

You are here: [Home](#) > [UFRGS](#) > [News and Information](#) > UFRGS' researchers will take part in international research consortium in the field of agroecological transitions for territorial food systems

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The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions RISE 2020 will support Research and Innovation project consortia with €80 million. UFRGS is one of the chosen Brazilian institutions.

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The results of the MSCA RISE 2020 call were published in September 2020. Out of the 74 selected consortia, 55 are from Latin American institutions. Among them, the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) will take part in the consortium Agroecological Transitions for Territorial Food Systems, along with other institutions from around the world.

The proposal was submitted by the UFRGS professors [Sérgio Schneider](#) and [Paulo Niederle](#) (both affiliated with the Department of Sociology) and [Daniela Oliveira](#) (Department of Interdisciplinary Studies – Campus Litoral Norte). They are also part of the Graduate Program in Sociology and Rural Development (PGDR/UFRGS). UFRGS group, which includes several countries, will be coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agricultural Research (INRAE).

Besides UFRGS, other 13 Brazilian institutions will participate in the MSCA RISE 2020, five of them being public universities: the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN), the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), the University of São Paulo (USP) and the State University of Campinas (Unicamp).

This is the first time that the proposal submitted by the researchers is selected, after attempting for three years. The research will be conducted between September 2020 and December 2023. "It is a highly competitive program and difficult to get into. For us, it is a pleasure to have gotten the approval of the European Union in the 2020 call," says Schneider.

For the Agroecological Transitions for Territorial Food Systems consortium project, Brazil will use research that is already being conducted in three institutions: UFRGS, in the *Serra Gaúcha* region, UFRRJ, in its region, and Advisory Services for Projects in Alternative Agriculture (AS-PTA), in the city of Borborema (Paraíba). "UFRGS has been conducting research in the *Serra Gaúcha* region with agroecological producers. The goal is to use these experiences as references to diagnose territorial transition initiatives," explains Schneider.

Brazil is the country with the most successful experiences in processes of food system transitions, especially in organic and agroecological production located in a tropical climate. The three institutions selected for this consortium project are examples of that because they have the means to research and discover new approaches to agri-food production. "Brazil has experience in the three areas chosen by the consortium. We intend to show the advancement of our knowledge of these agroecological change processes," Schneider reinforces.

Besides contributing to research, MSCA RISE 2020 also allows human resources training through internships for Brazilian students in the international institutions that are part of the consortium, and vice-versa. "A big part of the financial resources received will be invested in doctoral and postdoctoral student exchange. This exchange policy is in agreement with one of UFRGS' strategic objectives, which is internationalization. The university being selected by the program also emphasizes the degree of excellence and quality of the research that we conduct here. We will also have the contribution of financial resources for research, which is something that is currently difficult in Brazil," Schneider concludes.

The MSCA RISE award

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a program promoted by the European Commission that aims to fund researchers around the world in every field of study. In this edition, €80 million were made available to support international and intersectoral collaboration in Research and Innovation.

As stated by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth: "Research and innovation exchanges like the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions RISE scheme enable researchers to collaborate with their colleagues from around the world. By boosting their creativity and entrepreneurship, we help them turn cutting-edge research into innovative products and services, which are needed now more than ever. I wish the 74 consortia we have selected this year plenty of success with their projects."

MSCA RISE promotes international collaboration through sharing of knowledge and ideas between researchers and markets around the world. The newly-funded projects represent the broad objectives of the MSCA RISE actions and potential impacts for society. (https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news/riase-2020-results-announced_en)

Selected projects include:

- eUMaP - Development of Utilities Management Platform for the case of Quarantine and Lockdown;
- ALISE - Anti-Cancer Light-Controllable Antibody-Peptide Conjugates;
- TransMigrArts - Transforming Migration by Arts;
- MYCOBIOIMICS - Joining forces to exploit the mycobiota of Asia, Africa and Europe for beneficial metabolites and potential biocontrol agents, using -OMICS techniques.

Check out all the selected projects [HERE](#).

About Marie Curie

Marie Skłodowska Curie was a Polish and naturalized-French scientist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person and only woman to win the award twice: one in Physics, for proving the existence of natural radioactivity in 1903, and the other in Chemistry, for the discovery of two new chemical elements in 1910.

Marie Curie was born on November 7, 1867, in Warsaw (Poland) and her maiden name was Maria Skłodowska, surname which she inherited from her father. Her parents were teachers, so science was part of her family life. She was interested in knowledge and, with the intention of creating it, wanted to become an academic. In 1943, she died of leukemia as a result of exposure to radiation through her academic and scientific career.

Translated into English by Betina Silva Rodrigues, under the supervision and translation revision of Elizamari R. Becker (PhD) – IL/UFRGS.



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