

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Read the call carefully. Prepare your project well in advance.”

Name of the fellow: Paola Lucero-Gomez

Country of the host: Czechia

Project Acronym: SMARTMUS-e

Project start and end date:

01.08.2023 – 31.01.2026

Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe:

Postdoctoral Fellowship

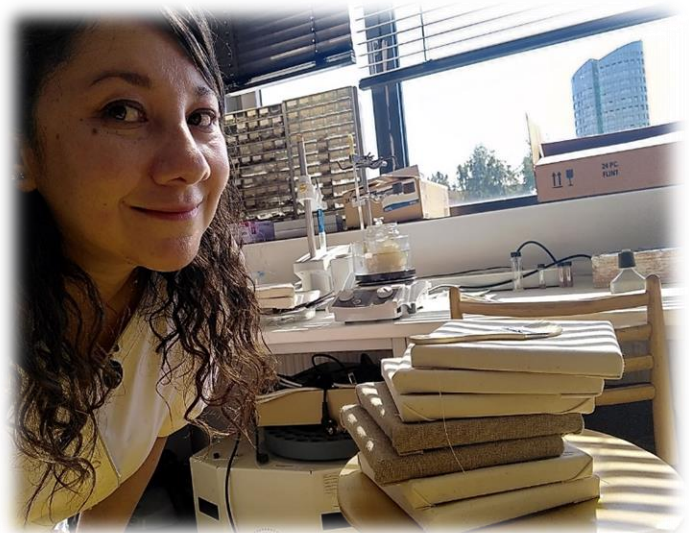
What is your project about?

The control of thermo-hygrometric indoor conditions in museums has as its purpose the preservation of cultural collections. Nevertheless, the current paradigm widely implemented in environment control in museums is very restrictive as regards set points for Temperature (T) and Relative Humidity (RH) conditions. A solution to this is the creation of a methodology correlating actual chemical degradation in artworks to environmental indexes, which is the main objective of our project.

Why is your project important for society?

By generating new data on materials degradation and their resistance to T and RH fluctuations, SMARTMUS-E will contribute to a shift in the currently prevalent notion about what is considered a “safe” environment for artistic collections, in this way leading to lower consumption of energy and economic resources in air conditioning. We expect to impact national and international bodies, so they allow a more flexible approach to the control of T and RH in museums.

By creating projections of the consequences of extreme periods of climate in art conservation, SMARTMUS-E will raise society's



awareness of how artistic materials conservation will become more and more difficult and expensive, as climate change's effects become more apparent.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

Communication tasks are addressed to 3 target groups: citizens, conservation professionals and/ or scientists and museum administrators.

Activities:

- Conference for the general public in each partner museum,
- Organisation of an initial workshop for the training of professionals in each partner museum,
- Creation of a webpage for the project,
- Creation of a forum for professionals in conservation on the webpage,
- Submission of 2 scientific articles
- Participation in related scientific meetings,

- Creation of a database with T and RH records of museums.

How did you find your host organisation?

I was already working at Palacky University.

What kind of support did you get?

While I was working in Italy, I attended three seminars for preparation of MSCA projects (organised by the University in English).

A friend I work with shared with me two successful project applications and I received another application from the French hub.

The grant manager of Palacky University shared with me some slides with general recommendations.



Do you have a non-academic placement within your project? If you do, what is the purpose of the placement?

Yes. With a non-academic placement at Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice the project aims to reach as many potential end users in top rated museums as possible for the developed methodology and to train these professionals in the application and interpretation of its results via two bimestrial workshops.

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

Read the call carefully, know what the goals of the programme are. Prepare your project well in advance (at least two years before the closing of the call). Establish contact with hosts and partners and explain what you expect from them during the project and make a careful evaluation of costs.

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.

