

## Widening Country Inspiration Story

“A successful COFUND project requires a team with four pillars: researchers, research managers, administrative facilitators and NCPs.”

**Organisation name:** Middle East Technical University (METU/ODTÜ)

**Organisation type:** Higher education organisation

**Country:** Türkiye

**Project Acronym:** ENRICH-TOGETHER

**Project start and end date:** 1.08.2023 - 31.07.2028

**Type of MSC action, Horizon Europe:** COFUND

**Is your organisation a coordinator?** Yes



# ENRICH-TOGETHER

Enriching the Green and Blue Transition Research and Training Network by Working Together through the New European Research Area

### What is your project about?

The mission of ENRICH-TOGETHER is to host the next generation of leading experts in the Green and Blue Transition field, translating radically new concepts to scientific, economic, technological and social impacts. This project bridges Green Deal and Blue Growth under an all-encompassing theme of Green and Blue Transition underpinning multiple EC priorities and Missions and almost all of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN.

### Why is your project important for society?

European and global society urgently needs new strategies to tackle environmental challenges in the 21st century. ENRICH-TOGETHER is based on a twin transition that fully embeds the blue economy into the Green Deal, as you cannot go green without blue! ENRICH-TOGETHER's vision is to encourage twenty post-doctoral researchers to excel in socially

responsible research on urgent global issues. These researchers will be equipped to detect and address future difficulties by working across disciplines and sectors. They will become ethically and environmentally responsible ambassadors disseminating and communicating their research results to policymakers and society through co-creation events, science cafes, podcasts, etc.

### What kind of support did you get?

We have communicated very closely with our National Contact Points since the start. Not only did they arrange a training for us, but they also answered our questions whenever we were confused. We got funded on our second try and we have to admit they were as sad and happy as we were when we first got rejected and then got funded. We cannot neglect to mention our institutional support. We have a great team of colleagues mobilising their expertise in accordance with the

diverse skillsets needed within a COFUND project.

## Do you have other successful projects under Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe?

Yes.

## What in your experience helped you to succeed?

METU has had more than 200 projects since FP5. This experience has created a robust environment where you can easily brainstorm with groups from various projects – ranging from consortium coordinators to CSA projects – and construct complementary ideas. This experience also enables you to bring together researchers from various disciplines and experts from dedicated administrative support offices to complete the puzzle pieces.

## How did you attract resources for the co-funding of your project?

TÜBİTAK – The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye – set forth a mechanism to co-fund the proposals of research-intensive universities of Türkiye accepted to receive funding from the European Commission. When our proposal was accepted to be funded by the EC, METU as a research-intensive university of Türkiye became eligible to benefit from this co-funding mechanism of TÜBİTAK.

## What tips can you give other organisations that would like to apply for MSCA?

Dear colleagues, please remember that communication is key! May it be within or beyond your institution. A successful COFUND project requires a team with four pillars: researchers, research managers, administrative facilitators and NCPs. Always be in close

communication with your NCPs. Assemble a team with complementary competencies matching the skills required within the proposal. And lastly, do not get frustrated if you get rejected, be resilient and jump back. Do not forget, practice makes perfect!

More information on the project:



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) support researchers at all stage of their career across all disciplines. The MSCA also support cooperation between industry and academia and provide innovative trainings and career developments.

The MSCA COFUND provides funding for regional, national and international programmes for training and career development, through co-funding mechanisms. It spreads the MSCA's best practices by promoting high standards and excellent working conditions.

The MSCA-NET project is the MSCA NCP project to facilitate the transnational cooperation to achieve a consistent and harmonised level of NCP support. The scientific community can also profit from our project to support their MSCA application.

