



**The SOLiDi consortium, the Urban Studies Institute of the University of Antwerp and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel are looking for a talented and motivated researcher to join the International Training Network and write a PhD on solidarity in diversity.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Stage Researcher</b> <b>Intersectional coalitions for solidarity with refugees in rural and suburban settings</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A European Training Network on promoting solidarities across ethnic-cultural boundaries</b></p>
<p>The rise of national populism and far-right parties in Europe poses a big threat to all forms of solidarity, especially solidarity between members of various ethnic-cultural groups. European democracies should therefore identify the conditions that can encourage and promote solidarity in diversity, taking into account the social inequalities and unequal positions of power between various groups. The EU-funded SOLiDi project has developed a training and research program to train 15 PhD researchers in relevant theories, research methods and ethics in the fields of sociology, human geography and educational sciences. The training and research program will also focus on paradigms of social change, studying how scientific insights on solidarity in diversity can be applied in different policy contexts and organisations. Ultimately, the project will provide professionals and institutions with insights and instruments for building cohesive European societies. SOLiDi is a consortium consisting of 10 universities and 23 non-academic organisations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Description of the research project</b></p>
<p><b>Scientific objectives</b></p> <p>Drawing on a qualitative analysis of media reports, documents and in-depth interviews with different stakeholders, this research project will provide a new perspective on the emergence of solidarity with refugees in rural or suburban settings of Belgium. Special attention will go to ways in which the practices and the discourses of mayors, directors of asylum centers and civil society leaders form intersectional coalitions pursuing a particular pedagogical approach to nurture a local climate in which solidarities emerge (or not).</p> <p><b>Tasks and Responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium.</li><li>▪ You deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.</li><li>▪ You prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic of solidarity in diversity.</li><li>▪ You publish scientific articles related to the research project.</li><li>▪ You support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables.</li><li>▪ You participate in, and contribute to, scientific meetings and conferences, presenting your research to the scientific community.</li><li>▪ You actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting your research to a wider audience.</li><li>▪ You collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance your research and training.</li><li>▪ You participate in the tailor-made training programme.</li><li>▪ The selected candidate will both spend time at the University of Antwerp and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and take part in the following planned secondments: academic secondment to the University of Humanistic Studies (the Netherlands) and non-academic secondment in Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen (Belgium).</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>About the host institutions</b></p>
<p>The Urban Studies Institute at the University of Antwerp is a platform for the development of interdisciplinary research on cities, urban development and urban challenges (<a href="https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/urban-studies-institute/">https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/urban-studies-institute/</a>). The candidate will also be linked to the Centre for Research on Environmental and Social Change (CRESC), which focuses on sociological research on environmental and social change, in an urban context and the wider living environment and with specific attention to dynamics of social inclusion and exclusion (<a href="https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/cresc/">https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/cresc/</a>).</p>



Vrije Universiteit Brussel is an internationally oriented university, located in Brussels (<https://www.vub.be/en/we-are-vub#do-you-know-vub?>). The candidate will be linked to the Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research (<https://www.cosmopolis.be/>). Committed to pursuing both academic and practice relevant research, Cosmopolis actively engages policy makers, governments, citizen networks and other urban partners to transform knowledge into action.

The University of Humanistic Studies is an independent, government-funded university that is inspired by the worldviews and traditions of humanism. The research focuses on public problems with a normative component, oriented towards building humane societies in which all people can lead meaningful lives. The University is located in a historic building in the centre of Utrecht. The university's small scale creates a personal working and study atmosphere. For more information: [www.uvh.nl](http://www.uvh.nl)

### Profile and requirements

- You hold a master degree in geography, sociology, educational sciences or any related discipline.
- You obtained outstanding academic results.
- You are interested in interdisciplinary, theory-oriented empirical research and have strong analytical skills.
- You are a team player and are sensitive to diversity.
- You have strong communication skills.
- Language proficiency: English (C1 level minimum) is expected; knowledge of Dutch is considered a merit.
- Your academic qualities comply with the requirements stipulated in [university's policy](#).
- More information on the specific PhD admission and enrolment requirements can be found [here](#).
- Applicants can be of any nationality, but have to comply with the following rules and criteria:  
**H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule:** researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.  
**H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria:** Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organisation, in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).
- Candidates may apply for up to three ESR positions in the SOLiDi project, but should mention explicitly the other ESR positions for which they apply in their personal statement.

### Benefits

- The selected candidate will be employed by the host organisation. The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months (i.e. EC funding). The host institution, in line with the national and university regulation about regular PhD duration, will provide additional funding for a maximum of 12 months on order to complete a doctoral degree.
- A competitive salary, plus mobility and family allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- The selected candidate will benefit from the designed training programme offered by the host organisation and the SOLiDi consortium.
- The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organisations within the SOLiDi network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

Please, find additional information in the [Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN fellows](#).

### Application

Candidates apply in the host institution. They provide:

- a CV, including their skills and educational and career trajectory and their place of residence and place of main activities (work, studies, etc.) in 3 preceding years (max. 3 pages, font 11 or higher).



- a personal statement, explaining their motivation, (up to 2 pages, font 11 or higher).
- building on the project description (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/solidi/research/>) write a one page outline of the research questions, approach and research design of your PhD project.
- the name and contact details of two referees who can comment on your skills, experience, and suitability for postgraduate research (referees will only be contacted for candidates invited to interview).

After the deadline for applications, the project supervisor and co-supervisor will draft a shortlist of 5 to 8 candidates. This shortlist will be discussed by representatives of all SOLiDi academic partner institutions. The shortlisted candidates will then be invited for interview. The ranked candidates will be discussed by representatives of all SOLiDi academic partner institutions, who will assess the gender and geographical balance of the selected candidates and the balance in disciplinary backgrounds across the network. Successful candidates will be notified by the end of May 2021.

**For additional information**

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