

Host organization: Eötvös Loránd University

Country: Hungary

Organization role: Beneficiary, WP leader, Task leader

Project Acronym: IDPfun

Project start and end date: March 2018 – Feb 2022

Type of MSC action, H2020: RISE



Your story:

Project objectives and research field:

Our project is in the field of computational biology/ bioinformatics and focuses on intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs): proteins and protein regions that are characterized by high conformational variability and interaction promiscuity. The project aims to drive the functional characterization of IDPs to a new level by leveraging the complementary expertise of 5 EU Member States and 3 Third country institutions in Argentina.

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

IDPs cover almost half of the residues in Eukaryotic proteomes. Growing evidence suggests that IDPs, interacting with multiple partners, are major players in cellular regulation and involved in numerous human diseases. Computational methods have contributed to the identification of IDPs from sequence and recently published curated IDP databases provide a starting point. However, functional knowledge of IDPs remains very limited.

Increasing understanding of IDPs will have tremendous benefits for many biomedical researchers working in more applied fields, providing molecular insights for inexplicable phenomena in human physiopathology. The development and implementation of standardized definitions for the various IDP types and the

dissemination to the scientific community will be beneficial for future technical improvements and references and will drive further research in the field.

What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?

The project creates a highly collaborative and fruitful environment that bolsters creativity and leads to ideas which can be then converted into further joint grant proposals. It enhances the quality, translation and impact of European research in a highly competitive and relevant area of biology by disseminating the results in international conferences and publishing its results in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, it supports and motivates young international researchers by organizing scientific meetings, workshops, conferences and training schools aiming to train a new generation of scientists in an interdisciplinary way. Through outreach activities, IDPfun contributes to raising the attractiveness of research careers in the bioinformatics sector and encourages young people to embark on this career path both in Europe and Latin America.

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

Yes, starting the implementation was very difficult. The funding scheme is very different from other grants, and there is a long learning curve for both the participants and the university administrators to make the grant work.

The NCP was very knowledgeable and helpful.

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

From a research perspective, definitely yes.

Advice: Make sure that your host institution thoroughly supports the grant application and is fully committed to its implementation.