

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“You need a great project and great researchers, but this is not all!”

Organisation name: University of Malta
Organisation type: Higher education organisation
Country: Malta
Project Acronym: PsyCoMed
Project start and end date: 01.01.2023 – 31.12.2026
Type of MSCA, Horizon 2020: Staff Exchanges
Is your organisation a coordinator? No

What is your project about?

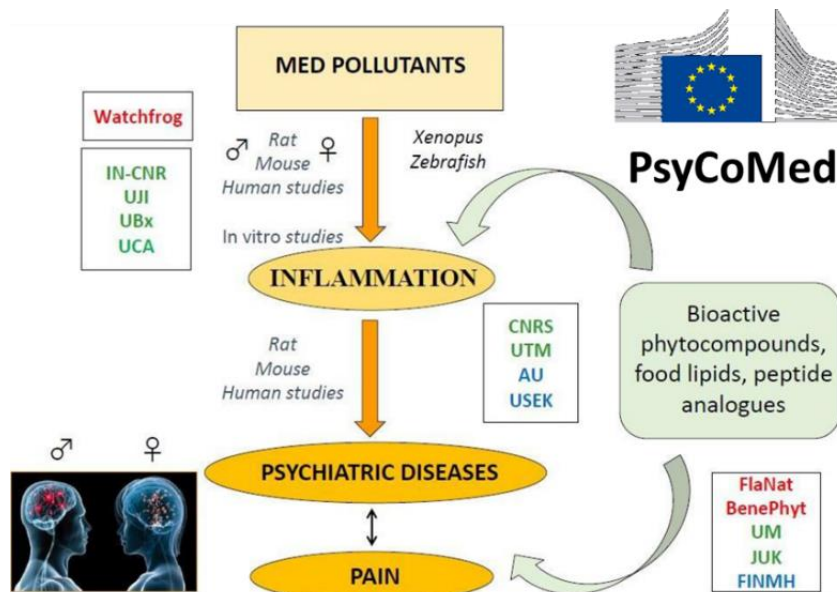
The **Psychiatric disorders and Comorbidities** caused by pollution in the **Mediterranean Area (PsyCoMed)** project aims to examine the role of anthropogenic pollutants, including microplastics and agriculture pesticides, in the Mediterranean area as a risk factor for neuropsychiatric disorders and associated pathologies. The project will attempt to correlate the effects of pollutants with alterations of inflammatory pathways in animal models and psychiatric patients. Neural mechanisms and natural substances with therapeutic potential will also be investigated.

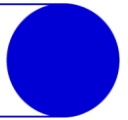
Why is your project important for society?

The partners working on the project will conduct research training activities. At a societal level outside the scientific community, PsyCoMed will act in three directions: (1) decreasing avoidable mortality, (2) raising consumer awareness, and (3) improving policies and decision-making. PsyCoMed will also focus significantly on promoting sustainable development in Mediterranean countries.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

Communication activities will aid in raising awareness and delivering research results in an understandable way to different target audiences. Communication and public engagement strategies include but are not limited to, the creation and maintenance of a PsyCoMed website, newsletters, media activities, social





networks (Twitter), open science discussions and societal outreach.

What kind of support did you get?

The project is an initiative of Bordeaux University, Prof. Marc Landry and the Support Office at the University.

How did you find the partners in your consortium?

We are a part of the Mediterranean Neurosciences Society of which I am currently the President.

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

The assistance provided by the Support Office of the coordinator was crucial during the application process for the MSCA grant. You need a great project and great researchers, but this is not all!

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 Staff Exchanges (SE) funds short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of staff members involved in research and innovation activities with the aim to develop sustainable collaborative projects between different organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in 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.

