Excellent doctoral researchers deserve outstanding support, employment rights and communication. To achieve this, the Steering Group 2021 will collaborate with the General Administration and diverse Max Planck Society bodies on the following key points:

**Employment rights and statutes**
- Clarifying the difference between contract types
- Equal employment for equal work - Understanding the reasons for section-, gender-, nationality-based differences in working conditions
- Increasing the weight of doctoral researchers in key position hiring procedures
- Promoting and improving the use of the Thesis Advisory Committee
- Monitoring the impact of the pandemic on PhD researchers and their careers

**Support & Inclusion**
- Clear onboarding procedures from recruiting until settling in to enhance equal working conditions
- Career development and offboarding for academic and non-academic positions
- Promoting mental health support and reporting lines

**Communication**
- Improve the PhDnet interaction with all doctoral researchers in the Max Planck Society
- Further increasing the visibility and inclusion of PhDnet inside the Max Planck Society
- Enhance section-wise communication channels
- Showcasing the achievements of PhDnet and its members