

# Net4Mobility<sup>+</sup>



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

### Success Stories from MSC Fellows Hosted in Widening Countries

Task 4.4 Effective MSCA promotion

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**Name of the MSC Fellow: Azra Frkatović**

**Nationality: Bosnian and Herzegovinian**

**Host organization: Genos**

**Country of the Host: Croatia**

**Project Acronym: IMForFUTURE**

**Project start and end date: 20.02.2018. – 20.02.2021.**

**Type of MSC action, H2020: ITN**



### **Your story:**

#### **Project objectives and research field:**

The main objective of the IMForFUTURE project is to develop high throughput and in depth methods for measuring glycomics (wet lab) and to develop advanced statistical methods for integrated analysis of multiple omics datasets which also address the measurement error structure of the datasets (data science).

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

Glycans are important structural and functional components of the majority of proteins, but because of their structural complexity and the absence of a direct genetic template our current understanding of the role of glycans in biological processes lags significantly behind the knowledge about proteins or DNA. There is a need for methods for robust and sensitive high-resolution measurement of glycans and for glycomic feature recognition. The new research horizon is integration of epigenomics, genetics, metagenomics and glycomics into systems biology. This project will provide new high throughput methods for glycomics, as well as new statistical methods for integrated analysis of multiple omics datasets.

#### **What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?**

Participation in MSC action has not only helped me in advancing my research skills and obtaining knowledge but has also offered many opportunities to further develop my transferable skills and work on self-development. I find that network meetings are an excellent way of bringing all network members together and giving them chance to actively work on their skills (networking, presentation, scientific writing, time and

project management, etc.) because they might not have opportunity or free time to do it once they are back in their hosting country. In the very beginning, we are encouraged to think about future perspectives of our projects and how they impact society but also our own future.

Research about genetics of protein glycosylation can give important insights into this very complex enzymatic process and may provide a novel therapeutic targets for various diseases.

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

I, personally, did not encounter any problem during my application as well as implementation, which might be due to the fact that I come from geographically but also culturally similar area which enabled me to easily communicate and fulfill requirements for the start of my project. I did not contact any of the NCPs.

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

Despite being a widening country, Croatia has many opportunities to offer and is becoming more advanced and highly competitive in the scientific world. Work in the field of glycobiology puts Croatia (Genos) in the same range as other developed countries (recognized institutions). I can see that there are many people who are constantly working and dedicating their time and resources into making Croatia more visible and that is what really inspires me to work hard and maybe one day go back to my home country and apply it there.

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

I would highly encourage young people who express interest in scientific research to apply for a project inside of MSC actions. It is one of the best ways to launch their career and improve themselves as scientists but also improve themselves as a citizens and future leaders. I advise them not to limit themselves and think they cannot succeed and end up with not trying at all. MSC actions do not look for a full package but for people who are willing to work and develop themselves throughout the project.