

“ *The complex problems and challenges of today's world require interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and international R&D collaboration. The MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE) programme is perfectly designed in this context. If a researcher does not have access to sophisticated equipment in his or her home institution, he or she can still have access to modern equipment in the host institution within the MSCA SE consortium. During secondments, researchers are exposed to different research mindsets and scientific discovery cultures. In addition, they can establish lasting links for long-term collaboration and friendship with colleagues around the world.* ”

PROF. GORAN STOJANOVIĆ, SERBIA

Coordinator MSCA Staff Exchanges (2019-2024, 2022-2026, 2023-2026); University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia



Useful Links

For more information & learn how to get involved in the [EU-Western Balkans R&I cooperation](#)

Visit the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions website](#) to explore all the opportunities offered by the programme

[Contact of Western Balkans MSCA National Contact Point](#) who can provide information on the programme and help applicants develop their projects

Join the [Western Balkans Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association](#) to communicate, to share, to help, and to get help

[Support for existing and future MSCA National Contact Points](#)


Looking for the MSCA calls, check the [funding and tenders opportunities portal](#)

 www.mscadvocacy.eu

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WESTERN BALKANS FACTSHEET

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Supporting researchers' training and mobility with Western Balkans (WB)

 MSCAdvocacy – Project No. 101059907
This project has received funding from the
European Union's Horizon Europe.



The European Union's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills, through mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines.

The MSCA also fund the development of excellent doctoral and postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects worldwide. They are part of Horizon Europe, successor of the Horizon 2020 (H2020) programme, the European Union's research and innovation funding programme. The MSCA is fully open to the participation of researchers and organisations from the Western Balkans (WB).

The story so far

WB's figures under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)



Total participations

150² Total of participations under H2020 from **81² distinct WB organisations**

Any academic or non-academic organisation can participate

- Higher or secondary education institutions
- Research organisations
- NGOs
- Public bodies
- Private for Profit, SMEs
- Hospitals, museums

Highly involved

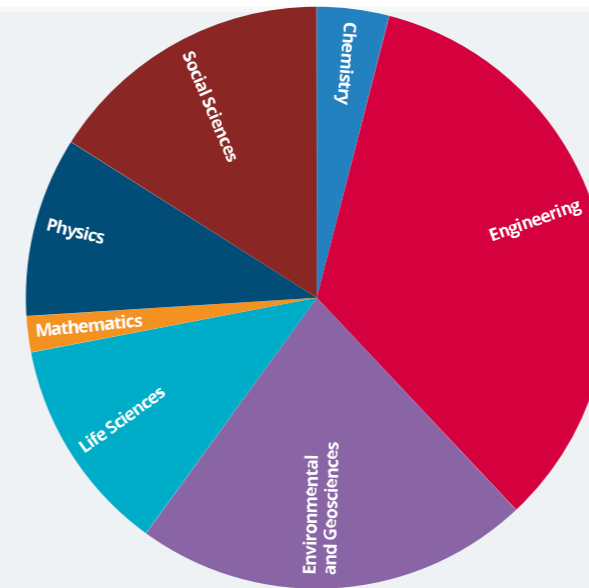
Top participating academic organisations³ under H2020 in terms of number of participations

- University of Belgrade, Serbia
- University of Novi Sad, Serbia
- University of Kragujevac, Serbia
- University of Niš, Serbia

Top participating non-academic organisations³ under H2020 in terms of number of participations

- Center for the Promotion of Science, Serbia
- Tidea Ltd Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Creative Educational Center, Serbia
- Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- NauKom Association of Scientific Communicators, Serbia

Scientific areas of H2020 MSCA projects with WB participation



71² MSCA projects successfully funded under H2020



International mobility

WB MSCA fellows

618 WB researchers participating²

Spain	93
France	64
Italy	63
UK	51
Germany	41

Gender split: Female 43,5%, Male 56,5%

MSCA fellows in WB

226 Incoming researchers²

Italy	20
Bulgaria	19
Türkiye	16
Portugal	15
Serbia	15

Gender split: Female 46,9%, Male 53,1%

What's next?

WB's current trends under Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

Top participating organisations under Horizon Europe³ in terms of number of participations

- University of Belgrade, Serbia
- University of Novi Sad, Serbia
- Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš, Serbia
- Development Solutions Associates, Albania
- Center for the Promotion of Science, Serbia

Participation of WB organisations has increased by **74%^{2,3,4}** compared to Horizon 2020

27³ MSCA projects successfully funded and participation of **37³ organisations**



¹ The Western Balkans comprise Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC Resolution 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence), Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

² MSCA H2020 Dashboard, data cut-off date 03-04-2024

³ R&I Projects Dashboard, data cut-off date 03-04-2024

⁴ The trend is calculated based on a comparison (increase/decrease in %) of the performance in the first two years of the HEU with the average participation in H2020. Own calculations are used to normalise the trends (for each type of action) by the budget of signed grants in the respective call. When the sample of signed grants is too small, the calculated trend is not considered significant.