





# WOIC2026

13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
WORLD OPEN INNOVATION CONFERENCE

## Call for Applicants

### WOIC 2026 Doctoral Consortium

: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 – (9:30 – 17:00)

: Kaunas, Lithuania

: <https://worldopeninnovation.com>

#### Consortium Chairs

- Dr. Maral Mahdad (Eindhoven University of Technology – The Netherlands)
- Dr. Dieudonnee Cobben (Open Universiteit – The Netherlands)
- Attabik Awan (Tilburg University – The Netherlands)
- Farshad Hajiakbari (Eindhoven University of Technology – The Netherlands)
- Salar Alizad Poursaeidi (Eindhoven University of Technology – The Netherlands)

#### About the Consortium

The World Open Innovation Conference (WOIC) 2026 Doctoral Consortium is a one-day pre-conference event held in conjunction with the WOIC. It is designed to enrich academic excellence, collaboration, and career development for doctoral students and early career researchers working in Open Innovation and related disciplines such as Strategy, Innovation Management, and Entrepreneurship. Taking place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, in Kaunas, Lithuania, the Doctoral Consortium offers mentorship for scholars, paper development sessions, expert-led research workshops, networking activities, and engagement with local innovation ecosystems.

#### What Will You Gain?

As a participant in the WOIC 2026 Doctoral Consortium, you will:

- Receive feedback on your working paper from experienced scholars in Open Innovation and related disciplines;

- Participate in interactive workshops on academic development, publishing strategies, and research methodologies;
- Engage in in-depth discussions with an international community of doctoral researchers and scholars working on related research topics;
- Become part of the broader World Open Innovation Community, creating opportunities for future academic interactions and collaborations beyond the conference;

## **What's New in 2026?**

For WOIC 2026, the Doctoral Consortium adopts a redesigned full-day format that combines interactive workshops on topics related to academic development, publishing strategies, and research methodologies (details will be announced soon). The consortium emphasizes constructive scholarly dialogue and meaningful developmental feedback in a small group setting, and the format is particularly intended for doctoral researchers seeking substantial feedback on developed research projects, working papers, or conference papers.

## **Eligibility**

The consortium is open to:

- Doctoral students who are approximately two years or more into their PhD;
- Candidates whose research focuses on Open Innovation or adjacent topics in Strategy, Innovation Management, and Entrepreneurship;
- Doctoral students with a sufficiently developed paper or research project that can benefit from focused scholarly feedback during the consortium;
- Candidates who demonstrate a strong motivation to contribute actively to the consortium and the broader academic community;

## **Application Requirements**

Please submit the following documents by **September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**:

1. An extended abstract (max. 2,000 words) or a full paper that you would like to develop during the consortium;
2. A motivation letter (max. 1 A4, font size 12) including your research focus, progress within your current doctoral program, and what you hope to gain from the doctoral consortium;
3. A current CV;

\*Applications must be submitted via the following link:

<https://woic2026.dryfta.com>

### **Please note:**

- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; therefore, early submission is highly recommended. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a visa, as earlier notification facilitates timely travel arrangements;
- Any applications that do not adhere to the requirements mentioned above are unlikely to be considered for review;
- Participants selected for Doctoral Consortium are required to register for WOIC 2026;

### **Important Dates**

- **Application system will open:** June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Application deadline:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Notification of acceptance:** on a rolling basis until the end of September 2026
- **Consortium date:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

### **Testimonials from previous DC versions**

*“Personally, WOIC is more than a place for me to receive valuable research feedback; it is a family-oriented community where scholars gather in the spirit of companionship. As a PhD student, joining the WOIC Doctoral Colloquium is the best doorway to becoming part of this academic family, where mentorships and friendships with professors and fellow PhD students can flourish for years to come.”*

– Doctoral Student, WOIC 2025

*“Mentoring at WOIC was a rich experience. The curiosity and dedication of the participants stood out. I left with new connections, great conversations, and a strong sense of community.”*

– Consortium Mentor, WOIC 2023

### **Contact**

For questions about the doctoral consortium, please contact:

 [dieudonnee.cobben@ou.nl](mailto:dieudonnee.cobben@ou.nl)

 <https://worldopeninnovation.com>