



Attracting international talents to Aix-Marseille Université: the H2020-MSCA COFUND DOC2AMU programme



<https://doc2amu.univ-amu.fr/>



Région
Provence
Alpes
Côte d'Azur

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Presentation Overview

- What is DOC2AMU?
- Three funding bodies, three interests in international doctoral candidates
- International profiles for interdisciplinary & intersectoral thesis projects
- A research and training programme turned towards the world
- Objective: increasing AMU's international attractiveness
- Opportunities: how DOC2AMU helps connect higher education systems across borders
- Our current fellows: where they are from
- Our current fellows: where they are going
- Challenges: implementing an international doctoral programme in one of the world's largest Francophone universities
- A common training programme for diverse cultural backgrounds
- Conclusion and questions

DOC2AMU: an innovative 3I doctoral programme

- An innovative COFUND doctoral programme carried by the Aix-Marseille Université Doctoral College, funded by the European Commission, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, A*MIDEX Foundation, in partnership with 8 regional competitiveness poles, and other regional actors;
- **30** doctoral contracts funded for 36 months in three classes: 2016, 2017, 2018 ;
- Programme anchored in « 3I » principles:
 - **Interdisciplinarity:** collaborative theses projects between two different research units associated with two distinct doctoral schools ;
 - **Intersectorality:** partnership with a non-academic actor during the thesis (for example, with an internship or with mentoring) ;
 - **International perspective:** programme aimed at young international researchers offering international research mobility during the thesis.
- **6 interdisciplinary research topics:**
Networks; globalisation; big data; climate change; nano-health; imaging.

Three funding bodies, three interests in international doctoral candidates

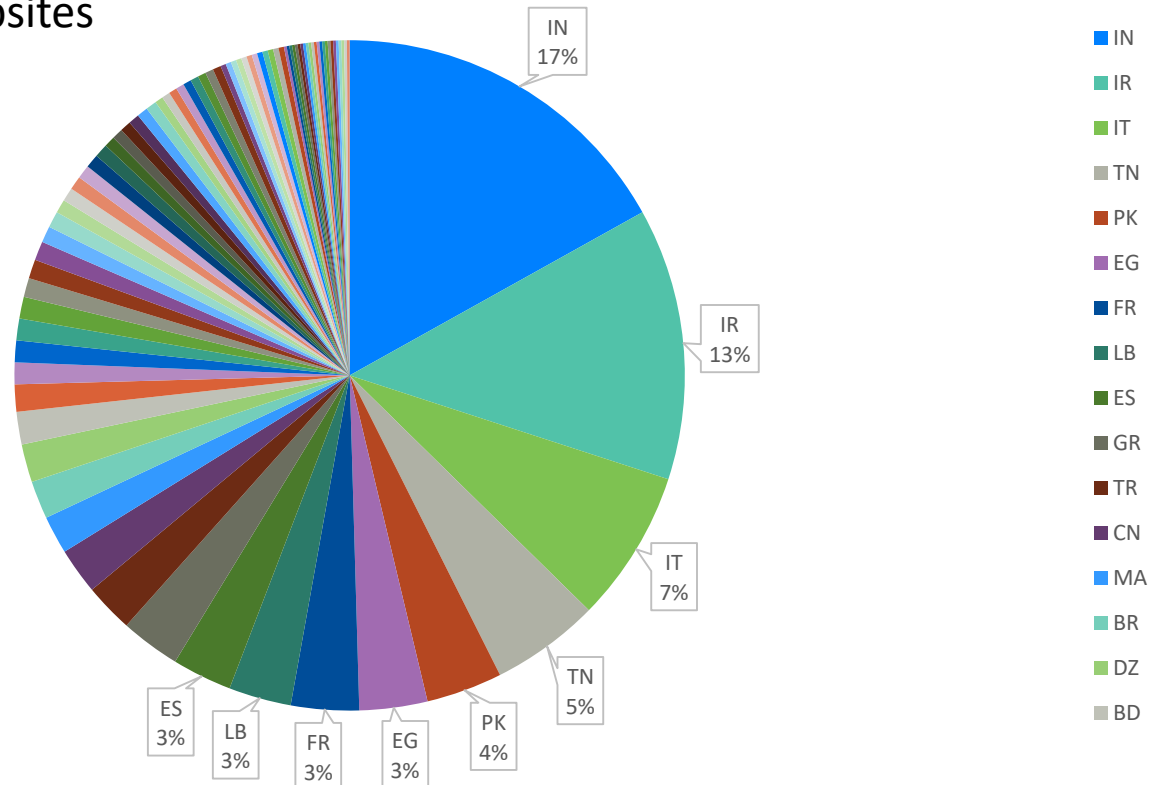
- DOC2AMU is a Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions COFUND programme. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) aim to support the career development and training of researchers – with a focus on innovation skills – in all research disciplines through **international and intersectoral mobility**.
- The aims of this call are:
 - ✓ To “foster free circulation of researchers and knowledge in Europe” ;
 - ✓ To offer “possibilities to take courses/trainings abroad to acquire specific sets of skills” ;
 - ✓ To develop “partnerships, collaborations and/or implementation of joint degree awarding with research institutions, companies or other relevant socio-economic actors based in different countries” ;
 - ✓ To allow fellows to participate in international research programs, conferences/events.

Three funding bodies, three interests in international doctoral candidates

- The PACA Regional Council is DOC2AMU's co-funding institution, along with the European Commission.
- For the PACA Region, DOC2AMU is an opportunity to reinforce the international attractiveness and visibility of Provence, the Alpes and the Côte d'Azur.
- In addition, AMU has contributed 900 000€ through its A*MIDEX foundation to encourage the international mobility of DOC2AMU fellows.
→ 30 000€ per thesis are reserved for attendance to international events, research activity abroad and participation in conferences, summer schools or trainings abroad, etc.

International profiles for interdisciplinary & intersectoral thesis projects

- 3 international call for candidates have been launched: in 2016, 2017 and 2018. 764 people have applied to DOC2AMU over the 3 calls.
- Channels used to communicate the call : Euraxess, network of 254 partner international universities of AMU, Campus-France, embassies of France, and usual research jobs websites



A research and training program turned towards the world

Training

English-language transferable skills training modules
French classes

Easier access to trainings abroad through dedicated funds

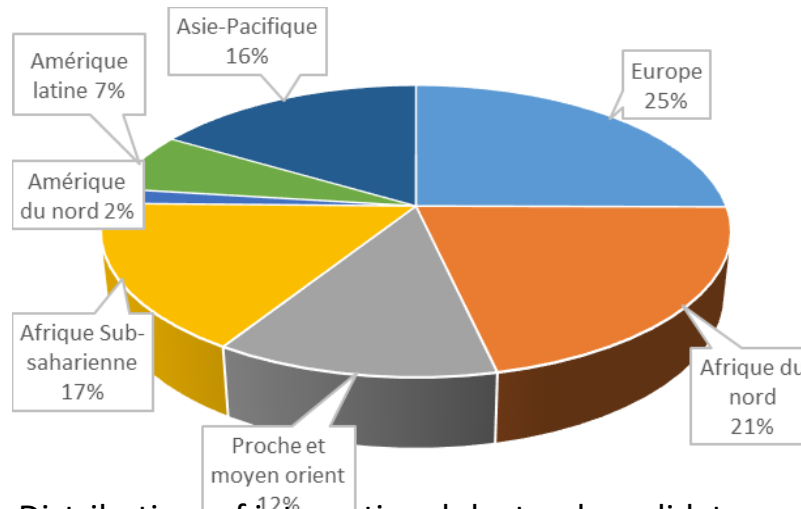
Research

2-month stay at an international partner organisation

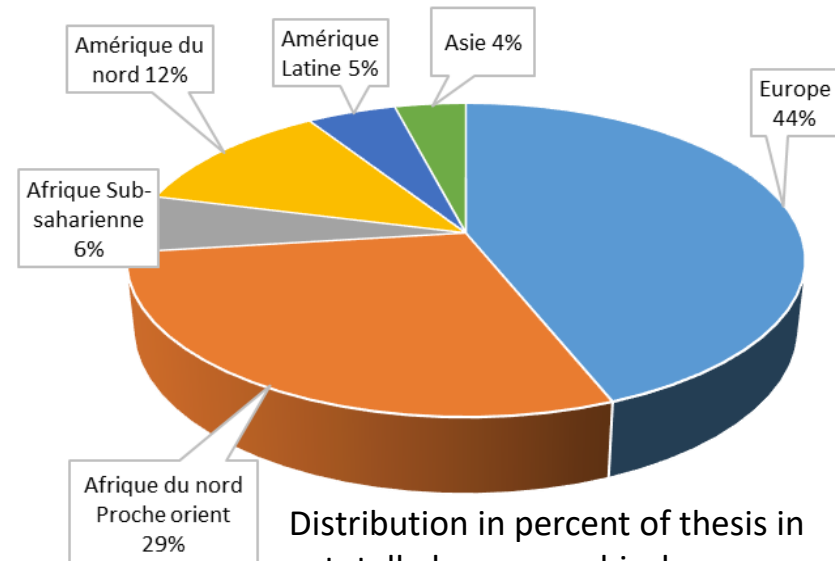
Easier access to international events

Objective: increasing AMU's international attractiveness

- 44% of doctoral candidates holding a Master's degree or equivalent obtained outside AMU
- 3300 doctoral candidates
- International attractiveness: 39% of doctoral candidates are international from 108 different countries



Distribution of international doctoral candidates by geographical zone. 2015-2016 data .



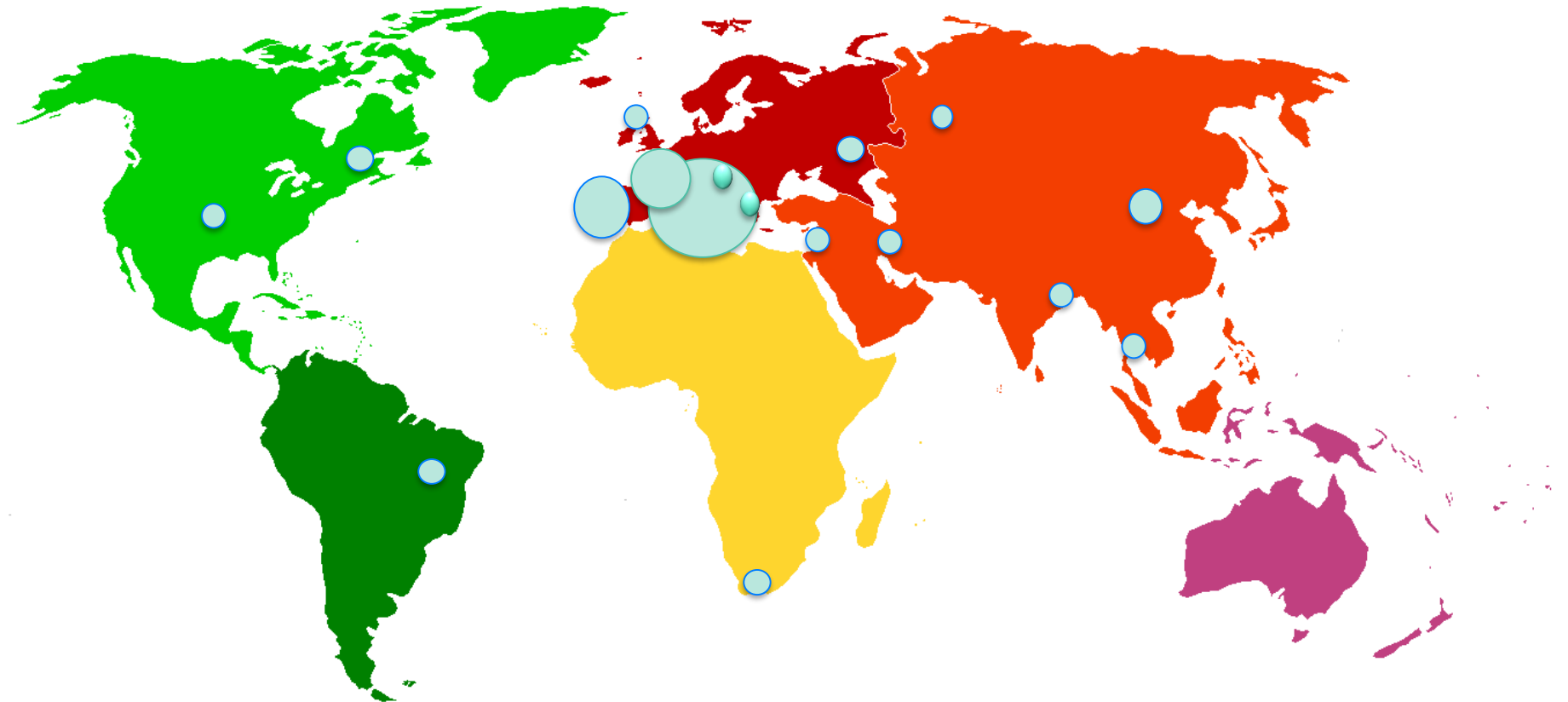
Distribution in percent of thesis in cotutelle by geographical zone. 2015-2016 data .

- International Cotutelle of thesis
Over 9% of theses in cotutelle

Opportunities: how DOC2AMU helps connect higher education systems across borders

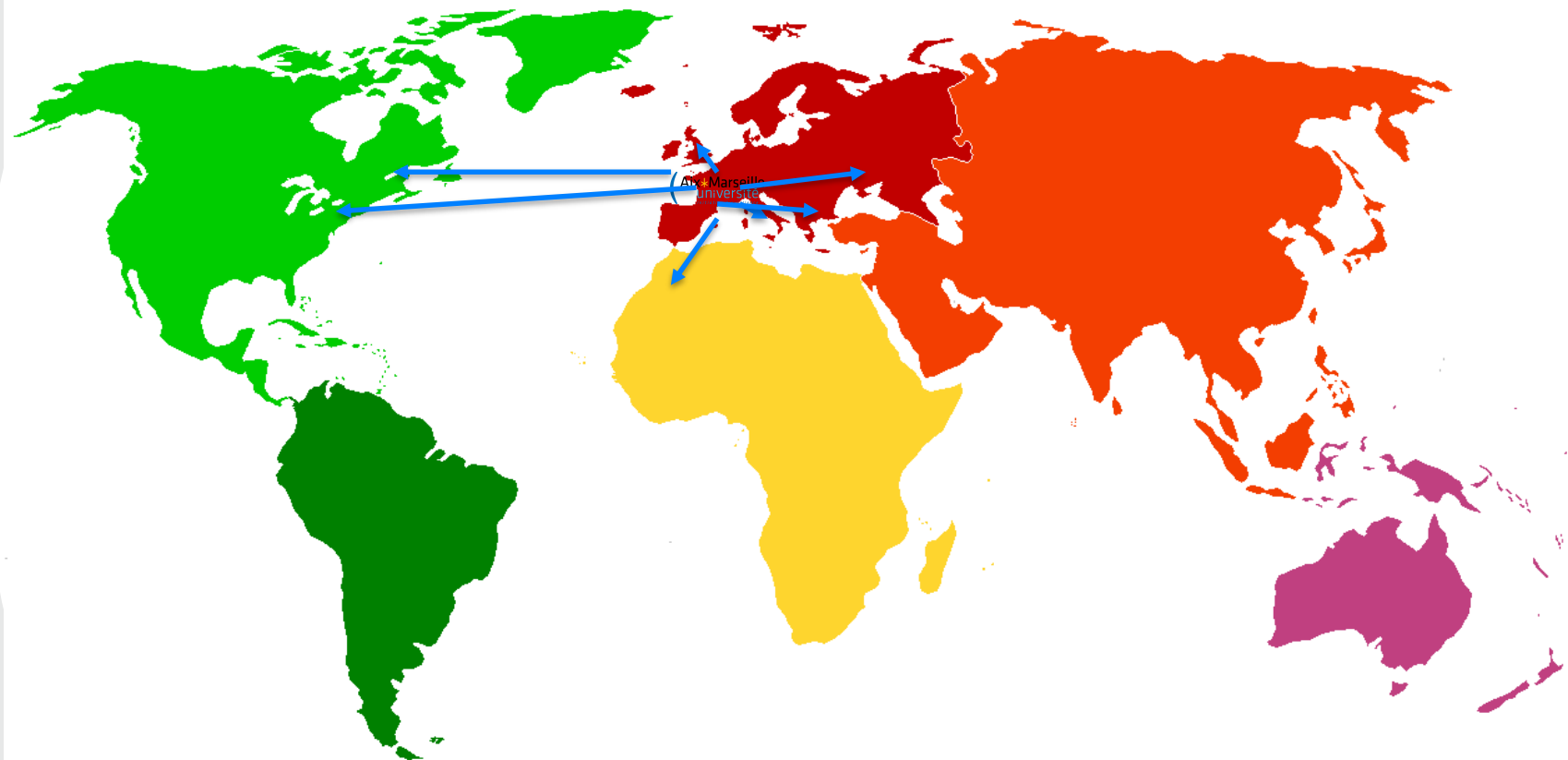
1. Recruitment of fellows who adhere to the MSCA mobility rule: not to have lived or worked in France for more than a year over the past 3 years
 1. Exclusive selection of candidates who have international experience ;
 2. Possible recruitment of French candidates who have undertaken their Master's degree abroad ;
 3. Diversity of experiences and points of view brought to AMU's research teams by an influx of international minds.
2. Important funding reserved for the internationalization of thesis projects:
 1. A 30K€ grant is allocated to each fellow specifically for participation in international events ;
 2. Fellow are encouraged to use these funds to spend time at an international partner institution.

Our current fellows: where they are from



Italians represent an important proportion of DOC2AMU fellows (7 out of 30) but all continents are represented, except for Oceania.

Our current fellows: where they are going



**Outgoing mobility is concentrated in Europe,
with one ESR going to Morocco and others to
North America**

Challenges: implementing an international doctoral programme in one of the world's largest Francophone university

- DOC2AMU is a pilot program to implement best practices in doctoral education, including regarding internationalization:
 - English-language documents are created
 - Training sessions are developed in English
 - Administrative procedures are clarified and explained in English
- Outreach and dissemination activities must be made available to non-francophone fellows:
 - Production of outreach videos ;
 - Publication of all results in open access.

A common training programme for diverse cultural backgrounds

- Transferable skills training modules are offered to all DOC2AMU fellows.
- Depending on their academic culture, some fellows expect interactive workshops while others expect taught classes.
- The workshop on gender in research has raised many comments from fellows because not all fellows start from the same point on this subject.
- The intellectual property training is adapted to French law.
- A bilingual online course on research ethics and integrity has been developed.

Conclusion and questions

- DOC2AMU has allowed AMU to conduct a practical reflection on the internationalization of its doctoral education:
 - HR practices and administrative procedure such as housing are improving ;
 - The program has increased AMU's international visibility.
- There are still challenges to overcome, and the best practices learned must be generalized
- Internationalization of doctoral education has important added value: ESRs who adhere to the MSCA mobility rule are in general more mature. 3i profiles are richer and adapt better to the transition towards researcher status at the beginning of the thesis.

Thank you!



WP 3 : Schéma de formation : contenu actuel et propositions de modifications par les partenaires

	Trainer	Training unit
Training Module 1	AMU	Gender awareness raising (2 hours)
	PVM	Ethical conduct in Research (1 day)
	PVM	Project Management
	PVM	Communication in Research (2 days)
Training Module 2	PVM	Design of a European Research & Innovation grant proposal (1 day)
	SATT	Management of the innovation process (2 days)
	PVM	How to Write a Scientific Article + Open Access and AMU HAL (1 day)
Training Module 3	Pôles de compétitivité	Business creation: SME development and simulation (2 days)
	Pôles de compétitivité	Career development (1 day)