

Net4Mobility⁺



Net4Mobility+

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

Issued by: Gabriella Tchouprenska and Antoaneta Mateeva,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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Name of the MSC Fellow: Jelena Simunovic

Nationality: Bosnian

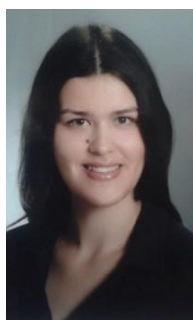
Host organization: Genos Ltd

Country of the Host: Croatia

Project Acronym: GlyCoCan

Project start and end date: 02 February 2016 – 31 January 2019

Type of MSC action, H2020: ITN



Your story:

Project objectives and research field:

GlyCoCan project covers research in fields of glycobiology, glycoimmunology and biomarker research. The main aim is to understand relationship between structure and function in glycosylation in colorectal cancer (CRC) and to find new potential diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers. My research is focused on evaluation of haptoglobin glycosylation as a biomarker for CRC diagnosis and prognosis.

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

Since it is known that glycans play different roles in biological systems, it is important to explore and broaden the knowledge in glycobiology field. One of the area to improve understanding of glycans role is, among others, cancer research. One of the cancers, which is curable if it is detected in early stages is colorectal cancer, but it is still the second most common cancer in Europe. Current diagnostic tools are invasive, for example a colonoscopy and unspecific such as fecal occult blood test, so there is a need for biomarker improvement and development for colorectal cancer.

What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?

This MSC action gives opportunity to project participants to experience various research and job environments like academia and industry. Academic and industrial partners are placed in different countries, which bring experience of living and working in diverse cultural environment, which contributes to your personal development, as well as to be a part of different research groups, striving for the same aim and collaborate together.

One part of the project is also dedicated to promotion of science among other scientific groups, as well as general public. Dissemination and outreach activities are challenging, but it is one of the benefits for early stage researcher career.

Training is a big part of ITN network and it is really important and helpful for early stage researchers in improving their skills and knowledge.

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

Bureaucracy is always a challenging part, especially in new country and finding accommodation for temporary period can be challenging, but with the help of the project manager and the NCP it is feasible.

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

During my master studies, I spend two months at Faculty of Pharmacy in Zagreb, which enabled me to experience research environment in Croatia, and I followed new opportunities to come back.

Connection between research and industry setting seemed really attractive and interesting environment to work. Lab work, learning new techniques and method development is part of the work I enjoy.

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

Definitely, it is a great opportunity to start your research career, have possibilities to broaden your knowledge through collaboration with other researcher groups, meet experts from your scientific field.

I can tell you that you can expect really dynamic PhD, a lot of moving and learning in new environments, and to experience that fully, just be open-minded and do your best and in the end you will notice your development as a person and as a scientist.