



NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme: Launch Event

24.2.2025

*Webpage: uef.fi/novel
Contact us at novel@uef.fi
LinkedIn & Facebook:
[@NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme](#)*



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

UEF// University of Eastern Finland



Programme



Introduction to NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme, NOVEL Coordinator Prof. Tarja Malm



Research Opportunities We Offer, NOVEL Coordinator Prof. Tarja Malm & NOVEL Impact Manager Dr. Piritta Parkkari



Opportunities for Partners, NOVEL Impact Manager Dr. Piritta Parkkari



Q&A

**Submit your questions to
presemo.uef.fi/novel**



Applicants!

Check out the recording of
Webinar for Applicants:

bit.ly/NOVELwebinar

More info & application
instructions on www.uef.fi/novel





Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

- The European Union's flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers, part of [Horizon Europe Programme](#).
- MSCA fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills, through mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines.
- MSCA COFUND Postdoctoral Programmes fund individual advanced research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers.
- MSCA COFUND: EU Contributes majority of salary costs, beneficiary contributes the rest.
- UEF is currently running [Neuro-Innovation, a MSCA COFUND PhD Programme](#).



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) principles

Excellence

Mobility

*Bottom-up and
open to the world*

*Excellent
recruitment,
working conditions
and inclusiveness*

*Effective
supervision and
career guidance*

*Open science and
responsible
research and
innovation*

*European Green
Deal*

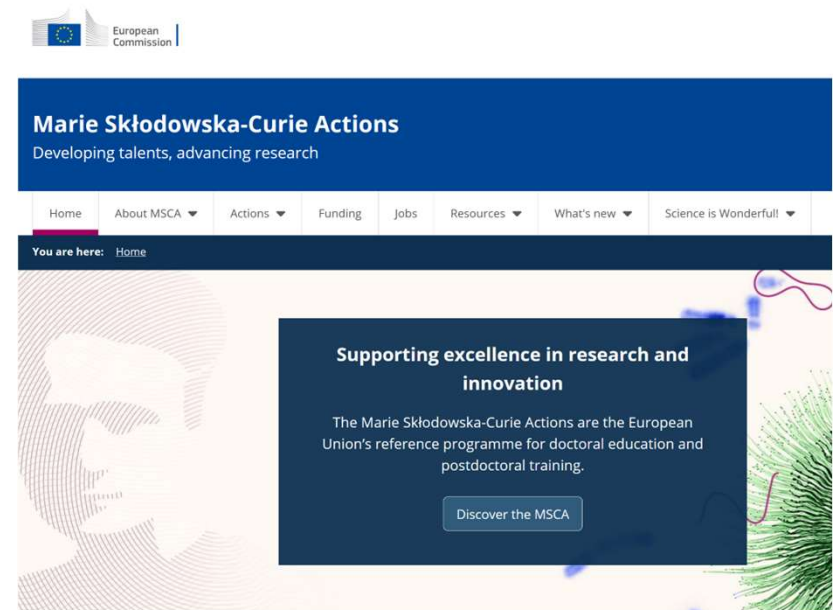
Synergies



Researchers involved in COFUND projects

- can be of any nationality
- should comply with the mobility rules: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call
- can go on short term secondments
- for COFUND Postdoctoral Programmes: must have a doctoral degree and should not already be permanently employed by the organisation hosting them

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/cofund>



**Submit your questions to
presemo.uef.fi/novel**



Introduction to NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme

NOVEL Coordinator Prof. Tarja Malm



Novel brain health solutions across four focus areas: Prevention and Care, Methods and Data, Innovation and Society, and Ethics and Well-being (NOVEL)

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01 — MSCA COFUND 2023 SEP-211011553 NOVEL – Postdoctoral (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding)

Project ID : 101179145

Beneficiary: University of Eastern Finland (UEF), NEURO Research Community.
Faculties: Faculty of Health; Faculty of Science, Forestry and Technology; Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies

Coordinator: Tarja Malm,
UEF A.I.Virtanen Institute

Co-coordinator: Päivi Eriksson,
UEF Business School

Programme Manager: Paula Inkeroinen,
Research services

Impact Manager: Piritta Parkkari,
UEF Business School



Co-funded by
European Union



**Novel brain health solutions across
four focus areas: Prevention and Care,
Methods and Data, Innovation and
Society, and Ethics and Well-being**

CALL 1 MARCH 1 2025 – MAY 31 2025

CALL 2 DEC 1 2025 – FEB 28 2026

NOVEL  **MSCA**
POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

14

fully paid postdoctoral positions

3

years

23

supervisors

9

university
partners

25

intersectoral
partners

Follow us!

uef.fi/novel

UEF

UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND

The University of Eastern Finland, UEF, is one of the largest multidisciplinary universities in Finland. We offer education in nearly one hundred major subjects, and we are home to approximately 17,00 students and 3,200 members of staff. In the international rankings, we are ranked among the leading universities in the world www.uef.fi/en



NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme – WHY?



The world needs novel solutions to address brain health challenges that impact individuals and society.



Research is needed to support early prediction, personalized treatments, advancements in methods and technologies, and the development of responsible innovation and ethical approaches.



To address this, NOVEL focuses on pioneering research in brain health. We combine expertise in **neuroscience, data science, innovation management, health economics, and legal studies.**



UEF has world class resources for research in these fields, inc. unique data sets and broad infrastructure



Typically, postdocs in the EU do not have a steady job, research autonomy or career development support



Impact of NOVEL

- Advancing the **training of postdoctoral researchers** and supporting highly skilled experts for diverse careers **academia, the private and third sector.**
- Generating a boost to the **institutional, regional and national intersectoral collaboration.**
- Strengthening the talent hub in the Kuopio area and beyond by bringing together the expertise of **postdoctoral researchers and the stakeholders.**
- Fostering national **innovation and excellence in R&D** well into the future.



NOVEL's training aims to

- Empower postdocs to **lead their own impactful brain health projects** and showcase achievements nationally and internationally to elevate their profiles
- Foster interdisciplinary and intersectoral **collaboration** and strengthen networks
- Enhance **skills** in leadership, ethics, communication, and innovation
- Promote scientific integrity, interdisciplinary teamwork, and **engagement with industry, policy, and the public.**
- Support **high-quality, open access publishing, commercialization, and expertise in supervision and teaching.**





Support for research & career development to encourage diverse career paths

Researchers will

- Be assigned a **supervisor, co-supervisor, a secondment supervisor, and a mentor.**
- Be part of the NOVEL community, a host research group, UEF's Neuroscience Research Community, and UEF.
- Create a **personalized career development plan**, tailored to their background and needs, with ongoing guidance and regular updates.





Customised training activities

1. Disciplinary Skills Development:

- Leading one's own innovative, interdisciplinary research project
- Personalised career development plans & individual training portfolio
- Training at UEF and during secondments

2. Transferable Skills:

- Training in entrepreneurship, commercialisation, ethics, leadership, open science, and innovation management and more

3. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Skills in public engagement, policymaking, dissemination, communication, patient advocacy, and networking



Recruited researchers must reside and work in Kuopio, Finland.

Kuopio is located in Eastern Finland and has about 120 000 inhabitants.



**Submit your questions to
presemo.uef.fi/novel**



Research opportunities we offer

NOVEL Coordinator Prof. Tarja Malm &
NOVEL Impact Manager Dr. Piritta Parkkari



Researchers decide and design their research ideas related to brain health

Prevention and Care	SYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Neuroscience: basic & clinicalNeurodegenerative diseases and epilepsyEnvironmental health effectsBiomarkers and early diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mental healthPublic health and dementiaLifestyleDisease mechanisms	CALL 1 Open for these areas: 1.3.2025-31.5.2025 9 positions open
Methods and Data	METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Neuro-computingMultiscale ImagingPatient cohorts and clinical trialsPopulation-based trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Human-based modelsAlgorithmsData protection and privacyData sharing	
Innovation in Society	IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open innovationStakeholder engagement and collaborationCollaboration in global networksInnovation leadership and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social economy and social enterprisesInnovation activism and social marketingScience, innovation, and health diplomacyHealth economics	CALL 2 Open for these areas: 1.12.2025-28.2.2026 5 positions open
Ethics and Wellbeing	CONTEXT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Patient rightsAccess to justiceNeuro-ethicsLaw and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elderly lawElderly citizens and patientsVulnerable groupsPatient and caregiver engagement	



Call 1: Prevention and Care; Methods and Data

- **Multifactorial Insights:** Explores how genetics, environmental, and lifestyle factors collectively contribute to brain diseases.
- **Integrated Analytics:** Uses large multiomic datasets, imaging, and advanced data analytics to uncover disease mechanisms, risk and to identify novel biomarkers.
- **Human-Based Models:** Uses human brain tissue samples and develops human-based disease models using iPSC technologies
- **Bridging Research:** Employs electrophysiology, single-cell technologies, and omics approaches to translate preclinical findings into clinical applications.
- **Advanced Diagnostics:** Utilizes omics analyses, deep phenotyping, and AI-approaches to develop personalized diagnostic and prognostic tools.
- **Preventive and Therapeutic Impact:** Aims to support better lifestyle choices, identify therapeutic targets, reduce healthcare costs, and inform regulatory measures



Call 2: Innovation in Society; Ethics & Wellbeing

- The research explores **how brain health is understood and shaped** within society, focusing on innovation, health, economics, ethics, and wellbeing.
- It examines how **social, economic and legal forces support or challenge** brain health and related innovation, and how provision of services, policies, and technologies emerge and interact with everyday life.
- It considers how socio-economic realities affect **access to** innovation, legal rights, and participation in the context of brain health.
- **Public and Patient Involvement** is central to understanding how individuals, communities and the public engage with brain health and related research and innovation.
- Through **interviews, surveys, registry data, and participatory research**, the research creates knowledge that connects scientific advancements with lived experiences.



Available host research groups, call 1

> **Molecular Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease - Hiltunen Lab**

> **Molecular Neurodegeneration Research Group (Haapasalo Lab)**

> **Multiscale Imaging Group (Sierra Lab)**

> **Neurobiology of Memory (Tanila Lab)**

> **Neuroinflammation Research Group (Malm Lab)**

> **NPH and Early AD**

> **UEF - Nordic-UK Brain Network (UEF-NBN)**

> **AIVI Stem Cell Center**

> **Algorithmic Data Analysis**

> **Biomedical Image Analysis**

> **Biomedical MRI**

> **Cellular Neurobiology (Kanninen Lab)**

> **Clinical Epilepsy Research**

> **Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration and Early Onset Dementia**

> **Human Brain Disease Modelling Group**



Available host research groups, call 2



Health Economics Research Group



Neuro-Ethics and Law Research Team



NOVA Neuro-Innovation and Impact Research Team



Research group leader interviews on [YouTube](#) & supervisor list available on uofjy.fi/novel

NOVEL Research Groups
NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme - 1 / 15

- 1. **From Patient Cells to Breakthroughs: The Story of...** (6:23)
- 2. **A Window to the Living Brain? I** (6:19)
- 3. **World-Leading Epilepsy Research I UEF Clinical...** (8:58)
- 4. **Breakthroughs in Alzheimer's Genetics I UEF Molecular...** (4:56)

Our Supervisors

Supervisors in the first CALL (March 2025- May 2025)

Nine positions are open in the first call in two research areas: **Prevention and care** and **Methods and data**. The descriptions of the supervisors are listed in this accordion below.

- > **Olli Gröhn, Professor of Biomedical MRI**
- > **Annakaisa Haapasalo, Professor of Molecular Neurodegeneration**
- > **Mikko Hiltunen, Professor of Tissue and Cell Biology**
- > **Katja Kanninen, Professor of Cellular Neurobiology**



Candidates must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible to apply:

- Hold a PhD degree (or equivalent, incl. a research-based thesis) by the end of the closing of the call.
- Have less than 7 years of research experience after obtaining their doctoral degree.
- Fulfil the mobility requirement of the MSCA actions: at the time of the call deadline, the applicant must **not** have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies) in the country of their host organization (Finland) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the **call deadline**.
- Applicants can be of any nationality, returning residents of Finland are eligible too!
- **Possess at least one Letter of Support from a host research group at UEF.**



For more info on the application process, see www.uef.fi/novel!



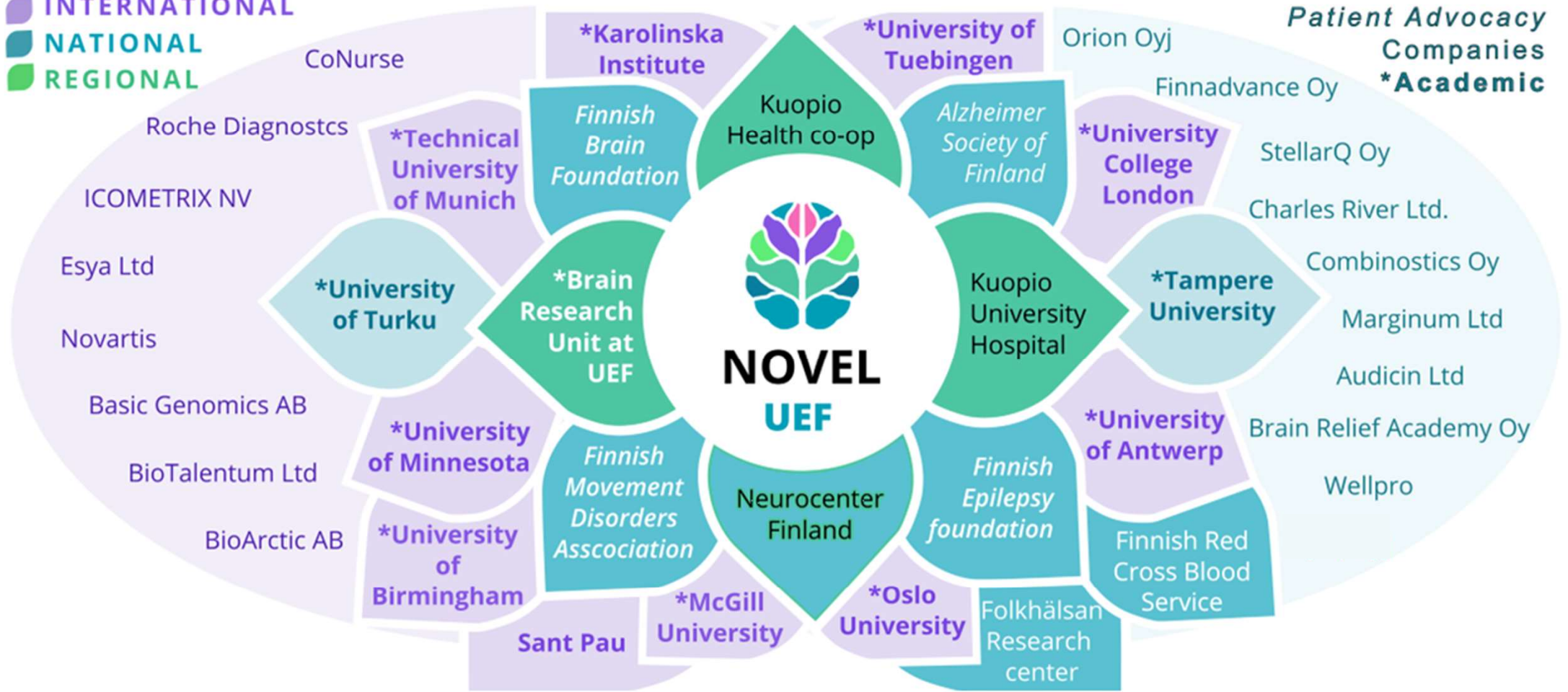
**Submit your questions to
presemo.uef.fi/novel**



Opportunities for Partners

NOVEL Impact Manager Dr. Piritta Parkkari

- INTERNATIONAL
- NATIONAL
- REGIONAL



Updated list of partners: uef.fi/novel.



Partnership with NOVEL

- Is free of charge for the partner organisation
- No funding available for the partner
- Partners commit to following Horizon Europe ethical principles, rules and guidelines.



Benefits of being a partner of NOVEL



Gain access to world-class experts and expertise!



Learn about how top-class brain health research is done in real time at UEF



Strengthen your organisation's knowledge base and R&D



Gain networks and deepen collaboration



Have an opportunity to positively impact our postdocs' careers and research



Aid adoption of new technology, methods, or devices



MSCA programmes are prestigious



Main co-operation activities



Hosting
secondments



Short visits



Participation
in research
and training
activities and
events



Mentoring



Intersectoral Secondments

- Each researcher will have a compulsory intersectoral secondment with our partners.
- Length: 2-6 months. Work can be on-site, remote or hybrid.
- NOVEL coordinates these secondments.
- Researchers work on their research project under the supervision of a co-supervisor from the partner organization.
- Researchers have access to partner's infrastructure and administrative support, but their **salary, accommodation etc. will be covered by the University of Eastern Finland.**
- Working conditions must be of similar level as the researchers have as a UEF employee.
- Secondment Agreements will define IPR and both parties responsibilities.



Additional Optional Secondments



An extension of the intersectoral secondment in the same organization (up to 12 months in total in the same organisation or in a new one)



An academic secondment to another university or research institution in Finland or abroad



An interdisciplinary internal secondment to another than their primary hosting research group within UEF.



Secondments

- The postdoc chooses their secondment host!
- Postdoc researchers benefit from the partner's knowledge and networks, learn both non-scientific transferrable and research skills.
- Partners' personnel are welcome to visit NOVEL research groups at UEF.

Activities can include f.ex.:

- Testing pre-clinical results in a clinical setting
- Co-developing patient involvement practices & processes
- Developing and testing new methods and tools



Short visits

Partners can host **short visits** (1-4 weeks)

- Researchers will learn professional, collaborative, entrepreneurial and business skills and build international, national, and regional networks with academics and stakeholders.
- Researchers have access to partner's infrastructure and administrative support, but their salary, accommodation etc. will be covered by the University of Eastern Finland.



Please note!

NOVEL researchers choose their own research ideas and their secondments and visits based on their research and career interests.

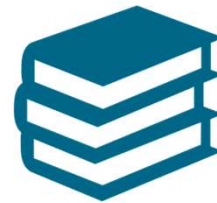
We cannot guarantee that all partners will have postdocs for secondments/visits or pre-define certain topics.



Mentoring



All NOVEL researchers will be assigned an intersectoral mentor. Partners very welcome to act as mentors!



Mentor's role is to support the researcher in with their individual interests and help provide insight into professional life and various career options.



NOVEL provides support & structure for the mentorship process.



Participation in training & events

- Partners regularly meet our postdoctoral researchers and learn about their research.
- Partners can provide guest lectures and stories of personal experiences:
 - entrepreneurship, the exploitation of research results, knowledge valorisation, IPR, company inception, open science, ethics, patenting, regulation in the health sector, patient & public perspective...
- Partners can help researchers with their career planning and development.



Participation in training & events, starting in 2026

Regular NOVEL Workshops: Covering research presentations, partner interactions, career coaching, and updating career and dissemination plans.

Strategic and Operative Project Management Coaching: Project planning, data management, interdisciplinary and intersectoral integration, and communication skills.

Social Lab with Stakeholders Summer School: Skills for collaborating with multiple stakeholders, creating impactful, future-oriented solutions, and achieving social impact.

Empowering Team Leadership Summer School: Fostering leadership and teamwork skills, with a focus on diversity, equality, and inclusivity.

IPR and Commercialisation Workshop: Training in intellectual property management, patenting, and entrepreneurial strategies.

NOVEL Symposium: A platform to present brain health research and innovation.

Q&A

Piritta Parkkari, NOVEL Impact Manager

**Submit your questions to
presemo.uef.fi/novel**



NOVEL  **MSCA**
POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME



Partners, we need your help with promoting the programme! **Follow us on social media and share our posts to make sure that we reach candidates all over the world.**

Organisations interested in becoming a partner: contact us at novel@uef.fi.

Contact us at novel@uef.fi if you have any questions!

Webpage: www.uef.fi/novel: info on the programme, application process, templates, link to online application, updates...

LinkedIn: [@NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme](https://www.linkedin.com/company/novel-msca-postdoctoral-programme)

Facebook: [@NOVEL MSCA Postdoctoral Programme](https://www.facebook.com/novel-msca-postdoctoral-programme)

YouTube: [@NOVELMSCAPostdoctoralProgramme](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNOVELMSCAPostdoctoralProgramme)

UEF// University of Eastern Finland



**Co-funded by
the European Union**