



Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Remember that you are not working on a scientific paper to be submitted to an academic journal.”

Name of the fellow: Michail Karambinis

Country of the host: Cyprus

Project Acronym: GlaSpeRG

Project start and end date: 11.10.2023 – 30.09.2025

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Postdoctoral Fellowship

What is your project about?

GlaSpeRG is an analytical study of one of the most spectacular groups of Roman cultural performance, namely the gladiatorial games, beast-fights and other associated spectacles, in the Eastern Mediterranean. The fellow will use the geographical area of modern Greece as a case-study and will approach the phenomenon of the presence of these new, for the Greek-speaking East, spectacles, through the lens of the urban and economic developments that occurred in the cities of the area under investigation during the Roman period. This synthetic method will certainly fill a gap in current work on the diffusion of these kinds of spectacles in the provinces of the Roman Empire, as has been acknowledged by many experts.

Why is your project important for society?

GlaSpeRG will affect the perception of modern society towards the gladiatorial and associated spectacles, making clear that they were something more than ‘bloodthirsty games’: they embodied the Roman military ethic of valour, courage, discipline and readiness to face death; values which have also influenced the ethics of the modern ages.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

GlaSpeRG’s communication strategy predicts a variety of activities, including press releases in social media, twitter and/ or facebook accounts, presentations and lectures in Cyprus, Athens and Skyros island (Greece). It targets a wide group of people including students, early-stage researchers and non-specialised general public in Cyprus, Greece and Europe. Some of the communication activities will affect the aforementioned target groups beyond the duration of the project (e.g. releases on social media).

Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

With more than 7,000 students, 113 research laboratories, and 820 faculty researchers and staff members, the University of Cyprus (UCY) is a young and rapidly expanding university. UCY endorsed the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter&Code) in 2010 and has implemented the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R). UCY is also one of the 10 young universities within the European University Alliance “The Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE)”. UCY has implemented a large number of research projects funded by

the European Commission, the National Research and Innovation Foundation, and several public and private research organisations. In 2021, research funding from external sources reached €27 million. UCY is currently participating in 375 projects. There are 198 EU-funded projects under Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Justice, LIFE, COST Actions and Interreg programmes. UCY ranked 1st among all organisations from the 27 Widening countries in securing funding in the “Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation” pillar of Horizon 2020.

How did you find your host organisation?

Through my current supervisor, who was also a member of the committee of my PhD thesis.

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

Having a concrete plan is key. Dissemination of research is also very important. Remember that this is a two-way transfer, so do not just think about what the host institution can do for you, think also about what you can contribute and what your experience can offer to the host institution. While writing your proposal, remember that you are not working on a scientific paper to be submitted to an academic journal. In case of failure, resubmit; use the remarks of the reviewers.

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 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.

