

# UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GRANTS WEEK

## MSCA Panel Discussion

Venue: Valletta campus / Online

Date: July 6, 2021

### Panel Members

**Dr. Konstantinos Makantasis (IF)**

**Dr. Aitana Radu (ITN)**

**Prof. Vasilis Valdramidis (ITN)**

**Prof. Helen Grech (MSCA programme)**


**Ms Lili Kankaya, MSCA National Contact Point**

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Meet our confirmed MSCA  
Panelists for this year's  
Grants Week and find out  
more about their  
background and work.



Name of the MSC Fellow: Dr. **Konstantinos Makantasis**

Nationality: Greek

Host organisation: Institute of Digital Games, University of Malta

Country of the Host: Malta

Project Acronym: TAMED

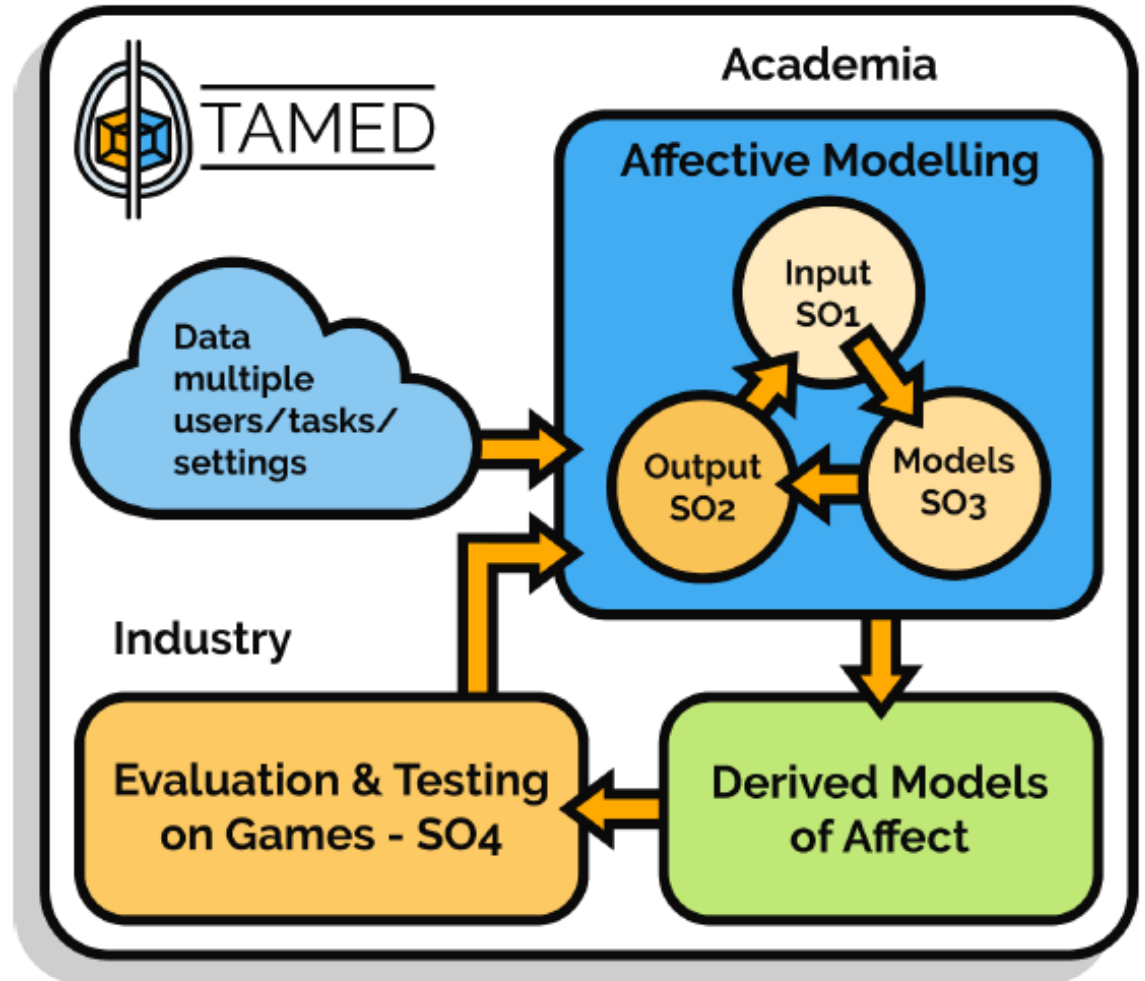
Project start and end

date: 01 July 2020 –

30 June 2022

Type of MSC action H2020:

IF – Widening Fellowship



Name of the MSC Fellow: Dr. **Vasilis Valdramidis**

Nationality: Greek

Host organization: University of Malta

Country: Malta

Organization role: beneficiary

Project Acronym: **Predictive mOdelling  
Tools to evaluate the Effects of Climate  
change on food safeTy and spoilage  
(PROTECT)**

Project start and end date:

April 2019 – March 2023

Type of MSC action: H2020 ITN



Name of the MSC Fellow: Dr. **Aitana Radu**

Nationality: **Romanian**

Host organization: University of Malta

Country: Malta

Organization role: beneficiary

Project Acronym: **Evolving Security**

**ScienceE through Networked  
Technologies, Information policy And  
Law (ESSENTIAL)**

Project start and end date:

January 2017 - 31 December 2021

Type of MSC action: H2020 ITN



**Questions?**

## Discussion Points for Konstantinos:

- *1. What made you want to apply for an MSCA IF?*
- *2. What was your experience in preparing your proposal?*
- *3. What should a successful relationship between the researcher and supervisor look like?*
- *4. What should proposers look out for?*
- *5. Any other tips for MSCA applicants wishing to embark on this adventure?*

## Discussion Points for Vasilis and Aitana:

- 1. *How was your project idea initiated?*
- 2. *What makes a winning MCSA ITN consortium?*
- 3. *How was the proposal writing process managed?*
- 4. *What are the tips and tricks which make a proposal successful?*
- 5. *How is the project being managed?*
- 6. *What has your experience been so far in your project? Any particularities you would like to share?*



## Discussion Points

- ***Career development question: MSCA fellowship is designed to significantly add to the career development of the fellow. What should the fellow expect to achieve in terms of career development?***

## Discussion Points

- *Planning of the **secondments** and training for MSCA fellowship: Involvement of **non-academic** sectors in the training of researchers.*

## Discussion Points

- *Bottom-up ideas for **curiosity-driven research** as the basic MSCA principle - when basic research and excellence come together, it is inevitable that one stumbles upon useful discovery.*

## Discussion Points

- *Intersectoral/interdisciplinary dimensions of the MSCA application.*

### Key features

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Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)



Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Attractive working and employment conditions



Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes



Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

## Discussion Points

- *How Marie Curie Actions contribute to solving societal challenges faced by **Small Member States in Europe**? How do we address the issues of infrastructure and capacities of small EU states?*
  - ➔ link between human potential and small states research infrastructures and the quality of mobility.

# STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WIDENING COUNTRIES IN

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

## How are Widening countries

performing and what can they offer ?

While organisations throughout the 27 Widening countries currently participate in MSCA, there is a lot of untapped potential with many high-quality MSCA proposals not funded due to a lack of budget

Many high-performing universities and research institutes in Widening countries are ready to partner with organisations right across the European Research Area in MSCA projects, ranging from participating in an ITN or RISE network to hosting an individual fellow (IF)

BULGARIA | CROATIA | CYPRUS | CZECH REPUBLIC | ESTONIA | HUNGARY | LATVIA | LITHUANIA | LUXEMBOURG

## Why is the European Union

Supporting Widening countries?

To **SUBMIT** better quality proposals  
**STRENGTHEN** their ability to attract funding  
**REDUCE** the Research and Innovation gap in Europe



ALBANIA | ARMENIA | BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | FAROE ISLANDS | GEORGIA | FYR MACEDONIA | MOLDOVA

## WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

### EU FUNDING

Additional possibility of funding for proposals to Widening countries that are not funded through the MSCA Individual Fellowships call.

#### WIDENING FELLOWSHIPS

- In addition to those funded under the IF call, around 35-40 Widening fellowships are awarded each year to researchers applying to undertake their fellowship in a Widening country
- No restrictions on nationalities
- Implemented under the Spreading excellence and Widening participation part of Horizon 2020
- Budget:

2018: € 5M  
2019: € 6M  
2020: € 7M

### NATIONAL FUNDING

The European Commission is encouraging Member States to invest national or European Structural Funds money in high-quality MSCA proposals to be implemented in their countries:

#### SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

high-quality label awarded to all non funded Individual Fellowship proposals scoring 85% or more.

Widening countries which have introduced **national programmes** to fund Seal of Excellence recipients:

- Slovenia funds MSCA-IF proposals scoring 90% or more
- Cyprus funds MSCA-IF-SEF proposals scoring 90% or more
- Bulgaria funds MSCA-IF-EP-RT proposals scoring 90% or more
- The Czech Republic funds MSCA-IF-SEF proposals scoring 70% or more
- Lithuania funds MSCA-IF proposals scoring 70% or more

## Net4Mob

The Net4MobilityPlus F... the European Commission network of National Co...

Widening countries:

- to strengthen their ca...
- researchers, collabora...
- with activities and too...
- proposal stage,
- to raise the quality of

#### Tools:

- Success stories of org...
- fellows hosted in Wid...
- Expressions of Interest...
- organisations in Widen...
- Short country profiles...
- countries
- Documents related to...
- countries' participatio...
- Documents helping

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Obrigado  
Danke!  
Merci!  
Thank you!  
Gracie!  
Gracias!  
Ευχαριστώ!

MSCA doctoral fellowships  
from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe

