them at the forefront of identifying, managing, and ultimately overcoming the inherent complexities and multifaceted challenges associated with designing and delivering truly integrated European curricula, including integrated doctoral programs. Their current work focuses on designing an institutionalised cooperation process that aims for a significantly deeper, long-term, and flexible transnational cooperation within the overarching framework of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), directly impacting doctoral student mobility and research collaboration. More specifically, cooperation in doctoral education contributes to objectives stated in the European Charter for Researchers and it demonstrates the added value of Alliances, i.e. their abilities to contribute to other EU targets beyond those set within Erasmus+.

Already in 2022, the EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) published a Europe-wide survey, which shows that international mobility of doctoral candidates plays a key role in cooperation between universities. For example, 91% of the respondents to this survey classified the opportunity for doctoral candidates to gain experience of different professional, research and educational contexts as an important strategic priority for European universities, and 54% considered co-tutelles a priority at their institutions.

¹ Single Electronic Data Interchange Area - European Commission. Retrieved January 20, 2020, from <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-itn.1111>

Objectives of the deliverable

Within the framework of CIVIS Stream 3, CIVIS through the WP Joint Doctoral Education focuses on Doctoral Education Offer, pursuing the following objectives:

- Share and develop opportunities for early-career researchers;
- Design and support the development of shared doctoral programmes including Multiple Doctoral Degrees & Joint Doctoral Programmes;
- Enhance soft skills of early-stage researchers;
- Encourage the involvement of local and global associated partners in the CIVIS shared education;
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the shared programmes;
- Foster synergies with the RIS4CIVIS module on Strengthening Human Capital's outcomes.

To the above-mentioned goals corresponded specific tasks as follows:

- Reinforcing cooperation involving ESRs;
- Strengthen the shared doctoral offer;
- Enhance sustainability of the PhD efforts;
- Implementing innovative pedagogies and platforms as part of the PhD programmes.

The following sections will summarise the actions undertaken to achieve the set objectives and their main results, as well as the methodology that has been implemented.

Lines of action to achieve a joint and flexible doctoral offer

Work Package Joint Doctoral Education has been implementing three lines of action:

- the launch of a survey in July 2023 aiming at mapping doctoral education regulations at each institution to analyse the state of the art;
- the setting up of an organisational body to support and guide discussions on procedures and workflows, namely the Expert Group Doctoral Education, which eventually led to the drafting of templates of agreements required to set up joint doctoral programmes ;
- the development, organisation and support of approved doctoral initiatives, guiding their introduction through incentives' allocations and calls (see par. 5 complementary activities);
- the development of Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) for doctoral candidates, along with tailored online training initiatives that complement these efforts.

The initial survey was answered by ten out of eleven universities and focused on national legal frameworks, administrative patterns, and specific challenges such as duration, recruitment, and participant status. Findings revealed a heterogeneous legal landscape where one partner (ULB) requires cotutelle agreements for joint degrees, others (AMU and NKUA) are still debating national possibilities, and one (UB) is legally restricted from awarding such degrees. Common barriers identified include funding shortages for programmes exceeding three years, varying admission procedures, and the flexible mobility constraints tied to different work contract statuses.

An important step in supporting the development of shared doctoral programmes was the establishment of a specialised Expert Group on Doctoral Education. This made it possible to address differences in national doctoral education traditions and in the institutional allocation of relevant expertise, which is often separate from expertise on first- and second-cycle programmes represented in the CIVIS Education Unit. However, such a group may not fully reflect differences between academic disciplines. Moreover, expertise in structurally integrated transnational doctoral education may not yet exist and therefore needs to be developed collectively. Coordinating such a group and its activities consequently requires a shared understanding of the

terminology and a common vision, while also building institutional readiness for change. The latter was done by developing a shared glossary and by creating or updating templates for legal agreements that incorporated feedback reflecting the institutional and legal perspectives of the partner universities. Although such templates require considerable additional work when adapted to a specific programme and its particular operationalisation of "jointness" (see Chapter 2), their joint development supports institutional commitment and facilitates subsequent programme-level negotiations. To mitigate these hurdles, the Expert Group—tasked with harmonising practices and developing transversal competence training—finalised common agreement templates for joint and multiple PhD degrees to simplify bureaucratic procedures. This group also defined "jointness" based on EQAR standards, distinguishing between double/multiple degrees and joint degrees, to help clarifying concepts to the CIVIS community.

The first step was to collect doctoral proposals from CIVIS Hubs, requesting them to provide an overview of the flagships already approved and incentivised by CIVIS governance.

Members of WP held regular meetings online with Hubs representatives in order to:

- Identify doctoral networks initiatives;
- Promote and disseminate educational opportunities for PhD students;
- Promote co-tutelles and multiple and joint PhD degrees.

The different activities, as defined in the Educational Framework and therefore approved by the CIVIS Steering Committee (SC), implemented by the diverse academic community align with the deliverables according to the distinctive characteristics of the CIVIS Alliance (co-creation, challenge-based approach, innovation, civic engagement approach, connection to society via the Open Labs). CIVIS encourages and supports faculty members, researchers, and academics willing to submit proposals for long-term activities, namely co-tutelles and multiple/joint doctoral programmes, that should emphasise the potential impact on students' academic experiences, relevance to emerging research trends, competences and skills (basic or very specialised) and the promotion of different mobility formats and inclusion.

Within the overall framework of the identification of the Hubs' flagship programmes and of the consequent allocation of incentives, proposals of joint doctoral programmes have been approved and developed by CIVIS Hubs (Cf. section 3 below). During year 1 CIVIS had established through WP Management & Governance the procedure and criteria for the Hubs to submit proposals of flagship projects. The document was officially adopted by the SC during the meeting of October 23rd, 2023 and aimed at creating the framework to allocate dedicated incentives to facilitate academics, or staff directly supporting academics, to produce pedagogical contents. Two sets of criteria were established:

Qualification-based criteria: all education offers (programmes/degrees/modules) eventually eligible to incentive support must:

- relate to deliverables linked to pedagogical contents of CIVIS2;
- be sustainable, i.e. must be designed to be embedded in the educational offer of the partners involved, and novel/innovative;
- have at least three partner universities (eleven European member universities/leading research higher education institutions + six associate member universities in Africa) involved in the educational activity in order to secure a broad participation within the alliance;
- have an academic evaluation by the Hub(s)' council(s).

Merit-based criteria: all education offers programmes/degrees/modules eventually funded should preferably:

- follow a challenge-based approach;

- include civic engagement aspects;
- be or include components that are multi/trans-disciplinary;
- include components that facilitate interaction with African associate partners;
- include components that facilitate interactions with Open Labs;
- involve innovative pedagogies;
- have more than four partner universities (eleven European member universities/leading research higher education institutions + six associate member universities in Africa) involved in the educational activity.

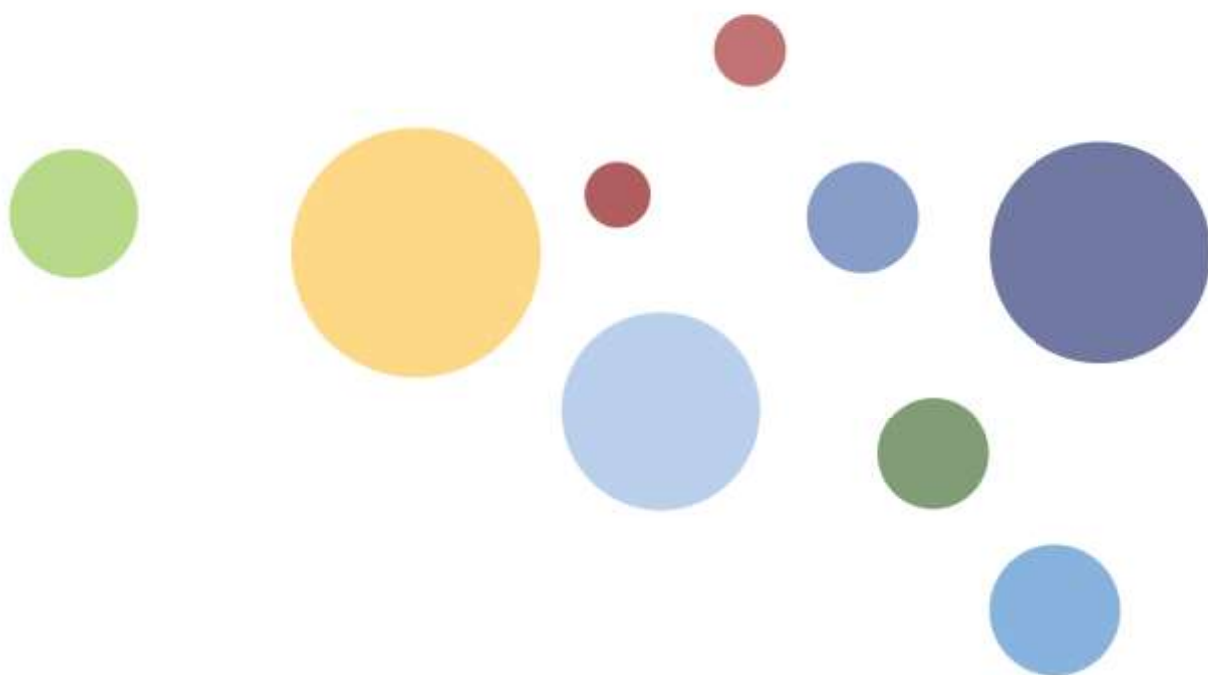
To support the entire procedure for incentivisation, the Steering Committee set up a specific Commission for Incentives which evaluated all the proposals and flagships, and validated the amount of incentives requested by each of them. Regarding doctoral education, the educational activities incentivised have been:

- 2 Doctoral Programmes for Hub2 - Society, Culture and Heritage;
- 2 Doctoral Programmes for Hub 3 - Health;
- 1 Doctoral Network for Hub 4 - Cities, Spaces and Mobilities;
- 1 Microprogramme and 1 Series of webinars for PhD candidates for Hub 5 - Digital and Technological Transformations.

In the following months, members of the WP Joint Doctoral Education and of the EG Doctoral Education have been meeting regularly with the team members developing the proposals in order to disseminate the templates proposed and to streamline and facilitate the subsequent phases of negotiations among partner universities.

The Call for Educational Activities 2025 invited applications for innovative educational projects aimed at building the European Education Area and supporting the implementation of the Joint European Degree Label (EDL) and the European Approach for Micro-credentials. Beneficiaries have been required to launch the project within one month of award, complete activities within the agreed period and submit a final report by September 30th, 2026. Applications should be led by a European CIVIS member university and involve at least three European-based universities. The call has been structured around three distinct strands for collaborative academic initiatives, where one strand has been dedicated to Joint Bachelor, Master or Doctoral programmes aiming at developing a programme design package that aligns with the criteria for the future Joint European Degree Label (EDL), ready for accreditation via the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes. As a result, two additional joint doctoral programmes have been approved in March 2026, as well as projects for micro-credentials dedicated to doctoral candidates.

2



CATALOGUE

Joint Doctoral programmes in CIVIS

Introduction

Doctoral education at most, though not all, CIVIS partner universities is traditionally organised as an individual, supervisor-led pathway rather than a structured programme, which makes joint provision both particularly innovative and, at times, challenging to implement. The following section offers an overview of the programmes and doctoral networks under development following the selection of projects summarised in the previous chapter.

2.1 Joint doctoral programmes approved by CIVIS so-called flagship projects

CIVIS Joint Doctoral Degrees

Joint doctoral degree	Call	No. students	Discipline	Institutions	ECTS & status
Joint PhD in Medical Systems Biology (CIVIS MedSysBio)	CIVIS so-called flagship projects	Not specified (linked MSCA network SpaXio: 14 positions)	Medical Systems Biology (computational biology, life sciences, clinical application)	Coordinating: PLUS Partners: AMU; UT	ECTS: 180 (incl. 150-ECTS dissertation) Status: final accreditation / implementation phase; first cohort October 2026
Joint PhD in Intercultural Philosophy and Global Epistemologies	CIVIS so-called flagship projects	~20 per year	Philosophy; intercultural, postcolonial and decolonial studies (Arts & Humanities)	Coordinating: UB Partners: AMU; UT; NKUA; (African) Hassan II; planned Cheikh Anta Diop, Makerere, Witwatersrand	ECTS: flexible (where required by home institution) Status: evolving from BIPs into a structured doctoral network; first cotutelle (UB-UT) undernegotiation

Joint doctoral degree	Call	No. students	Discipline	Institutions	ECTS & status
Joint PhD Museum University Forum	CIVIS so-called flagship projects	Not specified	Anthropology, ethnology, museology, critical heritage studies	Coordinating: UT Partners: PLUS; AMU; NKUA; UB; SU; (African) Witwatersrand	ECTS: summer schools award 1–6 ECTS; joint total to be defined Status: Multilateral agreement finalised – signature phase; start not specified
Joint PhD in Translational Cardiometabolic Biomedicine & Health	CIVIS so-called flagship projects	Not specified	Biomedicine / cardiometabolic health (translational)	Coordinating: ULB Partners: UAM; UB; SUR; NKUA	ECTS: 172 new ECTS (3-year track), incl. 60 ECTS mobility Status: design phase, including application to MSCA - starting date not specified
Hub 4 Cities, Mobilities and Territories Doctoral Network	CIVIS so-called flagship projects	Not specified	Urban studies, mobilities and territories (Social Sciences)	Coordinating: ULB Partners: UAM; NKUA; UB; SUR; UG; (African) Makerere, Hassan II	ECTS: via home institutions (seminar-based) Status: established as a Doctoral Training Path; hybrid seminar model; start not specified
CIVIS Life & Health PhD (Life and Health Sciences: Innovation and Societal Impact)	Educational Call 2025 – Strand 1	Not specified	Life & Health Sciences (aging, biochemistry/genetics, cancer immunology, infectious diseases)	Coordinating: UAM Partners: NKUA; UT; (African, contact initiated) USF	ECTS: mobility ≥30 ECTS (total to be defined) Status: design phase (legal/structural framework); implementation after September 2026

Joint doctoral degree	Call	No. students	Discipline	Institutions	ECTS & status
Joint European PhD Programme in Bioinformatics	Educational Call 2025 – Strand 1	Not specified	Bioinformatics (AI/ML, genomics, drug design, evolutionary biology)	Coordinating: SUR Partners: AMU; ULB; (international) H3Africa Bioinformatics Network, African BioGenome Project	ECTS: mobility ≥30 ECTS (≥6 months per host; 12 if two institutions) Status: consortium agreement finalised, under review; signature targeted September 2026; first partner meeting Brussels, 23–24 July 2026
Joint European PhD in Transitive Modernities: Comparative Literary and Visual Studies	Educational Call 2025 – Strand 1	10 per year	Comparative literary and visual studies (Arts & Humanities)	Coordinating: NKUA (degree-awarding) Partners: AMU; UB; UT; UG; (African) Cheikh Anta Diop, Witwatersrand ; SU (associated, under review)	ECTS: 180 ECTS (3-year track) Status: design package completed; Multilateral Agreement drafted June 2026; EQAR accreditation planned; co-organisation 2027–2028

2.1.1. Joint PhD Medical Systems Biology – CIVIS MedSysBio (and MSCA DN SpaXio)

The project is a multidisciplinary initiative designed to bridge the gap between computational biology, life sciences, and clinical application. The programme focuses on the integration of high-resolution "omics" and single-cell technologies with computational modelling and Artificial Intelligence to gain systematic insights into human pathologies. By moving beyond individual pathways to a systems-level understanding, the curriculum prepares researchers to translate complex biological data into practical medical solutions.

The doctoral candidates come from diverse backgrounds, including medicine, life sciences, bioinformatics, physics, and chemistry. The programme is structured around a "three-university" rule, where each student is guided by an advisory committee of three Principal Investigators from different CIVIS partner universities.

Designed to ensure professional and interdisciplinary competence, this framework is structured to integrate incoming students into a transnational research network, combining theoretical guidance with mandatory on-site laboratory internships.

The initiative is established as a collaborative effort led by three core European institutions, with strategic plans already in place for broader academic integration. (PLUS) serves as the lead institution, acting as the primary



administrative contact and coordinating university for the programme. This leadership is supported by the coordinating partners AMU and UT.

As of late 2025, the programme has entered its final accreditation and implementation phase. The project is working toward a clear timeline for academic activation, with the first cohort of doctoral students scheduled for enrolment in October 2026. Structurally, the full joint degree is designed to carry a total academic weight of hundred-and-eighty ECTS, which encompasses core courses, elective modules, and mandatory laboratory internships, culminating in a comprehensive hundred-and-fifty-ECTS dissertation.

A particularly significant achievement of this initiative is its direct link to SpaXio, the first CIVIS doctoral project to secure Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) funding. SpaXio ("Spatial crosstalk in Immuno-oncology") is an EU-funded MSCA Doctoral Network within the CIVIS alliance, coordinated by Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, offering fourteen doctoral positions that investigate how cancer metastasizes and interacts with the immune system through spatial multi-omics, 3D tumoroids, and AI-driven analysis, connecting research groups across Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland and Spain. Submitted in November 2024 and granted by the European Union in April 2025, SpaXio grew directly out of the conceptual and supervisory groundwork laid by CIVIS MedSysBio — international supervisory teams, structured mobility, and transferable-skills and Open Science training — demonstrating how CIVIS doctoral education work can translate into competitive European research funding and lend the Alliance visibility in a flagship EU instrument (see www.spaxio.eu).

The project maintains a strong focus on African partnerships by planning to offer core courses, such as Statistics in Biomedicine and Bioinformatic Analysis, as shared online modules. This digital framework will be adapted and opened in a step-wise-manner to allow students from African associated partner institutions to participate in the training and receive formal academic credits

2.1.2 Joint PhD Intercultural Philosophy and Global Epistemologies

At this stage, the initiative functions primarily as a network of researchers offering a number of joint doctoral courses rather than as a fully structured joint programme, and it is described here on that basis. The Doctoral Network for "Plural Ontologies and Intercultural Philosophy" aims to reassess current epistemological and ontological debates through a historical-geographical and social recontextualization of thought. The curriculum confronts traditional European theoretical traditions with postcolonial studies, decolonial studies, environmental humanities, and cultural studies, creating a forum for different "knowledge ecologies" to mutually inspire each other.

The programme is designed for doctoral students across the CIVIS Alliance, specifically those in fields such as philosophy, cultural theory, history, art history, Global South studies, and related social sciences like anthropology and sociology.

The network aims to include approximately twenty PhD students annually, providing them with a structured course programme (including ECTS where required), mobility phases, and the option for cotutelle agreements (jointly supervised degrees).

The partnership for the Doctoral Network in Intercultural Philosophy is structured as a collaborative effort between four European universities and one confirmed African associate partner. UB serves as the lead institution, taking primary responsibility for the coordinating, monitoring, and administrative tasks of the network. This leadership is supported by the core coordinating partners, AMU and UT, alongside the active participation of the NKUA.

A central pillar of the initiative is its integration with African institutions, currently spearheaded by the confirmed full partnership of UH2C in Morocco. Looking ahead, the network is focused on geographical expansion, with strategic plans to incorporate potential partnerships with universities in Dakar, as well as MAK and WITS.

The impact and results of the network are systematically tracked through student mobility metrics and the establishment of formal research agreements. The programme maintains a steady engagement target of approximately twenty participants per year, a goal underscored by the high demand for its offerings. For



instance, the call launched in late 2025 for the "Plural Ontologies" BIP attracted thirty-seven applications from doctoral candidates across the CIVIS partner universities.

Practical mobility is already yielding results; as of October 2025, two PhD visiting students from UB successfully completed research periods at UT. Furthermore, the network is advancing toward structural academic integration, with the first formal cotutelle agreement between UB and UT in its final signing stages.

These administrative milestones are complemented by a robust educational curriculum, which includes specialised weekly research colloquia and the successful completion of the first BIP course focused on the Philosophy of Art in an Intercultural Perspective, which engaged approximately twenty doctoral participants and involved six of the partner universities. To ensure the regular delivery of these intensive courses, a second BIP module focusing on intercultural texts and methods has already been scheduled, solidifying the program's cyclical educational framework.

The project has evolved from a series of individual BIPs into a more connected and increasingly coordinated network of researchers. This transition clearly demonstrates how CIVIS BIPs can effectively serve as incubators for more integrated, transnational educational formats between partner universities. However, this development process has also revealed several key challenges and strategic shifts necessary for the initiative's long-term success.

One major hurdle was a high level of funding dependency, particularly following the non-selection of a CIVIS BIP project application for the 2024-2025 cycle, which served as a significant drawback for the central funding of the yearly workshop. Consequently, the network has shifted its focus toward securing independent financial resources—leveraging core university budgets and standard Erasmus+ frameworks—to ensure long-term sustainability beyond specific alliance incentives.

Regarding global integration, the network has identified a critical need for dedicated financial support to better assist African associate partners who are often excluded from standard European funding schemes, thereby facilitating essential mobility for their students and professors.

As the transnational requirements of the network grow more complex, there is an increasing demand for a permanent administrative coordinating position to manage operations independently of credit-awarding processes and ensure the network's continued growth.

2.1.3 Joint PhD Museum University Forum

Rooted in the fields of anthropology, ethnology, museology, (art-) history, and critical heritage studies, the doctoral network focuses on the challenges of the international museum landscape. The initiative aims to establish a profession-oriented PhD track that encourages doctoral students to identify research subjects and materials directly within the network's partner museums through specialised workshops.

The primary beneficiaries are doctoral students across the CIVIS Alliance who seek to connect academic research with professional museum practice. Beyond the student body, the project integrates a broader educational offering aimed at curators, custodians, museum educators, and civic society groups.

In its initial phase, the Museum University Forum involved only three CIVIS partner universities; its membership was subsequently broadened. This integration is facilitated by opening the Forum to universities and museums from all participating CIVIS cities, allowing students to collect hands-on experience alongside museum professionals through potential internship opportunities and service learning.

The [Museum University Forum](#) is established on a collaborative framework that bridges European and African academic and professional institutions. UT serves as the lead institution and primary administrative contact, supported by the coordinating efforts of AMU and NKUA.

"The partnership also includes the UB, UofG, SUR, PLUS and SU as active participants. A core strategic priority is the integration of African heritage and archaeology expertise, currently focused on a primary partnership



with the Origins Centre at WITS. The Forum also aims to establish a comprehensive network by pairing a partner museum with every participating university across both continents.

The project tracks its institutional impact through strategic financial investment and consistent academic engagement in its preliminary activities. The financial foundation is supported by a strong history of participation; notably, the "MUSEO-POLIS" webinar series and summer school engaged seven academics from three different universities, while a 2022 Graduate Network event in Madrid involved ten academics across three partner institutions. Further impact is evidenced by recent summer schools in Athens and Marseille, which successfully provided students with between one and six ECTS credits and secured participation from at least three partner universities per session. The project focuses on its primary output goals, which include signing an interinstitutional agreement for the joint programme.

The Museum University Forum is currently in a transitional design phase as it evolves from a series of independent networking activities and summer schools to a formally recognised CIVIS institutional network. This evolutionary shift includes the introduction of structured educational offerings, such as new BIPs and specialised courses like "Critical Museum Studies: Heritage in a Globalised World." However, this development faces several key challenges, most notably the difficulty of harmonising the programme with the diverse national PhD accreditation requirements across various CIVIS member states.

Furthermore, achieving deep global integration requires significant administrative and temporal flexibility to coordinate the varying levels of involvement from African associate partners, which range from research exchanges to joint cotutelle supervision. As the Forum continues to grow, it must successfully balance its role as a networking facility with the technical design of a formal, long-term, and profession-oriented doctoral track to ensure institutional sustainability. The interinstitutional agreement for the joint doctoral programme has now reached its signing stage, marking a concrete step towards the formal establishment of the joint doctoral degree.

2.1.4 Joint PhD Translational Cardiometabolic Biomedicine & Health

This joint PhD programme is established as a collaborative initiative led by ULB, which serves as the lead coordinating institution. This partnership is supported by UAM, UB, SUR and NKUA.

The programme uses established educational formats to drive both student engagement and credit accumulation. This is evidenced by the project's use of a BIP on "Cardio-metabolic Disease," which involves twelve academics from five universities and awards six ECTS, as well as a summer school on "The Challenges of Aging" featuring fourteen academics from seven universities and awarding five ECTS.

In terms of overall academic output, the programme intends to create a total of hundred-seventy-two new ECTS for a standard three-year PhD track. A core component of the programme's impact is its mandatory mobility requirement, where students commit to sixty ECTS of research mobility at two external partner universities to develop their original thesis projects.

The initiative represents a strategic evolution toward a highly integrated Joint European Doctoral Degree. The project is designed with the flexibility to integrate existing or ongoing courses from partner institutions, allowing them to be embedded partly or in full into the Joint PhD framework.

Despite its growth, a key challenge remains the need to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application in the clinical and industrial sectors. To address this, the project has evolved to include mandatory cross-sectorial exposure, ensuring that researchers are equipped to translate their findings into tangible tools for innovation and public health decision-making.

2.1.5. Hub 4 Cities, Mobilities and Territories Doctoral Network

The project is managed by a diverse consortium of European and African institutions, with ULB serving as the lead coordinating university. This initiative is supported by the UAM, NKUA, UB, SUR and UofG. A vital component of the network is the participation of MAK and UH2C, whose involvement ensures that urban and



mobility challenges are addressed from a global perspective that specifically incorporates the context of the African continent.

The network monitors its institutional impact through academic networking and the progress of its structured training activities. Student engagement is maintained through a series of dedicated webinars and seminars that consistently involve PhD candidates and supervisors from all seven European and two African partner institutions.

Beyond immediate training, the network acts as a strategic platform for generating the academic links necessary to facilitate future cotutelle agreements and jointly supervised degrees among member institutions.

The project has evolved significantly, transitioning from a collection of individual research interests into a formal Doctoral Training Path. A primary evolutionary shift has been the focus on establishing a continuous seminar environment rather than relying on isolated workshops, a change intended to provide long-term stability and foster a genuine research community across the Alliance.

However, the project faces ongoing challenges, particularly regarding the administrative synchronisation of differing local doctoral requirements across multiple national systems. Furthermore, ensuring that interdisciplinary seminar work is formally recognised through ECTS credits requires constant negotiation with home institutions. Finally, the network continues to address sustainability by balancing the high value of face-to-face mobility with the practical benefits of digital collaboration tools, leading to the adoption of a hybrid model for its core seminars.

2.2 Doctoral initiatives from Educational Call 2025 Strand 1

2.2.1 Joint European Doctoral Programme in Life and Health Sciences: Innovation and Societal Impact (CIVIS Life & Health PhD)

The Joint European Doctoral Programme in Life and Health Sciences: Innovation and Societal Impact (CIVIS Life & Health PhD) is a challenge-based doctoral framework focused on the integration of life sciences with societal needs. The programme addresses critical health sub-thematics, including Aging and Geriatric Medicine, Biochemistry and Genetics, Cancer Immunology, and Infectious Diseases. Its core objective is to move beyond traditional disciplinary silos by developing a "programme design package" that serves as the foundation for a highly integrated, transnational European degree.

The primary recipients are doctoral candidates seeking specialized training at the intersection of health research and digital transformation. The programme is designed to be integrated into the broader educational landscape of the CIVIS Alliance by adopting joint policies on admission, grading, and disability support, ensuring it meets the standards of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). It targets researchers who aim to apply interdisciplinary methodologies to solve complex societal health challenges.

The administrative and academic stewardship of the CIVIS Life & Health PhD is spearheaded by UAM, which functions as the lead institution within a transnational consortium of research-intensive universities. This leadership team includes the NKUA and UT as primary coordinating partners. Although the initial submission phase did not include formal African memberships, the consortium has proactively sought to broaden its global reach by initiating contact with USF in Tunisia to integrate them into the partnership.

At present, the project is navigating a strategic design phase where its primary impact lies in the construction of a robust legal and structural framework for the degree. This blueprint envisions a full-time doctoral track spanning three to four years, meticulously crafted to align with academic regulations of partner universities, with an official implementation date set for after September 2026. A hallmark of this emerging structure is a rigorous mobility mandate, currently being finalized to ensure that every doctoral candidate completes an international research period equivalent to at least thirty ECTS.



This initiative marks a sophisticated departure from earlier, more fragmented cooperation models, moving toward the attainment of a prestigious Joint European Doctoral Degree Label. This shift has required the consortium to transition from simple networking mechanisms to the creation of a comprehensive governance and curriculum architecture suitable for high-level transnational education.

However, this ambitious evolution is not without its obstacles; the project must successfully align disparate national frameworks with European standards to guarantee a smooth accreditation process. Simultaneously, the consortium is drafting a strategic roadmap for funding and stakeholder engagement to secure the programme's long-term sustainability. Moreover, maintaining the relevance of the academic core requires constant, high-level coordination between specialised institutes in medical genetics, biology, and pharmacy to ensure a truly integrated interdisciplinary experience.

2. 2. 2. Joint European PhD programme in Bioinformatics

The CIVIS PhD Programme in Bioinformatics is a unified, research-driven training framework designed to develop high-level experts capable of bridging the gap between computational and experimental life sciences. The programme focuses on key research areas including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Genomics, Drug Design, and Evolutionary Biology. Its pedagogical model is student-centred and problem-driven, utilizing Research-Based Learning (RBL) to ensure candidates can design and implement computational solutions for complex biological data.

The programme targets doctoral candidates within the CIVIS Alliance who require a transnational and interdisciplinary research environment. It is integrated into the broader educational offering through a shared curriculum that combines specialised scientific modules with essential transversal skills, such as scientific communication, grant writing, and professional presentation skills.

SUR leads the initiative as the coordinating institution, working in close alignment with core partners including AMU and ULB. Although African universities were not among the initial organising members, the programme is designed with a strategic expansion plan. To foster future inclusion and regional capacity building, the network leverages established international collaborations with the H3Africa Bioinformatics Network and the African BioGenome Project.

As a formal Joint PhD, the project's success is defined by high-intensity academic integration and a rigorous approach to transnational mobility. Each doctoral candidate is required to complete a mandatory mobility period of at least thirty ECTS, which necessitates spending at least six months at each host institution involved in their cotutelle agreement, or twelve months in cases where only two institutions are involved. This international focus is reinforced by a joint supervision model, where every student is mentored by at least two professors from different countries. To broaden its impact beyond physical borders, the programme utilizes a sophisticated digital infrastructure, including virtual classrooms, online seminars, and collaborative research platforms such as GitHub and JupyterHub to support its distributed research community.

At the governance level, the consortium agreement underpinning the programme has now been finalised and is, in these weeks, undergoing review by the administrative offices of the partner universities, with the aim of signing it from September onwards. As a further step towards implementation, the first in-person meeting of the partners was held in Brussels on 23–24 July, 2026.

2.2.3. Joint European PhD programme in Transitive Modernities: Comparative Literary and Visual Studies

The Joint European PhD Programme in Transitive Modernities: Comparative Literary and Visual Studies trains candidates in comparative literary, visual and cultural studies, focusing on transnational, transatlantic and transcultural exchanges between Europe, Africa and the Americas and on decolonial, postcolonial, critical race and gender perspectives. It accommodates both thesis-only and practice-based projects, is delivered in English (thesis in English or French), and prepares graduates for careers within and beyond academia.

One of the first arts and humanities collectives within CIVIS, the programme grows out of the interdisciplinary research project Transitive Modernities (2021) and its partner projects on PostRacial Transmodernities and



CARE. Two Short-Term Mobility programmes (Aix-Marseille, 2021; Stockholm, 2022), four Blended Intensive Programmes (three in Athens, one in Bucharest) and a series of symposia have engaged over hundred-and-eighty students from all eleven European member universities and the two African associate members. The two BIPs on PostRacial Transmodernities in particular brought in postgraduate researchers and staff from Senegal and South Africa.

On this basis the consortium submitted a proposal under the 2025 Call for Educational Activities (Strand 1) to consolidate the network into a structured joint doctorate: ten candidates a year and a hundred-and-eighty - ECTS degree over a three-year track (extendable for part-time study), split between research and dissertation and a taught component of eight hybrid courses. Each candidate is to be supervised by three supervisors from different partner institutions and enrolled across the collaborating universities under a co-supervision agreement, with compulsory mobility at each supervisor's institution and an annual symposium hosted in turn by a partner university.

Coordination lies with the NKUA (Department of English Language and Literature), the degree-awarding institution, joined by AMU, UB, UT, UofG and two African partners, UCAD in Dakar and Wits. SU is reviewing the terms of its participation, expected to be associated rather than degree-awarding.

Following submission to CIVIS, the partners held a week of on-site working sessions at NKUA in June 2026 and completed the design package. The Multilateral Agreement, drafted in June 2026, foresees co-organisation from 2027–2028 and commits the partners to accreditation by an EQAR-registered agency under the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes; an application to the MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 call is in preparation.

The principal outstanding challenge is the harmonisation of doctoral regulations and ECTS weighting across markedly different national and legal frameworks: which academic ranks may serve as principal supervisors, the conditions under which each institution can award the degree, and the management of student registration across the consortium. The team is devising a bespoke credit scheme and shared regulations as a workable middle ground, supported by a common co-supervision template and a defined governance structure.

2.3 Cotutelle in CIVIS

As part of the strategic focus of Work Package Joint Doctoral Education to enhance doctoral education, the CIVIS Alliance is actively fostering the development of cotutelles and joint PhD degrees. Building on the foundational work of CIVIS project 2019-2022, an Expert Group on Doctoral Education was established in December 2023 to harmonise practices through shared tools, including a standardised cotutelle template and joint doctoral programme workflows.

Data from the internal Interim Quality Report (D1.2) indicates a promising upward trend in institutional engagement. After an initial count of nine agreements in CIVIS1, the number of signed cotutelles significantly increased from five in the first year of CIVIS2 to twelve in the second year, eleven in the third year and 1 (provisional) in the fourth year, for a total of thirty-one (provisional; data collection for last year ongoing). This growth is accompanied by a broader participation of member universities and a higher adoption rate of the standardised CIVIS template.

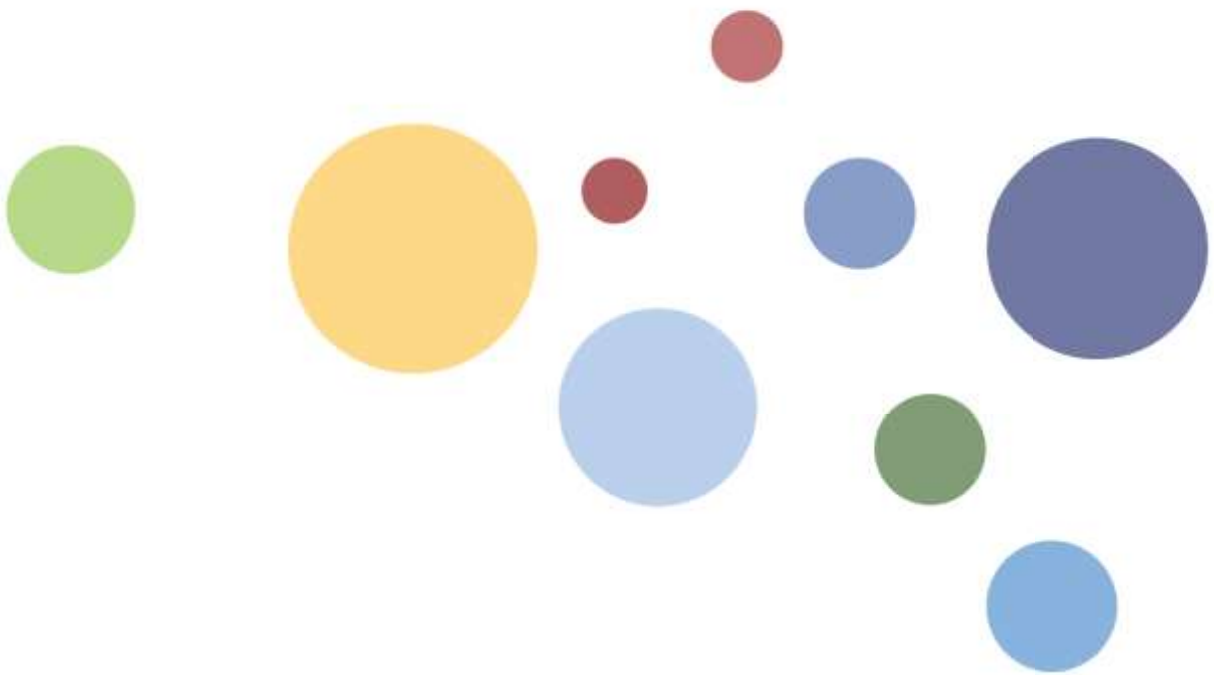
The following table provides a consolidated overview of the existing cotutelle agreements and collaborations currently established among CIVIS partner universities:

No.	Date of signature	CIVIS Partner 1	CIVIS Partner 2	Field of Research
1	15/11/2022	SUR	ULB	Chemical Science
2	01/06/2023	UT	AMU	Modern German Literature
3	01/06/2023	UT	AMU	Literary and Cultural Theory
4	23/06/2023	ULB	AMU	Not available
5	25/09/2023	ULB	UB	Philosophy and Social Sciences
6	29/09/2023	SUR	UAM	Astronomy
7	16/10/2023	SUR	AMU	Art History
8	17/11/2023	SUR	AMU	Landscape and Environment
9	08/02/2024	UT	AMU	Literary and Cultural Theory
10	15/04/2024	SUR	AMU	Archaeology

No.	Date of signature	CIVIS Partner 1	CIVIS Partner 2	Field of Research
11	01/06/2024	UT	AMU	Modern German Literature
12	01/06/2024	UT	AMU	Literary and Cultural Theory
13	01/06/2024	UT	AMU	Modern German Literature
14	12/06/2024	ULB	AMU	History
15	12/06/2024	ULB	AMU	Philosophy and Social Sciences
16	13/06/2024	UAM	SUR	Economics and Innovation Management
17	01/07/2024	SUR	UNIL	Civilisations of Asia and Africa
18	02/08/2024	SUR	AMU	Physics
19	10/09/2024	UAM	SUR	Artistic, Literary and Cultural Studies
20	04/10/2024	SUR	UAM	Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies
21	04/10/2024	SUR	UT	Art History
22	04/10/2024	SUR	UAM	Art History
23	04/10/2024	SUR	UAM	Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies
24	31/10/2024	SUR	AMU	Social and Economic Studies
25	15/11/2024	SUR	UNIL	Art History
26	15/11/2024	ULB	SUR	History
27	16/12/2024	SUR	UB	Political Studies

No.	Date of signature	CIVIS Partner 1	CIVIS Partner 2	Field of Research
28	06/06/2025	ULB	UAM	Medicine
29	06/06/2025	UAM	ULB	Medicine
30	16/06/2025	SUR	AMU	Classical and Modern Italian Studies
31	26/06/2025	ULB	UNIL	Philosophy and Social Sciences
32	01/09/2025	NKUA	UT	Not available
33	15/07/2026	AMU	UH2C	Sociology

3



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Transversal skills training, digital collaborative spaces, MSCA applications

Complementary activities for doctoral candidates and early-stage researchers²

This chapter brings together the complementary activities that support and enrich doctoral training across the CIVIS Alliance, beyond the joint programmes described in the previous sections. These include transversal-competence training offers such as doctoral modules and micro-credentials, as well as further actions dedicated to the development and mobility of early-stage researchers. Taken together, they provide doctoral candidates and ESRs with additional opportunities to strengthen their skills, broaden their networks and enhance their career development.

3.1. Training on transversal competences for doctoral candidates

Module for PhD Candidates: Artificial Intelligence and Research: Opportunities Across Disciplines

This project provides a comprehensive, interdisciplinary doctoral module designed to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a transformative research methodology rather than a purely technical tool. The programme addresses the growing necessity for AI expertise across diverse academic fields by bridging the gap between computer science and other disciplines.

Participating universities include NKUA, SUR and UAM within the Mediterranean region. Furthermore, the partnership incorporates UB, UofG and PLUS, facilitating a comprehensive academic network spanning Greece, Italy, Spain, Romania, the United Kingdom, and Austria.

Awarding a total of four ECTS – under development

Micro-credential: Transversal Competences for PhD candidates and Early-Stage Researchers

This initiative establishes a specialised micro-credential program focused on transversal competencies for PhD candidates and ESRs. The project is led by a consortium of European universities including AMU, NKUA, SUR, UAM, ULB and UB, in strategic collaboration with the African partner universities of UCAD and USF.

Hosted on the Civis Moodle platform, the curriculum integrates nine specialised training units designed to modernise research skills. Key modules cover the intersection of AI with Science Commons and communication, linguistic corpora, and Open Science principles.

Furthermore, the programme provides practical career development through modules on business modelling, project networking within the Horizon Europe framework, grant writing, and the technical preparation of scientific artwork. This comprehensive training structure aims to equip researchers with the essential tools for competitive funding acquisition and professional scientific dissemination.

Awarding a total of eleven ECTS – under development

Micro-credential: Modern Complex Systems: Testing, Assurance and Challenges

² Corresponding to Task 10.1 Reinforce Cooperation involving Early-Stage Researchers (ESR) – i.e. both doctoral and post-doctoral levels, the following complementary tasks were foreseen in the initial application:

- Organise doctoral workshops & seminars through the hubs
- Research Training for ESRs including Open Science Practices
- Transversal Competences Training for ESRs including soft skills
- Furthering the doctoral career development plan developed by RIS4CIVIS
- Develop a collaborative PhD space on the Digital Campus centred on doctoral co-creation
- Pooling ESR career offers from across the Alliance by way of the Digital Campus Bulletin board

The action implemented during the CIVIS2 project and the results achieved are summarised in the following sections.

This micro-credential, a collaborative initiative between the UB, UofG and PLUS, provides doctoral candidates with advanced expertise in hyperconnected systems.

Delivered through a blended format of mandatory online sessions and optional on-site visits, the curriculum focuses on developing robust testing and deployment strategies to ensure the security and resilience of complex software. Candidates are trained to evaluate the trustworthiness and compliance of AI/ML systems while applying combinatorial methodologies to practical cybersecurity case studies.

Furthermore, the programme equips participants to assess critical infrastructure resilience under simulated threats and formulate effective mitigation recommendations.

Awarding a total of three ECTS (<https://civis-agera.widening.eu/sciences-en-scenes>)

The table below lists the training activities on transversal skill for which PhD participation has been recorded, together with their coordinating university, delivery dates, format, and the number of participating PhD students. Further details on BIPs are reported in numbers in WP6 and content in WP3.

Activity	Coord.	Dates	Type	PhD participation
Digital learning for the development of soft skills	UAM	8 May – 23 Jun 2023	BIP	12 (2022/23)
Entrepreneurship – How to create a legitimate business?	AMU	1 Jun – 14 Jul 2023	BIP	7 (2022/23)
Entrepreneurship – How to create a legitimate business? 2024	AMU	5 Jun – 5 Jul 2024	BIP	1 (2023/24)
Science Communication: Sharing Knowledge and Creating Connections	ULB	25 Sep 2024 – 12 Feb 2025	BIP	4 (2024/25); 52 (2022/23)
Novel Research and Ethics: from Neuroscience to AI	NKUA	19 Oct – 13 Dec 2024	BIP	3 (2024/25); 7 (2025/26)
Online fake news and disinformation: recognize and verify	UB	10 Oct – 19 Dec 2024	BIP	4 (2025/26)
AI and STEAM: Changing Learning, Shaping Futures	UB	1 Feb – 31 Mar 2025	BIP	3 (2024/25)
Communicating Social Science and Humanities – Mastering Methodological Challenges and Learning how to Publish and Disseminate Findings Early On	UB	7 Mar – 27 Jun 2025	BIP	3 (2024/25)
How to write a paper and talk about science	UAM	7 Apr – 4 Jul 2025	BIP	11 (2024/25)

Let's prove it! Reasoning in different contexts	NKUA	6 Mar – 11 Jul 2025	BIP	1 (2024/25)
Scientific Communication and Linguistic Corpora: Tools of Interdisciplinary Research	UAM	3 Mar – 31 Mar 2025	BIP	5 (2024/25)
Social Sciences Going Public – Research and Practice with, in and for the Society	UB	16 Feb – 9 May 2025	BIP	6 (2023/24); 1 (2025/26)

3.2 Post-Doctoral/Doctoral job space within the CIVIS Digital Campus and webspace for doctoral co-creation (MS10.4)

Contributing to the achievement of a dedicated Post-Doctoral/Doctoral Job Space designed to streamline career pathways for ESRs, the launch of the CIVIS Agora marked a significant evolution in how the Alliance fosters collaboration, moving from a traditional content-driven website to an interactive internal "hub" and marketplace. Following a full synchronised launch in January 2026, the platform enabled individual academics to share vacancies directly using their institutional credentials. This tool has been supported by a comprehensive multi-channel communication strategy aimed at connecting "opportunity givers" with a pool of excellent international talent, allowing the Alliance to achieve multiple objectives related to Joint Doctoral Education.

First of all, there is an expected medium-term impact related to increasing Civic universities' attractiveness for ESRs. In line with the task aiming at developing a collaborative PhD space on the Digital Campus centred on doctoral co-creation, the job space in the CIVIS Agora contains a section especially dedicated to doctoral offers in order to attract doctoral candidates and share opportunities at research level within CIVIS Alliance. This outcome is strongly related to the development of a pool of ESR career offers from across the Alliance by way of the Digital Campus Bulletin board. This specific task is also connected to RIS4CIVIS results, especially Module 4 on Strengthening Human Capital, by enhancing ESRs' career development plan.

The space for research offers has been developed in a dedicated section in the CIVIS Agora [https://civis-
agora.widening.eu/post-doc-opportunities](https://civis-
agora.widening.eu/post-doc-opportunities) under the main topic of "Research". Below the screenshot of the current pages to be implemented with offers by partner universities.



PhD and post-doctoral Job board

ADD A NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY

Search...



Filter by Partner institution...

Type...

Group by...

Type to add grouping...

Sapienza University of Rome Admissions to 2026-2027 PhD Programmes

Sapienza University of Rome announces a call for applications for admission to 94 PhD Programmes of the 42nd cycle, based on qualifications and examinations, or examinations only in Annex A, which is to be considered an integral part of this call. It is indicated the list of the PhD programmes, including potential curricula, the legal duration of the PhD programmes, the number of the available positions and their type, with and without scholarship, the CUP code in the case of scholarships funded under specific projects, any restricted research topic, the type of examination tests, as well as the name of the Doctoral School to which they belong, where established. The same Annex A provides a link to the website – under the 'Call for application (42nd cycle)' section – for each PhD programme, where candidates will find the specific admission procedures and evaluation criteria.

Sapienza University of Rome Admissions to 2026-2027 PhD Programmes

17 June 2026 - 12:00

[APPLY NOW](#)

1 OVERVIEW

[PROFILE](#)

[PRACTICAL DETAILS](#)

[SELECTION PROCESS](#)

OVERVIEW

Name

Sapienza University of Rome Admissions to 2026-2027 PhD Programmes

Job Position

PhD

Research Fields

Different research fields specified in the call.

Description

Sapienza University of Rome announces a call for applications for admission to 94 PhD Programmes of the 42nd cycle, based on qualifications and examinations, or examinations only. In Annex A, which is to be considered an integral part of this call, is indicated the list of the PhD programmes, including:

- potential curricula;
- the legal duration of the PhD programmes;
- the number of the available positions and their type, with and without scholarship; the CUP code in the case of scholarships funded under specific projects, any restricted research topic;
- the type of examination tests, as well as the name of the Doctoral School to which they belong, where established.

The same Annex A provides a link to the website – under the 'Call for application (42nd cycle)' section – for each PhD programme, where candidates will find the specific admission procedures and evaluation criteria.

PROFILE

Researcher Profile and Requirements

Detailed in the call.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Partner institution

Sapienza Università di Roma

3.3 Support to early-career researchers - MSCA activities

The Research Council discussions around support mechanisms for ESRs within the CIVIS Alliance led to the following strategic conclusions:

- **European Project Scouting and Application**
A more effective approach would be to foster *mini-consortia* composed of motivated researchers across member universities, thereby promoting research excellence through targeted collaboration.
- **Bottom-Up Identification of Funding Opportunities**
The process of identifying relevant EU calls should be driven by researchers themselves or by institutional EU support offices. This bottom-up approach ensures alignment with researchers' expertise and interests.

- **Leveraging RIS4CIVIS Tools and Resources**

Existing tools and frameworks developed under the RIS4CIVIS initiative should be better used to support ESRs. This includes ensuring that all CIVIS member universities are actively integrated into these resources and improving the visibility and accessibility of such tools to the broader CIVIS research community.

Through the Expert Group External Funding/Funding Research, later Research Unit, CIVIS has actively promoted and facilitated access to EU funding schemes, such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). To foster greater participation in MSCA and other Horizon Europe R&I calls, CIVIS has established dedicated support structures, including:

- Proposal writing workshops (CIVIS held a MSCA-PF Info Day on 19 June 2024, introducing prospective applicants and supervisors to the call requirements and the added value of applying within CIVIS, with a further edition planned for late July–early August 2026);
- Mentoring programmes led by senior academics;
- Tailored guidance aligned with Horizon Europe priorities.

These efforts reflect a strategic alignment with the principles and objectives of MSCA, which remain central to the EU's support for research careers. Through MSCA, researchers at all stages gain access to opportunities for mobility, interdisciplinary collaboration, and acquisition of advanced knowledge and transferable skills.

Supporting ESRs is a strategic priority for CIVIS because it aligns directly with the Alliance's core mission: to create a transnational European university that is inclusive, socially engaged, research-intensive, and anchored in the values of excellence and public responsibility. By equipping them with the tools, networks, and skills to work across borders, disciplines, and sectors, CIVIS enables them to co-create knowledge that is scientifically rigorous, socially relevant, and globally impactful. CIVIS strengthens its member universities' capacity to offer innovative and competitive research training. This, in turn, contributes to the structuring of a more integrated and dynamic European Research Area and fosters stronger links with African associated institutions—reinforcing CIVIS' global dimension.

During CIVIS2, several activities were measured as indicators for the first time, among these, indicators related to MSCA. Valuable insights into the scope and impact of CIVIS-related initiatives.

Overview of 2023 – 2025 MSCA initiatives

Below is a list of MSCA 2023 - 2025 projects and activities undertaken within this framework.

Name of the Project	Action	Year	CIVIS Partners	Rejected/Funded
Socrisp	MSCA-DN	2023	SU, UAM	Rejected
Chirtran	MSCA-DN	2023	ULB, UAM	Funded
Mentor	MSCA-DN	2023	AMU, SUR	Funded
Civis Neuro	MSCA-DN	2023	SUR, UB, ULB, UNIL, UT, AMU, NKUA, UofG	Rejected
Cataloop	MSCA-DN	2023	UAM, UT	Funded
Picked	MSCA-DN	2023	UAM, NKUA	Funded
Ae Rodysey	MSCA-DN	2023	SUR, AMU	Rejected

Name of the Project	Action	Year	CIVIS Partners	Rejected/Funded
Stamp-hd	MSCA-DN	2023	SUR, PLUS	Rejected
Photoniqc	MSCA-DN	2023	SUR, ULB	Rejected
Water	MSCA-DN	2023	UB, ULB	Rejected
Carbotroniqs	MSCA-DN	2023	UofG, UAM	Rejected
Connecting	MSCA-DN	2023	UofG, UAM	Rejected
Resomfem	MSCA-PF	2023	SUR, UAM	Funded
Humlit	MSCA-SE	2023	NKUA, UB	Funded
Sleepmemo	MSCA-DN	2023	PLUS, UT	Rejected
Neuronanote ch	MSCA-DN	2023	PLUS	Funded
Peroxiscience	MSCA-PF	2024	ULB, NKUA	Funded
Com-pol-fr-eue	MSCA-PF	2024	SUR, NKUA (home)	Rejected
Isle.plus	MSCA-PF	2024	SUR, ULB (home)	Rejected
Tgiripwb	MSCA-PF	2024	SUR, NKUA (home)	Rejected
Schadoc	MSCA-COFUND	2024	AMU, UofG, ULB, UNIL, SUR, SU	Funded
Spaxio	MSCA-DN	2024	UT, PLUS, AMU, UNIL, UAM	Funded
Water	MSCA-DN	2024	UB, ULB (+UNIVERSITAT LINZ)	Funded
Stamp-hd	MSCA-DN	2024	PLUS, SUR	Rejected
Heal-4ward	MSCA-DN	2024	SUR, NKUA	Funded
Thirdwave	MSCA-SE	2024	SUR, NKUA	Funded

Name of the Project	Action	Year	CIVIS Partners	Rejected/Funded
Particivis	MSCA-SE	2025	PLUS, AMU, UAM, NKUA, UB, ULB, UofG, UT, CIVIS Association, SUR, SU, UNIL, MAK, WITS, UEM, UH2C, UCAD, USF	Funded
Tagtic	MSCA-DN	2025	PLUS, UAM, SUR	Funded
Microbio-seed	MSCA-COFUND	2025	AMU, UT	Funded
Arteq	MSCA-DN	2025	UT, UofG	Rejected
Gestech4eu	MSCA-DN	2025	UT, UB	Rejected
Fragile	MSCA-SE	2025	SUR, ULB (+Mendelova univerzita v Brne)	Funded
Tempo	MSCA-DN	2025	Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, SU, UT	Rejected
Triton	MSCA-DN	2025	SU, NKUA (Universiteit van Amsterdam)	Rejected
Ratio	MSCA-DN	2025	SU, SUR (University of Leeds)	Rejected
Olmi	MSCA-DN	2025	SU, UAM (University of Gothenburg)	Rejected
Chi-rays	MSCA-DN	2025	IMDEA Nanociencia, SU, UAM	Rejected
Flair	MSCA-SE	2025	SU, AMU, WITS (ICS CAS)	Rejected

3.4 Facilitating the sharing of research infrastructures - Memorandum of Understanding on facilitating the sharing of research infrastructures

As part of the broader strategy to strengthen collaborative research within CIVIS, a dedicated task addressed the sharing of research infrastructures across member institutions. Building in synergy with the complementary RIS4CIVIS initiative, this work translated earlier conceptual groundwork into practical and sustainable models for research infrastructure access within the Alliance.

Identified key benefits:

- New interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research collaborations;
- Reduced access costs for CIVIS members through preferential internal pricing schemes;
- Increased mobility opportunities, especially for doctoral and ESRs.

The MoU established a framework of cooperation between the member institutions of the CIVIS Alliance for research infrastructure (RI) sharing. It adopts a shared definition of RI as a facility that provides resources and services to research communities for the purpose of conducting research and/or offering advanced, specialised training and expertise related to the use of such infrastructures. The MoU outlines the principles and intentions of the partners to facilitate mutual access to selected research infrastructures on a voluntary and non-commercial basis, without creating any legally binding obligations.

As a first operational step, the partners committed to publishing their respective lists of research infrastructures covered by this MoU via an interactive map, to be hosted on the CIVIS AGORA platform. The objective is to enhance transparency, promote visibility, and support the practical implementation of infrastructure sharing.

Within CIVIS, the mapping of RIs is currently being revised, finalised, and expanded to incorporate all CIVIS member universities, including those not previously engaged in the process. The resulting interactive platform will be jointly maintained and regularly updated-ideally on an annual basis-by all partners and will remain active for the entire duration of the CIVIS Alliance.

On 13 June 2025, during the CIVIS Days in Rome, the MoU was officially signed by the six CIVIS African partners. This formal agreement marks a significant milestone in expanding mobility opportunities, particularly for doctoral and ESRs, by facilitating preferential and streamlined access to research facilities across the Alliance.

The MoU embodies CIVIS' long-term strategic commitment to evolving as a research-intensive and socially engaged European Alliance. Building on this foundation, it enables future collaborative research initiatives that transcend national borders and strengthens the Alliance's capacity to generate excellence and societal relevance.

Conclusions

Over the course of CIVIS2, CIVIS through the Work Package on Joint Doctoral Education has moved from mapping and experimentation towards the concrete establishment of shared doctoral provision across the Alliance. The work has delivered a portfolio of eight joint doctoral programmes and networks now under development, a steadily growing number of co-tutelle agreements (31 in total), and a dedicated offer of transversal-competence training (29 activities in 4 years), including the African associate members of the Alliance. Taken together, these results demonstrate that the Alliance has built a credible and increasingly structured framework for transnational doctoral education.

Several initiatives have reached an advanced stage of maturity. CIVIS MedSysBio has entered its final establishment phase, MUF and the Bioinformatics joint PhD have finalised their Multilateral agreements ahead of signature. This progress has also translated into competitive European funding, most notably through the MSCA Doctoral Network SpaXio, confirming the capacity of CIVIS doctoral activities to feed directly into the wider European research ecosystem. Furthermore, MUF has strong public visibility through its website, LinkedIn group, newsletter and two public dissemination events at CIVIS Days.

At the same time, the work has confirmed a number of structural challenges that continue to condition the development of joint doctoral education. The legal landscape across partner universities remains heterogeneous: some institutions require co-tutelle agreements to award joint degrees, others are still clarifying the possibilities afforded by their national frameworks, and at least one partner remains legally unable to confer joint degrees. These differences are compounded by uneven admission procedures, by the constraints that different work-contract statuses place on candidate mobility, and by persistent funding gaps for programmes extending beyond the standard three-year duration. The absence of a fully operational joint accreditation framework remains the single most significant obstacle to the routine delivery of joint doctoral degrees.

In light of these findings, several recommendations emerge for the next phase of the Alliance. First, the harmonisation of administrative and legal practices should be pursued further, building on the common agreement templates and the glossary developed by the Expert Group Doctoral Offer, so as to reduce the bureaucratic burden on programme teams. Second, CIVIS should continue to engage actively with the European Doctoral Degree label and the European Approach for the quality assurance of joint programmes, using the most advanced programmes as pilots to inform alliance-wide procedures. Third, the sustainability of the offer should be reinforced by embedding programmes within the regular educational and budgetary planning of partner universities and by systematically connecting doctoral initiatives to competitive funding such as the MSCA. Fourth, as ESRs represent the next generation of European academics, the Alliance's transversal-competence training must strategically expand to include formal pedagogical development. Finally, the involvement of associate members, and in particular the African partners, should be consolidated so that the inclusiveness already achieved in transversal training extends progressively to the joint programmes themselves. Building upon the success of our current digital collaborations, the Alliance should encourage deeper academic co-creation, ensuring that our African associated partners are actively engaged as equal educational designers in the ongoing development of these programmes.

Taken as a whole, the results achieved under CIVIS2 provide a solid and sustainable foundation for joint doctoral education within the Alliance. The programmes, agreements and training activities documented in this report are ready to be consolidated, accredited and scaled in the next phase, positioning CIVIS as an active contributor to the construction of a genuinely European doctoral landscape.

References

Unpublished Internal Resources

CIVIS R&I Roadmap, September 2024?

CIVIS Memorandum of Understanding on the sharing of research infrastructures?