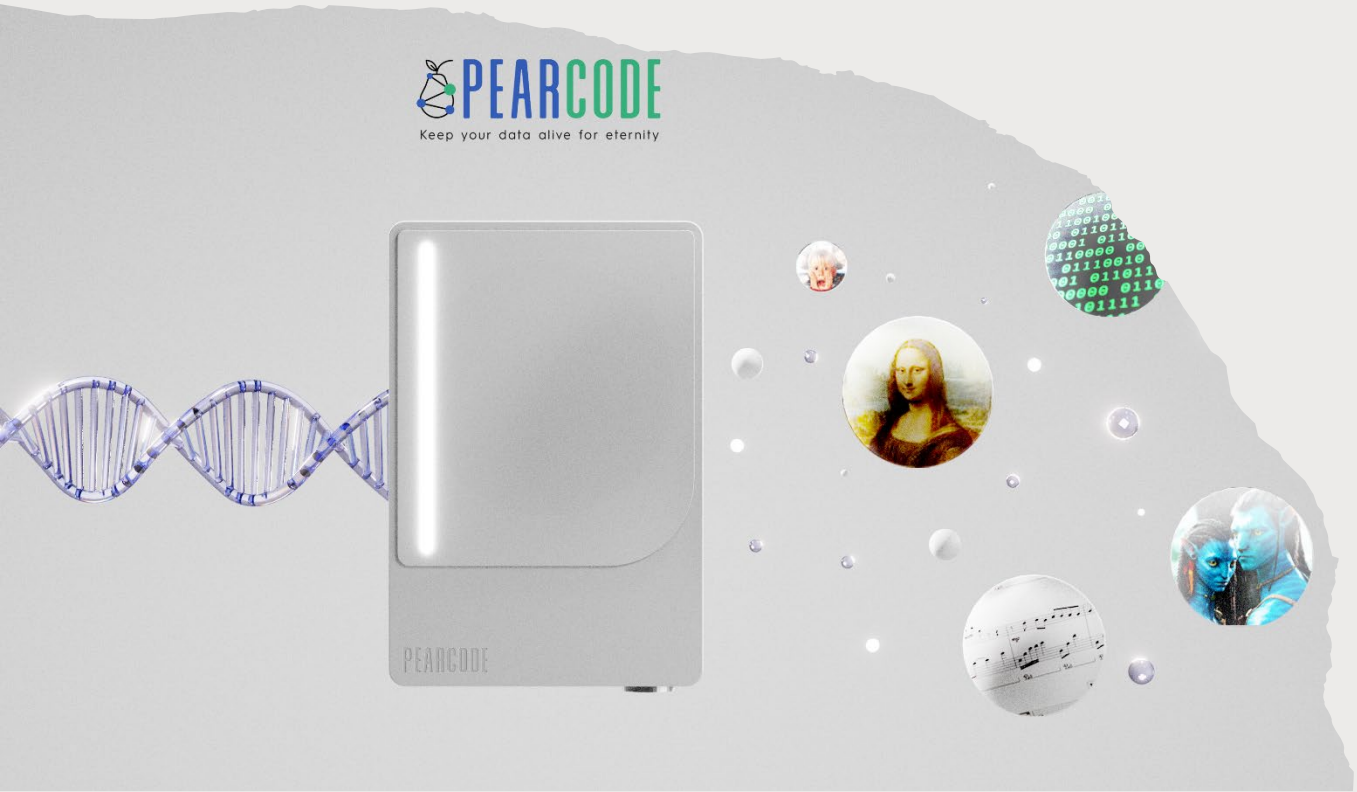
The life of a PhD

Melpomeni Dimopoulou

Who I am



- I am Greek and mother of a 9-month-old baby girl
- I am graduate of the Computer Engineering and Informatics department of the University of Patras in Greece
- In 2016 I moved to France to follow a one-year Master program on Computational Biology and Biomedicine
- I have a PhD on the subject of DNA data storage
- In 2022 I created the start-up PEARCODE

My studies

- Bachelor Studies : University of Patras, Greece
- Master Studies: Université Côte d'Azur (UniCA)
- PFE: i3S research lab UMR CNRS and UCA
- Internship: i3S research lab UMR CNRS and UniCA
- PhD: i3S research lab UMR CNRS and UniCA
- Today: Co-founder and CEO of the start-up PEARCODE

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ

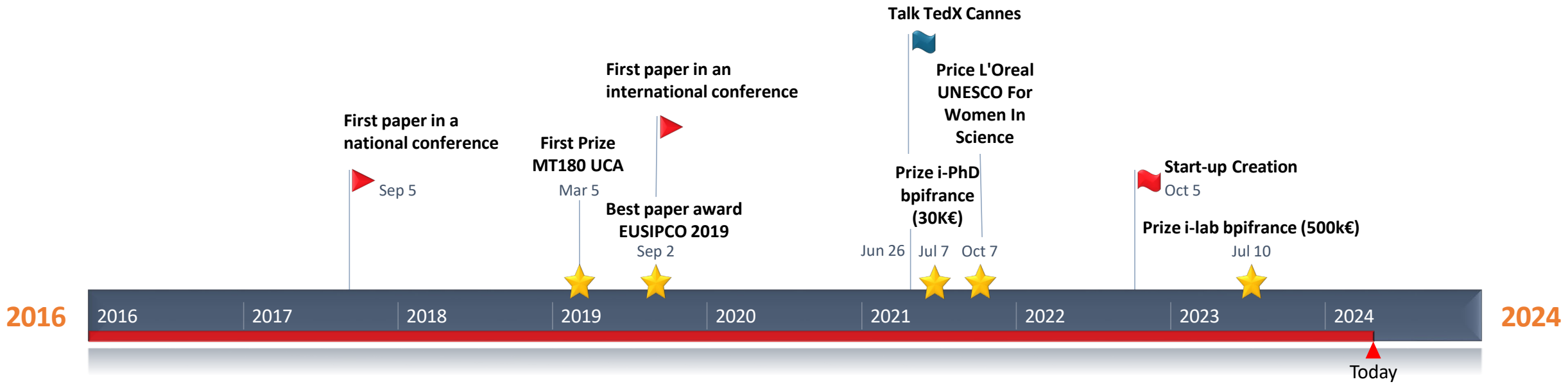
i3S sophia antipolis

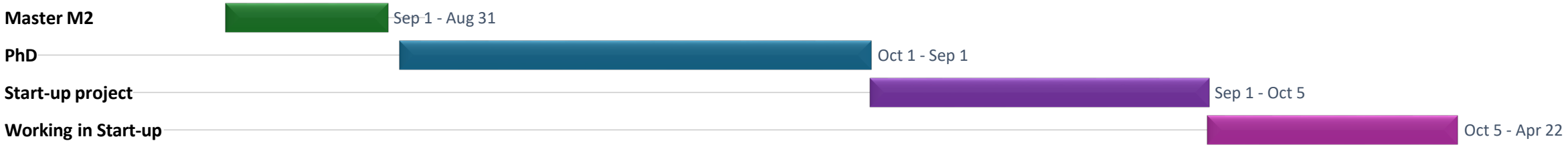
cnrs

UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR

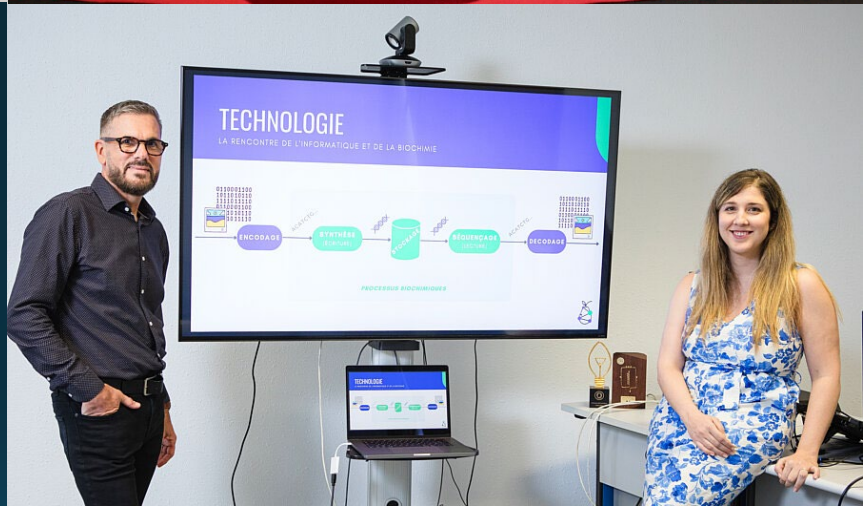
PEARCODE
Keep your data alive for eternity

A little bit about my career path...





Some success stories



Why did I choose to do a PhD ?

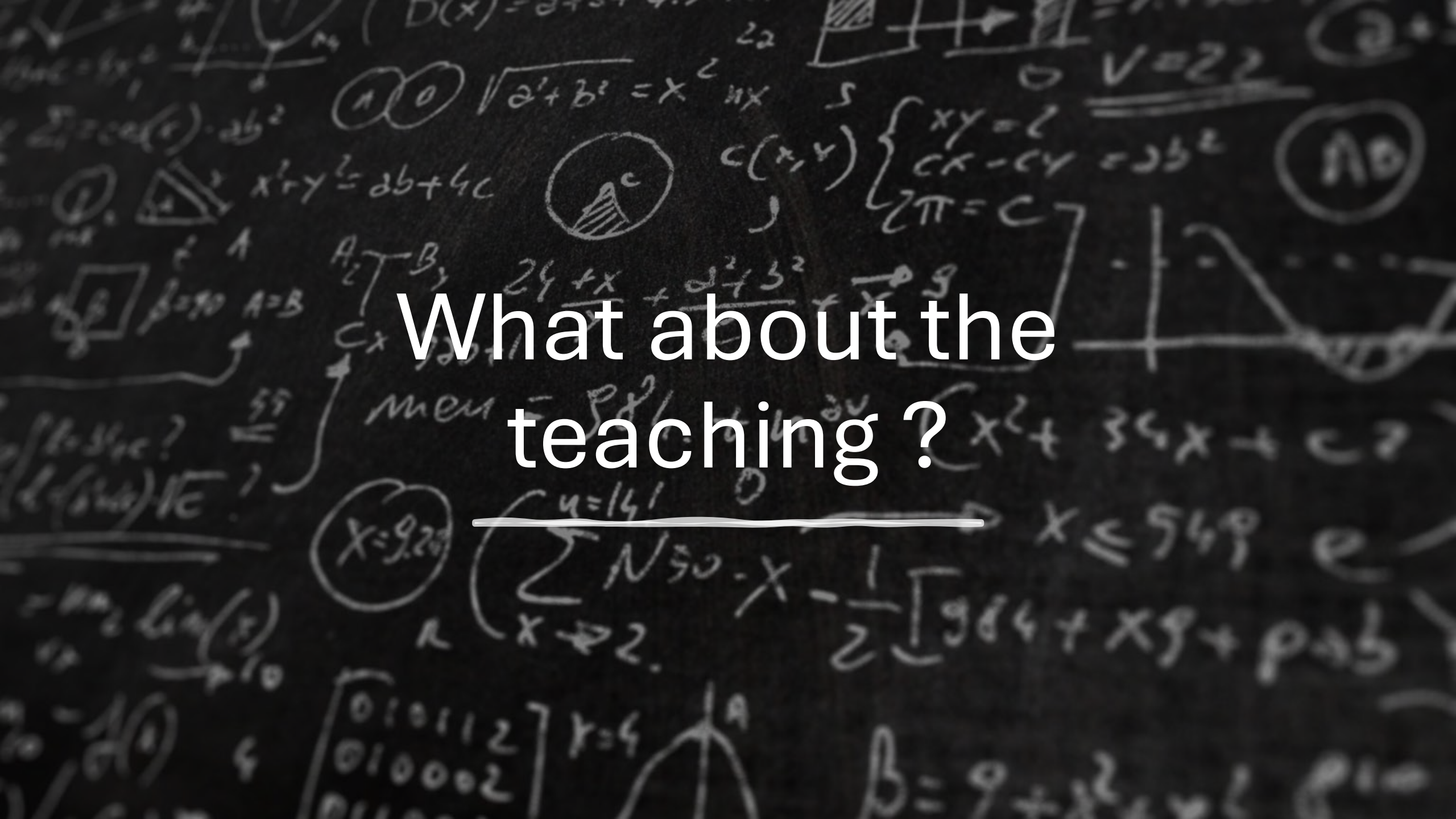
The life of a PhD

- Never boring
- Very creative
- Full of surprises
- Encourages collaborations
- Facilitates traveling
- There is no fixed schedule
- Requires a certain autonomy
- Requires taking initiatives

The life of a PhD

- Not an easy path
- Can sometimes seem quite lonely
- It takes some rejections to reach the top
- Writing a manuscript might seem endless
- Quite stressful but at the same time enjoyable

The conferences


What about the teaching ?

And afterwards?

ACADEMIC CAREER

R&D IN INDUSTRY

START-UP CREATION

CHANGE OF PATH

A few tips

- There is no unique key to success
- Don’t fear failure/rejection
- Practice makes perfect
- Follow training programs
- Be open to new ideas
- Take some time for yourselves

Why did I do a PostDoc ?

An intermediate step

To take a breath while doing something that you know how to do well

To identify your career opportunities

To explore a new research topic

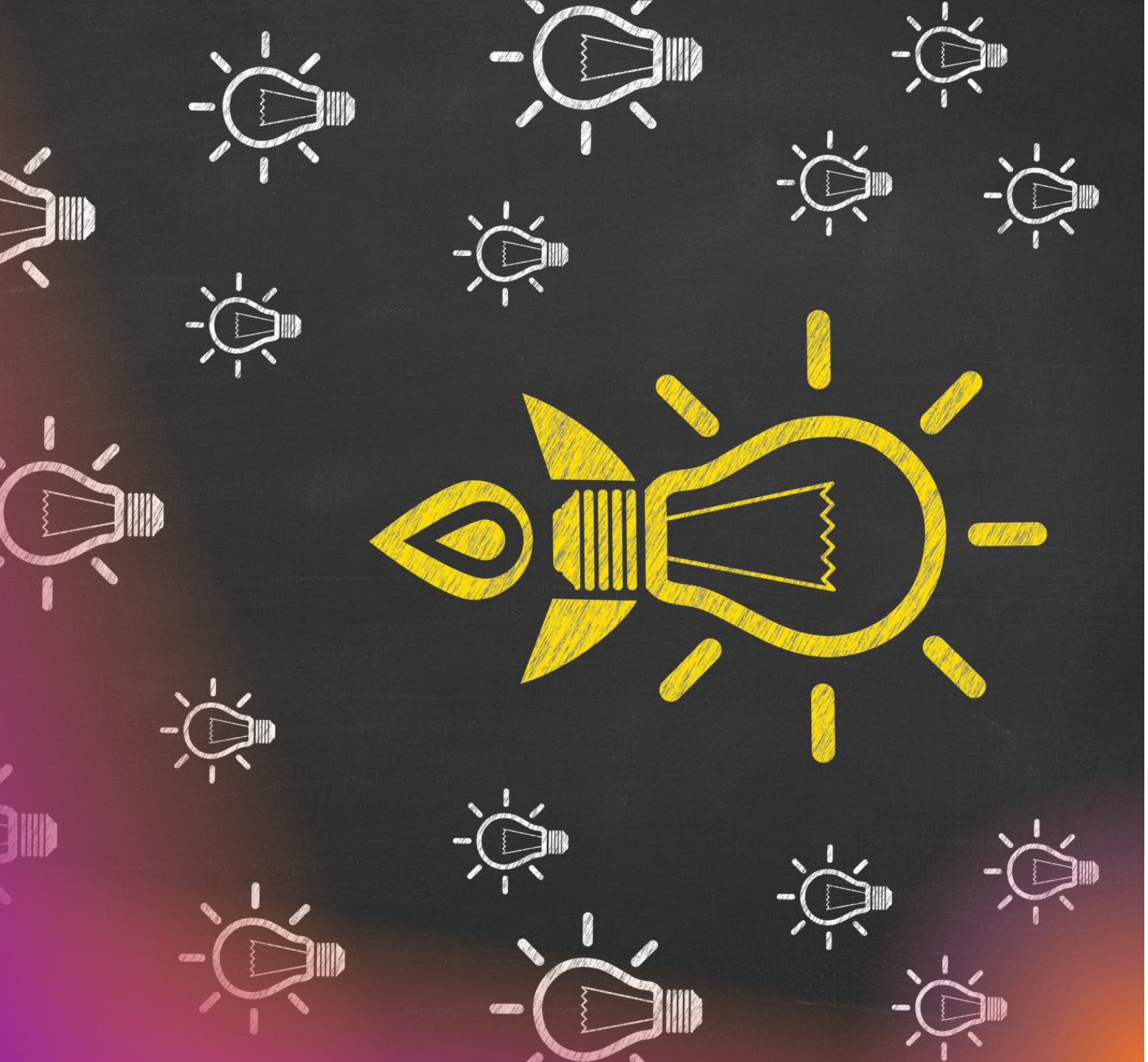
To collaborate with new people

To enhance your skills towards an academic career

The doubts

- Is a PhD career for me?
- What do I want to do?
- Am I good enough?
- And if I fail?

And if I am no longer interested in academia?



Why did I create a start-up

From research to application

- A promising research topic
- A motivation to take a turn towards the industry
- A passion for what I do
- Because I want that my research studies find an application

The challenges

- It takes a lot of strength and determination
- It takes much training and practice
- Requires a complete change of perspective
- Things are not always facing up
- It takes a lot of risk
- Many rejections towards success
- Development strongly depends on the fundings received
- Every story is different

Our region offers a great network for start-ups!

- Research labs
- Organizations of Transfer of Technology
- Incubators
- Pôles de compétitivité
- CASA (communauté d'agglomération sophia antipolis)
- And many many others

Let’s discuss!

- What are your doubts or questions?

If you wish to keep in touch:

- Contact : melpomeni@pearcode.io