

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Create a balanced consortium, ideally based on previous collaborations.”

Organisation name: Masaryk University
Organisation type: Public university
Country: Czechia
Project Acronym: CONQUES
Project start and end date: 01.05.2021 – 30.04.2025
Type of MSCA, Horizon 2020: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
Is your organisation a coordinator? Yes



What is your project about?

The project aims to carry out the first interdisciplinary and integrative study of Conques – a unique site of cultural heritage in Southern France. Combining expertise from art history, history, anthropology, music and performance studies, digital technology, and visual studies, the team composed of 6 European and 2 American institutions, investigates the major stages in the medieval construction of Conques in order to re-write the story of the 19th- and 20th centuries “re-invention” of the European Middle Ages.

Why is your project important for society?

The project combines interdisciplinary scholarly expertise and technological advancements to increase the awareness and engagement of the general public with regard to the outstanding cultural heritage of the past as a way of understanding the present.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

The project (broadly advertised using printed as well as social media) will produce not only scholarly outputs, but also a series of guidebooks, public lectures, and audio-visual outputs for broad audiences. Moreover, understanding the roots of our world – including nationalistic excesses – is essential to building a new Europe.

What kind of support did you get?

During the preparation of the project proposal, we highly benefitted from the know-how of the Research and Development Offices at Masaryk University, the Technology Centre in Prague, other successful candidates in the Czech Republic and abroad, and from our own previous experience with the preparation of projects for Horizon Europe calls.

Do you have other successful projects under Horizon 2020?

Yes, an Individual Fellowship in Horizon 2020: Demarginalizing Medieval Georgia: History of Art History between Colonial Perspective and Nationalist Appropriation (1921–1991).

What in your experience helped you to succeed?

What definitely helped us to succeed in the H2020 Individual Fellowships call was our previous experience with the preparation of a project proposal within the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange funding scheme. We especially benefited from our previous communication and dissemination project strategies, as well as from our know-how regarding the integration of a broader European context into individual research questions.



How did you find the partners in your consortium?

The selection of project partners (European beneficiaries as well as American partner organisations) was based on previous scholarly encounters with the individual principal investigators and their research teams, either at various scholarly events or within long-term collaborations established between the institutions.

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

- Create a balanced consortium of academic/ non-academic partners, ideally based on previous collaborations;
- Start negotiations about a common project proposal sufficiently ahead of time (ca 1 year prior to the submission deadline);
- Create a realistic plan of secondments;
- Make sure that your partners are highly committed to the proposed project.

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 Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) promotes international and cross-sector collaboration through exchanging research and innovation staff, and sharing knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa).

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.

