

# UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

## MSCA Green Charter in a doctoral network

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# MSCA-ITN experience

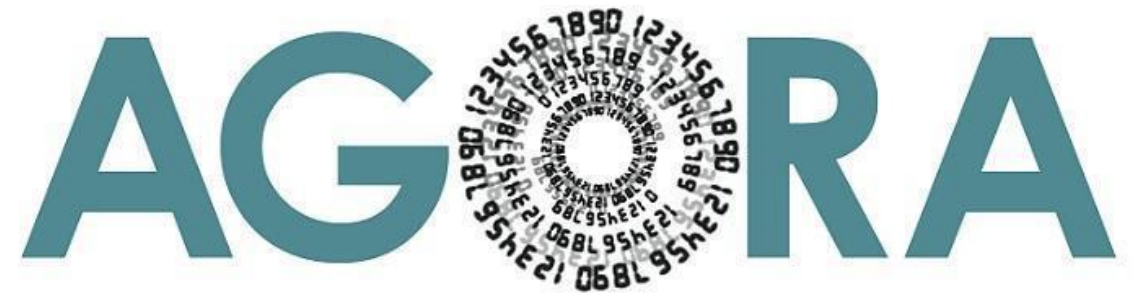
- Horizon 2020 ITN 'PLATO'
- 2017-2020
- 15 Early Stage Researchers/PhDs
- Partners
  - 9 beneficiaries (universities)
  - 11 partner institutions
  - 9 countries

Evaluation: 'PLATO has been successfully completed and can be considered an exemplary case of a Marie-Curie Training Network'



# The new proposal

- Horizon Europe 2021 call (Nov 2021)
- MSCA Doctoral Network
- 10 doctoral researchers
- Partners
  - 4 beneficiaries (universities)
  - 9 associated partners
  - 5 countries: Norway, Germany, Austria, Italy and the UK



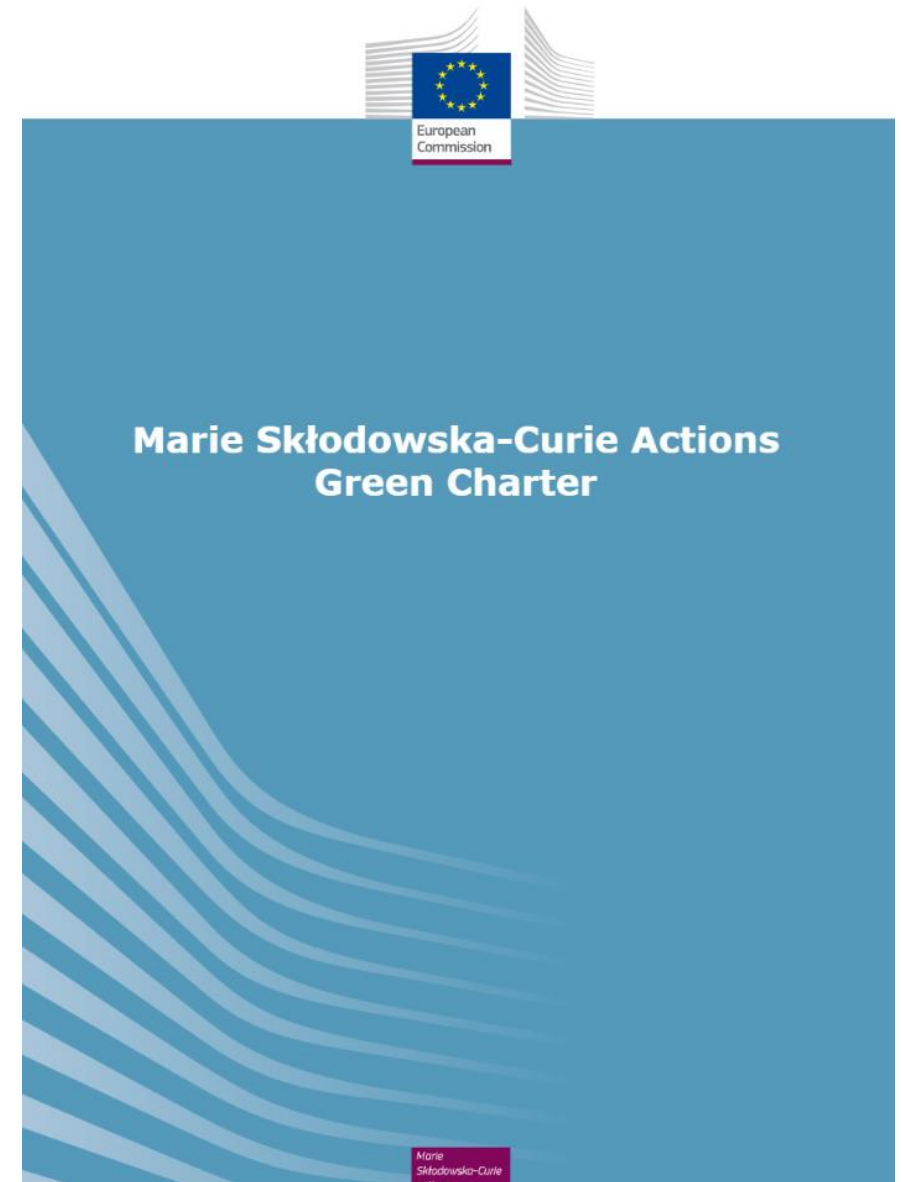
Strengthening Europe's  
democratic resilience  
in the post-truth age

# The MSCA Green Charter

- Minimise environmental impact of research activities
- Green purchasing
- Hybrid conferencing
- Low-carbon forms of transportation
- Carbon offsetting
- Greater awareness on environmental sustainability

Not/less relevant:

- Production of waste, harmful substances
- Use of energy, water, scarce resources
- Travels across continents



# Online or in person? Some trade-offs



## Recruitment

- International mobility
- New country of residence
- New supervisors & colleagues
- Suitability for position



## Team-building

- Ice breakers
- Informal encounters
- Building trust & personal relations
- Motivation
- Team support



## Training

- Engagement
- Learning outcomes
- Group work & discussions



## Networking

- Opportunities
- Informal settings
- Ensure added value
- Supervisors, mentors, potential employers



## Project management

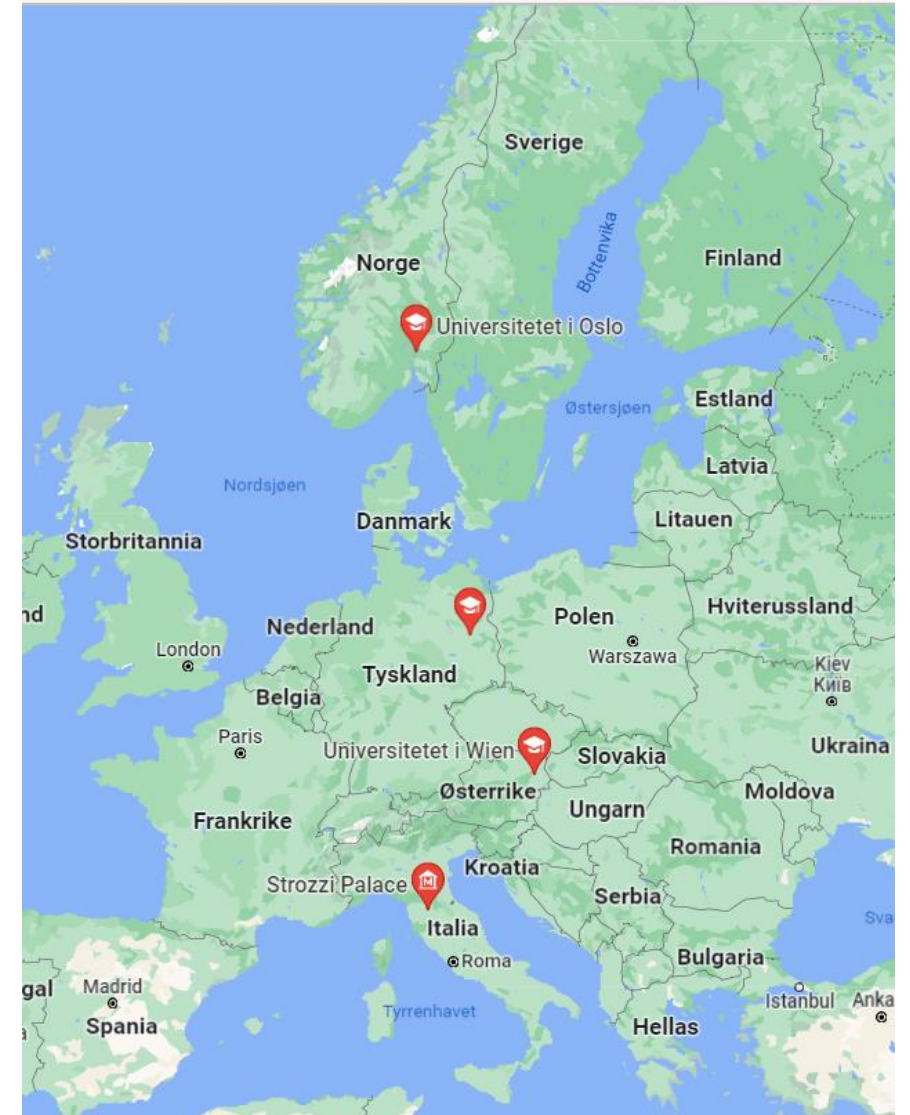
- Difficult conversations
- Managers' support
- Mental health
- Risk management





# Project design

- Limit on partners and countries
- In-country secondment scheme
- Guiding principles of the Charter
  - Combination online-onsite events
  - Sustainability focus at events
- From proposal to implementation



# Designing a doctoral network: events

## Online events

- ✓ Board meetings
- ✓ Supervision teams
- ✓ Training: use best-practice from lockdowns
- ✓ Online lecture series
- ✓ Informal spaces, team-building

## Onsite events

- ✓ Team-building
- ✓ PhD schools for in-depth training and discussion, engaging local partners
- ✓ Guidelines for PhD schools on sustainability (food, venue, local travel, social events)



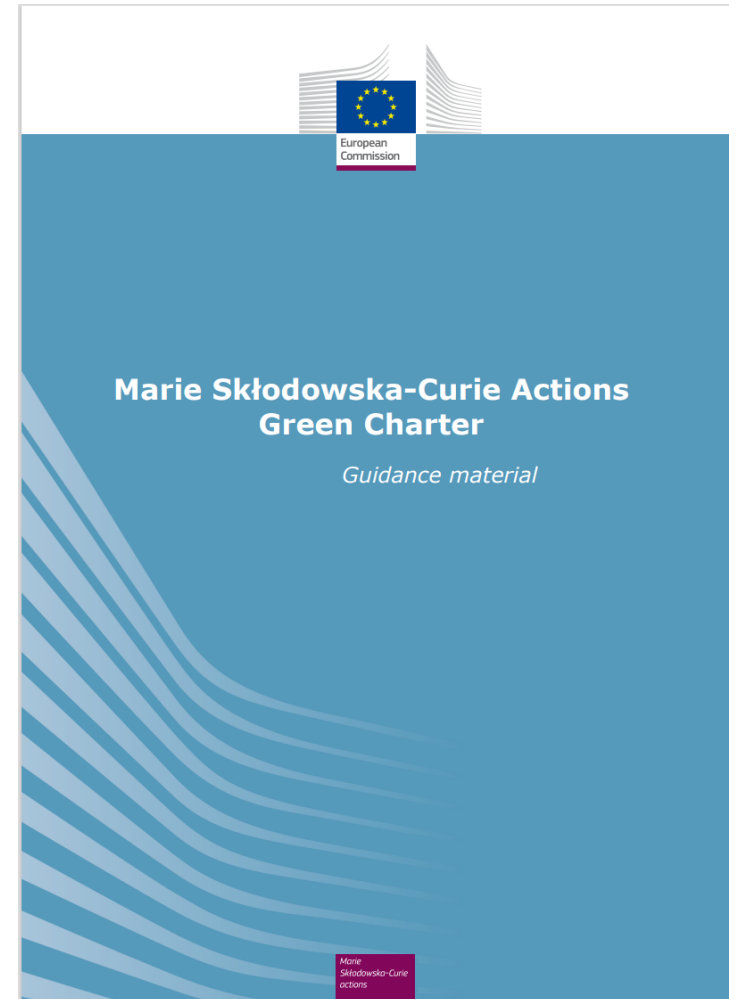
# Designing a doctoral network: travel policy

## Project guidelines for sustainable travel

- ✓ MSCA Green Charter: Guidance material
  - Look for best practice and guidelines
- ✓ Low-carbon forms of transportation
  - Consortium agreement on cost issues
- ✓ Consider opportunities for digital alternatives

## Challenges

- Cost-benefit analyses, the reality of low-carbon alternatives in Europe (train)
- 'Greenwashing' (climate quotas)
- Who decides?





# Why does the Charter matter?

- MSCA fosters future research leaders
- Formative years
- Building awareness on sustainability and the role of universities/researchers
- Cooperation across sectors
- Leading by example
- Best-practice sharing