



Guidelines FD4EU Training Programme



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Guidelines FD4EU Training Programme

The FD4EU training programme is structured to provide MSCA-COFUND fellows with a balanced combination of and **topical trainings, network-wide training events, project-related activities**, for a **minimum total of 13 doctoral credits (DC)**.

The programme blends research-oriented training, technical skills, and transversal competencies and **exclusively** designed and addressed to FD4EU fellows.

It is conceived to ensure that all fellows acquire strong foundations in data science, artificial intelligence, and big data; develop awareness of open science, dissemination, and public engagement practices; and engage with industry, research networks, and international collaborations.

This document aims to explain the structure of the training programme, specifying which and how many training activities are mandatory, and outlines the procedures for the recognition of participation and the awarding of doctoral credits.

1. Topical Trainings

The **Topical Trainings** consist of online sessions of high scientific and methodological relevance, each with a duration of 6 hours and designed to be cross-disciplinary across all research areas.

The trainings are delivered in pairs, comprising a main lecture-based session followed by a breakout session during which each TA discusses the main contents presented during the lecture. Each pair (Lecture-based + Breakout sessions) must be selected together.

Fellows are required to obtain a minimum of **6 DC** from the Topical Trainings.

The recognition of DC will take place only upon completion of the pair Lecture-based + Breakout session, for a total of **1,5 DC**.

Although a minimum participation is mandatory, fellows are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible to further broaden and deepen their expertise.



2. Network-Wide Training Events

The **Network-Wide Training Events** combine scientific, industrial, and societal perspectives and, in some cases, are organized as residential activities. These events are coordinated at the consortium level and constitute compulsory components of the training programme. Fellows are required to obtain **7 DC** from this category.

The Network-Wide Training Events include: a thematic workshop on Big Data, structured as a sequence of three events; a summer school on public engagement and dissemination; a research symposium involving industry partners and business incubators; and a joint international conference.

2.1 Attendance of Thematic workshops on Big Data

Attendance at all three events is compulsory. However, we acknowledge that FD4EU fellows may be engaged in other activities during this period. The following cases are regulated as follows:

- The FD4EU fellow on secondment abroad: s/he may attend the workshop remotely. If this is not possible, s/he must submit a justification to the Programme Coordinator, Prof. Daniele Bonacorsi, and the COFUND Team, in agreement with her/his supervisor.
- The FD4EU fellow on secondment in Italy: s/he is required to attend in person, except in special cases subject to approval by both supervisors;
- The FD4EU fellow engaged in another concurrent activity (doctoral training, conference, summer school, etc.): s/he must submit a justification, to the Programme Coordinator, Prof. Daniele Bonacorsi, and the COFUND Team, agreed upon with her/his supervisor, and provide proof of participation in the activity (e.g. agenda, presented slides, poster, certificate of attendance, etc.).
- Unjustified absence: the case will be examined by the relevant Supervisory Committee and reported to the FD4EU fellow's Doctoral Board.

3. Project Activities

The **Project Activities** focus on cross-cutting issues that are core project obligations. These activities address key topics such as research ethics and privacy, data management, and dissemination practices. They are compulsory components of the training

programme; however, **DC are not assigned** to them.

4. Transversal skills courses

Transferable skills courses integrate with scientific courses, making it possible to acquire a wealth of knowledge that is increasingly sought after in the contemporary labor market. Transferable skills, also known as soft skills, represent a person's attitude in the workplace. These are non-technical or specialized skills that facilitate your relationships with others, enabling you to solve problems and manage your work with greater awareness. These courses are not mandatory but highly encouraged.

All FD4EU Fellows can register on the courses issued by University of Bologna and are free to attend them also in their Recruiting University, when available. DCs will be awarded according to University's internal rules.

5. Awarding DC

The awarding of DC is conditional upon the fellows' active participation in the training activities organized by the project, including certified attendance and active participation in class discussions.

To obtain DC recognition, after attending the training activity, the fellow **must send an email to cofund@unibo.it** requesting the issuance of the certificate; the COFUND Team will verify the fellow's active participation in the specific activity before returning the signed document.

6. Doctoral Credit Summary

- **Minimum total credits required:** 13 DC
- **Topical trainings:** at least 6 DC (compulsory minimum)
- **Network-wide events:** 7 DC (all compulsory)
- **Project activities:** compulsory, but not credit-bearing individually
- **Transferable skills courses:** not compulsory, but highly recommended





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