

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Involve a group of partners that you trust and that will bring unique perspectives and skills.”

Organisation name: Jožef Stefan Institute
Organisation type: Public research organisation

Country: Slovenia

Project Acronym: FoodTraNet

Project start and end date: 1.05.2021 – 30.04.2025

Type of MSCA, Horizon 2020: Innovative Training Networks

Is your organisation a coordinator? Yes



What is your project about? The overall goal of the project is to provide high-level intersectoral training in new and emerging techniques including mass spectrometry for food quality, safety and security to a new generation of early-stage researchers (ESR). FoodTraNet will empower them with a range of analytical, technological, decision-making, translational and leadership skills necessary for thriving careers in a burgeoning area that underpins innovative technological development across a range of diverse disciplines essential to meet future needs of academia, industry and regulatory bodies in 21st century.

Why is your project important for society? Ensuring food safety, quality, and security has never been more complex than it is today, and it will be increasingly challenging in the future. By empowering a new generation of researchers with state-of-the-art tools and interdisciplinary skills, the project contributes to the creation of a safer, more sustainable, and nutritionally sound food supply for society.

What communication and public engagement measures have you

foreseen? The strategy emphasizes tailoring communication methods to distinct target groups, including industrial stakeholders, the research community, policymakers, and the general public. The combination of online platforms, educational resources, public talks, and social media presence ensures a multifaceted and inclusive approach to disseminating FoodTraNet's activities and research outcomes.

What kind of support did you get? During the application process, we benefited significantly from the expertise of WRG Europe Ltd., a company with a proven track record in securing MSCA grants. Their guidance and insights based on past experience with similar applications were instrumental in refining our proposal and ensuring its alignment with MSCA requirements. Access to pertinent research materials, databases, and scholarly networks further fortified our application, allowing us to substantiate our proposal with a strong foundation of relevant literature and data.

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

What in your experience helped you to succeed? Our success in securing this European project can be attributed to a combination of factors that synergistically contributed to the strength of our proposal. Firstly, the generation of innovative ideas within the consortium laid a solid foundation. The expertise and assistance provided by WRG Europe Ltd. were pivotal; their dedicated efforts in proposal writing, drawing from their experience with other grants, significantly enhanced the quality and coherence of our submission. Moreover, the ability to effectively align our ideas with the specific requirements of the call showcased our understanding of the project's broader context. Lastly, the hard work and dedication invested by most involved parties.

How did you find the partners in your consortium? First, we define the objectives of the project, its main aim and the specific requirements of the call. Then we investigate the relevant expertise of partners that we already know from joint collaboration on other projects. Partners for the project were also selected through the [METROFOOD-RI](#) community.

How did you find your fellow? There was an open call to apply for the ESR position for specific topic. After screening, 434 applications met the Marie Skłodowska-Curie eligibility criteria and were eligible according to the ESR status and the mobility rule. For the ESR selection process, Selection Committees were appointed and tasked to provide a shortlist of 3-10 candidates for each position. The selection criteria were based on applicants' ability and potential, as evidenced by their CVs, motivation letters, and interviews. Criteria for the final decision included relevant scientific skills and knowledge, demonstrable motivation, and communication skills. After the interviews the selection committee selected the most appropriate candidate.

What tips can you give other organisations that would like to apply for MSCA? Here are some suggestions:

- Involve a group of partners that you trust and that will bring unique perspectives and skills.
- Clearly define the research objectives and methodologies. A well-structured proposal with a strong research plan enhances the project's credibility and feasibility.
- Emphasize the innovative aspects of your project. Highlight how your research contributes to advancements in the field and addresses current challenges or gaps in knowledge.
- If possible, consider seeking support from professionals or organisations experienced in securing MSCA grants.

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.

