

Subject: *Horizon Europe-MSCA-DN-2021-101073026-Cloud-Doc: Outcome of the midterm check*

Dear Coordinator, Dear All,

First, I would like to thank you and all people involved in the organisation of the onsite meeting including the very interesting visit at the CLOUD chamber at CERN on 24 October 2023. I was really impressed by this unique laboratory experiment, which I understand is also a powerful tool addressing atmospheric chemistry and oxidation mechanisms more broadly. It is good that Cloud-Doc is embedded into a larger CLOUD collaboration.

The meeting took place in month 13 of the project, so just after the recruitment phase and from the information provided at the meeting, the presentations and discussion, the submitted deliverables, and reports, I found the network to be working very well and I just can confirm a positive conclusion of the mid-term process.

The development of new instrumentation will be an added value to the CLOUD chamber for direct measurement of specific radicals and cluster sizes, aiming at advancing the current state-of-the-art for various subjects in cloud formation in cold areas.

The consortium has highly qualified PIs with longstanding experience in the different research fields. I hope that all beneficiaries and, if possible, all Associated Partners, will actively participate until the end of the project as there are several elements of complementarity.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the fulfilment of the recruitment procedure, the eligibility of the fellows, any deviations of the original training programme and to raise awareness on the fellows' and host institutions' rights and obligations.

The **recruitment process** has been organised in a decentralised way considering the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The vacant positions were advertised widely – local, national, and international – including on the website requested by the Agency, to ensure a maximum of visibility and awareness.

From the information provided, all the Doctoral Researchers seem to be eligible, very well qualified and committed and can so bring skills, experience, and enthusiasm to the organisations where they are hosted and to the whole network. They are aware of their roles, rights, and obligations within the action. All of them demonstrated very good knowledge of their scientific projects and very good communication skills. Gender balance has been well respected.

I encourage all supervisors to help the researchers as much as possible during their doctorate studies and in the different planned activities and to inform the Coordinator well in advance in case of problems.

The **training programme** has also started and so far, the fellows are well satisfied with the local, transferable skills and networkwide training received. During the network events all young researchers of CLOUD-DOC were introduced and trained in the procedures for conducting nucleation experiments at CERN, data analysis and interpretation and they received information about the previous experiments and findings. Several experiments have already taken place which is very good.

A **Personal Career Development Plan** orients the activities of each Researcher within the Consortium.

The DCs were given opportunities of working at the CLOUD facility at CERN, and they received training on the instrumental details, calibration procedures, analysing data, and on giving

presentations. All DCs, involved in the experimental work, received training on the laboratory safety procedures and regulations at their host institutions and at CLOUD facility at CERN.

In conclusion, the action is running smoothly. The progress on the **research and training objectives** of the DN is very good. All the fellows started their **individual projects** obtaining some preliminary results. This has been clearly explained by the Coordinator, by the recruited Researchers and also reported in the Progress Report.

The project is on track against **milestones and deliverables** for the period.

The project will have a short-term **impact** on the fellows' careers due to the new skills acquired and the academic/non-academic experience. The training and intersectoral knowledge-transfer secondments will provide expertise also in the non-academic fields of employment. All this will help them to easily find a job in academia and/or industry.

The **supervision** scheme is well presented and implemented. Representatives of the DCs are participating in the **Supervisory Board** that is responsible for all scientific management and strategic decisions and includes representatives from each beneficiary. All supervisors are very experienced in their respective fields and complementary.

The **project manager** is very experienced and very good.

The **webpage** is well structured. Thanks to acknowledge the EU funding statement as per Grant Agreement and to give as much as possible visibility to the fellows. And thanks to use social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter as a general communication channel towards the scientific community as well as the broader public.

As mentioned in the meeting, I kindly remind to distribute the new Info Package to the researchers:

- [Information package for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows in Doctoral Networks - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

And finally, I remind to strictly follow the provisions of **article 6.2 about the contributions to the recruited researchers (this is also double-checked by the Auditors in case of an Audit) as well as article 18 of the Grant Agreement and its Annex 5.**

Don't hesitate to contact me if something is not clear.

Thanks for the very good collaboration and best wishes,

Giuliana



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