

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Partner with experts and communicate clearly.”

Organisation name: Institute of Catalysis, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Organisation type: Public research organisation

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Project Acronym: CHemPGM

Project start and end date:

01.10.2021-30.09.2026

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe:

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

Is your organisation a coordinator? No



What is your project about?

The CHemPGM project is dedicated to exploring the chemistry of Platinum Group Metals (PGMs), crucial for the European Union's supply chain security. It involves an international network in chemistry, material science, and metallurgy, aiming to advance knowledge in these areas. The project is significant for scientific advancement as it contributes to understanding precious metals, essential for technological growth and aligning with global sustainability objectives.

Why is your project important for society?

CHemPGM holds substantial societal importance by supporting sustainable development goals set by the United Nations Organisation and the European Union. It promotes circular economy principles in industries and enhances professional skills in PGMs' chemistry and sustainable processes. The project impacts European and global innovation, research, and environmental sustainability, which is

essential for a balanced ecological and economic future.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

CHemPGM employs a multifaceted communication strategy targeting professional sectors, academia, and global stakeholders. It focuses on disseminating research and innovations, as well as enhancing organisational expertise through multidisciplinary collaboration. Key efforts include public education about sustainable PGM recovery that aims to broaden understanding and drive future sustainability practices.

What kind of support did you get?

During the application process, our team relied on the competent opinion of National Contact Points (NCPs) in our country, which provided valuable guidance and support. Additionally, we formed consortia with other experienced applicants and utilised various guidelines to ensure a comprehensive and successful

application. This collaborative and informed approach was key to navigating the application process effectively.

Do you have other successful projects under Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe? Yes:

H2020 ERA-MIN3: Microwave enhanced recovery of REEs and plastic from WEEE and re-use in Additive Manufacturing of novel magnetic components (MW4REMAM); ITHACA (EU H2020, COST Innovators Grant): Innovative and sustainable Technologies for reducing critical raw materials dependence for Cleaner transportation Applications; COST Actions: CA18112 Mechanochemistry for Sustainable Industry-Mech@SustInd and CA15102 Solutions for Critical Raw Materials Under Extreme Conditions-CRM-EXTREME.



If yes, what in your experience helped you to succeed?

Our success stemmed from forming versatile consortia with complementary competencies and roles, ensuring each partner contributed effectively. Our

consortium's prior experience provided a solid foundation. Additionally, regular Info Days organised by NCPs offered crucial insights into new calls, with their support and responsiveness being invaluable throughout the process.

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

1. Partner with experts.
2. Consult NCPs.
3. Build diverse consortia.
4. Align with EU goals.
5. Communicate clearly.

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.

