



Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Be persistent—if you don’t succeed on the first try, use the feedback to strengthen your proposal and apply again.”

Organisation name: Yildiz Technical University

Organisation type: Higher Education Organisation

Country: Türkiye

Project Acronym: ECO-SPHERE

Project start and end date: 1.01.2024 – 31.12.2028

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: COFUND

Is your organisation a coordinator? Yes

What is your project about? ECO-SPHERE is dedicated to supporting research in sustainability and the circular economy through an innovative postdoctoral fellowship programme. Our goal is to bring together talented researchers to address some of the most important environmental challenges such as reducing waste, conserving resources, solving energy issues, and tackling climate change. This project is not about pushing the boundaries of science, it is about creating real solutions that lead us toward a more sustainable future.

Why is your project important for society? ECO-SPHERE is essential for society as it directly addresses critical environmental issues affecting everyday life, from waste reduction to resource conservation and climate action. By advancing research in circular economy, the programme aims to create real-world solutions that benefit communities, economies, and ecosystems alike.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen? To maximise impact, ECO-SPHERE actively engages with the public through educational events, partnerships with local organisations,

and digital platforms. These efforts help raise awareness, foster community involvement, and share valuable insights into sustainable practices that everyone can adopt, making sustainability accessible and practical for all.

What kind of support did you get? During the application process for the ECO-SPHERE programme, we maintained close communication with our National Contact Points, who provided detailed guidance on the requirements and procedures. Their expertise helped us to overcome the complexities of the application. We also benefited from the international relations office of our university, with a dedicated team of colleagues. Additionally, we benefited from the comprehensive guidelines to align our proposal with the expected criteria. Furthermore, we applied for TUBITAK's reviewer support programme, which provided critical feedback to enhance our application. This collaborative approach strengthened our application and increased our chances of success in this competitive environment.

How did you attract resources for the co-funding of your project? To attract co-funding for our programme, we actively engaged both industrial and

academic stakeholders. We successfully obtained support from TUBITAK, Türkiye's top research council. This achievement shows the project's merits, as TUBITAK funding is highly competitive.

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

Get in touch with your National Contact Points from the start - they offer invaluable guidance. Don't hesitate to seek feedback from previous successful projects to understand what works best. Build a team with diverse skills, as collaboration is essential.

Focus on addressing real societal needs and demonstrating impact.

And most importantly, be persistent - if you don't succeed on the first try, use the feedback to strengthen your proposal and apply 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 supports cooperation between industry and academia and provides innovative trainings and career developments.

The MSCA COFUND aims to stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

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.

