Expression of supervisor’s interest to host Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellows at the University of Ljubljana (UL)

Prof. Dr. Franc Mali from University of Ljubljana is searching for a top-class experienced researcher of any nationality interested in developing collaborative MSCA IF application for the following EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 actions:

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships – European (MSCA-IF-2016-EF)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships – Global (MSCA-IF-2016-GF)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MSC FELLOWS

- The researcher must, at the deadline for the submission of proposals, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. The researcher may be of any nationality.
- Mobility rule: the researcher must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies) in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES – RESEARCHER’S CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The goal of MSCA Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers (post-doctoral or with 4 years of equivalent research experience) wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility. The researcher and supervisor will develop the application jointly. The project proposals will be submitted by the host organization. If the application will be successful, the IF researcher will be recruited under an employment contract with a monthly salary of 4,650 €* coefficient of the country where the researcher is hosted (living allowance) + 600 € (mobility allowance) + 500 € (family allowance) per month. More information may be found here.

University of Ljubljana offers stimulating environment for postdoctoral research providing modern core facilities in a supported environment with on-the-job training and supervision. In addition, postdoctoral researchers will have access to the generic and transferable skills trainings, they will have the possibility to be involved in educational process and if suitable, they will be seconded to industry all with the purpose for further development of their careers in the academic and non-academic sector.

Researchers who wish to cooperate with UL for the submission of a project proposal under the aforementioned Actions should check that they fulfil the respective eligibility criteria and then send an expression of interest, consisting of a CV and a two-page summary presentation of their research proposal by 18 March 2016. Proposals will be pre-selected based on internal evaluation and the availability of suitable supervision. Candidates will be informed of the results of the pre-selection by 25 March 2016.

Selected candidates will be invited to meet the supervisor and visit the research environment of the university within the 2-day MSCA-IF proposal writing workshop in Ljubljana organised by the UL at the end of May 2016.

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

University of Ljubljana (Univerza v Ljubljani, UL) was founded in 1919 and is the oldest and largest higher education and scientific research institution in Slovenia. It encompasses 23 faculties and 3 art academies and has more than 40,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and approximately 5,600 employees. UL is listed amongst the top 500 universities in the world according to the ARWU Shanghai, Times THES-QS and WEBOMETRICS rankings. UL is very active in national and international R&D and educational programmes, and creates almost half of the research results of Slovenia. In the period 2007-2013 UL cooperated in 745 EU projects, including 163 FP7 projects, which places UL on the first place among the organisations in the EU 13 member states. The University of Ljubljana has close ties with many excellent Slovenian and foreign companies. In May 2015, UL founded the Slovenian Innovation Hub, which will operate mainly as a facilitator and promoter of development and research teams in the academic and business sphere. UL is also founder of the University incubator, the Institute for Research and Innovation, and very recently the SMUL network - a global alumni and associates network. From 2008 UL is committed to respect the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers, which led to the EC given UL the right to use the logo ‘HR Excellence in Research’ in 2013.
PROFILE OF THE SUPERVISOR

NAME OF THE SUPERVISOR: Prof. dr. Franc Mali

MAIN RESEARCH FIELD: Social Studies of Science and Technology

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPERVISOR

Franc Mali is professor for fields of epistemology of social sciences and social studies of science and technology (STS) at undergraduate and doctoral level at Faculty of Social Science (University of Ljubljana). He is lecturer at courses Social and Ethical Aspects of Modern Science, Epistemology of Science, Writing of BA thesis. His recent research topics are: social, ethical and legal aspects of progress of the new emerging technologies, public understanding of science, R&D and innovation policy, R&D evaluation, epistemology of science. He is the head of research group for social studies of science and technology at The Faculty of Social Sciences. He was visiting research fellow at Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society in Graz (2009 and 2004), University Bielefeld (1997), University Klagenfurt (1994), University Johannes Kepler in Linz (1992) and University of Vienna (1989). He was involved in various EU research project: PHARE Multi-Country Program in Higher Education, 5th CRE Academic Task Force, ESA Project International Network on Social Capital and Performance, 7 EU FP Feasibility Study for creating a European University Data Collection, 7 EU FP »Ethics in Public Policy-Making: the Case of Human Enhancement«, etc. At the moment, he is involved in 7 EU FP »Synthetic biology – Engaging with new and Emerging Science and Technology in Responsible Governance of the Science and Society Relationship«. From 1999 – 2009 he was the board member of SSTNET (The Sociology of Sociology and Technology Research Network) at the European Sociological Association (ESA). He is a member of a lot of other international professional associations: European Association for Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Gesellschaft fuer Wissenschaft und Technikforschung (GWTF), Slovenian Sociological Association (SSD). He is the member of editorial board of central EASST journal Science & Technology Studies.

RESEARCH FIELD OF THE SUPERVISOR

Main research field: - social studies of science and technology (STS studies)

Sub-fields: - sociology of science;
- social, ethical and legal aspects of progress of the new emerging sciences and technologies,
- public understanding of science,
- responsible research and innovation,
- R&D evaluation,
- theory of science (epistemology of science).

RECENT TRACK-RECORD and other SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT/LABORATORY

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV) is the largest interdisciplinary public institution for education and research in the social sciences in Slovenia, and among the largest in Europe. The faculty builds its academic excellence through outstanding theoretical and empirical research work, extensive publishing of scientific and professional contributions, and the successful transfer of research results into the educational process and into practice. Up-to-date, relevant and interactive study programs offer extensive, relevant, systematic, high quality and applicable knowledge about society and social phenomena. Revised, interactive and contemporary study programs offer a broad understanding of and insight into what is happening in society, as well as a solid basis for criticism of social phenomena and influence in social change.

Department: The Department of Cultural Studies was established at Faculty of Social Sciences in 1995, with the desire to combine different humanistic and social, epistemological, disciplinary etc. approaches to the investigation of culture (art, science, religion, ideology, etc.) in the broader sense of word. The department unites lecturers and researchers from a broad cultural studies range: cultural politics, anthropology, social studies of science, religion and other areas that study phenomena of cultural and cultural practice. It is responsible for the development and image of cultural studies and interdisciplinary connection between humanities and social sciences, thus strengthening its role in Slovenia.

Research group: The research group for STS (formally organized in The Center for Social Studies of Science) at Faculty of Social Sciences is engaged in the study of the various social dimensions of novel scientific and technological developments, both internationally and in Slovenia. The research group works at Faculty of Social Sciences from 1982 onwards on various theoretical and empirical topics of STS. It mostly conducts theoretical and empirical research in the areas of the sociology of science, cultural aspects and policies of science and technology. In the last period, the central research topics are ethical, legal and societal aspect and implications of novel scientific and technological developments, risks of new and emerging technologies, the science-society relationship. As part of their research activities, the members of The Center for Social Studies of Science are linked with the Slovenian and international scientific communities and are involved in different international and Slovenian research projects. They also transfer their research results into the teaching processes at the Faculty of Social Sciences and develop various types of expert cooperation with different users and stakeholders in Slovenia.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Faculty of Social Sciences offers active engagement in modern lecture halls, involvement in research work in good equipped offices, multimedia classrooms, computer center, wireless network, etc. At the faculty is the Slovenia’s largest social sciences library and publishing house. At the Faculty of Social Sciences is situated the Office for Development of International Research and Higher Education Cooperation with high expert- skilled administrative personnel.
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

The involvement as research partner in the following EU inter- and trans-disciplinary research projects:

- 7 EU FP »Synthetic biology – Engaging with new and Emerging Science and Technology in Responsible Governance of the Science and Society Relationship (2014 – 2017)
- 7 EU FP Feasibility Study for creating a European University Data Collection PHARE Multi-Country Programme in Higher Education (2011-2012)

The involvement in expert evaluation work:

- independent expert for the evaluation of proposal in COST Program;
- independent expert for the evaluation of proposals in 6 EU Framework Program - Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society (Priority 7) (2006-2007)
- independent expert for the evaluation of proposals in 7 EU Frameworks Program - People Programme (Marie Curie Actions. Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes)
- national expert for Slovenia in 6 Framework Programme “Science and Society”;
- the member of external expert groups for evaluation of sociological departments at The University of Riga (Latvia) (in years: 1998, 2001, 2002 ), at The University Jelgava (Latvia) (year: 2002), at the University of Tartu (Estonia) (year: 1998) (tasks concerning the procedures of national accreditation);

The cooperation (in the role of expert for STS studies) with non-academic (policy decision-making) institutions in Slovenia:

- Ministry for Science, Education and Sport;
- Slovenian Research Agency
- Slovenian Academy of Science

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS/PREFERENCES

Beside candidates using English language, I can accept the role of supervisor also for candidates who are using as first language German or Serbo-Croatish.