

**V0.2**

## Summary overview

PLATO will organise four PhD Schools (PS1-PS4), one kick off conference, and one concluding conference. There will also be a mid-term review meeting with the European Commission in Brussels, a Career Day towards the end of the project, and some single training events and/or webinars.

Code	Event	When	Where
PKO	PLATO kick-off conference	16-20 Oct 2017	Oslo
CD1	Career Planning Day	17 Oct 2017	Oslo
PS1	PLATO School 1	15-19 Jan 2018	Berlin
PS2	PLATO School 2	12-16 Mar 2018	Vienna
PS3	PLATO School 3	24-28 Sep 2018 (tbc)	Cambridge
TE	Training event	November 2018 (tbc)	tbc
MTR	EC review meeting	February 2019 (tbc)	Brussels
PS4	PLATO School 4	2-6 Sep 2019 (tbc)	Enschede (Twente)
TE	Training event	Jan-Apr 2020	Brussels
CD2	Career Days	Apr 2020	Antwerp/Brussels
DAC	PLATO dissemination conference and award ceremony	Dec 2020	Brussels

PKO	Kick-off conference	
	Oslo	16-20 October 2017
<p>The kick-off conference will be dedicated to the overall research agenda and the presentation and discussion of each PhD project (18-19/10).</p> <p>The 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) will start off with team building activities in the weekend. Two consecutive days will be dedicated to the ESRs only: one day on their rights and obligations as an ESR in the H2020-funded MSCA-ITN PLATO, and one day on professional development planning, organised by PLATO partner Vitae.</p>		
Team building	<p><b>Team building</b></p> <p>The 15 PhD candidates will get to know each other and socialise through fun and motivational activities during the weekend: icebreakers, cooking competition and urban race. Joint dinners Saturday and Sunday. The aim is to provide a kick-start for the team to boost collaboration and team performance and foster long-term connections.</p>	14-15/10 (ARENA)
Info	<p><b>Rights and duties as PLATO ESRs</b></p> <p>Understanding the rationale of the PLATO project, research and training programme, timeline, internal communication.</p> <p>The 15 PhD candidates to elect their representatives to the PLATO Supervisory Board and Steering Committees.</p>	16/10 (ARENA)
TM3-1 CD1	<p><b>Professional Development Planning</b></p> <p><b>1) Effective Researcher 1: Getting started (TM3-1)</b></p> <p>A half-day programme focusing on the skills required of researchers for successful self-management and development during their doctorate.</p> <p><b>2) Introducing the Researcher Development Framework (RDF Planner)</b></p>	17/10 (Vitae)
	<p><b>Academic conference</b></p> <p>PLATO's overall research agenda and presentations and discussions of each PhD project.</p>	18-19/10
Workshop	<p><b>Supervision and mentoring</b></p> <p>Half-day seminar with PhDs and supervisors to discuss the challenges and advantages of being part of a PhD network with</p>	20/10 (Vitae)

	multiple resources and supervision teams. Reflections on the supervisor role.	
Workshop	<b>Planning ahead</b> Using the RDF Planner with your supervisors; research methods clusters; summing/wrapping up (after lunch)	20/10 (ARENA)
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>ARENA, University of Oslo (Chris Lord, Marit Eldholm)</i>	

PS1	PLATO School 1: Legitimacy theory and theory building	
	Berlin	15-19 January 2018
<p>The first part of PLATO School 1 is a <b>PhD course in legitimacy theory</b> (3 days). The objective of this interdisciplinary course is to address the issue of legitimacy from a number of different disciplinary angles: political science, law, sociology, political economy, and public administration (RTC1). The course will also address how to build new theory through case studies (RTC2). Might be organised as a PhD course (10 ECTS) with an extensive reading list and examination in the form of a theory paper (to be submitted later).</p> <p>The second part <b>How to be an effective researcher</b> (2 days) (Vitae). A finalist for a UK National Training Award and Times Higher Education Award, this two-day programme helps researchers who are 3-12 months into their doctorate to focus on building understanding, capability and confidence in communication, planning, time management, problem solving, leadership and assertiveness.</p>		
<b>RTC1</b>	<b>Legitimacy for multi-disciplinarians</b> Political science; law; sociology, gender and media; political economy; public administration	2 days
<b>RTC2</b>	<b>Building new theory through case studies</b> Reading and practice (case study designs)	1 day
<b>TM3-2</b>	<b>Effective Researcher 2: How to be an effective researcher</b> Communication, planning, time management, problem solving, leadership and assertiveness, including elements on project management, team working and collaboration	2 days (Vitae)
<b>SW1</b>	<b>Supervision workshop (option 1)</b>	1 day
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (Markus Jachtenfuchs, Marlien Schlaphoff)</i>	

PS2	PLATO School 2: Research design	
	Vienna	12-16 March 2018

The first 3 days is a **workshop on research design** with a focus on research methods. Part one (RTC3) will briefly discuss ways in which political and moral philosophers have used particular cases and examples to investigate normative problems; including ‘thought experiments’ and deliberative experiments, and the use of puzzles and predicaments to establish standards for how norms should apply in practice. It will then identify different methods of operationalising normative standards in research. Part two (RTC4) will discuss methods that can be used to interpret what actors, in fact, believe about the legitimacy of political systems. It will introduce ESRs to the use of surveys, focus groups, and discourse and content analysis of texts. Secondly it will identify where political behaviours can be used as evidence of legitimacy.

The second part (2 days) will include **professional training modules**, either from Vitae’s Effective Researcher programme and/or professional development planning, or a course in academic writing.

<b>RTC3</b>	<b>Using normative methods in case studies</b> Develop standards, indicators, and coding techniques for use in the projects of ESRs 7-15 (standards)	1.5 days
<b>RTC4</b>	<b>Using interpretative methods in case studies</b> Reading: surveys, focus groups, discourse and content analysis (media content, official documents, parliamentary debates); process-tracing; to be used by ESRs 1-6 (actors)	1.5 days
<b>TM1</b>	<b>Alt. 1: Scientific writing</b> Course provided by external expert	2 days (tbc)
<b>TM3</b>	<b>Alt. 2: Effective Researcher and Professional Development Planning</b>	2 days (Vitae)
<b>SW1</b>	<b>Supervision workshop (option 2)</b>	1 day
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna (Johannes Pollak, Sigi Stemberger)</i>	

PS3	PLATO School 3: Indicators and methods	
	Cambridge	24-28 September 2018 (tbc)
<p>The first three days of PLATO School 3 will gather all ESRs to a <b>workshop discussing indicators and methods, as well as data collection</b> (RTC4). ESRs to organise sessions over three days (content, format, invite speakers and commentators, plan sessions, etc.).</p> <p>At this stage, ESRs must start preparing for two EC requirements. This will shape the content and format for the last two days of PLATO School 3 (Effective Researcher):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Draft progress report</i> (December 2018) (to prepare for the review meeting): demonstrate project achievements in terms of scientific results, research training, networking and transfer of knowledge</li> <li>• <i>EC mid-term review meeting</i> (February 2019): PhDs must present the main objectives of their project, methodology used and main results obtained so far, plus their expectations on the possible impact of PLATO on their future career.</li> </ul>		
<b>RTC4</b>	<b>Indicators and methods and/or data collection</b> Workshop; exchange experiences, resolve difficulties	3 days
<b>TM3-3</b>	<b>Effective Researcher 3: The next 90 days</b> A one-day programme focusing on developing the supervisor relationship, engaging in the impact agenda, communicating research to various audiences and career development beyond the doctorate.	1 day (Vitae)
<b>TM3-4</b>	<b>Effective Researcher 4: Effective progress</b> A one-day programme offering the opportunity to focus on the detailed critical success factors and management skills required to complete a doctorate. Status and progress of individual action plans (career development plans)	1 day (Vitae)
<b>SW2</b>	<b>Supervision workshop</b>	1 day
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>POLIS, University of Cambridge (Chris Bickerton)</i>	

<b>TE</b>	<b>Training event: Presenting science (tbc)</b>	
	<b>Paris?</b>	<b>November 2018?</b>
A 2-3 day course on how to present research, presentation techniques, and how to visually support a presentation. Preparing a live delivery, increasing confidence, fluidity in speech, and authority when handling questions.		
<b>TM2</b>	<b>Presenting science</b> Course provided by external expert	2-3 days (tbc)
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>TBC</i>	

<b>MTR</b>	<b>Review meeting with the European Commission</b>	
	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>February 2019 (tbc)</b>
A contractual obligation for MSCA-ITNs. The mid-term review (MTR) meeting assesses the fulfillment of all aspects of the project: scientific, research training, management, etc. The meeting contributes to a constructive dialogue between the project participants and the Project Officer from the European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA). The project coordinator, heads of teams and ESRs must attend the meeting.  Each ESR is given 10 minutes to present the main objectives of their project, methodology used and main results obtained so far, plus their expectations on the possible impact of PLATO on their future career.		
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>ARENA (Marit Eldholm) with REA project officer</i>	

<b>PS4</b>	<b>PLATO School 4: Interim findings</b>	
	<b>Enschede (Twente)</b>	<b>2-6 September 2019 (tbc)</b>
The first part will be a 3-day <b>research-in-progress workshop to discuss interim findings</b> . Each ESR will produce a paper summarising interim results of her research, which will be the basis for synthesising the research at the last PLATO school. ESRs will contribute to the integration of their different projects by peer-reviewing their work; each will take in turns to act as discussant on a different project. Presenters and discussants will be asked to focus on the implications of each project for PLATO's shared research question and for its coordinated use of methods.  Two days will be dedicated to other activities/ <b>professional training modules</b> , such as		

networking, open access and open research data, and professional development planning.		
Workshop	Thematic/topical or methods/data/analysis	3 days
<b>TM4</b>	<b>Networking / Pitch your PhD</b> A one-day seminar to learn the essentials of networking	1 day (Vitae)
<b>TM6</b>	<b>Open Access (OA)</b> OA publications, open research data, Data Management Plan	1-2 hours
<b>PDP</b>	<b>The end is in sight</b> One-day programme to help researchers navigate the final year of their doctorate and plan a successful job search. Through a series of activities, participants build a practical, relevant, personal action plan	1 day (Vitae)
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>University of Twente (Bas Denters, Ramses Wessel)</i>	

<b>TE</b>	<b>Training event: Media training</b>	
	<b>Brussels?</b>	<b>January-April 2020 (tbc)</b>
<p><i>While half of the ESRs are in Brussels to do their 1-month secondment, professional media training and/or training in addressing policy stakeholders can be organised in immediate connection with the February stay (last week of January and/or first week of March).</i></p> <p>Media training could include topics such as: Approaching journalists, spurring interest in your research, publishing criteria, journalistic work methods. How to write for a non-specialist audience (press release, op-ed). The interview setting (newspaper, radio, TV), press conference.</p>		
<b>TM7</b>	<b>Media training</b>	2 days
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>ARENA, training partners</i>	

TE	Training event: Policy recommendations	
	Brussels?	January-April 2020 (tbc)
<p><i>As above; training in addressing policy stakeholders can be organised in immediate connection with the February stay in Brussels (late January or early March).</i></p> <p>Training in giving policy recommendations could include: identifying the needs of decision makers, formulating research-based policy advice, writing policy memos.</p> <p>Policy stakeholders are in need of knowledge-based expertise to formulate and design policy reforms and find solutions to the legitimacy deficits facing Europe today. The main stakeholders of PLATO's research are: European political leaders and senior officials of the main EU institutions and agencies formulating or implementing EU policies; independent think tanks providing research-based policy recommendations and forums for policy debates; NGOs promoting civil society and citizens' rights and advocating direct democracy; interest groups including social partners and industry/business; local, regional, national authorities influenced by and working to influence EU policy.</p>		
<b>TM8</b>	<b>Policy recommendations</b>	2 days
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>ARENA, training partners</i>	

CD2	Career Days	
	Brussels / Antwerp	April 2020
<p>Event organised by Vitae to discuss careers in and outside academia. Providing career information, exchanging experiences from the February secondments, assisting ESRs in setting up an individual action plan and career strategy.</p>		
PDP	<b>Careers outside Academia</b> Addressing possible career paths for ESRs, discussing experiences from secondments (February 2020), employability and transition, transferability of skills to non-academic sector.	1 day (Vitae)
PDP	<b>Careers in Academia</b> A one-day programme providing doctoral researchers with a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities integral to an academic career.	1 day (Vitae)
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>Vitae with ACIM, University of Antwerp (Dirk De Bièvre)</i>	



<b>DAC</b>	<b>Dissemination conference with award ceremony</b>	
	Brussels	December 2020
<p><b>Part 1: Dissemination conference</b></p> <p>Findings and policy recommendations of the single PhD projects and of the PLATO project as a whole to be presented and discussed with a broad professional and academic public. Policy recommendations to professional audience, targeting policy stakeholders. Separate public event for outreach to European citizens.</p> <p><b>Part 2: Award ceremony</b></p> <p>PLATO ESRs are eligible to receive a <b>PLATO diploma</b>, to be awarded by the consortium upon approval by the Supervisory Board (provided attendance at schools and successful, or imminent, completion of their PhD). Although not a formal certificate, this will be evidence of the training achieved by the candidates. The PLATO Award Ceremony will be the very last project event.</p>		
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>ACIM, University of Antwerp (Dirk De Bièvre)</i>	

	<b>Webinar series: The digital researcher</b>	
	--	June 2019
<p>Webinar series on what it entails being a researcher in the digital era: Managing your digital identity; Social media for researchers (i.e. Twitter, LinkedIn, ResearchGate, Google Scholar), etc.</p>		
<b>TM5</b>	<b>Digital researcher</b>	1-2 hours x3
<i>Organiser:</i>	<i>Vitae (Katie Wheat)</i>	