



The SOLiDi consortium and the University of Malta are looking for a talented and motivated researcher to join the International Training Network and write a PhD on solidarity in diversity.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Early Stage Researcher</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Political Activism for Public Pedagogy. A Study in ‘Dissenting’ Solidarity</h3>
A European Training Network on promoting solidarities across ethnic-cultural boundaries
<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, and address 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 organizations. 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 organizations.</p>
Description of the research project
<p>Scientific objectives</p> <p>This research project explores the formation of solidarity with marginalized groups through political activism as a form of public pedagogy. It also studies how public pedagogies are enabled by the performance of politically active strategic resistances by social groups that radicalize solidarity from its compliant and assimilative tendencies. The research project will provide (1) a critical analysis of the political philosophy related to solidarity and political activism and public education and (2) an analysis of the historical developments (also in Malta) in concepts and practices of solidarity in political activism during the last 50 years; and (3) case study of political activities and public pedagogies of a Malta-based social movement.</p> <p>Tasks and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium.▪ You deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.▪ You prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic of solidarity in diversity.▪ You publish scientific articles related to the research project.▪ You support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables.▪ You participate in, and contribute to, scientific meetings and conferences, presenting your research to the scientific community.▪ You actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting your research to a wider audience.▪ You collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance your research and training.▪ You participate in the tailor-made training programme.▪ The selected candidate will take part in the following planned secondment: visiting researcher at the University of Leicester (3 months, UK) and with the voluntary organisation, Moviment Graffiti (6 months, Malta).
About the host institutions
<p>The University of Malta (UM) is the leading higher education institution in Malta and the hub for international academic exchange on the island. Academic research and courses are designed to produce highly-qualified professionals in multiple disciplines, committed to high standards of research and teaching to provide an outstanding student experience in a vibrant higher education setting in the arts, sciences and the humanities.</p>



Its structures are in line with the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education area. The language of instruction is English. <https://www.um.edu.mt/>

The University of Leicester is a research-intensive university located in one of the UK's most diverse cities. The researcher will be based in the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, and a member of the Critical and Creative Geographies research group. For more information: <https://le.ac.uk/gge>

Profile and requirements

- You hold a master degree in Education, Political Science or 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.
- Your academic qualities comply with the requirements stipulated in <https://www.um.edu.mt/doctoralschool/applyforyourdoctoralstudies>
- You are fluent in academic English (speaking and writing). Applicants are required to be in possession of appropriate qualifications to demonstrate that their standard of English is satisfactory. If you have completed your secondary education overseas you are obliged to satisfy UM's English language requirement by presenting a Secure English Language Test (SELT) result. The language certificate must not be older than 24 months.

TOEFL Internet-Based (iBT) – minimum 95 with a writing score of at least 24

Academic IELTS – minimum 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each element

Advanced Cambridge Certificate at grade C or better.

- Applicants can be of any nationality, but have to comply with the “Mobility Rule”:
H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organization 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 will not be taken into account.
- **H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria:** Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organization, 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 organization. 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, may provide additional funding for a maximum of 12 months in 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 organization and the SOLiDi consortium.
- The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organizations 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 at the host institution. They are to provide:

- A Curriculum Vitae, 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 (maximum 3 pages, font 11 or higher).
- University Qualification transcripts (grades).
- A personal statement, explaining their motivation (up to 2 pages, font 11 or higher).
- A statement letter addressing your research interests in relation to the research project Political Activism for Public Pedagogy. A Study in 'Dissenting' Solidarity.
- 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).
- A one-page outline of the research questions, approach and research design of your PhD project building on the project description Political Activism for Public Pedagogy. A Study in 'Dissenting' Solidarity (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/solidi/research/>).

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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