

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“If you fail the first time, do not get discouraged; failure is a part of success - try again!”

Name of the fellow: Kyriacos Georgiou
Country of the host: Cyprus
Project Acronym: SYZEFXIS
Project start and end date: 01.04.2023 - 31.03.2025
Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Postdoctoral Fellowship



What is your project about?

My project aims to study how organic semiconducting materials, namely materials rich in carbon and hydrogen atoms, could become more photo-stable when they strongly interact with light. This class of materials is currently being used in a range of technologies such as LEDs, solar cells and transistors. Finding a way to manipulate their photophysical functionalities could contribute towards increasing their operational stability and efficiency.

Why is your project important for society?

We live in a fast-growing society with energy needs increasing rapidly. Efficient and stable optoelectronic devices with low fabrication cost and carbon footprint (such as solution-processed organic optoelectronic devices that are suitable for the so-called 'disposable electronics market') are at the forefront of current research. Sustainable solutions to tackle environmental problems like global warming are needed now more than ever. The SYZEFXIS project aims to contribute in this regard by introducing new approaches with the use of quantum optics for the design, fabrication and characterisation of photonic structures that can enhance

the performance of organic semiconducting materials.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

Public engagement is part of the project's activities with an aim to communicate this work to the wider research community and the public via science blogs, articles in newspapers, science magazines, University open days and participation in science festivals.

Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

One of the main reasons that I have chosen Cyprus as the place to pursue my proposed research project is the well-equipped photonics and solid-state-physics laboratories established at the Physics Department of the University of Cyprus.

Moreover, I was born and raised in Cyprus but I spent more than a decade

studying and working abroad, and therefore I felt that it would be nice if I could return to Cyprus and continue conducting my research at a local university.

How did you find your host organisation?

Initially, I looked for information online, e.g. research group websites, to check the available research facilities because my project is experimental and I need specialised equipment. By doing this, I could find potential supervisors and directly contact them. It was also useful that I already knew someone doing a research fellowship at the host university and by speaking to them I could gather useful information about the host university.

What kind of support did you get?

I believe that the proposal writing guidelines provided on the European Commission's website are what every applicant should start with. This proposal template document includes all the required information needed for the proposal with a well-explained proposal structure.

Additionally, I was lucky to have access to one successful proposal to see how other people tried to communicate their idea. The University of Cyprus has a Research and Innovation Support Services team that is always willing to assist with proposal writing tips, comments and suggestions. There are also National Contact Points in Cyprus that can assist applicants and provide them with useful information.

What tips can you give other researchers who would like to apply for MSCA?

I would like to encourage more people to apply for MSCA, all you need is a nice research idea, determination and passion about what you do!

It is important to discuss your initial idea with friends and colleagues because they can help you develop and improve the idea. Start writing your proposal early, then revise it, and afterwards get as many people as you can to read your proposal and give you their feedback. Last but not least, if you fail the first time, do not get discouraged; failure is a part of success - try again!

More information on the project:



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

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) enable talented researchers to work on project in Europe and beyond. They aim at enhancing the innovative potential of postdoctoral researchers through advanced trainings, international and intersectoral mobility.

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.

