

MUNI

# MSCA Fellowships at MUNI

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MUNI

# CONTENTS

**Submitted and awarded MSCA-IF/PF at MU in H2020 and HE**

**Support of MSCA-IF/PF proposal preparation at MU**

**Exploiting synergies – Horizon Europe and OP J.A.C.**

**MSCA-PF Plans for 2020...**

# AWARDED MSCA-IF/WF GRANTS

## MSCA-IF-2015

[OBESOGENES](#), Adamovský (Bláha), SCI (Recetox) – LIF\*

## MSCA-IF-2017

[ANCESTRAL](#), Marek (Damborský), SCI (Recetox) - LIF

## MSCA-IF-2018

[QuinADAR1](#), Quin (O'Connell), CEITEC - LIF\*\*

[DEEPLARNRBP](#), Alexiou (Blažek), CEITEC – LIF\*\*

[PulEd-MS](#), Codling (Klánová), SCI (Recetox) - LIF\*

## MSCA-IF-2019

[LanguageOfDNA](#), Šimeček (Alexiou) - CEITEC – LIF

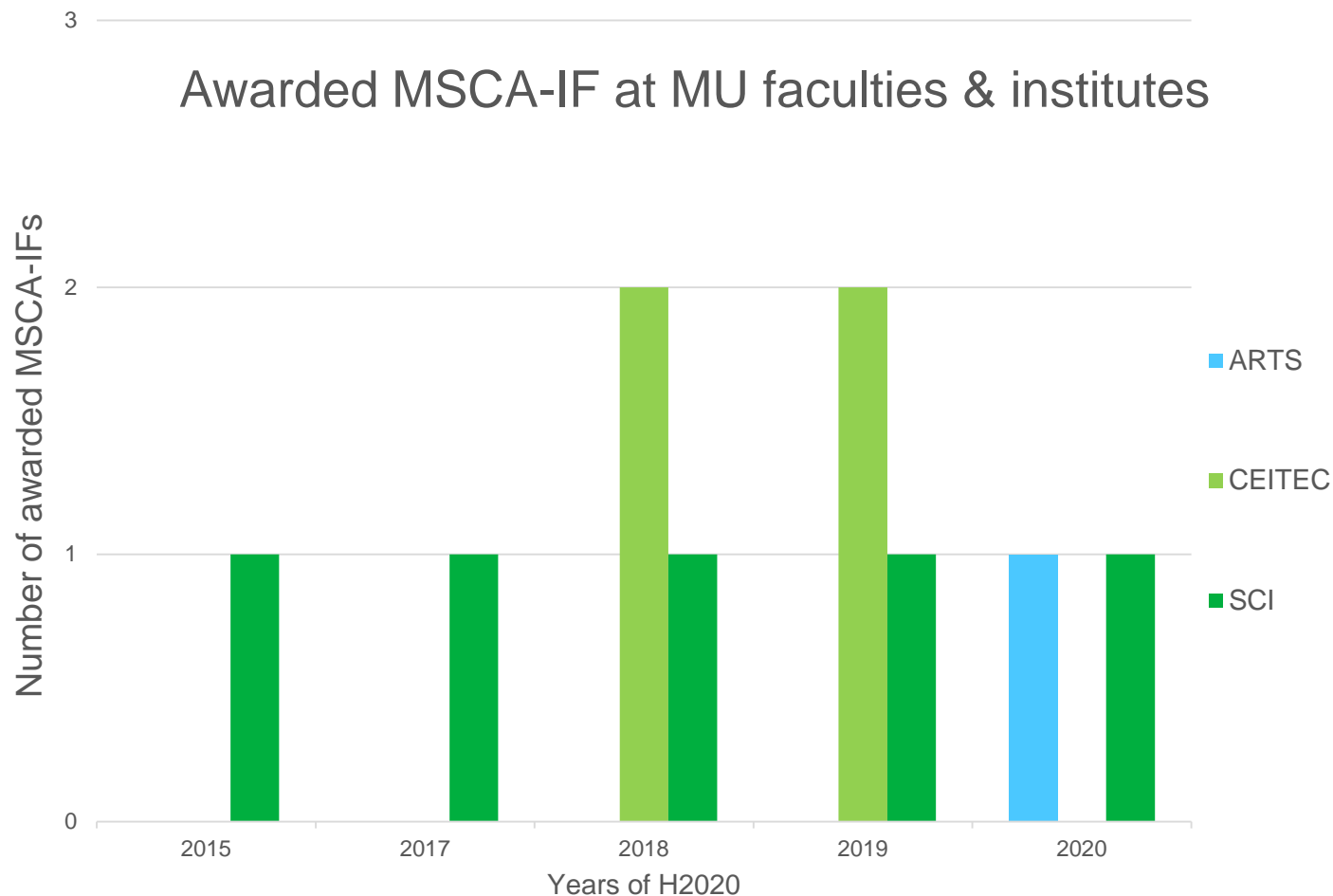
[ITRABAE](#), Verma (Robert-Boisivon) - CEITEC – LIF

[INFERNO](#), Navrátilová (Klánová) - **SCI (Recetox) - LIF\*\***

## MSCA-IF-2020

[DeMGeo](#), Filipová (Foletti) – FF – SSH

[SpecSpiderVenom](#), Michálek (Pekár) – PŘF – LIF\*



# SUBMITTED MSCA-IF/PF PROPOSALS

Total number of proposals: **86 / 110**

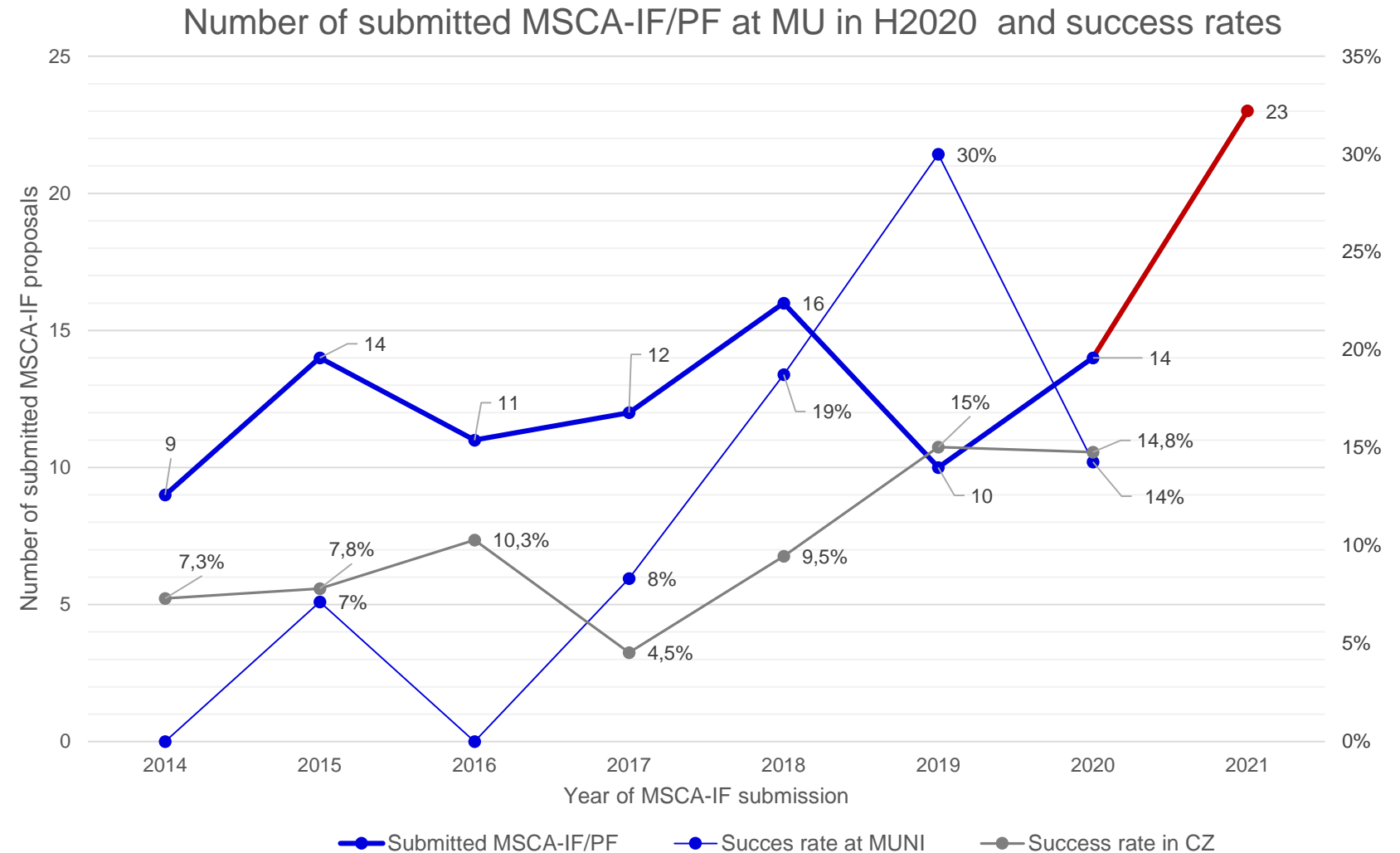
Number of proposals in HE: **23**

Yearly average in H2020: **12.2**

MU average success rate: **9.3%**

National average success rate: **9%\***

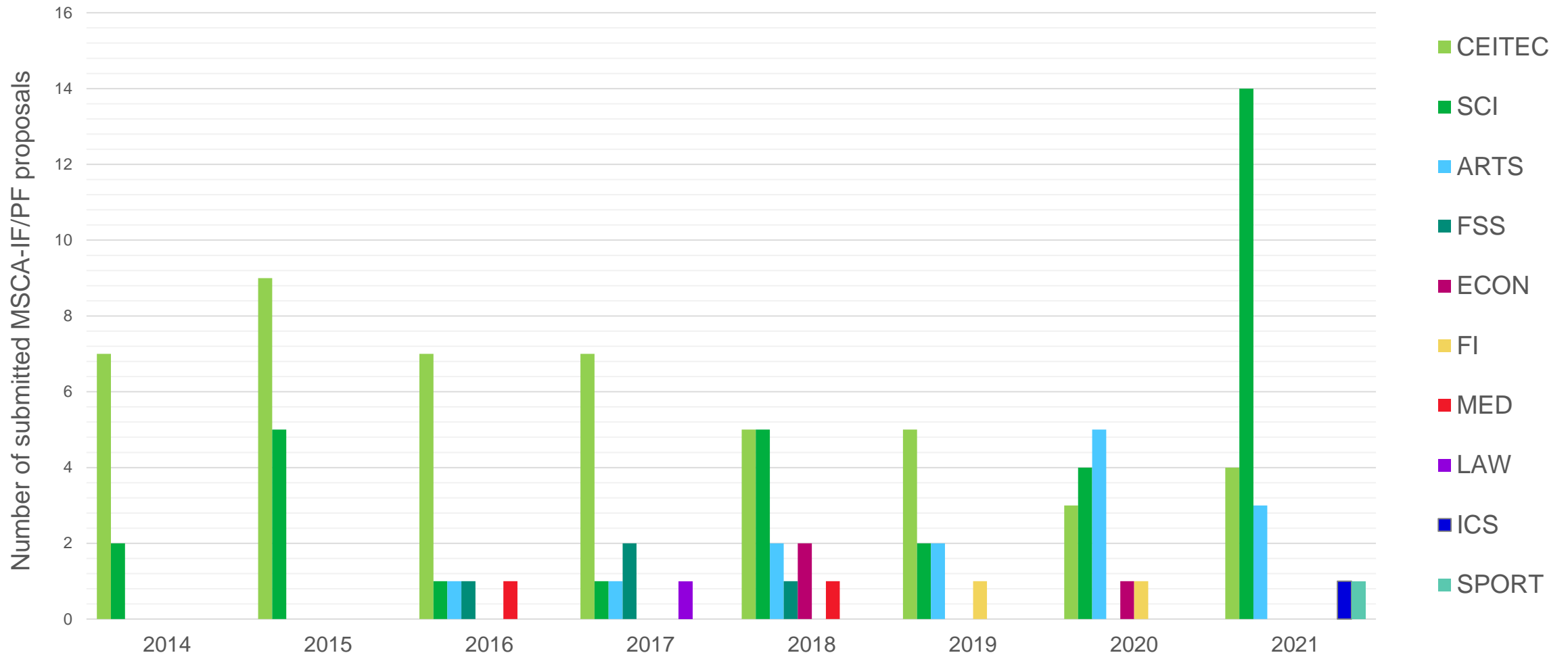
European average success rate: **15%!\***



\* Based on datasets of Technology Centre AV ČR

# SUBMITTED MSCA-IF/PF PROPOSALS

Submitted MSCA-IF/PF proposals at MU faculties & institutes



# MSCA-PFs submitted to/from MUNI in 2021

FACULTY	INCOMING	OUTGOING	GLOBAL
ARTS	3	1	
CEITEC	4		
FSS		1	
ICS			1
MED		1	
<i>RECETOX</i>	4	2	1
<i>SCI</i>	9		
SPORT	1		
<b>Total MUNI(28)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total CZ</b>	<b>151</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>MUNI %</b>	<b>13.9%</b>		<b>15.3%</b>

# H2020-MSCA LESSONS LEARNT

- The number of both **proposals and projects** is pathetically **low** for a university with our ambitions

...still low, but not that „pathetically“

- We have **failed to promote** effectively the MSCA-IF scheme and ...

The promotion seems to deliver first results...

- failed to **overcome the imminent barriers – reservation** of researchers to international funding; their **limited options to attract** international postdocs (offering a good contract, good deal)

Spreading information on MSCA OP JAC seem to diminish the reservations

# **MSCA-PF PREPARATION SUPPORT**

**MSCA-PF Information seminar**

**MSCA-PF WORKSHOP** (*introduced in 2018*)

**MSCA-IF Sessions with Supervisors** (*piloted in 2020*)

**MSCA-IF Individual grant writing & consultations**

**MSCA-PF Sharing & Feedback Workshop**

*(piloted in 2021 – at IOCB and MUNI)*



# HE-MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

## Goals & new (OP JAC) perspective

- Overall **DIRECT** Goal – To increase **funding for postdocs** – regardless whether it is national, or international
- Overall **INDIRECT** Goal – To increase our **researchers' engagement** in international grants
  - Anyone can be a good MSCA-PF **applicant**
  - Anyone can be a good MSCA-PF **supervisor** in all of its stages
    - Anyone can be a good **consultant** of MSCA-PF proposals

# Who is the MSCA-IF for?

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) are dedicated to improving the career prospects of researchers in Europe

- MSCA-IFs support **Experienced Researchers\* (ERs)** undertaking mobility between countries
  - **European Fellowship** = it is held in **EU Member States (MS)** or **EU Associated countries\*\* (AC)**; duration between **12 and 24 months**
  - **Global Fellowship** = in a **TC (Third country)** with a following mandatory return period (**any EU/AC organisation**); duration **12/24 + 12 months**

# Basic statistics of the MSCA-IF-2019 call

SUB-SCHEME	Submitted		Withdrawn	Inadmissible	Ineligible		Above threshold	
MSCA-IF-2019-EF-ST	7706	78,0%	18	8	78	1,01%	5868	77,2%
MSCA-IF-2019-EF-CAR	458	4,6%	2	4	12	2,62%	314	71,4%
MSCA-IF-2019-EF-RI	655	6,6%	1	1	6	0,92%	548	84,7%
MSCA-IF-2019-EF-SE	200	2,0%	0	1	3	1,50%	123	62,8%
MSCA-IF-2019-GF	856	8,7%	0	20	12	1,40%	661	80,2%
Grand total	9875	91,3%*	21	34	111	1,12%	7514	77,39%

## MSCA Widening Fellowship

... what is the issue?

## MSCA-PF Information seminar & MSCA-PF Seminar for supervisors

- **Widening Countries (WC)** = ranked below 70% of the EU average of the **Composite Indicator of Research Excellence** (excellence, applied outcomes, collaborations)
- They **apply less (for H2020)**, coordinate fewer projects, have a **higher share of rejected proposals**, and generally **do not attract the best researchers**
- This results in „Research & Innovation gap“ across Europe (namely EU-15 and EU-13 member countries, i.e. West-East divide)

## MAIN MESSAGES

- most usual sub-type of MSCA-IFs
- easy to apply – clear rules => no admission issues
- lots of high quality proposals => very **competitive**

MSCA-IFs' main objective is

**professional development** of a postdoc through conducting an innovative research project, and **customised trainings** under supervision of an advanced expert with a **complementary expertise**.

MSCA-IF is **NOT** solely a „research project“, but rather a project of **professional development** THROUGH conducting a specific research project.

This notion is crucial for you to prepare your proposal **appropriately!**

Did you know?

Interim evaluation of H2020 showed that the share of H2020 applications from EU-13 entities is **8.5%** (!) and remains relatively low compared to their share of the EU's scientists and engineers (**17%**). EU-13 entities had a lower success rate of applications: **11.1%** compared to 14.4% for the EU-15 and receive **only 4.4%** of the overall funding.

### WIDENING COUNTRIES

**Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, **Czech Republic**, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, Poland, **Portugal**, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

**Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Northern Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine

### EU-13 COUNTRIES:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, **Czech Republic**, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia





# Activity GC MSCA-IF – TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

- **GANTT CHART** is an elementary project management tool – it is a timeline of activities, no “rocket science”
- You have already defined your **WPs**, perhaps even **tasks**
- You have planned your **trainings**, your **dissemination and public outreach activities**
- Put it all into the Gantt chart – set it on a timeline
- Define key **milestones** of the project (not more than 3)
- Formulate **deliverables** of the project – usually a report, but specify its content

GANTT  
CHART

MSCA-IF  
PROJECT

YOURSELF

YOUR  
CAREER  
OPTIONS

## Section 3.1

MSCA-IF – TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

# MSCA-PF WORKSHOP

## Section 2.1

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

MENTORING  
&  
INTEGRATION

SUPERVISOR'S  
EXPERIENCE

OTHER  
RESEARCHERS  
OF THE HOST

HOST  
INSTITUTION  
ENVIRONMENT

NETWORKS

EXPLOITATION

### IMMEDIATE USERS

**Non-commercial** (academic, education, policies,...)

- What results can lead to further research? Who can be **immediate** users of your results?
- Why are the results important for your future career?
- How will it “kick-start” your career and foster your position?
- Why are the results important for your host (“beginning of a beautiful friendships...?”)
- Why are the results important for the scientific community?
- Why are they prospectively important for the society (end users)?

### Commercial

- Which of the results has got a potential commercial value?
- What is the path towards commercial exploitation (patent)?
- What kind of help can you get from your host?
- Could you include inter-sectoral secondment?

## Section B1.3

## Section 2.2



Lecturer /  
Facilitator

## MSCA-PF Sessions with Supervisors

Applicant  
A

Applicant  
B

Applicant  
C



# MSCA-PF Individual grant writing & consultations

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<b>WP1 – Enrich the study method (Months 1-12)</b>																									
Task 1.1								M1.1																	
Task 1.2			Secondment CNRS						M1.2																
Task 1.3												D1.1	D1.2												
<b>Identify the different communities of practice and modelling the transmission processes (Months 13-19)</b>																									
Task 2.1																		M2.1							
Task 2.2																				M2.2					
Task 2.3																				D2.1					
<b>WP3 – Compare inter-regional and inter-generational patterns of transmission (Months 20-24)</b>																									
Task 3.1																					M3.1				
Task 3.2																									
Task 3.3																								D3.1	

<b>Results communication, Dissemination and Exploitation</b>																									
Specific Outreach activities										O1								O2						O3	
Lectures			L1			L2																			
Website/Social Media	W1																								W2
Symposium/seminars												S1													S2
																									S3

<b>Project Management (MR=Mid-term Report; FR=Final Report; EV=Evaluation)</b>																										
Project Management	CDP+RMP					DMP+PEDR																				FR
Broader KIN Team Meeting																										EV
<b>Training</b>																										
Training-thought-Research	T1/T5	T2				T3				T2				T2/T6	T5+T4											T4
Transferable and soft skills																										T8

methodological innovative research project.

## 2.2. Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

Since the objective, as mentioned above, is to exploit the research results to set up a major interdisciplinary project, the two years of MSCA are also indispensable in this perspective. **The foundations of this major project must be laid from the outset by creating contacts and collaborations with academic institutions and research centers in Europe and beyond.** Potential poles of research which I would like to interweave ties with are the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale in Paris and the Rutgers University, NJ, in the USA. The dissemination of the project results is fundamental to create these synergies and will be guaranteed through the following outputs. **1) The publication of three articles** (see 3.1: GC D3.1-D4.1) to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals of high international quality and relevant to my research topics, ideally ranked in Q1 or Q2, such as *Art Bulletin*, *Early Medieval Europe*, and *Convivium*. Besides, in collaboration with CEMS I will organize **2) an international workshop in Brno, MU, “Lombardy in the Middle Ages as an Intersection: between East, West, North, and South”**, (see 3.1: GC W1). Among the invited scholars are envisaged M. Bacci, H. Kessler, F. Dell’Acqua, M. Rossi. The proceedings will be published as *Supplementum* of the peer-reviewed journal *Convivium* in 2023. Finally, so that the impact of my research may also reach a non-European audience, I intend to participate **3) to the Medieval International Congress in Leeds** (see 3.1: GC C1) **and to the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo** (see 3.1 GC C2).

## 2.3 Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences

As stated above, my project aims to produce a wide-spectrum impact, capable of creating bridges between today and yesterday, between historical and social disciplines, between science and politics, and between the academic and non-academic worlds. The measures I will take to communicate with the different target audiences are rich and varied and involve different media. **A) In the context of the series Středověc JinaX (the Middle Ages Differently), organized monthly by the CEMS for students of humanities (approx. 60 persons), I will deliver two lectures** on some of the macro themes of the project. Their working titles are “Lombard medieval artifacts as a place of identity construction” and “From Europe to Constantinople and back. The circulation of literary and visual themes in the Lombard space” (see 3.1: GC L2-L3). **B) Three are the main actions that I have planned in collaboration with the supervisor to reach a broader audience in the Czech Republic. 1) I will deliver a lecture at a widely popular institution Brno taking recourse to the Planetarium and Observatory** entitled “Female patronage. In the shadow of Theophano” (see 3.1: GC P1). This

I cannot see how this is connected to the project. I expect to read about some measure how to use a common workshop with relevant scholars from other institutions, lectures given there, and the dissemination of media of these universities... to the publication of three articles...

Ok, I understand now – when I read that you “dissected” it into exploitation / dissemination... and that was the “exploitation” But for exploitation it is again not very specific. You have introduced some plans in the previous section, but giving more details – what expertise, knowledge, people you want to address and combine and invite and specifically FEED them with your results would be much better.

By the way, we might mention IPR, too. Some reviewers take a missing IPR as an opportunity to put down points.

So a regular formula is that you do not expect results that can be commercialized, as well as no commercialisation of the knowledge (monograph, I do not know what) so not protection of IPR is needed. Nevertheless, in case there is an option for commercial exploitation/need for IPR protection IPR and commercial exploitation will be consulted with MU TTO (Technology Transfer Office) who provide full guidance and support. (only make it shorter and relevant to your case – Ivan+Adrien will know)

**Jakub Zeman**  
Maybe those are from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale in Paris and the Rutgers University, NJ, in the USA? Maybe it is generally known – sorry, I do not know it.

**Jakub Zeman**  
Very strong section. What I especially like that it is not only about local public outreach and local “entities”, but also about the embassies, film with wider impact, etc...

To sum up the impact of the project will be very high touching many different target audiences – from high schools to the university of the third age, and to the international groups of pilgrims and tourists reaching Conques. The dissemination activities of the CONQUES project will answer, in Conques, to a burning social and cultural need: the publications and dissemination outputs we aim to produce are simply missing. These outputs will answer to a double necessity. On the one hand First, they are crucial to protect and promote European and World cultural heritage. Moreover, it will enable the large audience to experience past cultures, and to understand in a different way the current ones. The past cultural heritage has also always been a way of constructing present identities. In this sense the project will challenge both past nationalistic constructions, opening the path to a much more global and shared understanding of the past. This is particularly relevant today, with the spread of COVID-19, reminding us of “black swans” that can unexpectedly and instantly test cohesiveness and viability of humankind. Novel findings on our distant past are important contribution to forthcoming reconsiderations of our society, and may help us to react knowingly on present challenges, be it – when some political groups are using the crisis of the diffusion of COVID-19, to bring back a revival of nationalistic ideas-tendencies, or any other slip towards ends that justify means and closing borders. A project on the past may thus give keys to react on present challenges.

### 1. 4. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

#### 4.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

The workplan of the whole project has been constructed in a very rational way, following two major criteria: 1) the necessity of a preliminary collection of archival and archaeological data; 2) the structure of the secondments, following the general pyramidal structure of the proposed project. This will permit to the project a coherent movement across countries and continents. **The first year (2021)** will thus be mainly concentrated around Conques, and more generally France. During this year, a summer school and a meeting will be organized in Conques, during which a proper field research will be accomplished: the abbey-church will be measured for the auralization, the interior and exterior surfaces will be video-scanned, the floor will be scanned with the GPR (WP1). During the same period, 3 scholars (MU, BHR) will spend in all 5 months in Conques in order to be trained into the dissemination skills, doing in parallel research. This will lead to the publication of 2 small booklets targeting pilgrims and tourists (WP4). In addition to that, the 2 media specialists from MU will spend 1 month

**Jakub Zeman** We will... Or MU will... or consortium

**Jakub Zeman** It seems clear, that writing a text help

**Jakub Zeman** 27. března 2020

This could be really defined as a kind of communication objectives. Without too much indoctrination of people, simply explain how identities have been constructed, and that they are constructed, at all. That is own of the roles of SSH – explain these processes that ordinary people do not reflect, but often can be made aware of, for their benefit and for the benefit of more aware and wise society. It is valuable.

And if you decide to incorporate this message in public outreach, you will obviously have ONE topic of a public lecture, or ONE short movie, or ONE chapter in a booklet – and, from my perspective, will write a more specific, credible, exciting and funding-worthy proposal.

**Jakub Zeman** Gantt chart is essential tool you are

**Jakub Zeman** Generally, I like how your thought it

**Jakub Zeman** English. The whole sentence. Not clear

**Jakub Zeman**

**Jakub Zeman** It really should not talk too much about

**Jakub Zeman** It reminds me much more of the section





# MSCA-PF Sharing & Feedback Workshop



# EXPLOITING SYNERGIES – OP JAC

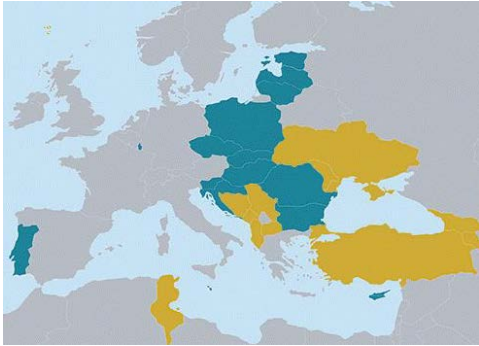
MSCA-IF



Required score  
**>93 %**

Achieved by  
**10-15 %**  
proposals

Widening  
Fellowship



**>91 %**

**20-25 %**

Seal of Excellence –  
Structural Funds



**>70%**

**80 %**

# MUNI

# 90%



**Gregor Johann Mendel,**  
*Founder of genetics*  
worked and died in **Brno (CZ)**

A naïve, but persistent  
**research support manager**



Professors! There is an  
**extremely high probability**  
of getting the grant!

Look, I love my *inbreeding*,  
no matter what...

They do not understand our  
specific situation...

We do not write European  
projects...

Not now, maybe next  
year, or the next...

Too difficult...and weird...  
progressivistic...

LOL .... young girl trying to impress  
us with her statistics... pathetic...



What d'you  
think, Greg?





***PFerynias*** mercilessly chasing a screaming **MUNI** researcher, driving him to contact his international networks and promote the ***Czech Seal of Excellence MSCA-PF*** globally.

There is no escape, time is up!



Title: ***PFerynias*** - oil on canvas by an unknown research manager.  
Dated: probably from the so-called „HE era“ (2021-2027), collection of MUNI

# MSCA WORKING GROUP - FACULTIES

RESEARCH OFFICE RMU  
COORDINATOR

## COMMUNICATIONS

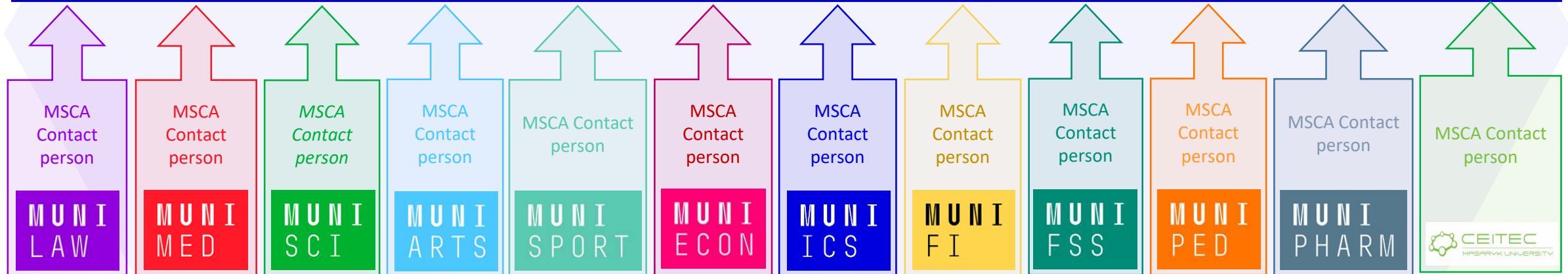
Supervisors, applicants, MU management, grant writing consultants

## TRAININGS

MSCA Essentials ; Trainings for MSCA WG members & supervisors, MSCA WORKSHOP

## CONSULTATIONS

A time-line of preparation; Co-consultations; Supervisions of consulting Submissions & feedback



**A sustainable WG to continuously develop MSCA knowledge and competences at MUNI**

Connection to national MSCA community

Communication and information sharing platforms (Teams, SharePoint)



## COMMUNICATIONS

- Engagement of vice-deans & faculties' management & grant support
- Identification of & addressing supervisors
- Preparing unique communication content
- Defining of and utilizing specific communication channels and networks
- **Addressing & informing potential applicants**
- Collecting feedback on communication effectiveness & innovating accordingly
- Operational communication & management of local support (MSCA Working group)

## CONSULTATIONS

- A **time-line** of proposal preparation
- Regular **consultations** of draft proposals provided by local grant support
- **Co-consultations** => candidate + local grant support + RMU grant support
- **Supervisions on consulting** – review of consulted drafts and personal feedback (MSCA WG; RMU < = > local support)
- **Supervisors' view** – regular feedback on the preparation process and draft proposals
- **Submissions & feedback** on the 2021 run

## TRAININGS

- **MSCA for Supervisors** training session and written guide
- Training for **MSCA WG members** on consulting – workshops and a written Guide
- **Sessions with supervisors** – an „enhanced“ MSCA Workshop
- **MSCA Essentials** – both lectures and a guide for potential applicants
- 3-day **MSCA WORKSHOP** – intensive writing session and training for candidates

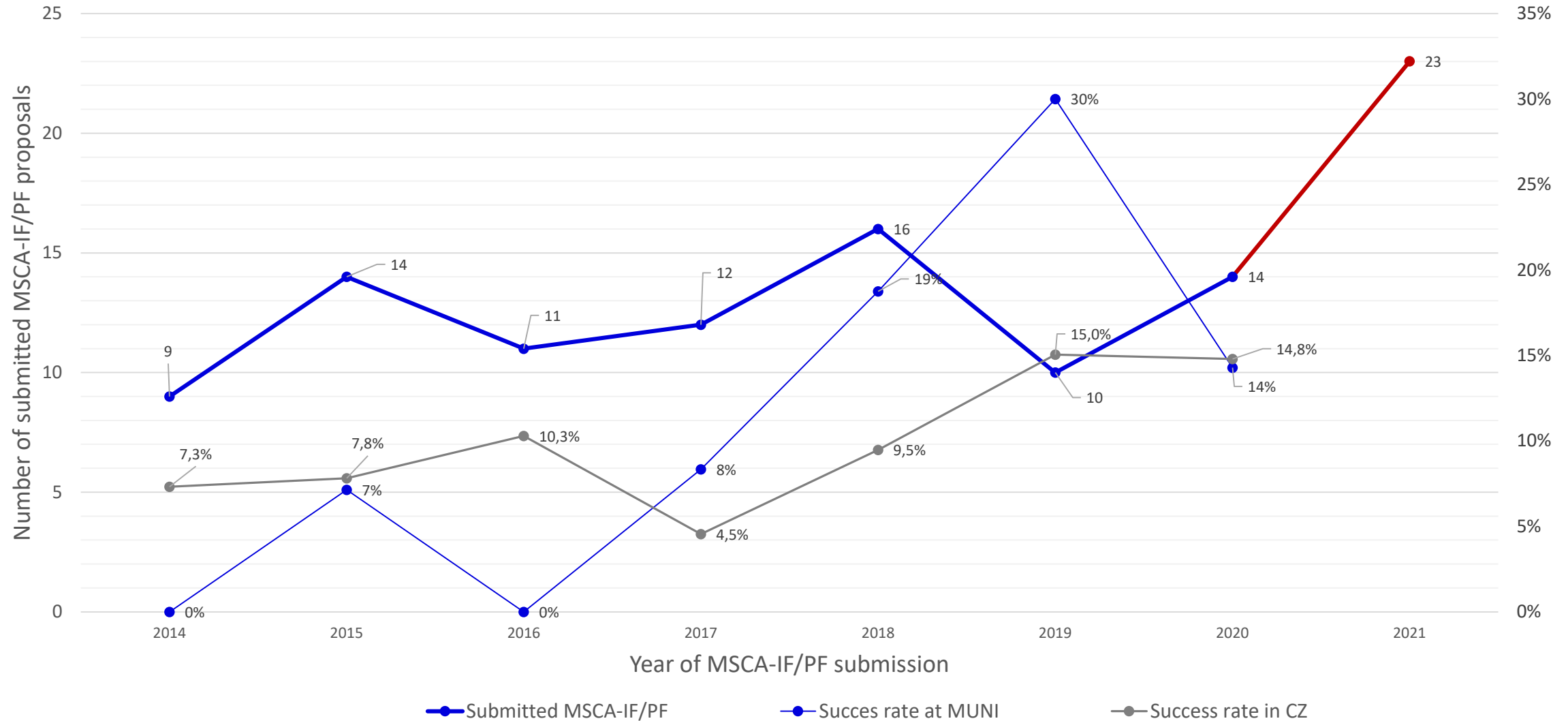
**20 MSCA-PF submissions in 2021 ONLY**  
(= 150% of MU H2020-MSCA-IF annual mean value)

**Tens of millions within *Horizon Europe* for postdocs**

# THE PLAN...

# SUBMITTED MSCA-IF/PF PROPOSALS

Number of submitted MSCA-IF at MU in H2020 and success rates





Mass production  
seems an impressive  
idea...

... but what about risks  
regarding its quality?



**Tomáš Baťa**  
Czech entrepreneur and  
founder of the Bata  
Shoes company



# Next steps for 2022 and on...

## Communication and actions towards the faculties' support

- A detailed **visual guide** for the faculty research support on **Form A** and **Part B2**
- A **workshop** for faculty research support **on how to consult proposals**
- Preparing a **time-line of preparation** and setting internal **deadlines** (the applicant has to be the one who is responsible for the proposal)

## Communication and actions towards MSCA-PF applicants

- A **Part B1** template with **generic tables** and **texts** to **facilitate (a minimum) quality** and allow for further **increase in quantity** – *usage of the template to be decided...*
- Establishing a pool of reviewers – ideally **MSCA-PF evaluators** (personalised feedback, workshops, lectures)
- Formalisation of the „**Sessions with supervisors**“ – regular offer

**More ideas expected to arrive...**

**(The deadline of MSCA-PF-2021 was only two days ago...)**

**ANYWAY, DON'T HAVE UNDUE RESPECT...**

**... AND GO FOR YOUR MSCA-PF !**

**THANK YOU.**