



Horizon Europe (MSCA DN)

Progress Report

Version 1.0
01 April 2023



PROGRESS REPORT (MSCA-DN)

COVER PAGE

PROJECT	
Project number:	10116935
Project acronym:	NeuroNanotech
Project name:	Nanoplatforms for Neuroscience
Project starting date:	01/01/2025
Project duration:	48

PERIOD COVERED	
 Please note that this is only a progress report. The information in this report must also be included in the next periodic report/final report.	
Period covered (from last periodic report):	from 01/01/2025 to 16/03/2026

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0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary
Present your project's progress during the period covered by this report. Present the main problems/difficulties encountered during the implementation and the mitigation actions you have taken. Describe deviations from the original work plan, including changes or updates related to the original recruitment, secondment and training plan (if any).  Please keep this section short and concise, since you will provide details in the core report.
NeuroNanotech started on 1st January 2025, the Kick-off meeting was held in Madrid at the coordinators headquarters (IMDEA Nanociencia) on the 23-24th January. In this meeting the project was presented and scientific discussions were held and importantly a recruitment strategy was clearly defined and

agreed upon. The recruitment of the fellows proceeded according to the DoA, except in the following cases:

TAU (R5): The recruitment of R5 (TAU) has taken longer than expected due to the recent rejection of the selected candidate's visa application. This rejection has led to the need to reopening of the recruitment process (March 2nd), this is being carried out under the same conditions as previous recruitment process. The coordinator is closely monitoring the situation in conjunction with the beneficiary due to current situation in Israel.

GAL (R11): Whilst GAL fully participated in the recruitment process and advertised a position they did not recruit a candidate. As outlined in the amendment (AMD-101169352-13) after participating in the recruitment, GAL submitted their termination of participation in a letter to the consortium on 15th September 2025 (end of work date).

The amendment was requested and approved (11th December 2025), in this case the University of Oslo (UiO) was introduced as a new beneficiary and the researcher R11 who was originally to be hosted at GAL will now be hosted at the UiO under the supervision of Prof. Gaute Einevoll. The recruitment process of this fellow took place between December 2025 and January 2026. The candidate has already been selected and has accepted the position. He is expected to start on March 9th.

The delay caused by the amendment also meant that the signing of the Consortium Agreement has taken longer than expected, although it will be signed before the end of March.

Mitigations:

Due to the amendment process and the delayed recruitment of R5 and R11 there have been delays in the secondments that were supposed to take place in month 13 (R2, R5, R6 and R10) and in TE1 (M13, 1st annual meeting and school), which has been moved to take place in March 2026 (M15). This Training Event (24th-26th March) will take place alongside the mid-term review (26th-27th March).

Planning has been put in place so that these delays will not affect the training programme and the scientific objectives.

Public dissemination has been carried out through the NeuroNanotech webpage (<https://neuronanotech.eu/>) and social networks (X, Bluesky, LinkedIn). Each DC will have their own section on the NeuroNanotech webpage and currently this section is under development.

GAL participated in the launch of the project website providing information both on their doctoral position (original DoA R11) and their Host Institution.

The supervision arrangements for the doctoral candidates have been carried out as described in the DoA, with a main supervisor(s) in the host institution, and a co-supervisor(s) in an institution where the researcher will do a secondment. The supervisors are the following:

Doctoral candidate	Main Supervisor	Co-supervisor(s)
R1	Paolo Perna (IMDEA) M. Teresa González (IMDEA)	Laura Ballerini (SISSA)
R2	M. Teresa González (IMDEA) Isabel Rodríguez (IMDEA)	Martin Himly (PLUS)
R3	Laurence Méchin (CNRS-GREYC)	Michael Ortner (SAL)
R4	Claude Fermon (CEA) Myriam Pannetier Lecoeur (CEA)	Arno Aarts (ATLAS)
R5	Yael Hanein (TAU)	M. Teresa González (IMDEA)
R6	Arno Aarts (ATLAS) Michael Kraft (KUL)	Myriam Pannetier Lecoeur (CEA)
R7	Laura Ballerini (SISSA)	Marta Pereira (UAM)
R8	Marta Pereira (UAM)	Cristina Degraffi (MTTlab)
R9	Miguel Valencia (FIMA) Eduardo D. Martín (CSIC)	Myriam Pannetier Lecoeur (CEA)

R10	Timo van Kerkoerle (RU)	Gaute Einevoll UiO)
R11	Gaute Einevoll (UiO) Torbjørn V. Ness (NMBU)	Timo van Kerkoerle (RU)

All doctoral candidates (except R2, R5 and R11) have already developed their CDP and have started to plan their secondments. All doctoral students have met with their main supervisors and maintain regular contact with them, and they are aware of who their co-supervisors will be at another institution.

All researchers (except R5) have already started their individual research projects and have started research training in their specific fields at their host institutions. They will all participate in training event 1, (School on ultra-sensitive spintronic magnetic sensor and applications).

1. MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES AND CRITICAL RISKS

Deliverables and milestones (outputs/outcomes)	YES/NO
We confirm that we updated the following Continuous Reporting screens: • Deliverables • Milestones • Mobility declarations <i>If there are issues, identify them and explain the reasons why</i>	YES
The following Deliverables have been submitted: • D4.1 NeuroNanotech management team set-up • D4.2 Recruitment Guidelines • D4.3 Supervisory Board of the network • D6.1 Website • D4.4 Data Management Plan • D4.5 Progress report • D5.1 Career Development plans • D6.2 Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities The mobility declarations of researchers R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 have already been updated, while the ones for R5 (TAU) and R11 (UiO) will be updated once the candidates start their fellowship. As mentioned before, there has been some delay due to the preparation of the amendment, so the “1st annual meeting and school” (D5.2) will be accomplished and delivered before the end of March. In addition, milestones M1 (Consortium Agreement), M2 (Planned recruitments completed) and M3 (All recruited fellows enrolled in PhD programme) have been delayed as well.	

Critical risks	YES/NO
We confirm that we updated the following Continuous Reporting screen: • Critical risks <i>Please provide an update of the foreseen risks (if applicable).</i> <i>In case of unforeseen risks, please provide a short summary.</i>	YES
Most of the anticipated risks were minimized during the proposal writing stage. By following the proposed mitigation measures, we have been able to successfully overcome the risks that have arisen. Specifically, to major risks were detected:	

- Withdrawal of the University of Galway from the project. This risk had been anticipated under the category “A participant is unable to continue” in the Risk Management section. Upon the university’s withdrawal, the first mitigation measure was to inform the Project Officer. Subsequently, the University of Oslo was brought in as a new beneficiary. In the meantime, the project partners reorganized the distribution of tasks to ensure continuity.
- Delays in the recruitment of researchers. The delays were due to the withdrawal of Galway University (R11) and the VISA rejection for R5. In the case of R11, the position was reopened in December, and within less than three weeks more than ten applications were received, several of which met the required experience for the role. The position for R5 has now been reopened.

We have also identified some new risks during the implementation of the project:

- Long-term leave of a DC. Since DC2 has been on a sick leave for more than 30 consecutive days, the Project Officer was contacted and informed. The DC’s tasks will be temporarily carried out by another team member until R2 is able to return to work. At this stage, the expected date of reinstatement remains uncertain.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS AND ACTIVITIES

Overview of the progress and activities	YES/NO
We confirm that the project activities are progressing as planned and that there are no major issues that would put the project implementation in danger. <i>If there are issues, identify them and explain the reasons why.</i>	YES
Despite the delays derived from the withdrawal of Galway and the need for an amendment, the project activities are continuing mostly as planned, with the first training event taking place just two months before it was due. Scientific activities are also taking place according to schedule.	

Implementation timetable	YES/NO
We confirm that the project activities are on schedule and that there are no significant delays. <i>If there are delays, identify them and explain the reasons why.</i>	NO
NeuroNanotech has started according to schedule, with the Kick-off meeting held in the first month. Deliverables D4.1, D4.2, D4.3 and D6.1 (Set-up of management team, establishment of recruitment guidelines, establishment of the supervisory board and launch of the project website) have been completed and delivered. On the contrary, we are incurring in some delay with regard to Milestones 2 and 3 (Planned recruitments completed and all recruited PhD fellows enrolled in PhD programme). The acquiring of visa for R5 has taken a longer time than expected. In addition, the need for an amendment and inclusion of a new partner has also increased the time needed for recruiting R11. This setback has also caused a delaying the signing of the Consortium Agreement and in TE1, as we want all doctoral candidates to be able to attend. This meeting is expected to take place in March 2026 (23rd-26th), along with the mid-term check (26th-27th). Furthermore, the doctoral candidates were expected to begin in September, but the recruitment process took longer than expected, delaying the secondments supposed to start in January 2026 (R2, R5, R6 and R10).	

Management of the action
<i>Please report on the management of the project, the established governance (joint for Joint Doctorates) and the involvement of doctoral candidates in the project governance.</i> The Project Management team, chaired by IMDEA Nanociencia is responsible for the day-to-day management. It is composed by a project manager (funded full-time through the Consortium's Management Costs, as agreed in the Consortium Agreement), and coordinators for each supporting committee, as described in the Grant Agreement. The Supervisory Board (SB) consist of one representative from each Party, 4 representatives from the Associate Partners and 2 researchers who will attend as observers. The Supervisory Board was constituted at the Kick-off meeting. The established members were: - M. Teresa González (IMDEA) - Laurence Méchin (CNRS-GREYC) - Claude Fermon (CEA) - Yael Hanein (TAU) - Arno Aarts (ATLAS) - Laura Ballerini (SISSA) - Marta P. Pereira (UAM) - Miguel Valencia (FIMA) - Timo van Kerloerle (RU) - Garry Duffy (GAL) - Michael Ortner (SAL) - assoc. partner - Lucas Pérez (UCM) - assoc. partner - Gaute Einevoll (NMBU) - assoc. partner - Martin Himly (PLUS) - assoc. partner - 2 Researchers (to be elected) However, following the withdrawal of Galway University and inclusion of the University of Oslo in the consortium, Gaute Einevoll (UiO) has replaced Garry Duffy (GAL). The SB will meet at least twice a year or as necessary. Representation of doctoral candidates in management: The doctoral candidates for the Supervisory Board (2 members) and other committees will be elected during the first training event (Madrid, 24th-26th March), so that they have time to get to know one another and decide whom they want to represent them on the network's governing bodies. The first meeting of all committees with the doctoral representatives is due to take place during the training event, once all researchers' representatives have been selected. From this point onwards, meetings of all governing bodies will be held as described in the DoA.

Recruitment strategy	YES/NO
Please confirm that the recruitment was carried out according to the description of the action (Annex 1 GA). <i>If there are delays, identify them and explain the reasons why.</i> <i>In particular, please describe:</i> - the recruitment process (confirm it was carried out with respect to the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers; indicate where the positions were advertised; explain whether the recruitment process was centralized or decentralized; provide statistics on the number of applications received – with a gender/country distribution, explain the selection criteria, the scoring system, confirm the check and compliance with the mobility rule, etc.) - an overview of the selected candidates - deviations from the recruitment strategy (if any) and provide all corrective measures which have been or will be implemented. The recruitment process was carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and in line with the criteria agreed during the kick-off meeting and established in the DoA. In addition, the recruitment process was	YES

conducted in accordance with MSCA regulations, and the eligibility and mobility criteria were met in all cases.

As described in the Guide for Applicants technical guide, and FAQ document, the researchers cannot be in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment, and they researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment.

The 11 positions were advertised in Euraxess Portal for several weeks (see Annex). Meanwhile, the call was also advertised in each institutional webpage, as well as on the researchers' social media. The website was also activated by the publication of the call and several announcements were published on X (Twitter) and LinkedIn to promote the dissemination of the information about the call.

The recruitment process was managed in the first step by the Project Management Office at IMDEA Nanociencia, which received the applications through the NeuroNanotech website. The eligibility of the applicants, including the compliance with the mobility rule, was evaluated by the project managers, who afterwards distributed the application to the 11 specific selection committees.

The evaluation criteria for the selection process was determined in the Kick-off meeting and are the following:

1. APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

	ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND	MOTIVATION STATEMENT	REFERENCES
Criteria	CV and academic grades of the applicant, including publications, if any, and participation in research projects, complementary training, and other relevant professional experience.	Interest and commitment of the applicant. Expected impact of the fellowship over the applicant's future career. Suitability of the applicant to the chosen doctoral project.	Content of reference letters in relation to the candidate application and profile of the referee.
Weight	50%	30%	20%
Threshold	3.5	3.5	3.5

2. INTERVIEW

	KNOWLEDGE	MOTIVATION	POTENTIAL
Criteria	- General knowledge and understanding of challenges and opportunities in the research area. - Scientific knowledge in the field of the selected project - Suitability of their experience/background to the selected project.	- Motivation towards the chosen PhD project - Impact of the fellowship on the candidate's career.	- Behavioural attributes and skills including communication and reasoning, integrity, teamwork, proactivity, creativity, adaptability and leadership.
Weight	40%	30%	30%

The List of shortlisted candidates together with the 1st-Phase scores file prepared by the 11 Examination Committees, were submitted to the Supervisory Board and approved. The selected candidates, who were informed in due time, were invited to the interview phase which was conducted via online videocalls. Likewise, the list of

selected candidates and reserve lists, together with 2nd-Phase scores file compiled by the 11 Examination Committees, were shared with the Supervisory Board and approved. The selected candidates, as well as all applicants, were notified of the official results of the selection process.

NeuroNanotech received 90 applications of which 7 were not eligible (7%). Of these 90 applications, 37% of applicants were women, 52% were men, and 1% did not want to specify. The nationalities that applied the most were Indian 24%, Pakistani 21%, Italian 12%, Mexican 7%, Iranian 5%, followed by Colombian, Egyptian, and Taiwanese with 3%.

Out of the 83 eligible applications, 28 candidates were shortlisted for an interview (34%).

The selection process was reopened for the UiO position following the approval of the amendment (see Annex). On this occasion, the job advertisement followed the same guidelines and evaluation criteria.

In this case, 13 eligible applications were received, 61% from male candidates and 38% from female candidates. These applications came from diverse nationalities: two from Iran, two from Italy, two from China, each accounting for 15%, and the rest with a single application from each country, from Germany, Morocco, Indonesia, Colombia, Austria, Poland and India (8% each).

The 11 selected candidates are the following:

	Name	Nationality	Starting date
R1	Giuseppe Junior Mosca	Italian	15/10/2025
R2	Marina Castrillo Fernández	Spanish	01/10/2025
R3	Harikrishnan Satheesh	Indian	01/12/2025
R4	Rishan Haasib	Indian	04/11/2025
R5	Shubham Singhal	Indian	-
R6	Sayar Das	Indian	01/12/2025
R7	Imo Ime Udotong	Nigerian	01/10/2025
R8	Martina Guttuso	Italian	01/11/2025
R9	Emmanuel González González	Colombian	01/11/2025
R10	Tonje Brunstad	Norwegian	01/10/2025
R11	Leonard Tinius	German	09/03/2026

However, as previously mentioned, R5's visa application was rejected, so the recruitment process has been reopened (March 2nd).

All selected candidates already hired are recruited under an employment contract that provides full social security coverage and pension contributions. The start dates of each researcher's contract are listed in the mobility declarations and are listed in the table above.

The recruitment process adhered to established policies to ensure equal opportunity and compliance with gender guidelines. The evaluation panels were composed of experts with a balanced 50/50 gender representation.

We also aimed for a 50/50 gender balance among the recruited researchers. However, due to the specific expertise required and the persistent gender disparities in STEM fields, the final composition resulted in approximately 30% women and 70% men.

Supervision and career development plans	YES/NO
We confirm that supervision and career development plans have been established for all recruited doctoral candidates. <i>If there are delays, identify them and explain the reasons why.</i> <i>In particular, please describe:</i> - the supervision arrangements (for Industrial Doctorates and Joint Doctorates, the joint supervision) put in place for each recruited doctoral candidate - deviations with regard to the career development plans (if any), as well as the contingency measures taken.	YES
For each doctoral candidate who has already started their contract, a personalized Career Development Plan has been established (D5.1), and signed by the DCs and their supervisors. The CDP of R5 and R11 will be developed once these fellows have started their contracts. There was the need to update some of the initially planned supervisors: R1: Lucas Pérez (UCM) with Teresa González (IMDEA). R10: Francesco P. Battaglia (RU) withdrew, so the sole supervisor of R10 will be Timo van Kerkoerle. R11: Garry Duffy (GAL) and Aiden Flanagan (BLS) with Gaute Einevoll (UiO) and Torbjørn V. Ness (NMBU) due to the withdrawal of the University of Galway from the project.	

Enrolment to a doctoral programme <i>(for Doctoral Networks, Industrial Doctorates and Joint Doctorates)</i>	YES/NO
Please confirm the enrolment to a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country, and for Joint Doctorates in at least two. <i>If there are delays, identify them and provide the list of the contingency measures taken or to be taken, in line with the applicable Doctoral Networks/Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates requirements.]</i>	YES
All DCs who have started their contract are enrolled in a doctoral programme in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country, which represents their main institution.	

Administrative arrangements with non-academic sector <i>(for Industrial Doctorates)</i>	YES/NO
Please confirm that all administrative arrangements have been put in place in order to ensure that all doctoral candidates will spend at least 50% of their fellowship duration in the non-academic sector. <i>If there are delays, identify them and provide the list of the contingency measures taken or to be taken, in line with the applicable Doctoral Networks/Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates requirements.</i>	Not Applicable
Not Applicable	

Agreements to establish joint, double or multiple doctorates <i>(for Joint Doctorates)</i>	YES/NO
Please confirm that the agreements to establish a Joint/Double/Multiple Doctorate have been finalized. <i>If there are delays, identify them and provide the list of the contingency measures taken or to be taken, in line with the applicable Doctoral Networks/Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates requirements.</i>	Not Applicable
Not Applicable	

Communication, Dissemination, Open Science and Exploitation
Please provide a summary of the activities organized, including changes or updates to your initial communication, dissemination, exploitation and research data management plan (if any). Please include only activities relating to the period covered by this report.
As of the date of submission of the Progress Report, the consortium partners have met in-person in the Kick-Off Meeting (23rd-24th January 2025), which took place at IMDEA Nanociencia (Madrid). In this event, the beneficiaries and associated partners presented their institution and work. The objectives of the NeuroNanotech project and introduction of the Management Team was also carried out. In addition, the Consortium Agreement, research and secondments plans and the recruitment process were discussed. In March 2026 (24th-26th), the first training event (TE1) as well as the mid-term review (26th-27th March), will take place in-person IMDEA Nanociencia (Madrid). In this event, the doctoral candidates will meet in-person for the first time. Public dissemination has been carried out through the NeuroNanotech webpage (https://neuronanotech.eu/) and social networks (X, Bluesky, LinkedIn). Each DC will be responsible for completing their own section on the NeuroNanotech webpage. The NeuroNanotech logo has been designed and established. Templates for poster communications and presentations have been produced. The NeuroNanotech Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan (D6.2) will ensure the visibility of the project and its results to the scientific community as well as provide information to the general public, while showcasing the value of the MSCA actions. The results of this project will mainly be advertised to the scientific community by means of publications in peer-reviewed journals and conferences. Any publication derived from the project will be integrated into the Open Science policy, by making the articles available in open repositories, to provide immediate open access. Dissemination to the general public will also take place through participation in Science and Innovation Fairs and events such as European Researchers' Night, International Day of Women and Girls in Science, and visits of the public to the laboratories and installations. Any communication derived from the NeuroNanotech project will carry the logo of the project and the European Flag and funding statement, to acknowledge the EU funding. If any results derived from the project are deemed interesting for exploitation, the interested partner will communicate it to the IPR Manager (ATLAS), who will present the idea to the Supervisory Board. The relevant partner will submit the IP for protection application, respecting the limits agreed by all partners.

ANNEXES

LIST OF ANNEXES

EURAXESS
Researchers in motion

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Jobs & Opportunities

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Network

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Job offer

JOB

SPAIN

Fundación IMDEA Nanociencia | Posted on: 19 February 2025

11 MSCA funded PhD fellowships - NeuroNanotech Doctoral Network

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Offer Description

Where to apply

Requirements

Additional Information

Work Location(s)

Contact

STATUS: EXPIRED

hr

Marie Curie
Nanobiotechnology
Centre

19 FEB 2025

Job Information

Organisation/Company

Fundación IMDEA Nanociencia

Research Field

Neurosciences

Researcher Profile

First Stage Researcher (R1)

Positions

PhD Positions

Application Deadline

30 Apr 2025 - 17:00 (Europe/Madrid)

Country

Spain

Type of Contract

Not Applicable

Job Status

Full-time

Is the job funded through the EU Research Framework Programme?

Horizon Europe - MSCA

Marie Curie Grant Agreement Number

101169352

Is the Job related to staff position within a Research Infrastructure?

No

Title	Content type	Status	Moderation state	Updated ▾
MSCA funded PhD fellowship - NeuroNanotech Doctoral Network	Job Offer	Published	Published	02/03/2026 - 17:11
MSCA funded PhD fellowship - NeuroNanotech Doctoral Network	Job Offer	Published	Published	09/12/2025 - 16:10
Project Assistant - NeuroNanotech	Job Offer	Published	Published	29/08/2025 - 09:37
11 MSCA funded PhD fellowships - NeuroNanotech Doctoral Network	Funding	Published	Published	20/02/2025 - 16:30
11 MSCA funded PhD fellowships - NeuroNanotech Doctoral Network	Job Offer	Published	Published	20/02/2025 - 16:11

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