



*EPFLinnovators*  
*EPFLglobalLeaders*



EUA-CDE

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# Why innovative programmes?



Many PhD students only start to really consider the question of “***what comes after my PhD?***” when they have finalized their thesis



A very large majority of PhDs go to **non-academic sector** (leaders in industry, entrepreneurs, etc.), however many PhD supervisors have a purely academic background with little experience in the non-academic sector



To integrate **leadership and sustainability** into the curriculum of PhDs in order to develop the next generation of sustainable science lead

# Goals of the innovative programmes

- ❖ Increase PhD candidates' **awareness** – *from the very beginning of their PhD studies* – of the importance of **career preparation**, and provide the required **training** & **network-building** opportunities.



Entrepreneurship, start-up creation,  
**non-academic careers** in general



Sustainability and responsible leadership, and how to  
contribute to the transition towards a **sustainable  
society** based on technology and innovation

- ❖ Increase exchanges and collaboration between **EPFL laboratories** and the **non-academic sector** – *industry, start-ups, non-profit organizations* - benefitting PhD students' future careers and society

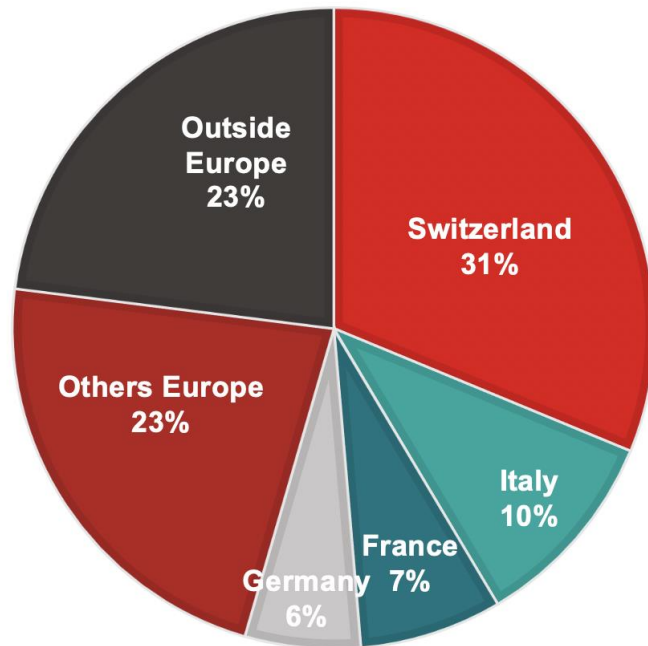
One of the most cosmopolitan **technical universities** in Europe (> 120 nationalities)

- 12'000 students (incl. 2'200 PhDs)
- 350 professors
- 6'000 staff members (incl. PhDs)

A truly **interdisciplinary** Doctoral School

21 doctoral programmes - generally not attached to a single faculty - with course (ECTS) requirements, a 1<sup>st</sup> year exam, annual evaluations, thesis exam and thesis defense, and many other features

*PhD student's (education) origin*



**36**

Fellows

**€ 1'855**Salary contribution  
(= 40%) per month**48**

Months



- Training and events focused on **entrepreneurship**
- A 6 to 24-months secondment generally at **industry/start-ups**

**48**

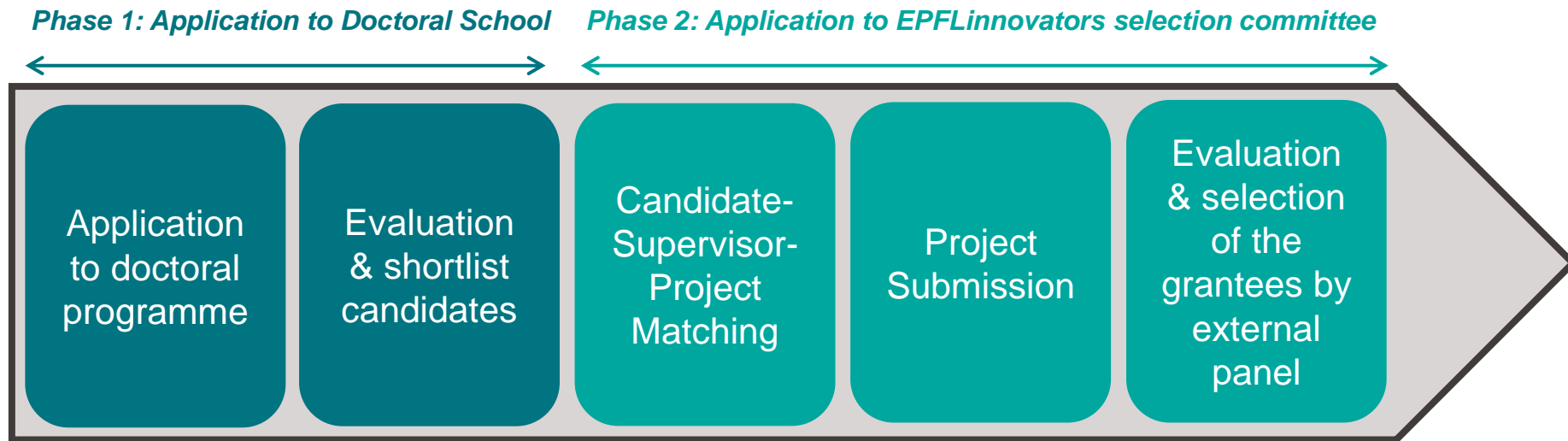
Fellows

**€ 1'935**Salary contribution  
(= 40%) per month**48**

Months



- Training and events focused on **leadership and sustainability**
- Laboratories and secondments (3 to 12-months) active in **SDG fields**



**Highly competitive**

1840 applications / 36 positions

20 countries



- ❖ Additional selection (2<sup>nd</sup>) phase:  
**High quality** of selected candidates
- ❖ Strong sense of **community** among the candidates  
(WhatsApp group, LinkedIn group, etc.)



Positive influence of the *EPFLinnovators* and *EPFLglobalLeaders* towards their peer PhD candidates concerning career preparation, transferable skills development, and networking



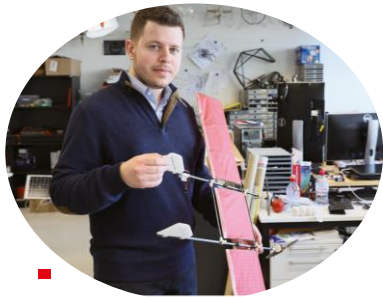
*«EPFLinnovators gives researchers first-hand experience in transferring knowledge to industry.»*

**Laura Hermans**



*«This programme provides great opportunities for me to work on the commercial aspect of my project. With the commercial partner on the side, my project will be guided in the right way to be useful at the end.»*

**Mahdi Hamidi Rad**



*«It's really important for PhD students to interact with the 'real world' and not to be locked in the laboratory all the time.»*

**Harry Vourtsis**

**EPFLinnovators** and **EPFLglobalLeaders** are managed by the EPFL Research Office and Doctoral School:

*Chloé Bayon, Camille Boucarut, Aurélie Gfeller, Juliane Kuntschen,  
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**Thank you for  
your attention!**

# Back-up slides

Technology transfer and Entrepreneurship skills  
(3 - 4 ECTS)

Teaching and Presentation skills  
(2 ECTS)

Technology and  
Public policy  
(2 ECTS)

Entrepreneurial  
Opportunity  
Identification &  
Exploitation  
(2 ECTS)

Ethics, Social issues  
and Responsible  
Research and  
Innovation (RRI)  
(0 ECTS)

My thesis in 180  
seconds  
(1 ECTS)



## Leadership & Management

1 of 5 courses (2 to 4 ECTS each)

- Leading and managing in a global context
- Strategic marketing & technology commercialization
- Project management
- Data science for business
- Production management

## Innovation

1 of 3 courses (2 to 4 ECTS each)

- Technology Transfer
- Economics of Innovation and Technological Change
- Business design for IT services

## Sustainability

1 of 6 courses (2 to 5 ECTS each)

- Technology and innovation policies for global challenges
- Risk management and analysis (3 courses)
- Product lifecycle management concepts methods and tools
- Design thinking

## Executive sustainability training

(at partner institution such as IMD)

2 ECTS

## My thesis in 180 seconds training

1 ECTS

