

Widening Country Inspiration Story

“Consider which members have the potential to become secondees.”

Organisation name: Silesian University of Technology
Organisation type: Higher education organisation
Country: Poland
Project Acronym: OptiQ
Project start and end date: 1.01.2023 - 31.12.2026
Type of MSCA, Horizon Europe: Staff Exchanges
Is your organisation a coordinator? Yes



What is your project about?

The OptiQ project explores quantum technologies in telecommunications, simulation, computation, security, and foundations. We design efficient entangled photon sources for quantum repeaters and develop an AR-enhanced simulator for optical circuits. Our novel quantum classification method uses tensor fields. Bell's inequality experiments with human participants will yield insights into quantum tech and the philosophy of science, potentially impacting photonic-based systems and image processing.

Why is your project important for society?

This project offers a unique opportunity to build and integrate a team focused on quantum technology, involving researchers from various university departments and our partners. Several PhD programmes have been initiated as a result. Our collaboration with Dnipro University of Technology and University of Luxembourg has been highly productive and is expected to lead to new Horizon Europe proposal submissions.

What communication and public engagement measures have you foreseen?

We have also undertaken communication activities, including meetings with companies and politicians (such as at the Polish Embassy in Luxembourg), organising competitions, and delivering project-related lectures at our university. Additionally, we participated in events like the European Researchers' Night and Schrödinger Cat Day and promoted the project through our Quantum Information Scientific Circle.

What kind of support did you get?

We relied on the guidelines given in the application documents and our experience. We also received support from the Regional Silesian Contact Point.

Do you have other successful projects under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe?

Yes.

What in your experience helped you to succeed?

Having gone through all phases of the project lifecycle, we knew the main peculiarities of MSCA Staff Exchanges projects, in particular the significance of the secondees and secondments for the success of the proposal.

How did you find the partners in your consortium?

We have collaborated with some partners before, while others were introduced through existing connections. Our initial contact with the Ukrainian partner (Dnipro University of Technology) came via personal contacts and their participation in a Poland-Ukraine cooperation seminar at our university. University of Luxembourg joined after the project began, thanks to our communication efforts.

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

- Focus on a research topic you wish to implement;
- Do not forget that in MSCA Staff Exchanges the implementation of the research is always through mobility (secondments);
- Consider which members have the potential to become secondees;
- Do not expand your consortium beyond the size which you consider appropriate for the research planned: with too much partners you might end up lost in administrative procedures instead of successfully implementing your research idea through exciting mobility experiences.

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.

