CALL FOR PHD POSITION

2 PHD POSITIONS IN "SEIZMIC PROJECT" - Scaling Social Entrepreneurship And Innovation: Zooming In On Multidisciplinary Interconnected Challenges

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023 Developing talents, advancing research

Application deadline: November 14, 2024
Where to send your application: Department of Social Sciences (DiSS), University of Naples Federico II
Mail to: anna.cocozza@unina.it

Additional Information
For more information about these vacancies, please contact Prof. Vincenzo Luise, Researcher, Department of Social Sciences (DiSS), University of Naples Federico II, e-mail: vincenzo.luise@unina.it

SEIZMIC PROJECT - Scaling Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Zooming in on Multidisciplinary Interconnected Challenges

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023 Developing talents, advancing research supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (grant agreement N.101169098), https://www.seizmic.eu/msca.

About SEIZMIC Project
Copenhagen Business School (Cbs), Haskoli Islands (Uice), Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Unina), Europe Wirtschaftshochschule Berlin Ev (Escp), Universitaet Innsbruck (Uibk), Universitat Rovira I Virgili (Urv), Université Paris XII Val De Marne (Upec), Universiteit Twente (Ut), V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (KNU) have been awarded an EU-funded MSCA Doctoral Network Grant – **SEIZMIC**: Scaling Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Zooming in on Multidisciplinary Interconnected Challenges.

Nine universities and six practice partners will jointly contribute to the **SEIZMIC Doctoral Network**, which represents an ambitious endeavor to catalyze scalable social entrepreneurship (SE) across Europe. Addressing a critical gap in the social entrepreneurship landscape, SEIZMIC aims to unravel the complex dynamics of scaling social enterprises, focusing on external replication and imitation to magnify societal impact. This project is particularly pertinent given the noted scarcity of SE scaling, a phenomenon that limits the societal reach of innovative solutions. At the core of SEIZMIC's mission is the development of an interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial research framework. The network harnesses expertise from diverse fields such as entrepreneurship, finance, education, and technology management, aiming to synthesize these into a cohesive theoretical framework. This integrative approach is designed to overcome entrenched interdisciplinary barriers and equip a new generation of researchers with the competencies necessary for advancing SE scaling.

The research program is structured around five key Work Packages (WPs), each addressing a distinct aspect of SE scaling: *Social Business Model Design* (WP2), *Impact Investing for SE Scaling* (WP3), *Competencies and Education for SE Scaling* (WP4), and the role of *Digital Ecosystems and AI in SE Scaling* (WP5). These WPs involve innovative methodologies, including case studies, surveys, AI-driven mentoring, and digital transformation analyses, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of SE scaling.

The SEIZMIC Doctoral Network will develop an interdisciplinary theoretical framework explaining the factors influencing SE scaling through replication and imitation.

- It will evaluate the impact of social entrepreneurship business model design on scaling outcomes, combining quantitative and qualitative assessments. The focus is on identifying design competencies that facilitate scalability and examining how factors like social forecasting and impact measurement support scaling.

- It will investigate the intentions and actual outcomes of impact investors in supporting SE scaling in Europe. This involves longitudinal case studies to understand how impact investments contribute to scaling, replication, and imitation of SE initiatives, as well as competencies needed by impact investors.

- It will develop an interdisciplinary model for professional learning and curriculum development to enhance SE scaling. This includes training SE educators, conducting longitudinal trials of SE education, and assessing the role of feedback in supporting learning among social entrepreneurs, ultimately contributing to entrepreneurship education.

- It will propose and test a theoretical model on the role of digital ecosystems in SE scaling, exploring bottom-up creativity, digital data politics, and collaborative networks. This also involves training and implementing an AI model specialized in SE scaling.

About the Aurora European University Network

An important advantage of the **SEIZMIC Doctoral Network** is that many of its partners belong to the Aurora European University Alliance (https://aurora-universities.eu/about/), an alliance of research-intensive universities financed by the European Union through the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. Aurora is committed to equipping students with the skills and mindset to address key societal challenges through social entrepreneurship and innovation. Most SEIZMIC supervisors already know each other from developing (bachelor and master level) interdisciplinary social entrepreneurship courses for Aurora which they deliver in many cases jointly. This has created a close-knit community of interdisciplinary social entrepreneurship scholars, which we are certain will transfer into a highly collegial and effective doctoral network in which supervisors collaborate closely with each other across all Aurora partners. The SEIZMIC doctoral candidates will be able to attend regular Aurora events (such as the biannual Aurora conference or any of the Aurora blended intensive programmes (BIP).

As indication of who you would be working with please see below the list of all 15 doctoral positions and their respective host organizations:

DC1: Schumpeterian Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing (CBS)
DC2: Outcomes of Social Entrepreneurship Competencies (CBS)
DC3: The Effectiveness of AI Mentoring in Enhancing SE Outcomes (CBS)
DC4: Teaching social entrepreneurs through explicit and hidden curricula (CBS)
DC5: Transparency and impact measurement in social business model design (UICE)
DC6: Feedback and mentoring in SE Education (UICE)
DC7: Maintaining 'Impact Fidelity' throughout the Investment Lifecycle (UIce)

DC8: Transition Design and Design for Social Innovation as Tools for Social Entrepreneurship (UNINA)

DC9: Innovation at the Margin: Digital Ecosystems in Social Entrepreneurship (UNINA)

DC10: Cross-sector Collaboration in Social Business Model Design (ESCP Berlin)

DC11: AI's Role in Fostering Social Entrepreneurship in Innovation Ecosystems (UIBK)

DC12: Impact Investment Strategies and Social Entrepreneurship Scaling (URV)

DC13: Social foresight in social business model design (UPEC)

DC14: Quantitative Analysis of Impact Investing and Social Entrepreneurship (TWENTE)

DC15: Social Entrepreneurship Activation in Conflict Zones with a focus on Ukraine (KARAZIN Berlin/Ukraine)

The following 2 DC Projects will be hosted by the Department of Social Sciences (DiSS), University of Naples Federico II:

1. **DC8 - PhD Position: "Transition Design and Design for Social Innovation as Tools for Social Entrepreneurship" (Annex 1)**

2. **DC9 - PhD Position: "Innovation at the Margin: Digital Ecosystems in Social Entrepreneurship" (Annex 2)**

Eligibility criteria and MSCA Application Requirements

The candidates are expected to have a strong interest in Social Sciences and to be fluent in written and spoken English. Moreover, to apply for one of these PhD positions, the candidate should fulfil the following conditions:

- Have - at the date of recruitment - a Master degree[1] in a discipline as indicated in the project description specific to the beneficiary to which you are applying (Annex 1, Annex 2).
- Candidates who are already enrolled in a PhD program are not eligible to apply.
- Trans-national mobility: the applicant - at the date of recruitment - should not have resided in the country where the research training takes place for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to recruitment, and not have carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in that country. For refugees under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol), the refugee procedure (i.e. before refugee status is conferred) will not be counted as 'period of residence/activity in the country of the beneficiary'.
- Be able to communicate fluently in English in spoken and written form[2].

For informal enquiries about these positions please contact the supervisor associated with the project: Prof. Vincenzo Luise (vincenzo.luise@unina.it).

To Apply

Applications must include:

- Cover letter (1-2 pages) in English, explaining the candidate personal motivation in pursuing a PhD, including how PhD fits in its career trajectory;
- A research plan proposal (about 2000-4000 words) on issues that presumably will anticipate the PhD thesis

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[1] *A Master's degree (or equivalent) is not necessary at the time of the application, but will be required at the date of recruitment.*

[2] *Language certifications are not required but, if they are submitted, they will be considered by the selection committee together with other credentials.*

- CV (1-2 pages) in English, outlining relevant work experience, skills related to the project, and a list of publications, if applicable;
- Course transcripts and diplomas from master's work;
- Copies of the master's thesis or research articles, if applicable;
- Two recommendation letters and contact information for referees[3].
- Mail to: anna.cocozza@unina.it; indicating the reference to SEIZMIC-UNINA-DC8 or SEIZMIC-UNINA-DC9 in the subject.

Please be aware that your application will be shared amongst the beneficiaries of SEIZMIC. All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.

Offer description

Applications are invited from suitably qualified doctoral candidates for 15 Doctoral Candidate positions to pursue PhD education as part of the European MSCA DN project SEIZMIC - Scaling Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Zooming in on Multidisciplinary Interconnected Challenges. The positions are funded through Horizon Europe MSCA DN grant number 101169098. The starting date is 1 February 2025.

Benefits

The PhD candidate will be contractually temporary employed by University of Naples Federico II and will be covered under the social security scheme. He/She will receive a Monthly Living Allowance plus a Mobility Allowance compliant with the applicable Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN general conditions. The scholarship is a fully salaried position. The annual amount of the scholarship amounts to € 46.939,20 including social security contributions to be paid by the recipient. The scholarship includes tuition fees, office space, course and travel costs.

The PhD scholarship runs for a period of three years and in addition to their academic PhD research the PhD student is expected to contribute to the deliverables of the SEIZMIC project and their dissemination.

Selection process

The selection procedure consists of two steps:
1. Title evaluation;
2. Interview.

The selection committee will assign 100 points, distributed as follows:
- 40 points for titles evaluation;
- 60 points for the interview.

The titles that can be evaluated and the scores referred to them are:
- the entire university career (the degree mark or the weighted average on the basis of the credits of the marks of the exams taken and, possibly, other elements deemed suitable by the Commission): up to a maximum of 20 points;
- scientific publications, master's degree thesis and other relevant qualifications (awards, patents, scholarships, etc.), to be evaluated also in the light of any letters of introduction from scholars: up to a maximum of 10 points;
- research project: up to a maximum of 10 points.

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[3] *We will not contact references without your consent.*

Candidates who have obtained a score of at least 20/40 in the titles evaluation are admitted to the interview. The interview will take place online on Tuesday, November 26, by the Microsoft Teams platform.
The results of the titles evaluation and the Microsoft Teams link for the interview will be communicated on the doctoral school's website.

The interview is considered passed only if the candidate obtains a score of at least 32/60.
The final results of the selection will be communicated on the Social Sciences Doctoral School's website not later than December 13, 2024.

Work Location
2 positions available at: Department of Social Sciences (DiSS), University of Naples Federico II, Vico Monte della Pietà 1, 80138, Naples, Italy.

For further information on the project, prospective applicants can contact:
Prof. Vincenzo Luise, Researcher, Department of Social Sciences (DiSS), University of Naples Federico II, e-mail: vincenzo.luise@unina.it

ANNEX 1

DC8 - PhD Position
Transition Design and Design for Social Innovation as Tools for Social Entrepreneurship

Application Euraxess link: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/278426
Application Doctoral School Social Sciences Unina: https://www.scienzesociali.unina.it/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati

Application deadline: November 14, 2024

The University of Naples Federico II invites applications for a PhD scholarship in **"Transition Design and Design for Social Innovation as Tools for Social Entrepreneurship".** The scholarship is part of the SEIZMIC Doctoral Network, based on a grant from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network call 2023.

Job description
The doctoral project at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Naples Federico II **(researchproject DC8**) is part of a network of 15 doctoral thesis which all contribute to the overall goal of understanding social entrepreneurship (SE) scaling. This particular PhD thesis is part of a work package on "Social Business Model Design". The position is focused on exploring how Transition Design (TD) and Design for Social Innovation (DSI) can contribute to the external scaling of social entrepreneurship (SE) solutions. In the first year, the research will involve an extensive literature review on TD and DSI. The second year will be dedicated to field research, selecting and analyzing TD and DSI initiatives that have proven effective, economically viable, and capable of scaling up, to understand the role transition design played in their success. In the third year, the project will develop a proposal for rethinking and improving SE business models from a transition design perspective.

Required secondments
As required by the MSCA funding guidelines, the PhD candidate will have a required academic secondment at one of the SEIZMIC Doctoral Network members, namely the Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC) under the supervision of Felipe Koch, focusing on the intersection of transition design theories and social foresight practices. In addition, the candidate will have to engage in a non-academic secondment at Eranos, a consulting firm specializing in qualitative studies and design, under the supervision of Eranos' CEO Stéphane Hugon.

Candidate requirements
You will be embedded in the SEIZMIC community. For your role in research **project DC8**, we are looking for a doctoral candidate who has:
- A degree with a background in service design, design for social innovation, social sciences, social entrepreneurship or related fields;
- Proficiency in English speaking, reading and writing;
- Skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods.

This vacancy follows the recruitment procedures of SEIZMIC, which are set up in compliance to theMSCA doctoral network recruitment rules from the European Commission, most notably the mobility and eligibility of the Doctoral Candidates:
- Candidates must not have a PhD degree;
- Candidates who are already enrolled in a PhD program are not eligible to apply;
- Candidates must have not lived in Italy for at least 2 years out of last 3 years.

For further information on the project, prospective applicants can contact:
Prof. Ramon Rispoli, ernestoramon.rispoli@unina.it

ANNEX 2

DC9- PhD Position
Innovation at the Margin: Digital Ecosystems in Social Entrepreneurship

Application Euraxess link: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/278389
Application Doctoral School Social Sciences Unina: https://www.scienzesociali.unina.it/dottorati-di-ricerca/dottorati

Application deadline: November 14, 2024

The University of Naples Federico II invites applications for a PhD scholarship in "**Innovation at the Margin: Digital Ecosystems in Social Entrepreneurship**". The scholarship is part of the SEIZMIC Doctoral Network, based on a grant from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network call 2023.

Job description
The doctoral project at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Naples Federico II (**research project DC9**) is part of a network of 15 doctoral theses which all contribute to the overall goal of understanding social entrepreneurship (SE) scaling. This particular PhD thesis is part of a work package on "Digital Ecosystems and Artificial Intelligence Use". The position is focused on exploring how marginalized communities leverage digital ecosystems for social entrepreneurship (SE). The project aims to analyze the use of second-generation social media platforms and AI technologies in these communities and develop strategies for utilizing digital technologies to support and enhance social entrepreneurship in marginalized settings. The expected results include a systematic literature review, a qualitative dataset of micro-entrepreneurs from marginalized groups, a sociological model for marginalized communities and digital ecosystems, and a guide for using generative AI in decentralized, bottom-up digital social innovation.

Required Secondments
As required by the MSCA funding guidelines, the PhD candidate will have a required academic secondment at one of the SEIZMIC Doctoral Network members, namely the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) (who has a focus on knowledge sharing in digital environments). In addition the candidate will have to engage in a non-academic secondment.

Candidate requirements
You will be embedded in the SEIZMIC community. For your role in research **project DC9** we are looking for a doctoral candidate who has:
- A degree with a background in social sciences, digital sociology, business studies, social entrepreneurship or related fields;
- Proficiency in English speaking, reading and writing;
- Skills in qualitative and quantitative research methods.

This vacancy follows the recruitment procedures of SEIZMIC, which are set up in compliance to the MSCA doctoral network recruitment rules from the European Commission, most notably the mobility and eligibility of the Doctoral Candidates:
- Candidates must not have a PhD degree;
- Candidates who are already enrolled in a PhD program are not eligible to apply;
- Candidates must have not lived in Italy for at least 2 years out of last 3 years.

For further information on the project, prospective applicants can contact:
Prof. Vincenzo Luise, vincenzo.luise@unina.it