

Call for PhD Fellowships

Call for 2 PhD fellowships in the frame of the PRESILIENT Industrial Doctorate project.

Post-pandemic resilient communities: is the informal economy a reservoir for the next generation of digitalized and green businesses in Africa, Asia and Latin America?
(HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01, GA 101073394)

Starting date: 1 September 2023

Deadline: 23 March 2023 (instructions on how to apply are below)

The **Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD - the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development)** will host two PhD fellows within scope of the EU-funded MSCA Industrial Doctorate programme ***PRESILIENT: Post-pandemic resilient communities: is the informal economy a reservoir for the next generation of digitalized and green businesses in Africa, Asia and Latin America?***

The two successful candidates will be enrolled as PhD students and hosted in the DIAL team (<https://dial.ird.fr/>), a LEDa joint research unit team (<https://leda.dauphine.fr/>) where they will spend 18 months, and then will be based at a non-academic partner (DP or CCI) for the following 18 months. Significant mobility and a secondment period to the country at the core of their research are foreseen. All details about the project and the application procedure are available at the following links.

- **PhD researcher 1; Focus: Brazil**
Partners: IRD and Development Perspectives (www.developmentperspectives.ie)
- **PhD researcher 2; Focus: Sénégal**
Partners: IRD and Centro Cooperazione Internazionale (www.cci.tn.it ; [link to call](#))

What is an Industrial Doctorate?

An MSCA – Industrial Doctorate is a programme funded by Horizon Europe thanks to which Junior Researchers can enroll in a PhD programme while being employed 18 months by a university and 18 months by a non-academic partner (think tank, company, NGO, see [the global call for the Presilient programme](#)). Successful fellows will receive a salary for three years, at the EU early Stage Researcher rate – substantially above the level of PhD scholarships in most countries (total amount depending on the country where they will be based in) and an allowance for mobility, research, family in line with EU guidelines that can be viewed via the [MSCA page](#).

The programme aims to produce PhD holders with strong work experience, who are therefore already competitive on the job market.

Main objectives of the programme

If successful, you will be enrolled in a PhD programme in one partner university in France and work in a team of academic and non-academic specialists to conduct a multi-level study on informality in one of the 2 target countries (Brazil or Senegal) involving a) Horizon Scanning; b) Delphi Survey; c) Construction of Case Studies to identify the sectors of the

economy that have been most affected by the pandemic, the sectors that could lead economic recovery and the policies needed to make this recovery durable and sustainable in the long term; the final goal is the training of a junior expert on informality in the Global South with exposure to both academic and non-academic sector opportunities; Database, PhD thesis, scientific publications, policy publications, communication activities.

Short description of the project and its focus

In addition to the almost 2bln workers already active in the informal sector, World Bank and ILO estimate that the pandemic might have put at risk of precarious employment 500mln-1.5bln more. These losses, and related consequences, are not evenly distributed given that Africa, Asia and Latin America is where 93% of the world's informal employment is located and where post-pandemic crisis is likely to hit harder (especially women, migrants and young people). Yet, the concern is global. Indeed, besides vulnerability and precariousness at individual and community levels, informality also eventually reduces state capacity and the ability of institutions to design and implement policies that properly address social, economic and environmental issues (i.e. SDGs) in a long term perspective. Accordingly, informality-related challenges have been devoted a great deal of attention and political statements. But seldom have these statements been followed by concrete instructions, guidelines or evidence-based policies to tackle informality across the world. Starting from this gap, PRESILIENT is a large network comprising 14 partners (of which 7 non-academic) and 15 associated partners located in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America committed to delivering the a world class cross-regional training on informality in the Global South to: measure it, address it, find viable and sustainable alternatives. By doing this, we have committed to four main objectives: O.1 train the next generation of experts on informality in the global south. O.2 carry out a research spanning 15 different countries and to produce novel data and significant theoretical advancements in the field. O.3 produce strategic intelligence that can be used to provide practical policy recommendations O.4 enable multi-directional knowledge transfer through network events, pairing of academic and non-academic partners (who will jointly supervise each fellow), secondment and task-based teamwork.

Project partners and regional focus

You can apply for one or more positions but we would be grateful if you could state this in your application to avoid the risk of recruiting the same candidate twice. The selection process is decentralised so you need to prepare a separate application for each of the universities to which you want to apply. Note that entry requirements, deadline and procedures may differ so check what is needed in the specific announcement issued by each partner.

Practical details

Financial conditions (including salary levels) and background documents are available via the [MSCA page](#).

Your salary will be calculated according to MSCA rules and your personal + family situation. More information can be found at the financial section of the above MSCA document. If selected, you will be expected to familiarise yourself with these rules also to be aware of your formal rights and obligations towards the donor.

Eligibility: there are no nationality limitations (anyone can apply); applicants must hold a degree enabling them to enroll into doctoral studies by September 2023 (usually a MA or MSc). They cannot have more than 4 years full time research experience (or hold a doctorate already, even if they worked less than 4 years to complete it) at the time of recruitment.

Mobility requirement: applicants can be of any nationality but cannot have been resident (or have had their main activity i.e. work or study) in the country where you will be enrolled in PhD studies for more than 12 of the 36 months prior to recruitment. This means that if you

spent less than 12 months in the country where you are going to start your PhD you are eligible.

NB: this is a very intensive programme. Each selected candidate will be enrolled into a PhD programme, work as junior researcher and will be seconded to the target region for data collection and gain a hands-on work experience on how research skills can be used beyond academia for the benefit of the governmental, private or international development sector. There will also be workshops of 4 to 5 days duration approximately every 6 months at which attendance is essential. Therefore a willingness and ability to undertake these international mobilities is a core requirement.

Minimum requirements:

1. completed university degree (Master Degree or comparable) with a solid background in the field of social sciences, economics (or related)
2. interest and ability for theoretical and practical research
3. excellent knowledge of spoken and written English
4. advanced computer skills
5. highly developed communication skills
8. knowledge of the French language (for the PhD on Senegal) or the Portuguese (for the PhD on Brazil) is not a mandatory condition, but will be evaluated as an advantage.

The accepted candidate is required to enroll in a doctoral study in Economics in a French university (presumably at the Paris-Dauphine University) with the research topic focusing on the informal economy in Brazil or in Senegal. The candidate is expected to fulfill all the obligations of the doctoral studies and obtain the Ph.D. title during the project. If the candidate does not progress regularly through the doctoral studies, the employment contract may be terminated. Participation in international mobility according to the Project and study program is a key condition of the employment contract.

Any informal enquiries about research topics or the process (that are not already addressed in this call or in the MSCA guide for applicants, see link above), should be addressed to the relevant contact person.

Applications (which has to be in English) should be emailed to recrutement-dr.idf@ird.fr and cc-ed to razafin2roubaud.ird@gmail.com and must include:

1. a curriculum vitae (including explicit details of country / countries of residence for the past 3 years, this is needed for eligibility purposes);
2. an application letter no longer than 500 words;
3. a short (600-1000 words) summary of your doctoral project.
4. the grades achieved in your Master's degree (certificates will be requested if you are shortlisted)
5. name and contact of 2-3 references who can comment on your professional qualifications and abilities (they will be contacted only if you are shortlisted)

Please send all the documents together in one PDF file and use, as subject of your message, "PRESILIENT-DN-2023 Application" + the country you want to focus on (Brazil or Senegal).

Failure to do this might result in your application ending up in the wrong folder.

Deadline 23 March 2023, 5pm (Paris time).