

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Sometimes it is not the first submission that succeeds.”

Organisation name: Research Centre for Natural Sciences

Organisation type: Public research organisation

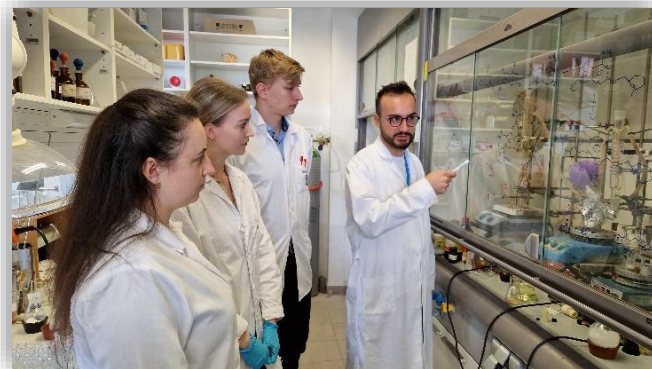
Country: Hungary

Project Acronym: ALLODD

Project start and end date: 1.09.2021 - 31.08.2025

Type of MSC action, Horizon 2020: Innovative Training Networks

Is your organisation a coordinator? No



What is your project about?

Our objective is to design new molecules targeting therapeutically relevant proteins specifically. Human proteins evolved to recognise their endogenous ligands. Since these ligands are used by multiple proteins, their orthosteric binding sites are often conserved. In contrast, proteins might have alternative sites for ligand binding. Our efforts are focused on identifying these allosteric sites and finding small molecules that can modulate the protein function.

Why is your project important for society?

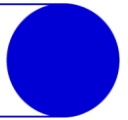
Allosteric modulation represents a novel mechanism of action that operates in the presence of the endogenous ligand. This maintains endogenous physiological signalling but provides advantages for its modulation. Allosteric ligands might have higher potency due to the lack of competition with endogenous ligands, and they can be more selective because allosteric sites are less conserved across protein families. Thus, allosteric modulators can be considered a new generation of more effective and safer drugs with a

lower probability of target-related and off-target mediated side effects. We communicate these advantages through science education and science awareness events for the wider community.

What kind of support did you get?

We have received all relevant MSCA ITN materials in advance from our NCP, and the training courses they organised were useful. These events provided a unique opportunity to meet with successful applicants and also for an informal exchange of related information. The other key point was our consortium leader and her organisation which provided all the technical help needed to complete the proposal. In addition, intensive discussion with the consortium partners and the active contribution of their NCPs was beneficial. Finally, we received valuable feedback from the evaluators. All of the above was seriously reflected upon when re-submitting the proposal for the second, now successful round.

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



What in your experience helped you to succeed?

Our first successful ITN project was coordinated by a consortium leader with significant experience in MSCA projects. Since we had a long-standing relationship with this organisation, they helped us and our organisation with the application, the project execution phase and the final report. This extremely useful learning curve made our organisation more professional in the application and project implementation within the MSCA framework.



How did you find the partners in your consortium?

Some of the consortium members were already our collaborators, while others were approached by the consortium leader. The main drivers of the consortium were the complementary expertise, international reputation and previous collaborative experience.

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

Having specific knowledge and experience to attract partners, developing international collaboration networks in your field, learning from case studies and success stories, applying for national sources to support the preparation of the proposal (travelling, meetings, preliminary experiments, etc.), and intense communication with your NCP can help

a lot to apply for an MSCA call successfully. Our experience taught us that sometimes it is not the first submission that succeeds.

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 Innovative Training Networks (ITN) support competitively selected joint research training/ doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs from different countries across Europe and beyond.

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.

