

MCAA Annual Conference

Widening participation in MSCA

Sandra Vidović, Agency for Mobility and EU
Programmes

Vienna, 24th February 2019

www.mariecuriealumni.eu



Net4Mobility+ project

- Recommendation for Widening Countries' MSCA NCPs
- Aim is to analyze the participation of the Widening Countries in MCA /MSCA and make the final recommendation on what instruments can be introduced to be more successful in H2020

<https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/widening-countries/>



Net4Mobility+

Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community

Deliverable 4.1
Recommendations for Widening Countries' MSCA NCPs

Task 4.1 MSCA participation analysis
Issued by: Nóra Jeney, NKFIH (HU)
Issued date: 30 November 2018
Work Package Leader: NKFIH (HU)

 NMM+ project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement No 785632

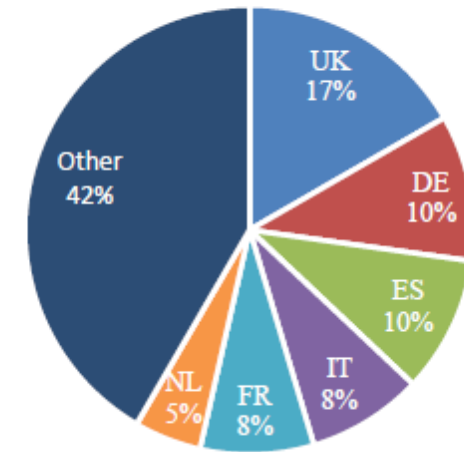
Participation of Widening countries in FP

- Comparing FP7 and H2020 – 60% of the Widening countries are lagging behind FP7 average pace or show worse performance in MSCA
- Number of ITN coordinators still stays extremely low in H2020
- Share of Widening countries in MSCA budget – decreased for the period 2014 -2017
- EU 13 countries receive **3,9%** of the total MSCA funding
- All 27 widening countries receive **6,6%** of MSCA budget

Widening participation

- All 27 Widening countries scored 15,6% as destination countries for long term mobility
- Widening countries have significantly decreased the % of fellows from their own nationality, but have increased the % of fellows from EU 15 and TC

Top 10 Destination countries H2020



Widening participation - Croatia

In detail, the number of the organisation participations and the budget awarded to them, as well as the number of researcher mobilities involving these organisations:

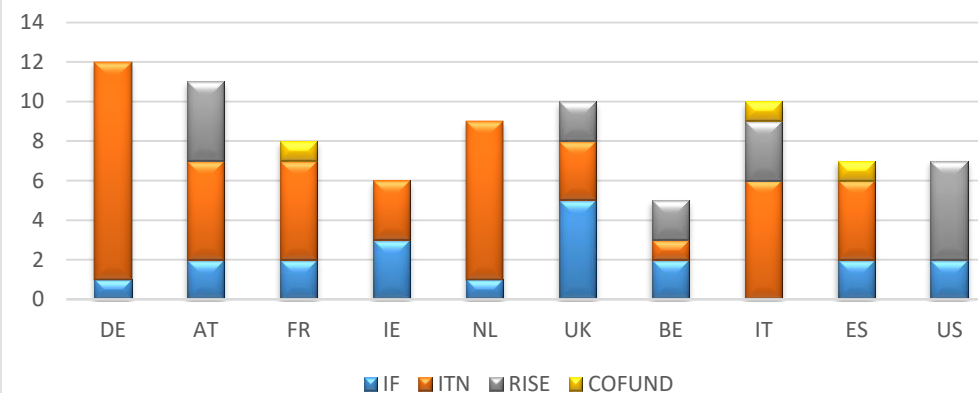
| Action | Number of Participations of HR organisations* | EU contribution (in EUR million) to HR organisations | Number Of Projects | HR researchers involved | Researchers going to HR organisations |
|---------------|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| COFUND | 1 (1) | N/A | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| IF | 2 (-) | 0,33 | 2 | 22 | 2 |
| ITN | 15 (2) | 4,54 | 13 | 52 | 10 |
| NIGHT | 20 (-) | 0,43 | 2 | N/A | 0 |
| RISE | 10 (-) | 1,07 | 6 | 29 | 32 |
| Total: | 48 (3)** | 6,37 | 24 | 108 | 44 |

* Number of Participations is the number of participations by organisations i.e. the total number of times that organisations in this country have participated in each action.

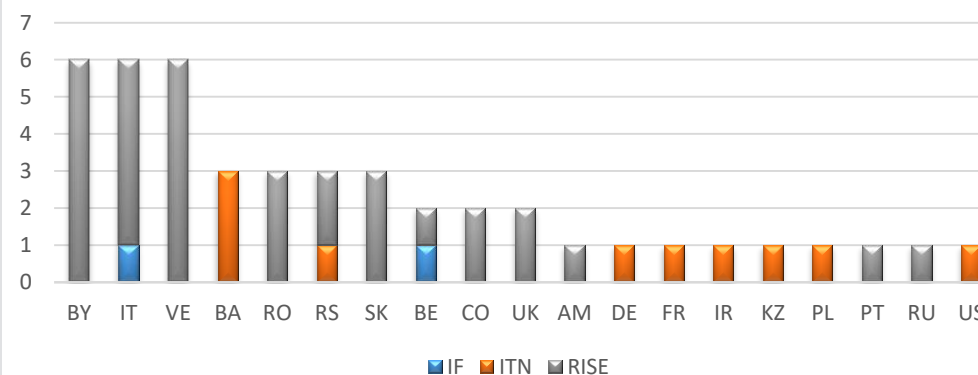
**In brackets - partner organisations (included in the total number).

Source: EC MSCA Croatia Factsheet, last refresh date 5/12/18

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS OF CROATIAN RESEARCHERS



FOREIGN RESEARCHERS COMING TO CROATIA



Barriers to FP participation

Structural

- Lack of national strategy and vision
- Not appropriate level of national funding to enhance FP participation
- Lack of leading universities and research organisations
- Low researchers salaries
- Lack of up-to-date research infrastructure
- Low involvement at European and international level
- Accessibility and attractiveness of Structural Funds

Organizational

- Lack of professional and administrative support
- Low level of professional English, personal competence and capacity
- Lack of funding to initiate international meetings and enhance international collaborations
- Low success rates in FP
- Difficulties to get into a good consortium
- Perception of high administrative burdens of FP projects

- In most Widening countries there is no national strategy or action plan for the participation in MSCA
- Good practice in some countries: national grant for proposal preparation, financial support for project with score above 85%, funding for preparatory meetings, conferences, workshops, etc

Net4Mobility+ Strategic Recommendations for NCPs

1. Initiate and contribute to develop a national action plan for mobility of researchers: cooperation with national stakeholders (ministries, funding agencies, universities, research institutes, business sectors); improving and promoting research conditions
2. Establish closer cooperation with thematic NCPs, policy makers and other FP/H2020 related networks (EEN, EURAXESS, MCAA)
3. Multiply/decentralise the NCP work – contact regional/local offices/institutions and spread information on FP/H2020/MSCA
4. Increase number of staff/experts responsible for MSCA or helping the MSCA NCP work by providing more professional advice/trainings for the researchers and host institutions

Net4Mobility+ Practical Recommendations for NCPs

1. Organisation of regular meetings with the management level of research organisations/universities
2. Organisation of cross-border regional info days and B2B meetings/brokerage events with the participation of industry
3. Organisation of targeted meetings /workshops/ trainings with MSCA fellows/beneficiaries
4. Organisation of trainings/workshops for the administrative personnel of research organisations/universities – preparing supporting materials on financial and administrative management of MSCA in national languages
5. Organisation of webinars on H2020/MSCA
6. Participation in knowledge-exchange activities (e.g. twinning sessions including more experienced MSCA NCPs) to learn from the national NCP system, share experience and best practice

MSCA Individual Fellowship – Widening panel

- Budget from Work Programme part 15: Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation:

| 2018 budget | 2019 budget | 2020 budget |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 5 million EUR | 6 million EUR | 7 million EUR |

- The award criteria, scoring and threshold for MSCA apply
- The MSCA-IF model grant agreement and the unit costs applicable to MSCA-IF will also apply to the Widening Fellowships.
- Applications to the 2019 call for MSCA Individual Fellowships, where **the host organisation is located in widening country**, is automatically transferred in Widening fellowships in case their proposal is not funded in the regular MSCA-IF call

MSCA IF call 2018
33 funded researchers in
Widening countries

Researchers are **not**
considered as MSCA
Fellows

Maybe COFUND widening
fellowships?

Future implementation of
Seal of Excellence?

Thank you!