

On 29 September 2020, the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research** is organising a **MSCA conference** in the context of the German EU Council Presidency.

We very much would have liked to welcome you all in Berlin in person. In face of the current developments, however, and after many deliberations, it has been decided not to hold the conference as a face-to-face event, as originally planned, but to switch to a **virtual conference** instead, to be held in shortened form on **29 September 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

The conference will mainly focus on possible synergies between the MSCA and the European Universities Initiative as well as on the topic "Supervision in MSCA". A high-level panel in our studio in Berlin will discuss synergies between the MSCA and the European University Alliances in interaction with the audience. The second focus theme, supervision, will be discussed in four parallel virtual workshops.

In line with the innovation of European doctoral training and the increased demands on current doctoral students and postdocs in terms of career development, the demands on the supervisors of young researchers have also immensely changed. To focus specifically on the previously somewhat neglected group of supervisors, the above mentioned workshops will approach the subject matter from four different perspectives: on the one hand, supervision from the perspective of doctoral candidates and from the perspective of postdocs, on the other hand, supervision from the perspective of supervisors from academic and from non-academic institutions. The workshop's findings are expected to result in recommendations for the future development of supervision in general and MSCA supervision in particular.

Furthermore, we are very happy that the conference will be framed by the [MSCA Falling Walls Lab](#) in order to provide an appropriate stage for the important topic of science communication.

If you are interested in participating in the virtual MSCA Presidency conference and would like to be informed about the next steps, please send a short e-mail to MSCA2020@dlr.de to be added to the conference mailing list. Please forward this e-mail to young researchers and supervisors in your institutions as well as to further stakeholders.



With best regards,
Your MSCA2020DE-Team