

Grant Agreement: 101072637 QSI



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts
MSCA Doctoral Networks

To the Primary Coordinator Contact in charge

Subject: Horizon Europe-MSCA-DN-2021- 101072637 QSI

Recommendations – Mid Term check 15 December 2023 – online

Dear Prof. Curty,

I am writing in connection with the above-mentioned grant.

Please find enclosed the recommendations following the mid term check last 15 December 2023 which will need to be reported in the Technical periodic report together with an explanation on their implementation.

Recommendations and Issues for follow up:

The entire consortium has been working hard towards the achievement of the proposed objectives. The project management is very good, appropriate and committed. The PO thanked the consortium and fellows for their work, commitment and enthusiasm.

- The PO re-opened the Progress report as information on the below is missing and needs to be re-worked on and re-submitted by 29 Feb. 2024 at the latest.

1. Overview of activities : there needs to be information on the work carried out with regard to the WP and the state of play which is not at all in the document.

- The report should also acknowledge the work carried out by the fellows as some have worked for 12 months so their activities need to be provided.
- For instance, **WP1 Quantum-Safe Cryptography Protocols** : objectives - methodology - state of play - DC involved
- **WP 2 ...**
- For instance, for DC 1: the objectives of his research – methodology and state of play

2. Management: please add information on the kick off, attendance, topics and issues (if applicable)

- Please also provide information on how the communication is organised within the consortium : between the coo and beneficiaries, bwt beneficiaries, bwt beneficiaries and DC, bwt DCs ?

3. Recruitment:

- How many applicants in total did the consortium receive?
 - What is the percentage of EU nationals? Non EU? I do not need an exact number but an average, for instance 40% non EU with a majority from ...
 - What is the % of female and male applicants?
 - How was the selection procedure carried out? Who is in the selection committee? Online interview? Tests? Ranking list?
 - How many were shortlisted? How was the second round of interviews carried out? On line? A central event?
 - Please add a table with the selected candidates: name/ employer/ nationality/ start date
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- The PO further requested a detailed explanation on the recruitment process for DC 4 Gina Muus, to be sent to the PO by mail by 29 Feb. 2024 at the latest.
 - The PO requested that the Mobility Declarations for DC 2 and DC 4 be corrected as wrong start date for the former and wrong person months for the latter.
 - The PO reminded the consortium that any deviation from the DoA needed to be discussed beforehand with the PO. This also implies that any issue pertinent to the implementation of the project needed to be shared with the PO as soon as possible in order to allow for a solution finding in a timely manner.
 - The PO reminded the consortium that the implementation of the project is the responsibility of all beneficiaries jointly. The work and commitment of all needs to be acknowledged.
 - The PO reminded the consortium that the fellows are to dedicate 100% of their time to their project and that side-line activity such as teaching/tutoring is on a voluntary basis and pending requirements from the university.
 - The PO further reminded the consortium that assistance with regard to the mobility of the candidates when on secondment was important and welcomed, that the fees for the housing and travel are to be used from the Institutional Costs B1 category (and not paid by the fellows). Afore-planning and anticipation is key.

- The PO requested that the project's website is unlinked from the Vigo university's website for higher and better visibility.
- The PO further requested that the EU acknowledgment is better placed and the EU logo added on the website.
- The PO reminded the consortium to refer to the NCP for any questions pertinent to taxes / employment/ salaries.
- The PO reminded the consortium that expenses related to visa costs, registration fees, student services, language courses, etc... needed to be reimbursed/paid from the Institutional Costs B1 category.
- The PO recommended that all fellows follow up on language classes.
- The PO recommended that all fellows follow up on their soft skills: public speaking, PP presentations, talking to the media, proposal writing, management, etc ... A tailor made training could be organized during the 3rd year.
- The PO reminded the consortium that the publications in peer-review journals needed to be in Open Access.
- The PO reminded the consortium that the EU funding (either emblem or sentence acknowledgment) needed to be visible on all materials, website, social media as well as posters, papers, workshop presentations, etc. This is valid for all candidates, also those funded by own funds as they are all acknowledged in the Annex 1.
- The PO prompted the candidates to actively participate in the update of the website and all media channels.
- The PO can assist with VISA support letters when deemed necessary.

Yours faithfully,
Nina Poumpalova (e-signed)
Project Officer