

National Practices in Widening Participation and Strengthening Synergies

Impact of The New International Fellowship Mobility Programme for Experienced Researchers in Croatia – NEWFELPRO

February 6th and 7th 2018
Zagreb

About the project

- NEWFELPRO project proposal was submitted to the FP7-PEOPLE-2011-COFUND Call
- The tasks of the working group in question were to make recommendations for the national medium-term programme for financing postdoctoral researchers in Republic of Croatia within the existing and future financing/fellowship programmes for the period 2011-2015
- Fellowship project of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE) co-financed through the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration for the period from 2007 to 2013
- 100th Marie Sklodowska Curie COFUND and the first COFUND which has been implemented in Croatia and SEE region
- Duration: 1/1/2013 – 31/12/2017
- Total budget: 6.1 million EUR

About the project

Target groups:

- Young researchers - 4 to 10 years of research experience and
- Experienced (senior) researchers – over 10 years of research experience

Longterm goal:

- Enable qualified researchers to gather relevant international experience and to further develop international scientific networks

Longterm goals of the project

1. Internationalized Croatian universities' research in order to increase their competitiveness compared to best international research institutions
2. Gave impulse to an effective labor market for researchers in Croatia, connecting industry and universities, public and private research institutions and industrial laboratories
3. Enhanced knowledge transfer and preparation for better employment opportunities for researchers with special attention at SMEs innovative processes

Strategic goals of the project

- Provided a new impulse to the national research programmes for foreign researchers, encouraging **incoming mobility scheme** of experienced researchers (12-24 months)
- Facilitated additional mobility in the Croatian research community, increasing the participation of Croatia's researchers abroad through the **outgoing mobility scheme** (16-36 months);
- Encouraged top Croatian researchers living abroad to continue to build up their carriers in Croatia by enabling them to return to Croatia through **reintegration mobility scheme** (24 months)

Results

RESEARCH AREA	OUTGOING	INCOMING	REINTEGRATION	TOTAL
CHE	7	5	0	12
ECO	0	1	0	1
ENG	3	2	1	6
ENV	4	2	1	7
LIF	7	5	3	15
MAT	2	2	0	4
PHY	8	8	0	16
SOC	5	9	1	15
TOTAL	36	34	6	76

FELLOW GENDER BALANCE		
MALE RESEARCHERS	39	51%
FEMALE RESEARCHERS	37	49%

Outcomes

- developed a consistent support system within the Ministry and from Agency for Mobility and EU programmes (esp. the EURAXESS Service Centre)
- the learning process through the implementation proved beneficial to the subsequent managing of NEWFELPRO. A very insightful for future actions in the field of project management and project making in regards to the structures of the future beneficiaries from Croatia's side
- a much more autonomous and informed administrative support has been achieved in the Croatian host institutions with a steady influx of NEWFELPRO fellows from one call to another
- an empowerment of Croatian host institutions in the area of project management and, in particular, acknowledgement and introduction to specificities of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
- establishment of a more flexible set of procedures within the MSE as the new institutional memory created for future projects

Outcomes

- success in itself is larger knowing we had all three schemes and over 76 fellows within the programme
- all fellows in the reintegration scheme remain/ed successfully restarting their careers in Croatia, 25% fellows from the incoming scheme remained in Croatia and plan or have already gotten a steady work position, fellows in the outgoing scheme have returned to Croatia for the return phase of their implementation and plan on staying
- NEWFELPRO fellows have embarked on a project funding path upon gaining the necessary experience with NEWFELPRO: Croatian Science Foundation, Unity through Knowledge, CALT, European Research Council, Interreg, CNRS (France), EMBRC (France), MSCA IF, Fullbright

Impact

- Croatia has strengthened its visibility, quality of research and the overall R&D system
- Croatia has fully taken advantage of the opportunities COFUND provides for countries with lower R&D investment using it as an impetus for the overall system transformation
- NEWFELPRO and (hopefully) NEWFELPRO 2 set Croatia as the leader for this part of Europe when it comes to both mobility and financing of excellent science

Impact

- Croatia is still the only SEE country that implemented a MSCA COFUND programme - creating the additional value for the COFUND programme by empowering and motivating the potential applicants from neighbouring countries and countries of its region by organizing a string of workshops, presenting good practice, raising the visibility of the EU funded programmes and providing logistical and advisory support
- NEWFELPRO played an important role for the region which lacks mobility programmes and the effect Croatia has on the pre-accession countries as the bellwether

Impact

- Establishment of a traditional two day conference (June) with an aim to create a platform for an open dialog on public policies in the area of excellent science with a special emphasis on current framework programme and promotion of synergies of difference measures, activities and financial instruments.
- It presents a unique opportunity for member states with lower R&D intensity to lead the conversation and give input on their specific challenges and solutions
- Planned focus for this year's conference: Young researchers

Impact

- Preparation of Seal of Excellence programme in the total amount of over 4 million EUR for five years as an operation within European Social Fund. SoE will be awarded to incoming and Croatian researchers who applied to MSCA-IF calls and received over 85% in evaluation scores but did not get funded
- Preparation of European Researchers' Night project proposal for the current call (H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2018)
- Plans to implement similar programme of mobility for young researchers funded by the state budget

Impact

- Preparation and submission of NEWFELPRO 2 - results: 91 point, reserve list
- Adoption of an Action Plan for Mobility of Researchers 2017-2020
- Inclusion of MSCA values as inherent for the future programming period (Croatian position paper for FP9)
- Adoption of a set of measures aiming at empowering researchers for participation in Horizon 2020 programme: smaller grants for networking, training for transversal skills for administration and researchers themselves, attendance to the international conferences, project cycle management training, preparation meetings with project partners etc. Measures will be in implementation starting 2018 with a budget of almost 1 million EUR with a planned annual increase until 2020.



Thank you!

