Expression of Interest for participating in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Networks

Institutions interested in participating in a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network should use this template. Host institutions should be located in Germany.

1. **Valid for the following MSCA-DN Call**¹:

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2. **Interested host institution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETH Zurich</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (Competence Center of ETH Zurich, University Zurich and University of Basel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tannenstrasse 1</td>
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<td>8092 Zürich</td>
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Name of EU liaison officer (EU-Referent/in), if applicable:

EU GrantsAccess

Sofia Karakostas (lic.phil.), karakostas@sl.ethz.ch, +41 44 634 53 50

Agatha Keller (MA), agatha.keller@sl.ethz.ch, +41 44 634 53 50

3. **Institute/Department:**

The Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC) is a competence center that links and supports the plant science research community of the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and the University of Basel.

The PSC promotes fundamental and applied research in the environmental, agricultural, climate, earth, engineering, energy, food and life sciences disciplines. We seek creative approaches to research mentoring and coursework for students and postdocs, and we provide platforms for interactions with peers, policymakers, industry, and stakeholders. We help graduate students put together the right package of classes in the plant sciences, statistics, policy, communication, and other transferrable skills.

For this purpose, we do offer two structured PhD programs.

The **PhD program in Plant Sciences** offers training in frontier topics of plant sciences, including molecular biology, ecology, evolution, environmental and agronomic sciences. It also offers opportunities to acquire research skills and transferable skills for careers in and outside of academia (https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/phdplantscience.html).

The **PhD Program in Science and Policy** combines life, environmental, earth, agricultural, engineering, energy or food sciences with the development of skills and competencies for the science-policy dialogue and interface (https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/phdsciencepolicy.html).

Moreover, we help match students and PIs with appropriate funding sources to take on some of society’s most important questions.

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¹ MSCA Doctoral Networks are selected on the basis of annual calls for proposals. Forthcoming and open calls for proposals can be found on the Funding & tender opportunities Portal of the European Commission.
Our Mission is

- Promote research in plant sciences, at scales from molecules to landscapes.
- Facilitate cooperation and enhance research synergies at national and international levels.
- Initiate and support inter- and transdisciplinary research, thereby exploring new horizons.
- Apply the results of research in plant sciences and create added value to ecosystem management, sustainable agriculture and protection of environment.
- Guarantee future competence in the field of plant sciences by providing excellent teaching and training programs.
- Advance the curricula in plant science education with innovative learning concepts, materials and courses.
- Intensify co-operation with business, politics, and government.
- Encourage dialogue with the public by contributing a scientific point of view to social, economic and political topics.


The members of the PSC doing research in various fields ([https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/aboutus/people.html](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/aboutus/people.html)).

Currently we are coordinating the [RESPONSE Doctoral Programme (DP)](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en.html) «RESPONSE - to society and policy needs through plant, food and energy sciences» which is funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement [No 847585](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en.html).

RESPONSE DP builds on the academic expertise of three world-leading institutions - ETH Zurich, University of Zurich and University of Basel - and the three internationally renowned competence centers [Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC)](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en.html), the [World Food System Center](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en.html) and [Energy Science Center](https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en.html).

4. **Contact person (name and e-mail address):**

   **Dr. Luisa Last**
   PhD and EU Program Coordinator ([llast@ethz.ch](mailto:llast@ethz.ch))
   Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, ETH Zurich, TAN D 5.1, Tannenstrasse 1, 8092 Zurich,
   Phone: +41 44 632 02 71

   **Dr. Melanie Paschke**
   Managing Director – Education, Finance and Fundraising ([paschkme@ethz.ch](mailto:paschkme@ethz.ch))
   Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, ETH Zurich, TAN D 5.2, Tannenstrasse 1, 8092 Zurich,
   Phone: +41 44 632 60 22

5. **Valid for the following Doctoral Networks:**

   Please tick:
   - [x] Standard Doctoral Networks
   - [ ] Industrial Doctorates
   - [ ] Joint Doctorates

6. **Position of interest:**
7. Sector

Please tick:
- x academic
- x non-academic

8. Topic, discipline:

Please tick:
- x Life Sciences
- x Natural Sciences
- x Engineering Sciences
- x Social Sciences and Humanities

9. Interest/Offer/Contribution/Added value in the field ...

We, as an Associated Partner could contribute as follows:

- **host 2 additional PhD fellows (15+2)** in the field of environmental, agricultural, climate, earth, engineering, energy, food and life sciences at either ETH Zurich, University of Zurich or University of Basel.
- **offer PhD training** (PhD program science and Policy, or modules of it) for the development of skills and competencies for the science-policy dialogue and interface.
- **co-organization of a summer school in Switzerland** or other training events.
- **We are happy to engage in your grant proposal writing** and have great experience in our team proven by multiple successful EU proposals (e.g. PLANT FELLOWS I, IDP BRIDGES, PlantHUB, RESPONSE, DP, etc.).

If evaluated positive, **we as Associated Partner would join with no additional costs** for the DN project budget! We will be **supported financially by the Swiss Government** (i.e. 2 additional fellows, 2 x 36 fellowship months).