



Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions



MSCA Ireland Doctoral Networks Promotional Event

8th May 2024

Prof Sarah Hudson

SSPC, Department of Chemical Sciences,

Bernal Institute, University of Limerick

LongActNow Project Coordinator





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Content




- ITN EID programme description and constraints
- Proposal Preparation
- Consortium Management
- ESR training
- Lessons learnt



European
Commission

CORDIS
EU research results

English 

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€ Programme

 EN

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN-EID)

European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

EIDs have the objective of training highly-skilled researchers and stimulating entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation in Europe. This is to be achieved in particular by involving the non-academic sector in doctoral training so that skills better match public and private sector needs. **Each EID is composed of at least two beneficiaries established in two different Member States or Associated Countries. At least one beneficiary must be entitled to award doctoral degrees (*) and at least one beneficiary must come from the non-academic sector, primarily enterprise.** Each participating researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme and spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector. **The joint supervision of fellows by supervisors from each sector is mandatory.** A wider set of partner organisations may also complement the training.

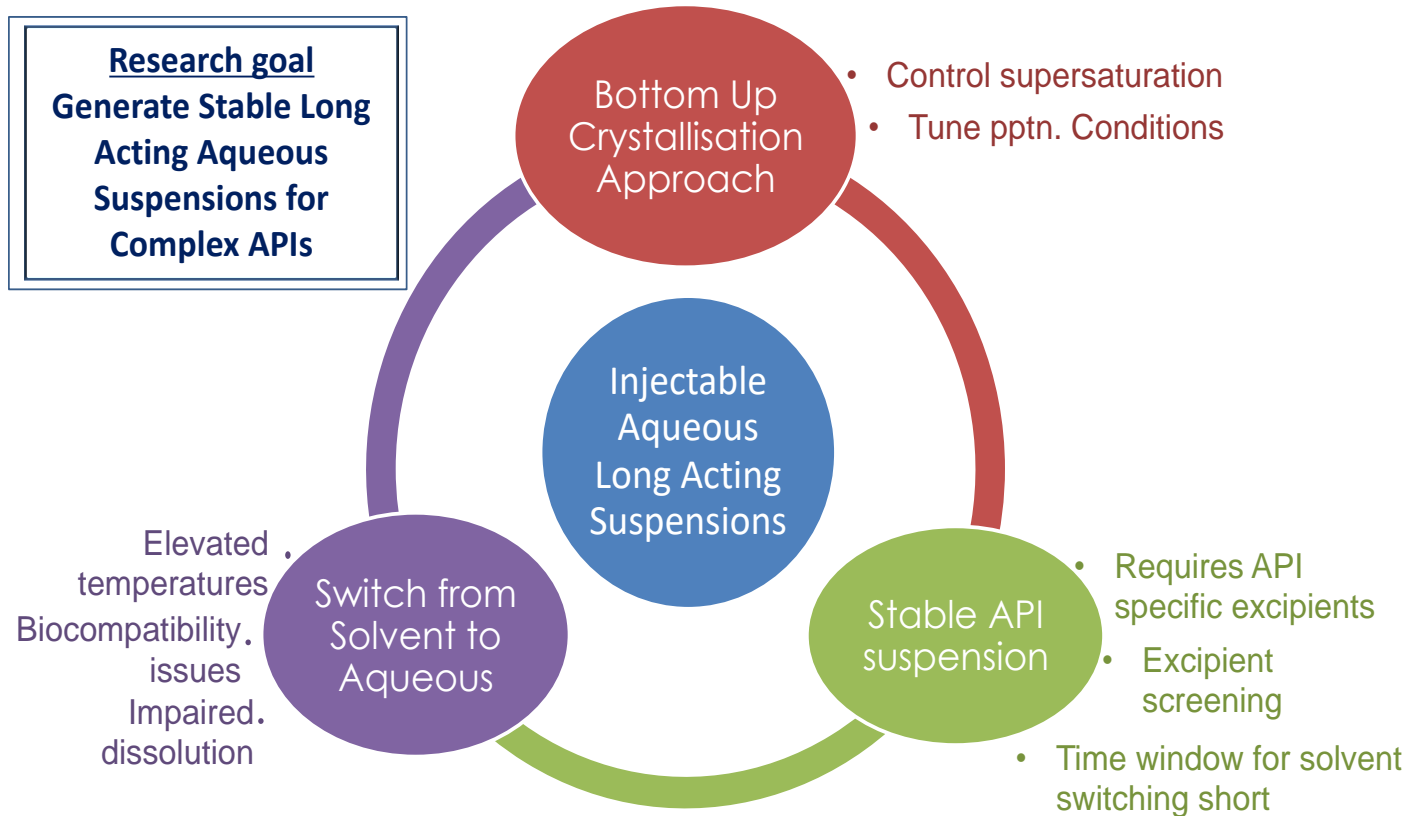


Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

LONGACTNOW

Long Acting Medicines for Complex Therapeutics Needed Now

Research goal
Generate Stable Long Acting Aqueous Suspensions for Complex APIs



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LongActNow trained five ESRs equipped to address major challenges in the manufacture, formulation and stability of LA aqueous drug suspensions, contributing to the development of a platform technology for LA formulations that has the potential to be implemented in the pharmaceutical industry.

Proposal Preparation



- Industry partner approached SSPC with a broad idea and we assembled a team that then developed it into the overall proposal.
- We did engage commercial writers – reviewed but could not write the actual science and had limited understanding of what was feasible in terms of activities etc.
- Agreed in the consortium agreement to contribute 50 % of management and overhead costs for each ESR to project management costs – this was not a problem for any partner.
- Cost of living in Ireland negatively impacted number of ESRs that Ireland could host.

Consortium, Secondment and IP agreements



- Challenging as was first ITN EID at the University of Limerick – no templates available
- 3 of the ESRs were PhD students at University of Limerick, 2 were PhD students at TU Dortmund
 - 1 UL PhD student was an employee of the University of Limerick*
 - 2 UL PHD students were employees of Janssen*
 - 2 TUD PhD students were employees at TUD*
- Differences in institutional cost of each ESR
 - Stipend each PhD received*
 - Student fees and access charges*
- All spent 18 months at Janssen and 18 months at the University of Limerick or TUD
 - Visa issues and cost, particularly for non-EU students*
 - Housing issues (financial support but availability in Ireland is challenging)*
- Background IP clearly articulated in consortium, secondment and IP agreements – ended up as joint IP
- Pre publication strategy very well outlined (will show later).



LongActNow

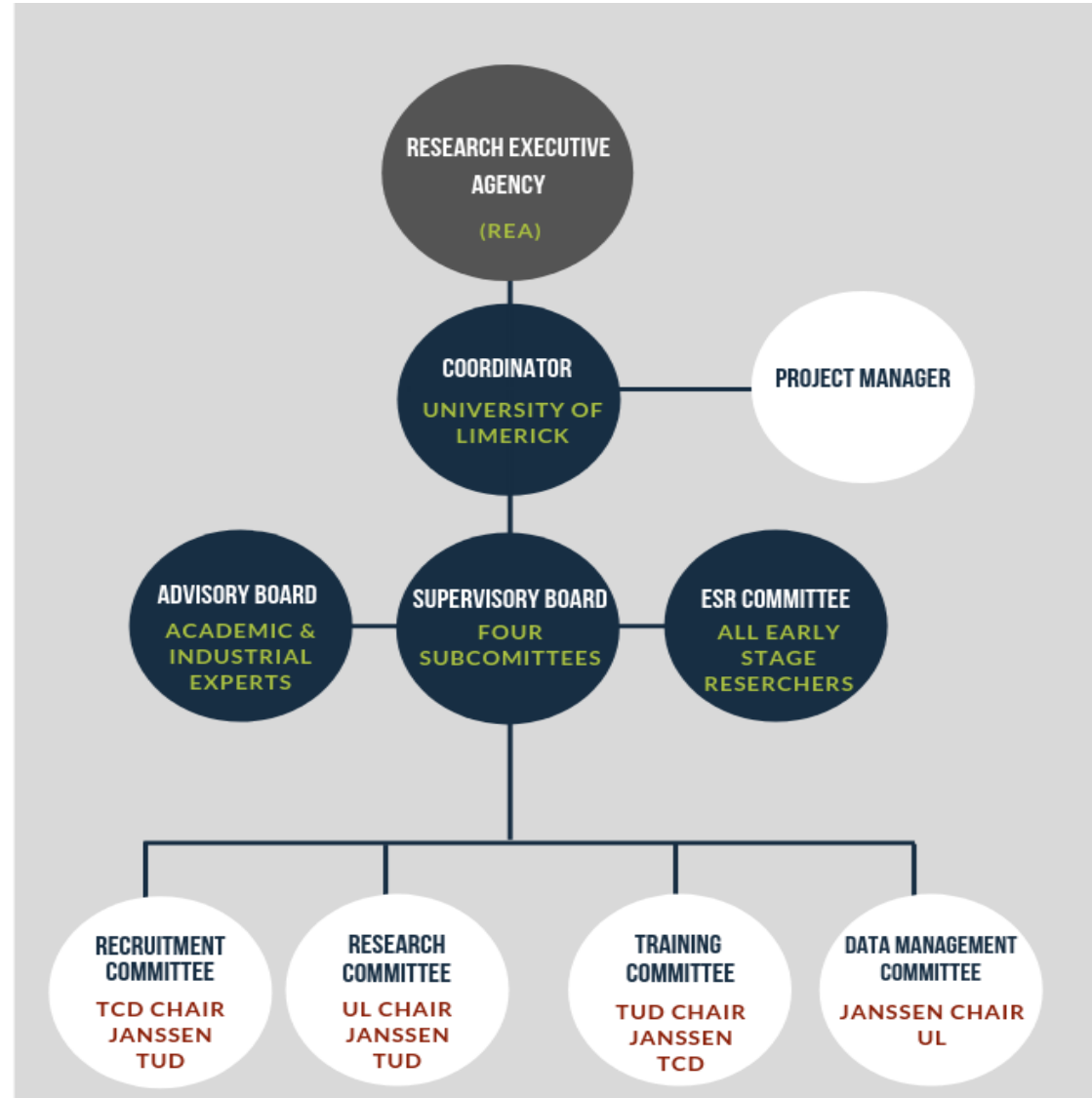
Management

Management Structure



ORGANIZATIONAL
CHART

LONGACTNOW



Recurring Meetings



- **LongActNow Monthly Meeting** LongActNow holds monthly teleconferences with all team members at the management level. Reoccurring agenda items include recruitment updates, progress on work to date, upcoming deadlines, training/networking events.
- **LongActNow Technical Review meeting** (once every two months) – open to everyone on LongActNow project, ESRs to present their technical progress
- **Biannual Consortium Meeting** (twice a year)
- **Advisory Board Meeting** (once a year) – coincides with the Consortium meeting.
- **LongActnow coffee morning** (once every two weeks) – open to everyone, informal social gathering space.
- **LongActNow Journal Club** (once a month) – open to everyone, ESRs and other PhD students of LongActNow supervisors to present chosen Journal.
- **Individual LongActNow ESR meetings with supervisors** – on average occur fortnightly/monthly with all ESR supervisors with specific arrangements made between each ESR and their supervisors. Weekly meetings with the supervisor on site at the location where the ESR is currently seconded.

Meetings



- Supervisory Board Meetings - quarterly
- Recruitment Committee
- Research Committee
- Training Committee
- Data Management Committee
- ESR Committee

Incorporated into the **LongActNow Monthly Meeting** as agenda items as appropriate and are then lead by the respective Chair.

Incorporated into the **Virtual Coffee Morning** as appropriate

Other meetings are arranged when necessary, e.g. to discuss specific technical challenges that arise, in preparation for a deliverable, mid term meetings, etc.

Project Management (Behind the Scenes)



janssen
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
OF *Johnson & Johnson*

DR ALESSANDRO DE MAURO

MOHAMED ABDELLATIF

DR MARGARET LAWLOR

tu technische universität dortmund

PETRA MARCINIAK

BRIGETTE TRIMPE

DR KRISTY SIRR

UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



Gordon Elliot

LongActNow Recruitment Strategy

Recruitment process was finalised at the LongActNow Kick-off meeting in October 2019 in Janssen, Belgium.

- Advertisement of ESR posts,
 - Social Media: LongActNow website (longactnow.eu), twitter, SSPC website, LinkedIn
 - Online recruitment: findaPhD.com, university vacancies, EURAXES, scholarsatrisk.org, epws.org, awis.org, etc.,
- Deadlines for submission agreed
- Submission process – Guide for Applicants after registration of interest
 - Through LongActNow SULIS site – password protected
- Fair and equal selection procedures
 - Online shortlisting meeting with all supervisors, adhering to candidate's project preferences
 - Remote interviews with all supervisors
- Evaluation of interviewed candidates
 - Evaluation criteria agreed and feedback given after each interview
- Completion of recruitment with each beneficiary's internal HR procedures




The screenshot shows the recruitment page for the Marie Curie Sklodowska ITN European Industrial Doctorate Programme at the University of Limerick. The page includes a search bar, a sidebar with details, a main content area with a photo of a building, and a table of key information.

Marie Curie Sklodowska ITN European Industrial Doctorate Programme

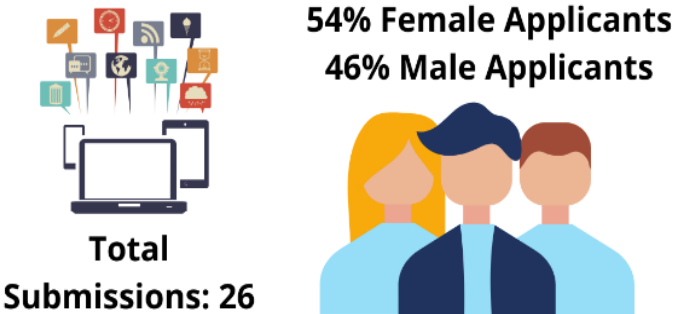
ORGANISATION/COMPANY	University of Limerick	LOCATION	Ireland - Limerick
RESEARCH FIELD	Pharmacological sciences	TYPE OF CONTRACT	Other
RESEARCHER PROFILE	Recognised Researcher (R2)	JOB STATUS	Other
APPLICATION DEADLINE	16/12/2019 12:00 - Europe/London		

Marie Curie Sklodowska ITN
European Industrial Doctorate Programme

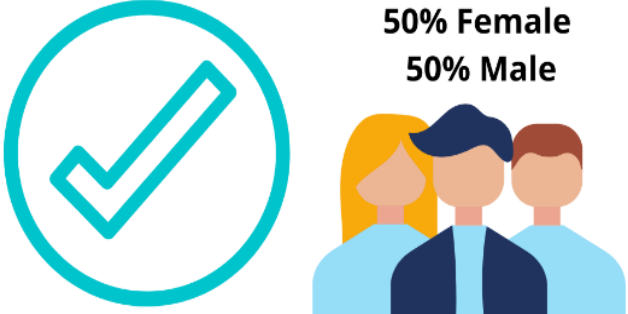


LongActNow Recruitment Strategy

Call 1 Metrics



Call 1 Awardee Metrics



Call deadline of 16th December 2019

ESR 1, 2, 3 and 5 were recruited

Call 1 Applicant and Awardee Metrics



Meetings



Announcements

Resources

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Title [▲]	Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	LongActNow Management Resources	Actions ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	Data Management Committee	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Media & Graphics	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting Packs and Minutes	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publications & Dissemination	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruitment Committee	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Committee	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondment Planning	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submitted Reports	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training Committee	Actions ▾ Entire site
<input type="checkbox"/>	22102019 Risk Register LAN.docx	Actions ▾ Entire site



Open Research Data

LongActNow's Open Science Policy is aligned with:

- the University of Limerick's Research Integrity Policy (2019b) and
- the Rules of Good Scientific Practice at TU Dortmund University (2017)
- Horizon2020 requirements
- European Commission Plan S guidelines

and is outlined in:

- LongActNow's Consortium and IP Agreement
- LongActNow's Data Management Plan
- LongActNow's Pre-Publication Strategy
- LongActNow's Open Science Strategy

Each ESR will deliver at least three (3) publications in peer reviewed journals (priority given to open access where possible) and three (3) conference presentations.

Training available at TUD and UL re research data management and publication strategies.

LONGACTNOW GUIDE TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PRE-PUBLICATION OF RESULTS



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 861278

Pre-Publication Policy

Understanding Ownership of Background IP



Background IP

ACCESS RIGHTS TO
BACKGROUND IP MUST BE
CLEARLY STATED **IN WRITING**

Beneficiaries must discuss all background IP needs in advance of work. This is set out in consortium and IP agreement.



Ownership of Results

RESULTS ARE OWNED BY THE
BENEFICIARY THAT
GENERATES THEM.

EU HAS THE RIGHT OF FIRST
REFUSAL

The EU has the right to assume ownership of results up to four years after the grant ends (30 September 2027) if the result is of commercial value and beneficiaries do not wish to pursue exploitation (**GA Art. 26.4**)

Dissemination of Results in LongActNow



Rules for Dissemination and Publication

ANY DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED UNTIL EU
HAS CONFIRMED PERMISSION

LongActNow must provide EU and other beneficiaries at least **45 days notice of request to publish results**. **All publications must acknowledge EU funding and provide Open Access as soon as possible** (**GA 26.4.1/29.1. /LAN Consortium Agreement 8.3.1**)

How are 'Results' Defined in the Grant Agreement?

'RESULTS' MEANS ANY (TANGIBLE OR INTANGIBLE) OUTPUT OF THE ACTION SUCH AS DATA, KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION – WHATEVER ITS FORM OR NATURE, WHETHER IT CAN BE PROTECTED OR NOT – THAT IS GENERATED IN THE ACTION, AS WELL AS ANY RIGHTS ATTACHED TO IT, INCLUDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Pre-Publication Policy

What is the Required Text for Funding Attributions:

UNLESS THE AGENCY REQUESTS OR AGREES OTHERWISE OR UNLESS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, ANY DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (IN ANY FORM, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC) MUST:

- (a) display the EU emblem and
- (b) include the following text:

"This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 861278".

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.



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"This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 861278

Steps to Comply with LongActNow Pre-Publication Procedure

1

Upload a copy of the manuscript/poster/presentation or other result document to the pre-publication folder on SULIS at least 45 days before planned dissemination/publication

2

Upon upload to SULIS, the project manager must email notification of intent to publish to the project officer. This begins the 45 day notice period.

3

The other beneficiaries will have 30 days to register a reasonable objection; The EU Commission will have 45 days to inform consortium of objection

4

If no objections are registered during the notice period, dissemination may proceed



LongActNow

ESR Training

ESR Activities

- Immersion into Beneficiary's Environment
- Technical training
- Experimental work in the lab
- Generic Skills Modules
- Writing papers
- Outreach activities
- Networking amongst each other and with Marie Curie networks
- Personal Career Development Plans reviewed biannually



Live at Scholarship Network

Date: 20/09/2020
Day: Sunday
Time: 18:00 PST

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Qazi Mashaal Khan France

Fatima Anjum Germany

Aammar Tufail Germany & Italy

-How to write:
-Letter of motivation/Statement of purpose
-Email to professors



ISSUE NO. 9 JULY 2020

IEEE Interviews Mariana Hugo

Mariana Hugo was born in Coimbra, Portugal, received the M.Sc. degree in Biomaterials from University of Coimbra in 2016 and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. degree in the project LongActNow. She was part of IEEE during her studies in Coimbra. Her research interests are vast and encompass many areas of sciences such as Nanotechnology, Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials.

1. Tell us a bit about why did you decide to pursue a Doctorate? What is your main research about?

I never thought that I would be pursuing a PhD. It was not even one of my career objectives. I thought that after getting my degree I would be done. However, during my master I became passionate about research and wanted to keep working on it, but at the same time explore different fields. So, I worked in different research groups (eg. microbiology, immunology and physics) and went through them from different countries. One thing became clear, regardless of the field I always enjoyed being in the lab, running my experiments, analyzing data and find new questions. However, at the same time I had never tried something different. I did not know if I was losing something that would fulfill me even more than research. I worked at a technological consulting company for some months, however, I just knew that was not for me, research was certainly my future.

One thing that I realized was that if you want to keep working on research long term in the future, a PhD will cross your path, so I started looking for projects that were related with Nanotechnology, Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials. I applied to some and got accepted at the LongActNow project, a consortium between Tansor, Pharmaceutica, Trinity College, Dublin, University of Limerick and TU Dortmund. The most interesting aspect of this program is that it combines industry and academia. This way, by the end of the PhD it will be clear in which one I see myself working, while acquiring essential skills.

My project aims to develop a new generation of long-acting injectables, just that means that instead of taking a certain drug in the oral form, the drug is injected. Due to the properties inherent of crystalline ADI microparticles, the drug is released during a certain number of months, instead of taking a daily pill. This will improve patients' outcome since it improves the engagement with the treatment and ensures that the therapeutic dose of a certain drug is being administered. ADI can have a broad range of applications, such as contraception, treatment and/or control of psychological disorders, tuberculous, cancer, chronic diseases, among others. Furthermore, it would be one of the utmost importance for the low-income countries by securing a better healthcare without requiring a lot of resources, human and financial.

2. What can you tell us about the feeling of winning a Marie Curie Scholarship?

When they called me to tell I had received the Marie Curie and that I would be part of the Innovative Training Network LongActNow, I just could not believe it. It is a Marie Curie! They are the most prestigious scholarships in Europe. I had seen

ESR Activities



Main Network-Wide Training Events, Conferences and Contribution of Beneficiaries

	Main Training Events & Conferences	Lead Institution(s)	Month (estimated)
1	Kick-off Event	UL	M7
2	Crystallization Workshops	UL	M9
3	LongActNow Annual Technical Meeting	Janssen	M19
4	Thermodynamic Modelling/Solvent Switching Workshop	TUD	M20
5	LA Injectables & Implantables Conference	Janssen	M27
6	LongActNow Annual Technical Meeting	TUD	M30
7	LongActNow Annual Technical Meeting	UL	M42
8	LongActNow Final Consortium Meeting/Establishment of Alumni network	Janssen	M48

Lessons Learnt

What I had not realised:

- Secondment challenges – housing, visa delays and costs (and additionally our project ran through the COVID years – 2020 – 2024)
- Theses – 3 years very short to have as a deliverable
- Understand the differences between partners/beneficiaries in terms of student status, financial aspects and expectations
- Non-EU students – challenges with visas and mobility in general

LongActNow was a small consortium so a lot of work for minimal PhD resources per PI but:

- ✓ Great first experience as an EU project coordinator with a tight group of researchers
- ✓ Great networking opportunity
- ✓ Increased visibility on European landscape
- ✓ Generated invitations to speak, publish, collaborate
- ✓ Very heavily resourced and well paid ESRs

What helped:

- ✓ Communication with EU project officer
- ✓ Institutional support (particularly with student registration, contracts, invoicing for fees and access charges, IP and consortium agreements)
- ✓ Project manager

Acknowledgements



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Prof Luis Padrela
Dr Kristy Sirr



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Prof Lidia Tajber



Prof Gabriele Sadowski
Dr Andreas Danzer
Dr Maximillian Wessner



Prof Rene Holm



LongActNow Early Stage Researchers

Dr Snehashis Nandi
Dr Fatima Anjum
Amabelle Kloc
Dr Fidel Canellas
Dr Mariana Silva

Dr Fidel Canellas and Dr Mariana Silva at their recent graduation at the University of Limerick, January 2024.