

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Have at least two other partners that are committed to the proposed project so that together you can create a strong “core”.

Organisation name: Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas

Organisation type: Public Research Organisation

Country: Greece

Project Acronym: neuronsXnets

Project start and end date:
1.09.2021 – 31.08.2025

Type of MSCA, Horizon 2020:
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

Is your organisation a coordinator? Yes



What is your project about?

The brain’s massively interconnected neuronal networks use advanced forms of learning to make robust inferences about the world in an energy-efficient manner. NeuronsXnets aims to improve our understanding of neural circuit function and identify the organisation and communication principles during stimulus encoding, information transfer between areas, and learning. A long-term objective is to integrate these findings in next-generation AI, optimised for higher levels of cognition.

Why is your project important for society?

Functional connectivity analysis has proven valuable for shedding light on the mechanisms of information processing and integration across brain areas, while anomalous patterns of functional connectivity have been linked to neurological and psychiatric disorders. Causal analysis and manipulation of neuronal ensembles

identified in the process could help set the foundations for understanding the principles of multi-neuronal information processing.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

Public Engagement measures include a web page and a linkedin page, participation in open science events, European Researchers’ Night events, and MSCA information sessions.

What kind of support did you get?

The NCP in Greece offered valuable advice during the application process. They were responding promptly and in detail to our questions. Colleagues at FORTH with similar projects provided great tips about the funding framework and proposals. We are grateful to all of them. The guidelines and the online materials were also helpful.

How did you find the partners in your consortium?

From our extensive network of colleagues and collaborators.

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

- Ensure secondments are of sufficient training duration;
- Focus on interdisciplinarity and innovation impact;
- Enhance impact by “linking” it to local activities, infrastructures, centres;
- Review the guidelines carefully;
- Start preparation early (6 months before the deadline);
- Have at least two other partners that are committed to the proposed project so that together you can create a strong “core”;
- Include established companies and leading experts;
- Highlight the importance of the proposed research for the European Union;
- Ensure sufficient representation from EU countries.

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 support cooperation between industry and academia and provide innovative trainings and career developments.

The MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) promotes international and cross-sector collaboration through exchanging research and innovation staff, and sharing knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa).

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.

