

Net4Mobility⁺



Net4Mobility+

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

MSCA Success Stories from Organisations in Widening Countries

Task 4.4 Effective MSCA promotion

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Host organization: University of Plovdiv

Country: Bulgaria

Organization role: Beneficiary/ Task leader

Project Acronym: ELBA

Project start and end date: 2018-01-01 to 2021-12-31, ongoing project

Type of MSC action, H2020: ITN

Your story:

Project objectives and research field:

ELBA educates early stage researchers with the skills in developing of liquid biopsy approaches. The education programme includes training on state-of-the-art technologies and tools; bioinformatics, biostatistics and mathematical modelling; health economics and health technology assessment; diagnostic test development transferable skills and patient inclusion.

Tell us why the topic is important and/ or how it brings to advancement in your research field:

The scientific themes - the development, standardization and use of human diagnostic and prognostic approaches, based on genetic markers in a liquid biopsy, is new to us as well as to the Bulgarian scientific community. Since the ELBA research programme and educational curriculum covers the entire chain of diagnostics development and integrate all required disciplines and sectors, we believe that our early stage researcher and the whole team will be able to advance in that field, and later on to disseminate the acquired knowledge in the regional community. We think this will be possible thanks to the financial provision of the educational and research programme embedded in the project, the interaction between teams with diverse expertise in science and biotech companies, organized workshops, courses, secondment, etc.

Did you encounter any challenges during application/ implementation and did you get any help?

Difficulties arise from the fact that, according to the ITN programme, the early stage researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme at the Bulgarian host institution. Up to now, the University of Plovdiv has not taken a PhD student, the Academic Staff's Development Policy suffers from many uncertainties about how this PhD student can be trained and defend his dissertation thesis in English as set out in the ELBA project. A revision of the rules is currently being prepared in compliance with the new Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and several amendments related to the above-mentioned issue are being considered.