

## Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Selecting a research topic that elicits genuine passion is the key moment of your MSCA application.”

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**Country of the host:** Greece  
**Project Acronym:** OLIMED  
**Project start and end date:** 01.11.2022 - 31.10.2024  
**Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe:** Postdoctoral Fellowship



### What is your project about?

My project examines factories and mills constructed during late 19th century in the Greek islands of Crete & Mytilini, and in the Turkish regions Ayvalık, Edremit, & Izmir. The study extends beyond World Systems Theory (addresses the industrial decline after the introduction of European industrial products). It evaluates modalities and limitations of incorporation into global economy by focusing on olive oil production in terms of adaptability, complementarity, and competition within the period's economic framework.

### Why is your project important for society?

Through comprehensive documentation and meticulous recording of buildings and machinery of extant 19th century factories, the project holds substantial societal value for the preservation of the industrial and cultural heritage of the regions examined. It contributes to enhancing awareness of the industrial/ agricultural legacy of olive oil production and may facilitate its valorisation as cultural heritage by local authorities and/ or civil society organisations, with significant

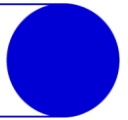
implications for education (visits by local and regional schools) and tourism.

### What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

A series of public lectures in various venues, such as museums and cultural centres, as well as articles in a popular magazine dedicated to olive tree and olive oil industry development, are planned.

### Why did you choose a widening country as a host?

The host institute was optimally positioned for my project (scientific resources, logistical considerations and location). It has departments pertinent to the subject (Ottoman history, Mediterranean and Global Economic and Social History, and History of Technology), allowing one to both conduct research and engage with experts.. The institute also has a rich



background in hosting EU projects, including both MSCA and ERC projects. In essence, I opted for a host institute operating within a widening country.

### How did you find your host organisation?

It is a renowned institute in social sciences, and I was previously made aware of its reputation through the international conferences it organised and its scholarly publications.

### What kind of support did you get?

During the preparation of my proposal, the application manuals and guidelines proved highly beneficial, providing detailed explanations. In addition, I received assistance from colleagues who had previously prepared successful projects. I maintained consistent communication with the administrative staff of the host organisation, who fostered a supportive and encouraging environment. Furthermore, my supervisor closely monitored the application process and contributed valuable feedback on my application proposal.



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

For me, selecting a research topic that elicits genuine passion is the key moment of your MSCA application. Upon identifying such a topic, both the

application process and the grant implementation process become more engaging and yield greater productivity.

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.

