

Estonian Business School Project based PhD Call:

Doctoral position (Junior Research Fellow): Systematic Assessment of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance in Authoritarian States.

A fully funded position is available for a talented PhD student to develop their research and soft skills within the international, interdisciplinary, and cross-sectoral Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie doctoral network Sociology of Authoritarian Law (SOCIAL). The project focuses on assessing anti-money laundering (AML) frameworks and enforcement pathways.

The PhD research will examine AML frameworks in Central Asia, evaluating compliance mechanisms, enforcement practices, and the alignment of AML norms with international standards in contexts characterized by political centralization and opacity. SOCIAL Consortium consists of 14 leading universities across Europe & Canada trains 17 doctoral candidates (DC) in the sociology of authoritarian law, with a regional focus on Central Asia.

Its three core goals are:

1. **Empirical & theoretical innovation** on law–society–governance dynamics under authoritarian regimes.
2. **Sustainable interdisciplinary doctoral training** across disciplines and regions.
3. **Policy outreach**, converting research into actionable intelligence via workshops, publications, and policy briefs.

Doctoral candidates will benefit from joint supervision, inter-sectoral secondments, strong transferable skills development, and a bridge between academic research and policy practice.

Recruitment host: Estonian Business School, Tallinn, Estonia

Supervisors: Prof. Kaire Pöder, Dr. Gaygysyz Ashyrov

Studies begin: 1 September 2026

Employment conditions: full-time contract, Horizon Europe MSCA requirements, rates and benefits.

For the final decision, the best and most promising candidates will be asked to perform a presentation introducing their Research Idea. This will either take place in Microsoft Teams or at the EBS campus in Tallinn, Estonia.

Application requirements:

- Previous education: Master's degree or equivalent
- Bachelor's and master's degree diplomas and academic transcripts; Applicant must submit diploma and academic transcript; (translation to English language required, if documents are in another language)
- Research Plan for the abovementioned topic must be submitted; A research plan of up to 3000 words excluding references. The research plan must contain an overall purpose, questions that the project intends to answer, an account of the theoretical framework and the methodological approach and a description of research material. Research Plan document must have the code: **SOCIAL DN – 17_ DC10**
- A statement certifying that the applicant has not resided or carried out their main activity (i.e. work, studies in Estonia for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date). For further information on eligibility criteria, See [Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows in doctoral networks](#).
- English language proficiency certificate (B2); FCE, CAE, IELTS 5.5+ or TOEFL 69+ or a previous level of education obtained in English
- *Curriculum Vitae* including education, professional development and research activities, full contact data (address, phone number, e-mail address).
- Copy of passport

Application deadline: 31 January 2026

Application process:

- Please submit application with all relevant and required documents to doctoral@ebs.ee
- Subject line shall have: **applicant name_ SOCIAL DN – 17_ DC10**

For questions please contact: doctoral@ebs.ee; request must have the code **SOCIAL DN – 17_ DC10**