

# Proposal Evaluation Form



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

**Evaluation Summary  
Report - Doctoral  
Networks**

**Call:** HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01  
**Type of action:** HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN  
**Proposal number:** 101169417  
**Proposal acronym:** DIVERSE  
**Duration (months):** 48  
**Proposal title:** Digital Inclusion, Values, Education, Rights, and Social Engagement  
**Activity:** SOC

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	HOEGSKOLAN I BORAS	SE	881,128.8	20.54%	881,128.8	20.54%
2	GOETEBORGS UNIVERSITET	SE	293,709.6	6.85%	293,709.6	6.85%
3	UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS	UK	615,571.2	14.35%	615,571.2	14.35%
4	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT EINDHOVEN	NL	548,740.8	12.79%	548,740.8	12.79%
5	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN	IE	572,976	13.36%	572,976	13.36%
6	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND MAYNOOTH	IE	572,976	13.36%	572,976	13.36%
7	ACTRONIKA	FR	282,693.6	6.59%	282,693.6	6.59%
8	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN	AT	270,331.2	6.30%	270,331.2	6.30%
9	UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA	ES	251,971.2	5.87%	251,971.2	5.87%
10	EUROPEAN NETWORK ON INDEPENDENT LIVING BRUSSELS OFFICE	BE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
11	Eikholt National Resource Centre for people with deafblindness	NO	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
12	Stichting Bartiméus Sonneheerdt	NL	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
13	SEVENTH SENSE OU	EE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
14	Asociacion Autismo Sevilla	ES	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
15	Kulttuuripoliittisen tutkimuksen edistämissäätiö	FI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
16	MICHAEL CULTURE	BE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
17	BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITAET WEIMAR	DE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
18	IRMANDADE DA SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA DA AMADORA IPSS	PT	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
19	Wunder Finland Oy	FI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
20	KENTRO MELETON ASFALIAS	EL	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
21	EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION EFIC	BE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
22	Swedish Agency for Accessible media (MTM)	SE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
23	KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET	SE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
24	OULUN YLIOPISTO	FI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
25	DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND	IE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

26	Erilaisten oppijoiden liitto ry	FI	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
27	ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE	FR	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total:			4,290,098.4		4,290,098.4	

**Abstract:**

DIVERSE is a multidisciplinary, multisectoral, transnational network that aims to deliver a pioneering research and educational framework, designed to cultivate the forthcoming generation of researchers and leaders in the area of Inclusive Digital Society equipped with the necessary knowledge and transferable skills to enable them to bring about sustainable and holistic societal transformations towards a more inclusive society. Research conducted within DIVERSE will collectively:

- i. Examine and critically evaluate (a) existing societal structures and systems and their potential to enable or act as barriers for digital inclusion (b) approaches to inclusive design and technological innovations, and (c) methodologies for directed actions to address specific challenges.
- ii. Offer in-depth analyses of conditions for inclusion and accessibility, providing a range of conceptual, empirical, and methodological models towards improved inclusion.
- iii. Lead to the development of new assistive inclusive technologies
- iv. Critically examine and provide an overview of the impacts of the proposed models.
- v. Lead to policy recommendations.
- vi. Contribute to career development, and growth of a workforce with insights for sustainability and improved conditions for an inclusive society.

DIVERSE tackles the global challenges of exclusion and inequality through scholarship, an interdisciplinary approach, and a cross-sectoral collaboration. With fifteen intertwined PhD projects, complemented by a suite of integrated research projects and learning contents underpinned by cohesive interdisciplinary training, DIVERSE aims to cultivate leaders in digital inclusion with a good understanding of different models of disability and user needs, user-centred design, assistive technology development, digital literacy, cognitive load, accessible information practices, public policy, and more. These leaders will be equipped with skills to bring about the needed change for the benefit of all.

**Evaluation Summary Report**

**Evaluation Result**

**Total score: 73.00 % (Threshold: 70 /100.00)**

**Criterion 1 - Excellence**

Score: 3.50 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: 50.00% )

- **Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art).**
- **Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality and appropriateness of open science practices).**
- **Quality and credibility of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects).**
- **Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects).**

*Strengths:*

- + *The focus of the proposal on digital inclusion for disability is highly pertinent given the significant challenges Europeans with disabilities face on a daily basis accessing Europe's currently digitally saturated/smart technology world(s).*
- + *The current state-of-the art is explained very well, with numerous references to support the arguments. The description of the current situation is well shaped by references to framework documents.*
- + *Strong interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral aspects have been clearly articulated to build on the existing work of the participating organisations.*
- + *The proposal's approach to gender differences and other diversity categories is thoughtfully outlined and in line with the overarching focus on issues of disability and diversity, and access.*
- + *The envisaged open science practices are high quality and well-formulated.*
- + *The management of research outcomes will adequately follow the FAIR principles.*
- + *The proposal includes relevant training activities, among them both face to face and online training and development opportunities. The methodological component of the training programme is well supported, and the recognition of the learning outcomes is also considered, with adequate and specific measures (ECTS).*
- + *Supervisors' qualifications are appropriate for academic partners.*

*Weaknesses:*

- *The way the overall objectives are formulated is not fully convincing due to an insufficient focus on the changes to achieve, and a lack of clear indicators that would allow tracking progress towards the goals.*
- *The ambition of the proposal to go beyond the state of the art and to advance knowledge of universal design principles is not fully convincing, beyond advances in specific areas.*
- *The quality of the proposal's multi-level focus is limited inasmuch as its list of individual projects tends to focus on a particular level of analysis, with little cross-disciplinary focus on other levels of analysis, leaving the overall work of the network disjointed in terms of integration. At the backdrop of this weakness, the description of methodology does not provide a convincing explanation for how the cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary training will break through current barriers the multi-level network seeks to address.*
- *The rationale for some of the methodology is weak, for example the use of wearables as a data collection method with queer and disabled individuals has not been adequately justified.*
- *Information on the arrangements of supervision, how it is organised and linked with the activities planned in the proposal, is insufficient.*

## Criterion 2 - Impact

**Score: 3.00 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: 30.00% )**

- **Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for:**
  - a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field**
  - b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes.**
- **Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills**
- **Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.development.**
- **The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.**

*Strengths:*

- + *The contribution of the non-academic sector to training and research is convincing and potentially offers a wide range of skills development and training opportunities.*
- + *Careful thought has been given to the recruitment process including attracting students of all abilities and taking an inclusive approach.*
- + *The doctoral training is structured based on clear principles and methodologies and the previous projects are a good base for the current development. The proposal provides a convincingly ambitious outline of effective strategies for developing some long-term sustainable elements of the doctoral program.*
- + *Intellectual property management is adequately addressed.*
- + *In terms of societal and scientific impact, the proposal adequately outlines how it would help to make an effective policy and practice impact.*

*Weaknesses:*

- *There is insufficient elaboration of the contribution of the research and training to the career perspectives and employability of the doctoral candidates. The proposal is too vague when it comes to potential employers, and offers too little insight into the competencies required in the field by the main potential employers.*
- *The communication plan, as in the case of using social media outlets, is too vaguely presented and discussed.*
- *The proposal fails to convincingly demonstrate that the communication and dissemination activities are strategically tailored to the proposal, and integrated with training and with specific outcomes.*
- *Too few targets are set in order to highlight the amplitude of the dissemination plan.*
- *There is insufficient elaboration of the economic impact.*

## Criterion 3 - implementation

**Score: 5.00 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: 20.00% )**

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.
- Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Strengths:

- + The workplan is credible and realistic in terms of the work to be done and its logical sequence. It is fully consistent with the objectives and methodology stated earlier in the proposal. The links between all components of the proposal (work packages, deliverables, results, timeframe, responsible partner) are convincingly revealed.
- + The work packages are well thought out and clearly described, and there is a good work package structure, with clear landmarks for the achievement of results.
- + The proposal provides a significantly detailed list of deliverables, both administrative and management, and realistic and equally detailed milestones to monitor progress.
- + There is excellent clarity over projects to be undertaken by doctoral candidates detailing involvement of partners and collaborators as appropriate. The carefully presented outline of individual projects effectively showcases a thoughtful and innovative and well-managed work plan.
- + The review of risks is detailed and realistic, including strategies for dealing with potential risks.
- + The proposal's recruitment strategy is thoughtful and credible and based on appropriate principles.
- + The hosting arrangements across fourteen different countries and eighteen different partners, and overall structural capacity are impressively demonstrated and outlined. The status of the research infrastructure is excellent.
- + The consortium is credibly built on expertise complementarities, and partners' involvement is well balanced. There is some excellent level of expertise at consortium level for conducting this project, considering the variety of fields to be involved and the strong participation of associated partners
- + The distribution of tasks and responsibilities is very well explained and numerous and consistent details provided.

### Scope of the proposal

Status: Yes

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

### Exceptional funding

A third country participant/international organisation not listed in [the General Annex to the Main Work Programme](#) may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the [HE programme guide](#))

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

### Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: No

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not because of a lack of information.

Not provided

### Use of human embryos

Status: No

If YES, please state how the human embryos will be used in the project.

Not provided

### Activities excluded from funding

Status: No

**If YES, please explain.**

*Not provided*

#### Do no significant harm principle

**Status: Yes**

**If Partially/No/Cannot be assessed please explain**

*Not provided*

#### Exclusive focus on civil applications

**Status: Yes**

**If NO, please explain.**

*Not provided*

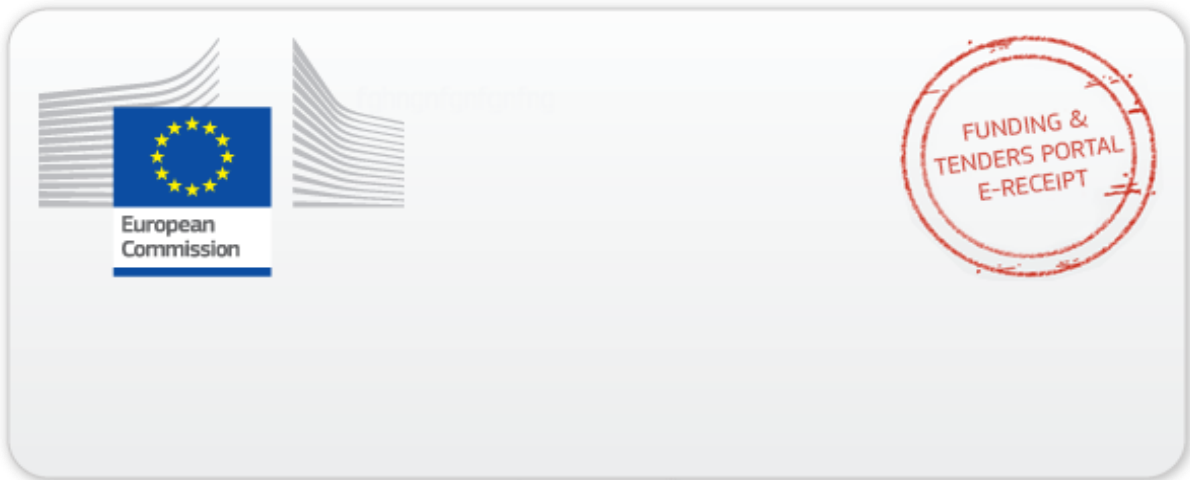
#### Artificial Intelligence

**Status: No**

**If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate (excellence?) criterion.**

#### Overall comments

*Please note that this proposal, having received a score of less than 80%, must not be resubmitted for the Doctoral Networks call 2024, as per the MSCA Work Programme eligibility rules*



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