

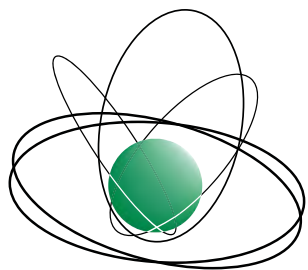
# SPARE Project

Horizon Europe's  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates

PhD

# OPENINGS



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SPARE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°101227584.



Funded by  
the European Union

# Project Consortium

**Academic  
partners**



**Industry  
partners**



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# SPARE Project

Orbiting satellites and space infrastructure are becoming inseparable from modern life, powering everything from communications to emerging technologies. As activity in low Earth orbit accelerates, Europe faces mounting challenges such as environmental strain on terrestrial and orbital ecosystems, growing competition from global players, and the risk of technical failures or security threats. Supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme, the SPARE project aims to turn these challenges into opportunities. Focusing on sustainability, resilience, and competitiveness, SPARE promotes responsible growth in space. Its world-class training programme will equip the next generation of engineers and scientists to integrate technological innovation with environmental stewardship, regulatory insight, and economic strategy, ensuring that Europe's expanding presence in orbit is safe, sustainable, and strategically strong.

**The SPARE project kicked off in November 2025 and is now recruiting 2 Doctoral Candidates with Economy/Law background for an equivalent number of projects. Description of the projects and their implementation is provided below.**

**To apply, please send your CV, Motivation letter and a link to a video of up to 3 minutes explaining your background and interests to [dsp-jv-spare@thalesalieniaspace.com](mailto:dsp-jv-spare@thalesalieniaspace.com).**

# DC Project 1

## European Policy and Regulation for Sustainable, Secure and Fair Space

The growing dependence of our human civilization on space systems and the intensifying new space race have effectively transformed space sustainability from a neglected non-issue into a global and intergenerational concern in the course of a decade. The increasing number of space objects launched into Low Earth orbit, the substantive involvement of private actors present, in addition to their manifold benefits, serious and unprecedented challenges, such as (i) regulation of space traffic management, (ii) *ex ante* regulatory measures to avoid the creation of space debris, (iii) effective regulation of scarce resources such as frequency and orbital slots. The main problem is that the international legal framework is frozen in time, obsolete and needs to be reformed. Space law develops through national legislations, soft law documents and industrial standards. The space industry is booming in several contexts, involving both civilian and military domain, as well as downstream, by increased demand for satellite data in various industries, and upstream, involving governmental conventional missions. These global tendencies force Europe to make fundamental changes in its space policy, including institutional questions if it wishes to be a space power, an autonomous actor in geopolitics.

The research project aims to identify policies and regulatory frameworks for Europe that will promote sustainable, secure and fair space. It focuses on:

1. Proposing *de lege ferenda* solutions to the identified problems avoiding over regulation hampering competitiveness;
2. What problems can only be regulated at international level and how the problems should be resolved;
3. How the harmonisation of European space law can be efficient and contribute to the European competitiveness;
4. How the European institutions should be reformed (ESA, EUSPA, EU);
5. What policy measures could reinforce the European space industry.

### Research field:

- *Legal sciences*
- *Political sciences*




### Required skills:

- *Excellent English language skills (French language skills is an advantage)*
- *Able to conduct research independently*
- *Good organizational skills*

Further information on the DC1 position  
is available on the following page



**Recruitment and secondment plan:**

Recruiting beneficiary	Gross salary	Period	Planned Secondment
<p>Thales Alenia Space France, Toulouse</p> 	€3,667/Month	12 months	
<p>Ludovika University of Public Service – Institute of Aerospace and Telecommunications Law, Hungary, Budapest</p> 	€3,350/Month	24 months	<p>6 months at Thales Alenia Space France, Toulouse</p> 



**PhD awarding institution:** Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary

**MSCA Mobility rule:** To be eligible for this PhD position, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their first recruiting beneficiary (France or Hungary) for more than 12 months during the 36 months immediately preceding the recruitment date — unless this period was part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention.

# DC Project 2

## Economics of New Space and European Competitiveness

The European space industry is undergoing a major transformation as it adapts to the New Space paradigm, marked by private-sector innovation, rapid technological progress, and new business models emerging under intense global competition. Despite growing policy and industrial attention to sustainability in space, ranging from the European Space Agency's Clean Space Initiative and the Space Sustainability Rating to emerging life-cycle assessment frameworks, research on sustainable innovation in the space sector remains fragmented. Most studies address technological or regulatory challenges (e.g., debris mitigation or end-of-life design) but rarely link these to economically viable and ecologically responsible business models. Against the background of the global space economy, this reveals an important research gap: how can circular economy principles be effectively applied to space, transforming the ecosystem and creating competitive added value to reach a sustainable space economy?

This PhD project addresses this gap by analysing, evaluating, and developing integrated strategies for sustainable circular business models that align ecological, economic, and strategic dimensions of innovation in the European space industry. The project will include the following core activities:

1. **Research review:** Review the state of research on effective circular business models outside the space industry and analyze how the findings can be translated to the space industry.
2. **Empirical research:** Identify use cases and evaluate them with a focus on their economic viability. For the selected use cases, the project can, for example, deepen (some of) the following areas:
  - a. **Partnerships and value networks:** Investigate the value chain and potential partnerships to enable circularity and shared value creation.
  - b. **Funding and investment ecosystems:** Assess financial architectures and instruments that incentivize circular and sustainability-oriented innovation.
  - c. **Policy and regulatory frameworks:** Investigate regulations and sustainability standards supporting the shift toward circular business models.
3. **Implications:** Derive implications for the space industry on how circular business models can be transformed into a source of competitive advantage and sustainable growth and develop policy recommendations that support the shift toward a circular and sovereign space economy.

This project will use a mixed-methods design, including stakeholder interviews, comparative case studies, quantitative data analysis, business model and system-dynamics analysis, and policy evaluation. This approach will deliver insights that are both scientifically and economically relevant, linking ecological impact metrics, economic viability, and governance mechanisms in order to inform pathways for a sustainable and competitive space economy.

Further information on the DC2 position  
is available on the following page





**Research field:**

- Innovation management and entrepreneurship
- Strategic and corporate management
- Space economy and regulation



**Required skills:**

- Strong background in management, entrepreneurship, finance, economics, or related disciplines
- Experience or interest in the European space industry and innovation ecosystems
- Experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Excellent written and spoken English

**Recruitment plan:**

Recruiting beneficiary	Gross salary	Period
<p>Thales Alenia Space France, Toulouse</p> 	€3,667/Month	18 months
<p>University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Germany</p> 	Based on the German public sector collective agreement (TVöD E13/1): €4,767.62/Month	18 months



Further information on the DC2 position is available on the following page  

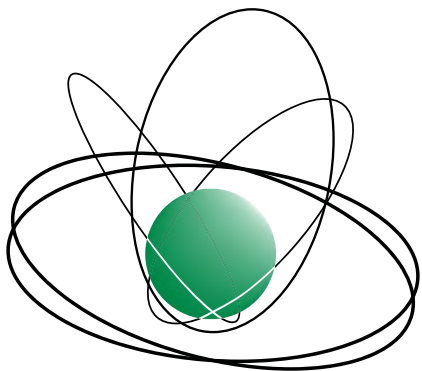


**PhD awarding institution:** University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Germany

**MSCA Mobility rule:** To be eligible for this PhD position, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their first recruiting beneficiary (France or Germany) for more than 12 months during the 36 months immediately preceding the recruitment date — unless this period was part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention.



**Thank you!**



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