

My Journey with MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF): Insights and Inspiration for Aspiring Applicants

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ABOUT ME
(Brief Introduction)

WHAT IS MSCA-PF?
(Quick idea on eligibility, rules, etc.)

WHY MSCA-PF?
(Benefits, my motivations)

APPLICATION PROCESSES: LESSONS
LEARNED
(Timelines, challenges, success tips)

FELLOWSHIP IMPACT & ADVICE?
(In a nutshell)

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE

AGENDA
of the Day

About Me



PhD (Psychology)
Indian Institute of Technology
Indore, INDIA
(2019)



- ❖ Post-Doctoral fellow at IRTIS, FSS, MUNI, CZECHIA (2022-2023)
- ❖ MSCA-PF (2024-2025) 



FULBRIGHT RESEARCH
FELLOW
University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, USA (2017-2018)



First Post-Doctoral
Indian Institute of
Management Indore, INDIA
(2020- 2022)



Project Title: *The Effect of Media Multitasking on Online Prosocial and Antisocial Behavior*

Project Acronym: *MULTIPLE*

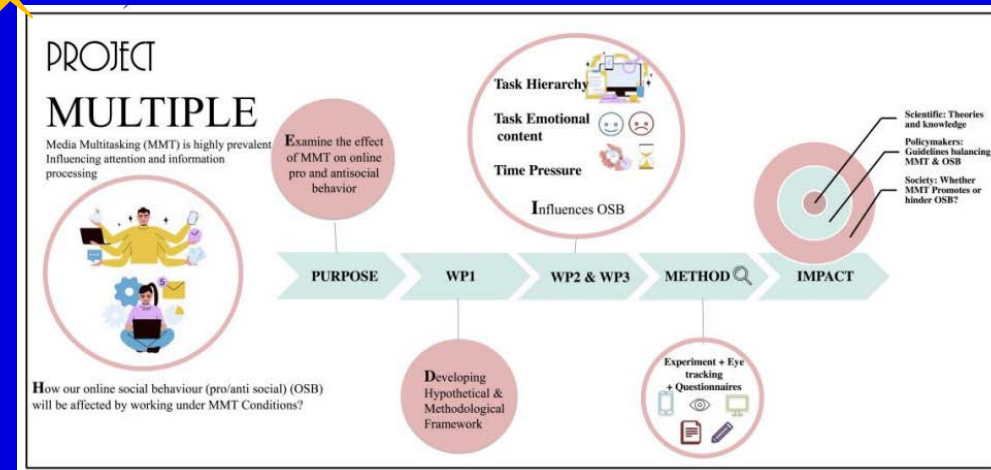
Project Supervisor: doc. M.Sc. et Mgr. Hana Macháčková, Ph.D.

Host Organization: *Interdisciplinary Research Team on Internet and Society, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic*

Duration: *2 years*

Dates: *1st January 2024 – 31st December 2025*

<https://irtis.muni.cz/cs/vyzkum/projekty/multiple>



WHAT IS MSCA-PF?



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) - Post Doctoral Fellowship

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>

Duration: 12 months to 24 months (Additional 6 months ~ optional secondment)

Eligibility

- ✓ Scholars who have Doctoral degree (also those who successfully defended their doctoral thesis) and not more than 8 years after PhD before the call deadline.
- ✓ Any Nationality
- ✓ Any field of science, social science, humanities, and interdisciplinary

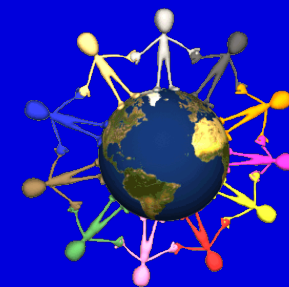
MOBILITY RULE: Applicants have not resided/studied/worked in the country of their host organization for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline

WHY MSCA-PF?

- ❖ **Research Opportunities** (e.g., freedom to pursue novel ideas, Interdisciplinary projects)
- ❖ **International Collaboration** (Mobility requirement allows you to work in a different country, promoting cultural exchange and broadening academic perspectives.
- ❖ **Funding Support** (Generous Financial Package, comprehensive support, administrative assistance).
- ❖ **Career development** (Training opportunities, enhanced employability)



**18 Noble Prize Laureates
have received support and
funding from MSCA**



WHAT MOTIVATED ME TO APPLY?

- ❖ I saw this as a chance to immerse myself in a new culture, broaden my perspectives, and build a global network.
- ❖ Structured Career Development: emphasis on transferable skills and interdisciplinary approaches, focus on innovation and novel research ideas resonate with my long term research goals.
- ❖ Financial Security: I could focus completely on my research without worrying about resources or administrative hurdles.

Published: 3 Mar 2022

MSCA survey highlights high satisfaction levels among fellows and alumni

A recent survey of MSCA alums tracked a high level of satisfaction with some room for improvement in certain respects.



A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MSCA ALUMNI

MCAA is an international non-profit organization established and supported by the European Commission but entirely run by volunteer members and with a bottom-up approach at its core.

The MCAA is not a simple researchers' association but an alumni community beyond research. MCAA members have in common to benefit or have benefitted from MSCA funding, therefore sharing a strong background in research. But while at some point in our careers, we were all researchers benefiting from MSCA funding, logically fellows' careers evolve in various directions, and very often beyond research. At the MCAA we praise this diversity and the potential positive impact we can spread as a community in all areas of society. Regardless of a member's career path, MCAA offers lifelong career development support, networking, and advocacy, effectively extending the once-obtained MSCA support into a benefit for the entire career of former fellows with the aim of benefiting the whole society.

Therefore, the vibrant MCAA community brings together all career stages from all disciplines, encouraging networking and cooperation, making the MCAA a forum of debate between researchers, former researchers, and with the society. The MCAA is a major platform for MSCA alumni to contribute to shaping science policy in Europe, providing career development opportunities, and supporting the wider research community on topics affecting research and researchers' lives, inclusive of all derived career paths.

Source:

1. <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-survey-high-satisfaction-levels>
2. <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/>

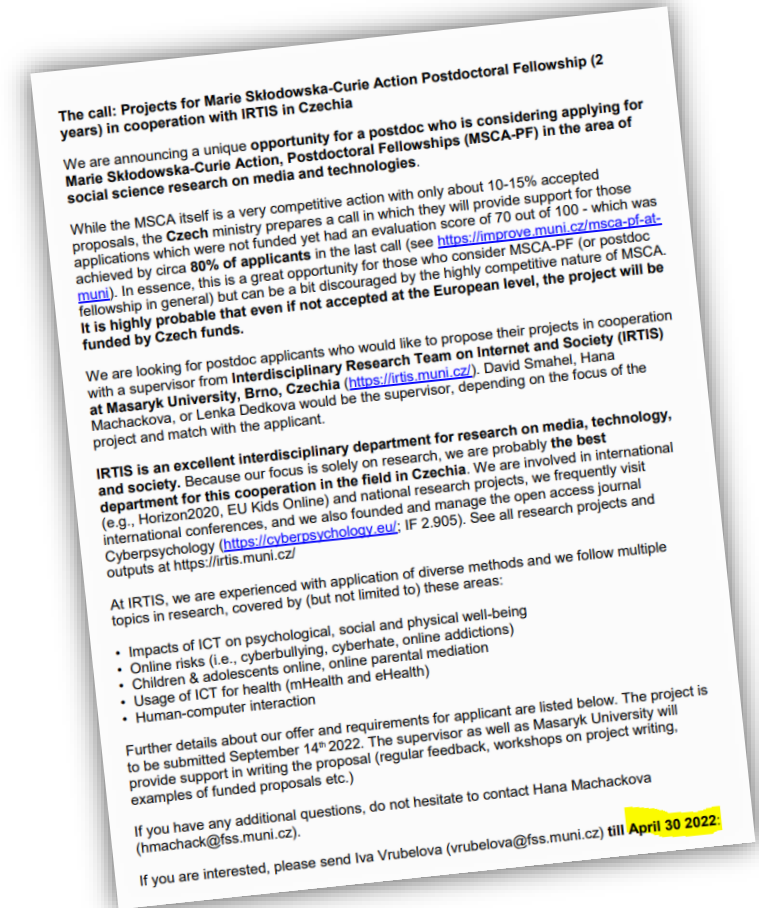
MY APPLICATION PROCESS LESSONS LEARNED



Timeline of My Application Process

- **April 28, 2022:** My supervisor, Hana, introduced me to MSCA-PF with a submission deadline of **September 14, 2022** – just 4 months away.
- I agreed instantly without knowing much about MSCA-PF.
- My first question after researching was: *Am I ready?*
 - ✓ Internet/Social media was full of both positive and daunting reviews, making it seem overwhelming.

Advice: *Don't worry—it's not as difficult as it seems, but it demands hard work and perseverance.*



MY APPLICATION PROCESS

From Introduction to Submission

2. Planning, Writing, and Submitting

•May 2022: Began discussing with:

- **Hana** (my supervisor).
- **Jakub Zeman** (Project Manager for MSCA at MUNI).

•Attended **online workshops** (May 30–31, 2022) at the Technology Centre for Czech Academy of Sciences.

(<https://msca-net.eu/>)

•Researched:

- MSCA websites for guidelines.
- Necessary documents and successful proposals.

•While writing:

- The application is only **10 pages**, which seems simple.
- **Challenge:** Writing those 10 pages!!



From Introduction to Submission

4. Strategies That Worked for Me

•Parallel Efforts:

- Working on a clear and compelling research idea (Discussion with supervisor and other colleagues)
- Understanding MSCA evaluation criteria:
 - Attended seminars, workshops, and sessions with successful candidate for writing tips.
 - Joined social media groups to learn from and discuss with others.

•Feedback:

- Sought input from mentors and peers to refine my proposal.



Tips for Success

Strike a balance: Use plain language with just enough scientific jargon to show expertise.

Relate your project to societal impact and personal growth.

Proofread it multiple times



FELLOWSHIP IMPACT

Personal Growth

- **Acquired New Skills**
 - ✓ Gained expertise in advanced research methodologies.
 - ✓ Developed soft skills such as project management, time management, and adaptability.
- **Boosted Confidence:** Learned to take initiative and lead independent research projects.
- **Enhanced public speaking abilities** through presentations and workshops.
- **Networking:** Established connections with peers and mentors

Professional Growth

- **Contribution to Research**
 - ✓ Publication.
 - ✓ Collaboration
- **Conferences and Workshops:** Presented research findings and attending specialized workshops
- **Future Prospects**
 - ✓ Gained eligibility for advanced funding opportunities
 - ✓ Opened doors to long-term collaborations

ADVICE FOR ASPIRING APPLICANTS

1. Start early and give yourself time to revise.
2. Align your proposal with MSCA's goals (excellence, impact, and implementation).
3. Seek feedback from experienced mentors or previous grantees.
4. Clearly articulate the societal impact of your research.
5. Stay focused and Concise



“Don’t let fear hold you back—believe in yourself, take the leap, and create your own success story!”

Take Away Message



MSCA-PF is a transformative opportunity that fosters research excellence and personal growth.

“Your journey can inspire others to achieve similar success”



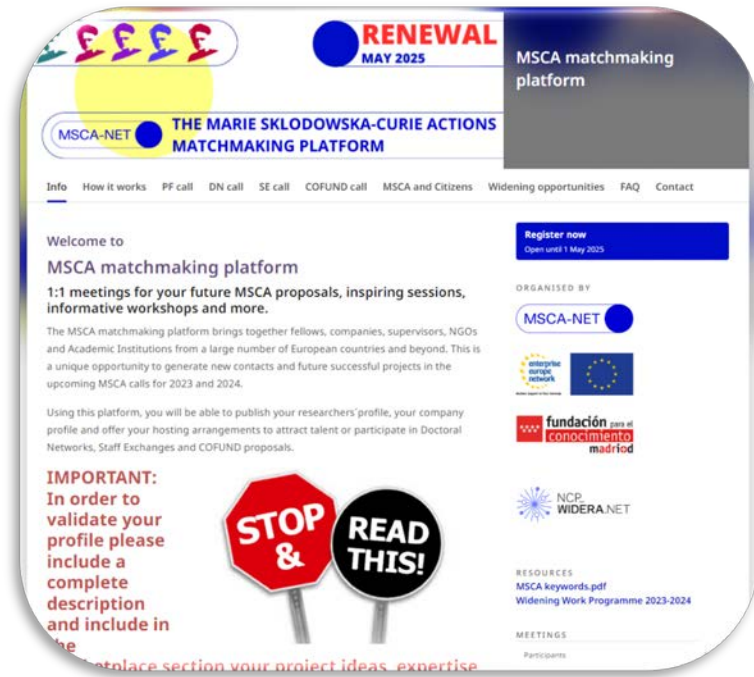
Acknowledgment

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Special Thanks to

Ms. Iva Mader Vrubelova (MUNI), Ms. Eva Kickova (MUNI)

IRTIS Members & all my peers and advisors!



For FEEDBACK and SUGGESTIONS, mail me at

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**M U N I
F S S**

T H A N K Y O U

M U N I

**Interdisciplinary Research Team
on Internet and Society**

M A S A R Y K O V A
U N I V E R Z I T A