

# Net4Mobility<sup>+</sup>



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Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community

### MSCA Success Stories from Organisations in Widening Countries

Task 4.4 Effective MSCA promotion

Issued by: Gabriella Tchouprenska and Antoaneta Mateeva,  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Issued date: November 2018

Work Package Leader: NKFIH



N4M+ project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement No 785632

**Host organization: Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJŠ)**

**Country: Slovakia**

**Organization role: beneficiary, WPs leader (WP3 – The Other Half of Europe, WP7 – Dissemination and Communication)**

**Project Acronym: urbanHIST** (History of European urbanism in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century)

The programme is run by a consortium of universities in co-operation with institutions and companies operating in the fields of planning, urban design, architecture, management, history. The Consortium is formed by Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (Germany), Universidad de Valladolid (Spain), Blekinge Tekniska Högskola (Sweden), and Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (Slovakia).

**Project start and end date: 01.10.2016 – 30.09.2020**

**Type of MSC action, H2020: ITN-EJD**

**Project website: [www.urbanhist.eu](http://www.urbanhist.eu)**



urbanHIST Early Stage Researcher Colloquium at UPJŠ, Faculty of Arts, Department of History (photo by Marek Sekerák)

**Your story:**

**Project objectives and research field:**

urbanHIST is a multidisciplinary research and training programme run by 4 universities in Germany, Spain, Slovakia and Sweden in cooperation with 13 partner-organizations and funded within H2020-MSCA-ITN scheme as European Joint Doctorate (EJD). It

aims to develop and sustainably promote a joint understanding of 20th century urbanism in Europe. 15 ESRs are conducting their research in 8 thematic fields.

**Tell us why the topic is important and/ or how it brings to advancement in your research field:**

Throughout the 20th century, urban planning constituted itself as an important tool to spatially direct social developments. This applies to Europe more than to any other continent. Urban planning contributed significantly to the emergence of the welfare state, strong economies and a relatively balanced settlement structure. However, it also caused the suppression and destruction of some population groups, natural and cultural resources. With the collapse of socialism in 1990, and the increasing importance of the EU, the 20th century ended with a multi-layered convergence in regard to the implementation of urban planning as a regulative and shaping instrument. Most studies on 20th century urban planning adopt a national perspective, while studies aiming to provide an overview focus on several core countries. Therefore, urbanHIST intends to facilitate the breakthrough of the European planning history debate, which is currently in its initial phase of development.

**What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?**

In contrast to previous investigations, the project implies a holistic consideration of all Europe, UPJŠ representing its central-eastern part. For UPJŠ, among the main benefits one could list conducting the multi-disciplinary research of European significance in a strong international surrounding and supporting the overall internationalisation strategy of the study at UPJŠ through promotion of ESRs employed at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts. It is their double-degree doctoral study, which is the main component of urbanHIST training programme. Due to the peripheral position of Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in the science support system in Slovakia, the involvement of UPJŠ as one of beneficiaries represents impressive success. Therefore, the potential of urbanHIST in terms of presenting an example for the Slovak society, showing that the relevance of SSH must not be underestimated and contributing towards historical sciences research development, is highly relevant.

**Did you encounter any challenges during application/ implementation and did you get any help?**

We are cooperating within a large European consortium, also with some non-EU ESRs. To define a unified framework, both professionally and organisationally, has been demanding since the beginning. It must be stressed that the consultations with the Slovak NCPs office proved indispensable, both, during the application and implementation phase. The four beneficiaries and their partners have different areas of expertise with regard to international planning history as well as international

cooperation. Combining all the disciplines and meaningfully embedding them into the project proposal was one of the many challenges during the application process. Another component is the double-degree doctoral study. While implementing it, we have to respect the higher-education legislation in four countries, internal regulations within four universities and the content of the four different doctoral study programmes representing different scientific disciplines. The object of particular attention is the task of project administration and financial responsibility. Mastering all this is only possible with everyday communication and mutual respect. Both form the key elements of the cooperation.

**Would you recommend others to apply? What useful advice/ tips can you give them?**

MSCA provide a considerable number of benefits at all project levels and also at the level of institutions involved. For ESRs, it offers exceptional working conditions, outstanding supervisors and research network. For our institution, it means invaluable experience and a lot of new and thought-provoking insight. Therefore, of course we would recommend others to apply and give it a try. It is highly advisable to start building the consortium and working on the project proposal well in advance. We also recommend consultations with NCPs offices and EU helpdesk services.

**What strategies did your organization use to attract the fellow/s? Are they in line with national strategies supporting the widening EC policy?**

urbanHIST consortium proceeded in a number of coordinated steps as to engaging a satisfactory number of excellent applications to urbanHIST programme at all 4 beneficiaries. The recruitment process for all 15 positions was organised jointly and conducted centrally. Criteria for the evaluation of applications considered institutional requirements and the general principles for the recruitment of researchers as defined in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The announcement of positions was launched in several calls worldwide on different platforms including the EURAXESS platform, scientific networks communities as well as institutional websites and social media accounts. For all 15 ESRs positions, the four beneficiaries jointly carried out the reviews of applications, the job interviews and the recruitment process. Finally, urbanHIST recruited six male and nine female Early Stage Researchers from 13 countries. There are four ESRs recruited at UPJŠ.