

Name of the MSC Fellow: Ondřej HORT

Nationality: Czech

Host organization: ELI Beamlines Project, Institute of Physics, Czech Academy of Sciences

Country of the Host: Czech Republic

Project Acronym: CHAMPAGNE

Project start and end date: 1 October 2018 – 30 September 2020

Type of MSC action, H2020: IF



Your story:

Project objectives and research field:

Coherent pulses of radiation in XUV spectral range (between ultraviolet and X-rays) are used as the main tool for various applications in atomic physics and physical chemistry. The widespread into other domains is limited due to the fact that those pulses are relatively weak and therefore difficult to use. My project objective is to develop a method of amplification to obtain much more powerful XUV pulses.

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

Success of my project will open new ways of using the XUV radiation resulting in access to new and unprecedented physical phenomena. Moreover, the current applications would benefit in terms of significant shortening of acquisition times making the measurements much less demanding.

What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?

The project enhances my career as it will broaden my expertise into the field of THz physics and deepen my knowledge in pump-probe techniques of XUV. As a principal investigator I will supervise post-graduate and master students improving my leadership skills. Moreover, I will acquire transferable skills as well.

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

The biggest challenge for me was to understand the H2020 nomenclature and administrative tasks. To get help with the writing, I visited few trainings and seminars on project preparation/proposal writing that helped a lot. I also get a scientific feedback and encouragement from my research colleagues.

Why did you choose a widening country as a Host? What was the reason that convinced you? What is making you professionally happy here?

The widening country hosting my project is my homeland where I return after 8 years abroad. I chose it to bring home my expertise and to take part in the newly established institute.

Would you recommend others to apply? What useful advice/ tips can you give them?

I would definitely recommend others to apply and I'm actually doing so. My best advice is to do submit a proposal because it's worthy to do it anyway and to attend various trainings on proposal writing/project preparation etc.