

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Early preparation is crucial; adhere to guidelines, seek insights from experienced peers.”

Organisation name: Harokopio University of Athens

Organisation type: Higher education organisation

Country: Greece

Project Acronym: EO-PERSIST

Project start and end date:

01.01.2023-31.12.2026

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Staff Exchanges

Is your organisation a coordinator?
Yes



What is your project about? EO-PERSIST project establishes a dynamic collaborative research and innovation environment through staff exchanges, knowledge sharing, and know-how transfer in order to deliver a pioneering contribution on permafrost studies in the Arctic. It harnesses existing services, datasets, and emerging technologies from a wide range of disciplines to achieve: (a) the development of a consistently updated ecosystem featuring Earth Observation (EO)-based datasets tailored for permafrost applications, (b) methodological advancements in permafrost research by capitalising on the vast volume of remote sensing (RS) datasets and (c) the generation of indicators directly linked to socio-economic impacts arising from permafrost dynamics.

Why is your project important for society? The project is crucial for gaining a better understanding of the physical parameters impacting Arctic climate and potential socio-economic impacts of climate change in those environments. With a decline of 95% in the oldest Arctic ice since 1985,

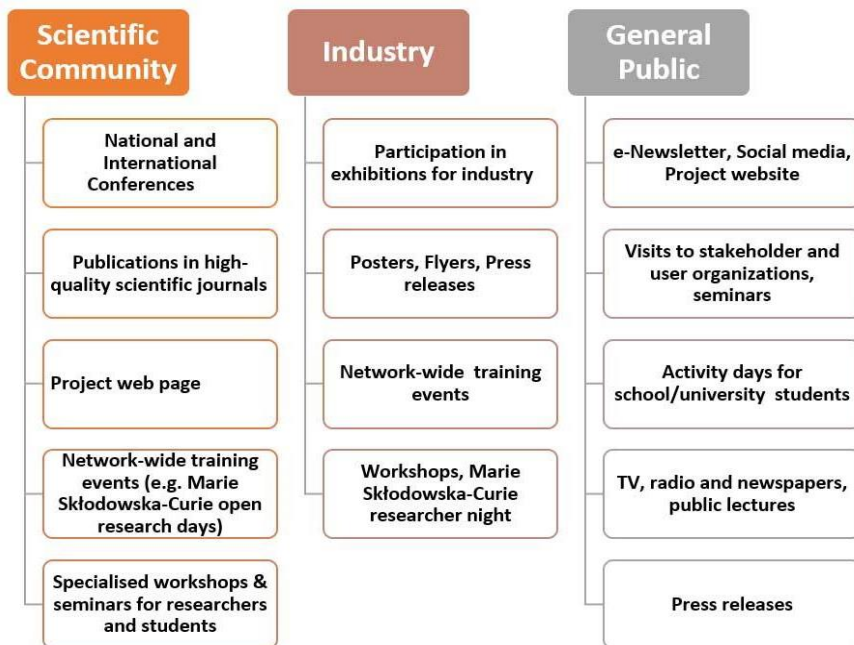
understanding permafrost dynamics is critical.

What kind of support did you get?

During the application process, our project received valuable support and guidance from multiple sources, enhancing the robustness of our proposal. Key contributors to our success included collaboration with other successful applicants. Engaging with other successful applicants allowed us to gain valuable insights into the intricacies of crafting a competitive proposal. Also, knowledge-sharing sessions facilitated a deeper understanding of the evaluation criteria and best practices. Another important aspect is guidelines and programme documentation, as well as thoroughly studying the official guidelines and programme documentation provided by MSCA. These materials served as a roadmap, ensuring that our proposal adhered to the programme's objectives. Last but not least, the added value of the communication and feedback received from the National Contact Point (NCP) during the proposal preparation was invaluable.

How did you find the partners in your consortium? The consortium includes 4 academic institutes, 1 research institute, and 5 companies across 7 countries. The EO-PERSIST consortium evolved organically through our professional network and recommendations from partners with shared interests. By leveraging our professional network and receiving recommendations from partners with common ground, a core international partnership was formed.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?



What tips can you give other organisations that would like to apply for MSCA? Early preparation is crucial; initiate the process well in advance, allowing sufficient time for comprehensive planning, partner identification, and proposal development. Set clear project objectives, aligned with MSCA goals and emphasise innovation, societal impact, and Horizon Europe priorities, to enhance the competitiveness of the proposal. Regular engagement with a multidisciplinary team and close NCP

communication, is essential for insights and programme-specific guidance. Showcase the project's potential impact on research, innovation, and society, emphasising alignment with MSCA objectives. For MSC actions - adhere to guidelines, seek insights from experienced peers, and cultivate knowledge and collaborations.

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.

