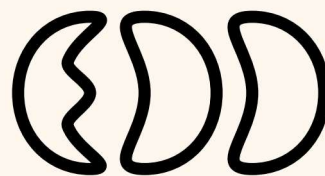




How a PhD Broadens Career Opportunities Outside Academia?

2026

**First edition of
European Doctoral Day
May, 13**



**EUROPEAN
DOCTORAL
DAY**



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CONCEPT NOTE

European Doctoral Day 2026

For the first edition of the European Doctoral Day, scheduled for May 13, 2026, Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) proposes a dedicated initiative aimed at bringing together, within a common framework, major university networks, European actors in research mobility, organizations supporting researchers, as well as companies and stakeholders from the wider European socio-economic ecosystem.

The objective is to federate existing initiatives within a shared, visible and coherent European event, in order to enhance the attractiveness of the doctorate and to support academic, international and intersectoral mobility.

The career directions

Within this broader framework—already supported by several university networks and European organizations engaged in doctoral development (EUA-CDE, Coimbra Group, LERU, UNICA, European University Alliances, Eurodoc, MCAA, PRIDE Network, RNCD, mobility networks)—ABG is putting forward a dedicated contribution for this pilot edition.

This event will contribute to the European momentum by providing a platform to showcase the career paths, schemes and collaborations that currently shape the doctoral landscape. Through a dedicated thematic focus, it will highlight the role of the doctorate in research, innovation and career transitions, while creating an inclusive space for dialogue and knowledge sharing across the community.

CONCEPT NOTE

The first edition

This pilot edition, organized in a fully online format, will feature a structured programme built around the theme “Beyond Borders: PhD Mobility, Career Transitions & Professional Development in Europe”, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting borderless career paths, non-academic and intersectoral mobility, and the diversification of PhD careers towards industry, entrepreneurship and international organizations.

High-level institutional contributions, round tables and thematic sessions dedicated to European programmes, academia–industry partnerships and career perspectives will illustrate the diversity and richness of the European doctoral ecosystem.

This inaugural edition marks the launch of a recurring European event dedicated to the doctorate—its scientific and societal value, and the networks that sustain it. By bringing together these stakeholders for the first time within a common format, it will also contribute to improving the visibility of the European landscape and fostering new collaborations in support of doctoral candidates, PhD holders, institutions and employers.

PROGRAM - 2026

PROGRAM

08:45 – 09:00

WELCOME & OPENING

Jean-Luc Beylat, President of ABG, keynote speech on the topic

09:00 – 11:20

ROUND TABLE 1

Young researchers' careers across Europe outline (presentation of latest surveys results)

Current and future initiatives for intersectoral mobility

Q&A

PhD Careers in Europe- Trends, insights and perspectives

Moderation: Janina Fengel - Deputy Secretary General EUT+, ECROS

Gian Maria Greco-Board Member of MCAA,

Simon Marti -Head of EUA-CDE

Joanna Rutkowska- Eurodoc/COST CCA

Laurent Gouzènes- MEDEF

Elisa García García - Euraxess Hub Researchers Career Beyond Academia

Fiona Mc Bride - Prosper

11:20 – 11:35

COFFEE BREAK

11:35 – 13:25

ROUND TABLE 2

3 tandems of recruiter/researcher

Recruiting and being a PhD outside academia: Employer-Researcher dual perspective

Moderation: Kristina Berkut - International Cooperation Manager, ABG

Michelin: Jeanine Jolain - Mateus Garcia Rodolfo

QDI systems: Artem Shulga - Süleyman Kahraman

SiPearl: Etienne Renault - John Osorio Ríos

13:25 – 13:40

PERSPECTIVES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

Slaven MISLJENCEVIC Team Leader, European Commission DG Research & Innovation

OPENING SESSION SPEAKER

Jean-Luc Beylat

President, Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) | President, Systematic Paris-Region | *Former President, Nokia Bell Labs France*



Jean-Luc Beylat is the president of Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) from 2019, where he supports the development and career advancement of PhD holders. He also serves as President of Systematic Paris-Region, a major European competitiveness cluster dedicated to digital and deep tech innovation, and as
Throughout his career, he has played a key role in fostering public-private partnerships, advancing technological innovation, and strengthening research-driven economic development. His previous role as President of Nokia Bell Labs France further reflects his strong leadership in industrial research.

About the company– Association Bernard Gregory (ABG)



Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) was established to support the professional integration of young scientists. Since its founding in 1980, ABG has worked to promote the career development of PhD-holders, the innovative capacities of businesses, and to capture the value of skills acquired through training in research. It is committed to provide its partners with tailored expertise to address the challenges faced by PhD holders throughout their career development.

About the company– Systematic Paris-Region



Systematic Paris-Region is a leading European deep tech cluster bringing together nearly 900 members to drive innovation and accelerate digital transformation across industry and society in key sectors including energy, healthcare, mobility, and smart cities.

OUR MODERATORS

Janina Fengel

Deputy Secretary General EUT+, ECROS



Janina Fengel is Deputy Secretary General of the European University of Technology (EUT+), where she contributes to the development of a transnational European university model. With a background spanning academia, research and industry, she previously led the Graduate School at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences and has extensive experience in research management and international collaboration



ECROS is a Horizon Europe (WIDERA) initiative supporting the development of talent ecosystems to make early research careers more attractive, sustainable, and aligned with labour market needs across the European Research Area.



Kristina Berkut

International Cooperation Manager, ABG



Kristina Berkut is International Cooperation Manager at Association Bernard Gregory (ABG), with a PhD in Intercultural Management from Paris-Saclay University. She specialises in international cooperation, employability policies, and intercultural skills development across diverse academic and professional contexts.



Association Bernard Gregory (ABG) supports PhD recruitment and career development, promoting the value of doctoral skills across academia and industry.

Gian Maria Greco

Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association



Gian Maria Greco is Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), where he has held several leadership roles. He holds a PhD in Philosophy (Lecce, Italy) and a PhD in Translation Studies (Roehampton, UK), and has held positions at several European universities. His expertise spans accessibility, diversity and inclusion, human rights, AI, and translation. Gian Maria is an active figure in science policy, working at the intersection of research assessment, AI in science, and sustainable and inclusive research careers and ecosystems. He serves as primary representative for Stakeholder Group 4 in the ERA Action on the European Science for Policy Ecosystem and ERA Action on Integrity and Ethics in R&I, and is a member of several international bodies, including the Working Group updating the Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research and the COST Cross-Cutting Activity on Career Development for Young Researchers.

About the organisation – Marie Curie Alumni Association, MCAA



The MCAA connects more than 24,000 researchers worldwide, supporting career development, international collaboration, and policy engagement across disciplines and sectors.

Simon Marti

Head of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education



Simon Marti is the Head of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) since July 2024. Before that, he was heading SwissCore, the Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education in Brussels. Previously, Simon was the Head of the Science Office at the Embassy of Switzerland in the United States and a Project Manager in Education Management and Research with the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation in Bern. He is a political scientist and holds an MA from the University of Bern and a doctorate from the University of Basel.

About the organisation – EUA-CDE



The EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) was launched in 2008 at the initiative of the European University Association, responding to a growing interest in doctoral education and research training in Europe. An integral part of the European University Association, it is now the largest European network in this field, covering more than 280 universities and institutions working on issues related to doctoral education and research training in 39 countries.

Joanna Rutkowska

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zurich, Eurodoc, COST CCA



Joanna Rutkowska is a postdoctoral researcher in developmental psychology at the University of Zurich, boardmember and delegate to Eurodoc of actionuni, the umbrella organisation for academic mid-level staff in Switzerland, and an advisory board member of Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. Joanna is also a co-chair of the COST Cross-Cutting Activity (CCA) on Career Development for Young Researchers. Joanna is an internationally mobile researcher, and thus has experience with the different university systems. Her representative and policy work focuses on working conditions of early-career and international researchers, sustainable career development for early career researchers and open science.

About the organization – Eurodoc



Eurodoc is the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. It is an international federation of 28 national organisations of earlycareer researchers from 25 countries of the European Union and the Council of Europe that represents their interests

About the organization – COST



The COST Association is a not-for-profit international association under Belgian law enabling researchers to set up their own interdisciplinary research networks. Funded by the European Union.

Laurent Gouzènes

President of the Innovation Financing Committee, MEDEF



Laurent Gouzènes is an engineer and AI specialist with a background from École Polytechnique and a PhD in robotics, artificial intelligence and knowledge management. After several years as a researcher at CNRS and ONERA, he founded an AI company before joining STMicroelectronics, where he spent 17 years leading European and national R&D programmes and major industrial investment projects.

He currently works as a consultant in AI and research funding strategy and serves as an expert advisor to French public institutions. Within MEDEF, he has contributed for more than 20 years to the development of national policies related to research, innovation and industrial competitiveness.

About the organisation – MEDEF



MEDEF is the leading network of entrepreneurs in France, representing companies of all sizes and sectors and advocating for a competitive business environment through dialogue with public decision-makers.

Elisa Garcia

Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology - FECYT, EURAXESS



Elisa Garcia work at the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), a Foundation dependent of the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, whose mission is to promote the cultural changes needed to strengthen dialogue and engagement between science, society, and public governance, and to promote global science.

Within FECYT, Dr Elisa Garcia oversees the coordination of Spanish EURAXESS service network. EURAXESS is a pan-European initiative backed by European Commission whose objectives are to provide adequate and relevant information and services to researchers on their mobility and their career development. In support to the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities on European, she also represents Spain at the European Research Area structural policy on research careers and ERA action on research managers.

About the organization – FECYT



FECYT promotes connections between science, society, and policy, and supports international mobility through the **EURAXESS** initiative.

About the organization – EURAXESS



EURAXESS provides a unique web portal offers job, funding and hosting opportunities, career development guidance and free tools and much more. EURAXESS network counts 43 European countries and 9 worldwide hubs.

Fiona McBride

Senior Researcher Developer, University of Liverpool – Prosper Project



Fiona McBride is a Senior Researcher Developer within The Academy at the University of Liverpool, where her work focuses on **Prosper** – an ambitious and innovative model of postdoc career development designed to unlock postdocs' potential to thrive across multiple career pathways, both within and beyond academia.

She oversees the Prosper team on a day-to-day basis, and is responsible for both its UKRI-funded rollout to the wider UK HEI sector, as well as embedding the model within the University of Liverpool.

Fiona has played a key role in Prosper from its start in 2019 as a Research England Development (RED) fund project, co-ordinating its pilot cohorts, developing and co-creating the Prosper model and resources. She is a former postdoc, holding a doctorate in Chemistry (specialising in surface science).

About the Project– Prosper



Prosper is an innovative approach to postdoc career development that seeks to unlock postdocs' potential to thrive across multiple career pathways – both within and beyond academia. It was co-created with 120+ postdocs, as well as PIs, and employers.

Prosper Portal is an online hub packed with insights and tools to help you uncover your career aspirations, discover opportunities beyond academia, and equip yourself with lifelong skills to thrive in any professional path you choose.

The Portal is completely free to use. Registration unlocks the Career Development Navigator function, allowing you to tailor Prosper's resources to your own journey and create a personalised action plan.

Jeanine Jolain

Community Development Partner EUS/SG/FBN/P/RDT, Michelin



Jeanine Jolain holds a Master's degree in Chemistry and has been working at Michelin for more than 27 years. After 22 years in R&D managing teams focused on materials characterisation and raw material sourcing, she transitioned to Human Resources, where she has spent the past six years supporting managers and team development.

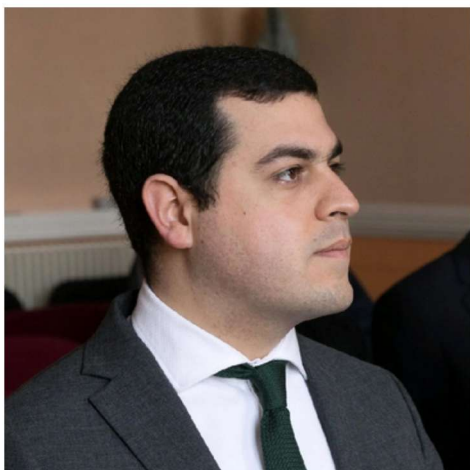
About the organization – Michelin



Michelin is a global leader in mobility and advanced materials, developing innovative and sustainable solutions for sectors including transportation, healthcare, energy, aeronautics and construction. The Group also provides digital services and customer experiences worldwide, notably through the internationally recognised MICHELIN Guide.

Mateus Garcia Rodolfo

Materials Scientist and Engineer, Michelin



Mateus Garcia Rodolfo is a Materials Scientist and Engineer currently working in Clermont-Ferrand. He completed his PhD at the Université Clermont Auvergne within the TIM research team, focusing on multi-scale modelling and simulation of block copolymers. His career illustrates the transition from doctoral research in theoretical and physical chemistry to applied materials science in industry, highlighting the value of PhD expertise in industrial innovation.

About the organization – Michelin



Michelin is a global leader in advanced materials and mobility solutions, leveraging over 130 years of innovation in polymer composites to contribute to sustainable progress across sectors such as mobility, construction, aeronautics, energy, and healthcare. It also develops connected services and digital solutions, including the internationally renowned MICHELIN Guide, enhancing both professional mobility and customer experience worldwide.

Artem Shulga

Founder & CEO, QDI Systems



Artem Shulga is the Founder and CEO of QDI Systems, a spin-off from the University of Groningen developing advanced quantum dot-based imaging technologies. He leads the company in pioneering scalable solutions for applications in medical imaging and next-generation optical systems.

About the organisation – QDI Systems



QDI Systems is a Dutch deep-tech company that develops quantum dot-based imaging materials and sensors for X-ray and short-wave infrared (SWIR) applications. It's a spin-off from the Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials in Groningen and aims to make medical and industrial imaging both higher quality and less costly.

 **Süleyman Kahraman**
Research Engineer, QDI Systems



Süleyman Kahraman is a physicist and research engineer at QDI Systems, a deep-tech company specialising in quantum dot technologies for advanced imaging applications. His work focuses on the synthesis of quantum dots and the development of next-generation image sensors, bridging cutting-edge research and industrial innovation.

About the organisation – QDI Systems



QDI Systems develops high-performance imaging solutions based on quantum dot technology, with applications in medical imaging, industrial inspection, and advanced sensing.



Etienne Renault

R&D Computer Science Manager, SiPearl



Etienne Renault leads the performance teams at SiPearl. In 2014 he graduated for his Phd focusing on parallelizing the automata approach for model-checking. Then he became assistant professor and head of the research curriculum before being deputy director of the EPITA Research Laboratory between 2018 and 2023. Following his interest for performance and distributed systems, he joined SiPearl back in 2023, whose aim is to create a European microprocessor dedicated to HPC. His main focus is the optimization of the software stack, from linux and toolchains to Application (HPC, AI) for this processor.

About the organization – SiPearl



SiPearl is the European fabless designer of sovereign high-performance energy-efficient CPUs for supercomputers, AI and data centres. These CPUs will help address strategic challenges in the fields of security, defence, medical research, energy, climate and engineering with a reduced environmental footprint. Seed-funded by the EU, SiPearl employs 200 people in France, Spain and Italy. After a €130m Series A, the company has launched its Series B round.

John Osorio Ríos

Senior AI Benchmark Engineer, SiPearl



John Osorio works as an AI Performance Benchmark Engineer at SiPearl. In 2023 he obtained his Phd at Barcelona Supercomputing Center working on the interaction between computer architecture and Artificial Intelligence, specifically reducing numerical data type precision to train deep neural networks. John got his bachelor's and master's degree in Computer Science at Universidad Tecnologica de Pereira (Colombia) in 2009 and 2016, respectively.

About the organization – SiPearl



SiPearl is a European fabless semiconductor company developing sovereign, high-performance and energy-efficient processors for supercomputing, artificial intelligence and data centres. Supported by the European Union, SiPearl contributes to strategic innovation in areas including security, healthcare, energy, climate and engineering, while promoting more sustainable computing technologies.

Closing Session Speaker

Slaven Misljencevic

Team Leader, European Commission



Slaven Misljencevic currently serves as a Team Leader at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research, where he coordinates the team on Research Careers, which is responsible for policies and projects related to initiatives such as EURAXESS, HR Excellence in Research, Research Management, ResearchComp, the ERA Policy Agenda Structural Policy on Research Careers, Freedom of Scientific Research, RESAVER, the Research and Innovation Careers Observatory, Science Comes to Town, EU TalentOn and EUCYS. Slaven's previous roles include Product Manager at AXA, where he led new employee benefit product development, and Business Manager at ADNEOM, managing engineering projects in green energy. He holds a Master's degree in Business Engineering from the University of Antwerp and has also studied in China.

About the organisation – The European Commission's DG R & I



The European Commission's DG Research and Innovation designs and implements EU policies supporting research, innovation, and researcher career development across Europe.

OUR PARTNERS - 2026



EURAXESS is a comprehensive support platform for researchers seeking career and mobility opportunities across countries. It provides free, tailored information, including access to jobs, funding, hosting opportunities, and career development tools through its dedicated web portal. **EURAXESS FRANCE** is a member of this [European Commission initiative](#), gathering more than 600 services centres assisting EU and non-EU researchers in 50 countries. All services of the EURAXESS Network are free of charge.



The University of Strasbourg (Unistra) is a leading European institution, ranked 1st in Europe for innovation and among the top universities worldwide, with recognized excellence in sciences, engineering, and humanities. It is home to four Nobel Prize winners in chemistry and medicine and offers a wide range of flexible academic programmes, from initial training to continuing education. As an IdEx laureate, Unistra actively fosters innovation, technology transfer, and strong partnerships between academia and the socio-economic sector.



The European University of Technology (EUT+) is an alliance of nine European institutions committed to a shared vision of human-centred technology and the creation of a new type of confederal European university. Through this collaboration, EUT+ aims to build a sustainable future for students, staff, and the regional ecosystems in which its campuses are embedded. The alliance brings together partners from across Europe, fostering integration, innovation, and cooperation in higher education and research.



The PAUSE programme supports scientists and artists who are forced into exile by providing safe hosting conditions and enabling them to continue their work and integrate sustainably. It co-funds host institutions through regular calls for applications and offers comprehensive support, from identifying placements to accessing legal rights and long-term career opportunities. In parallel, PAUSE conducts advocacy to defend academic and artistic freedom and fosters collaboration with European and international partners assisting at-risk researchers and artists.



Polonium Foundation is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to connecting and supporting the Polish scientific diaspora worldwide through networking events, research initiatives and science diplomacy activities. Its mission is to transform brain drain into brain circulation by strengthening collaboration between researchers, innovators and institutions across countries and sectors. Through initiatives such as Science: Polish Perspectives and the Polonium Network, the Foundation fosters international collaboration, mobility and career development for researchers across academia and industry.

TEAM ABG FOR EDD 2026



Kristina BERKUT, PhD



Dominika FORETEK, PhD



Tania SUVOROVA, PhD



Ouissame BENFAIDA

To celebrate the first European Doctoral Day, the team of Association Bernard Gregory presented by the international cooperation and communication officers, is pleased to host a special online event “How a PhD Broadens Career Opportunities Outside Academia”

This half-day webinar brings together European institutions, companies, researchers’ associations and career experts.

The programme includes two interactive roundtable discussions:

- the first presenting recent European survey data and policy perspectives;
- the second featuring recruiter–PhD tandems, offering a dual perspective on recruitment and professional integration beyond academia, including the testimony of a researcher in exile.

Speakers include representatives from the Marie Curie Alumni Association, the European University Association, the European Commission, MEDEF (France’s employers’ organisation), as well as major European career development networks and private companies from across Europe.

In addition, on 11 June 2026, ABG co-organizes a webinar with the RnMSH – Réseau national des Maisons des Sciences sociales et des Humanités, entitled “Careers at the science–society interface accessible to PhDs in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SHS)”.

This session explores professional opportunities at the intersection of science and society, where SHS doctoral skills are particularly valued, including social impact analysis, support for transformation processes, and mediation between research, public policy, and innovation.



CONTACT

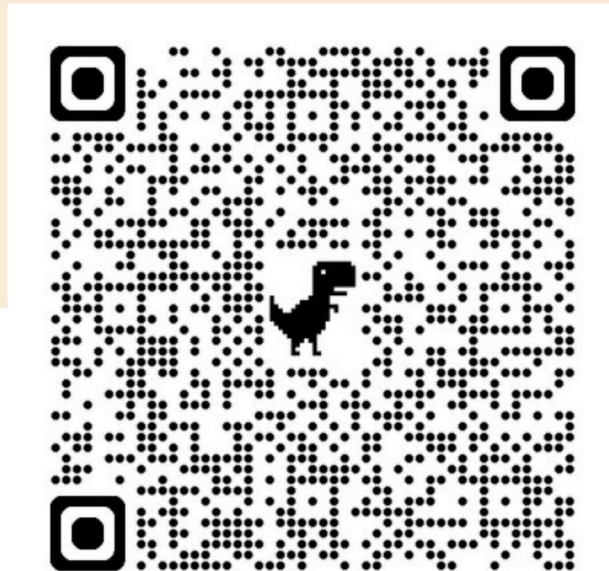
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13 May 2026



11 June 2026