

BgF Summer school

www.biolaweb.com



Acronym: BIOLAWEB
Boosting Institute of Chemistry,
Technology and Metallurgy in
Water Biomonitoring

Grant No: 101079234

Type of action: HORIZON Coordination and
Support Actions (HORIZON - CSA)

Starting Date: 01/10/2022

Duration: 36 months



BgF Summer school, October 2023

**Improving Research Management and Support
through EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation
(HORIZON EUROPE 2021-2027)**

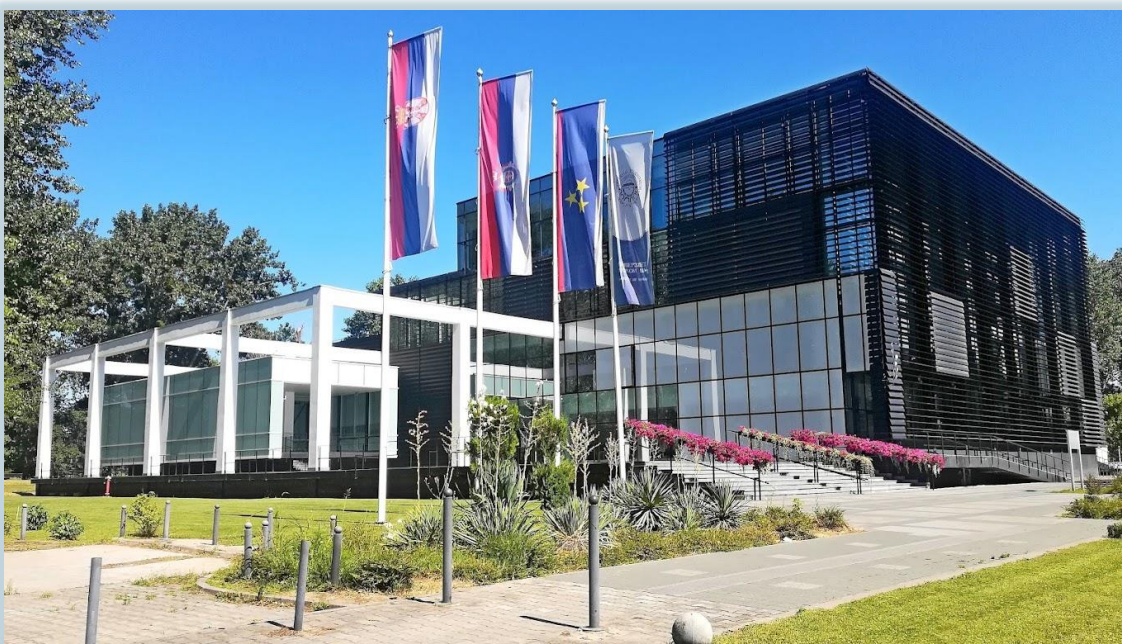
**Success Story of
UNS Faculty of Sciences**

Gordana Vlahović

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Horizon Europe NCP for ERC & Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences (UNSPMF)
www.biolaweb.com



Funded by
the European Union



UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD
www.uns.ac.rs

Central/Eastern European university; among leading educational and research centers in the Western Balkan region

- *Established in 1960; comprehensive, international, research-oriented university; not fully integrated*
- *14 faculties and 3 scientific institutes*
- *50,000 students and 5,000 staff*
- *Around 400 accredited study programs at undergraduate and postgraduate level - taught at member Faculties and Centres for Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies*
- *Science: recognition and visibility due to international participation in education, research & mobility projects;*
- *Accredited Centres of Excellence ([ANTARES](#));*
- *Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), Open Science*
- *Towards Quadruple Helix*

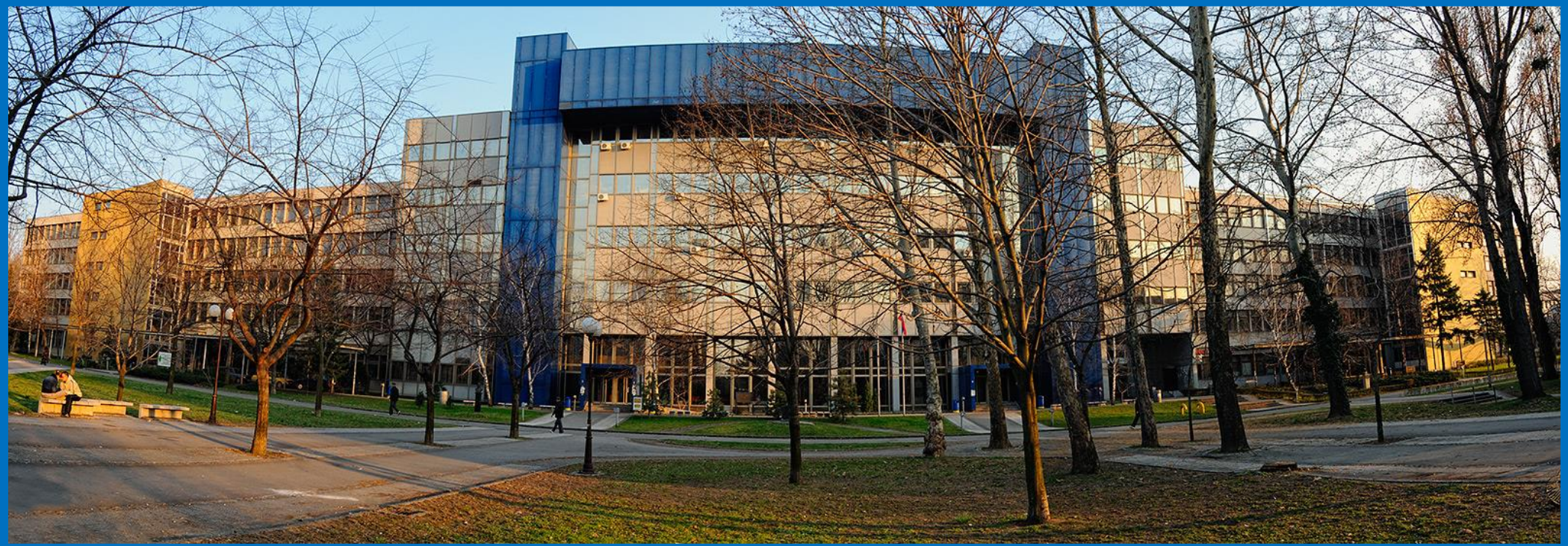
- *140 start-up and spin-off companies in the field of ICT
Novi Sad – Serbian Silicon Valley*



Quality label for improving the work conditions of researchers!



Faculty of Sciences *UNSPMF*



- **Founded in 1969**
- **5200 students**
- **615 employees: 450 researchers (270 PhD)**

STRENGTH in INTERDISCIPLINARITY



5 Departments

fundamental
sciences

Biology and Ecology
Chemistry, Biochemistry and
Environmental Protection
Mathematics and Informatics
Geography, Tourism, and Hotel
Management
Physics

Research in

- *Biomedicine*
- *Environmental protection and climate change*
- *Information and communication technologies + Artificial Intelligence*
- *Bioinformatics*
- *Geoinformatics*
- *Geoecology*
- *New materials and nanoscience*



**OVERVIEW OF
RESEARCH
GROUPS AT UNSPMF**



- 50 accredited study programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate studies
- Attractive and competitive **interdisciplinary study programs** - some unique in the country: *Geoinformatics, Geoecology, Bioinformatics, Cultural Tourism & Cultural Heritage Management, Reproductive Biology and Embriology*, or unique vocational studies of *Optometry*
- [Study Programmes at UNSPMF](#)

UNSPMF Strategic Internationalisation Goals

Build R&I capacities to be more competitive at European and international level

- **Increased science and innovation capacities, capacity building, interactive networking, international scientific projects, academic mobility** at all levels
- **Institutional reform, increased excellence and attractiveness for talents**
- **Increased successful participation** in Horizon Europe and more consortium leadership roles
- Stronger **academia-business linkages** and **improved career permeability**
- Improved institutional **visibility** and **outreach to international partners**
- Strengthened role of the **Higher Education** sector in research and innovation



Horizon 2020
& Horizon Europe

*Improved Access to
Excellence through
Horizon Europe
Horizontal Pillar:
Widening
Participation*

*Twinning for
Excellence*



3 ongoing Horizon TWINNING projects

[Horizon 2020](#)

[WIDESPREAD-05-2020 - Twinning](#)

*Twinning for the Advancement of data-driven Multidisciplinary
Research into Hydro-climatic Extremes to Support Risk
Assessment and Decision Making*

<https://extremeclimtwinn.pmf.uns.ac.rs>

[HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02-01 - Twinning Western Balkans Special](#)

*Twinning for smart Water-thinking and rethinking wastewater
management in circular economy frame*

<https://smartwatertwin.pmf.uns.ac.rs>

[HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02-01 - Twinning Western
Balkans Special](#)

*Twinning excellence on organic soil amendments effect on nutrient and
contaminant dynamics in the subsurface*

<https://twinsubdyn.pmf.uns.ac.rs>

Project results
are expected to
contribute to
ALL of the
following
expected
outcomes

- Enhanced *networking activities* between the *research institutions of the Widening countries* and *top-class leading counterparts at EU level* by linking with at least two research institutions from two different Member States or Associated Countries.
- *Improved excellence capacity and resources* in Widening countries enabling to close the still apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.
- *Raised reputation, research profile and attractiveness* of the coordinating institution from the Widening country and the research profile of its staff.
- *Strengthened research management capacities and administrative skills of the staff working in institutions from the Widening country.*
- *Improved creativity* supported by development of *new approaches in R&I collaboration, increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.*



UNSPMF flagship project which brought substantial and structured changes to how research should be supported, developed and managed!

D1.3. Roadmap and training plan for building efficient institutional research administrative support

Work packages:	WP1
Task:	Task 1.3; Deliverable 1.3.
Task Leader	Loughborough University (LU) UK



EXtremeClimTwin
BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN HYDRO-CLIMATE RESEARCH

articulated UNSPMF's

Vision

- UNSPMF will become an **internationally visible, research-intensive** institution that delivers **impactful research and education** by providing **seamless support to research development and planning** while empowering its human resources to thrive in their work and careers.

Mission

- Building processes to sustain continuous support to research development, management, and funding. Our mission is to recognize, recruit and reward staff critical to the implementation of the UNSPMF's ongoing effort to thrive in international research.

Values

- We put research community at the heart of our endeavours. UNSPMF shall strive to provide **professional, timely, efficient, customized support** to research community and remain **accountable** for its impact. UNSPMF shall strive to **inspire** the research community to **excel** and commit to **building international partnerships** to best **employ its strengths** when facing challenges.

UNSPMF STRATEGIC GOALS



These goals were developed through discussions, meetings, visits, and initial surveying of the UNSPMF academic community.

Areas where UNSPMF wishes to excel over the next 3-5 years :

- SG1 Improve IRO research development and support activity
- SG2 Develop international partnerships and collaborations
- SG3 Manage post-award effectively and assure compliance with funder and organisational policies
- SG4 Improve the visibility of research outputs
- SG5 Nurture research leadership skills through training and skills development programmes for both academic and research supporting staff
- SG6 Celebrate success

Needs analysis & Survey results

- Internal peer review of proposals
- Internal approvals for submissions
- Internal communications around research
- Facilitation and training related to proposal development
- Taking on the role of the “expert” for proposal development
- Utilizing the EU submission portal (F & T opportunities portal)
- Understanding what to do with unsuccessful proposal results
- Project closure and reporting
- Intellectual property management and protection
- Negotiation of contract terms related to dispute or conflict
- Understanding liability clauses in contracts
- Celebrating success within the organization



Set of actions
outlined in the
D1.3 through SGs

SG1: IMPROVE IRO RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT ACTIVITY

1. Develop *online ID form* to streamline the project application procedure
2. Include specific questions in the online ID form about what support is needed and when and in which phase
3. IRO to provide awareness raising of the importance and purpose of the ID form
4. Set up timescales for regular meetings (e.g. every 1-2 months) for the next 18 months
5. Determine who should attend these meetings, the purpose and develop materials such as agenda templates and who will log any actions
6. Investigate potential software/IT solutions suitable for UNSPMF
7. *Identify research coordinators from across the faculty and define their role*



Strategic Goal 2

SG2: DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

1. Include this on agendas of the regular research coordinator/research leaders' meetings to incorporate case studies
2. *Establish a series of academic workshops focused on research topics to include presentations and showcases*
3. *Run a workshop on how to use available tools for partnerships and how to set up a good partnership profile*



Strategic Goal 3

SG3: MANAGE POST-AWARD EFFECTIVELY AND ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FUNDER AND ORGANISATIONAL POLICIES

- 1. Develop a set of potential solutions to overcome the issue of lack of staff within IRO through meetings with UNSPMF leadership*
2. Investigate potential software/IT solutions suitable for UNSPMF



Strategic Goal 4

SG4: IMPROVING THE VISIBILITY OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS

1. PR to attend pertinent meetings and events at UNSPMF, compile inputs received through newsletter and produce reports for the media



Strategic Goal 5

SG5: NURTURING OF RESEARCH LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR BOTH ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH SUPPORTING STAFF

- 1. Develop an overarching training programme for academic staff*
- 2. Consider where internal or external courses are most appropriate*
- 3. Academics involved in delivering in-house training*



Strategic Goal 6

SG6: CELEBRATE SUCCESS

1. Include this on agendas of the regular research coordinator/research leaders' meetings to incorporate case studies with academics invited to present
2. Incorporate an overview of success and achievements in the Dean's talk
3. *Recognising academic success (e.g. award for external funding contribution)*
4. *Recognising the role of research support in delivering this success*





EXtremeClimTwin
BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN HYDRO-CLIMATE RESEARCH

WP1 Project coordination and management (UNSPMF)

Task 1.1 Project Management Coordination and Reporting (UNSPMF)

Subtask 1.1.1. Organizing Kick-off meeting

Subtask 1.1.2. Organizing project meetings

Task 1.2 Establishing and managing an appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework (CRA)

Task 1.3 Trainings and seminars of UNSPMF International Affairs Office (IAO)

Subtask 1.3.1. Needs analysis ✓

Subtask 1.3.2. Workshop at UNSPMF ✓

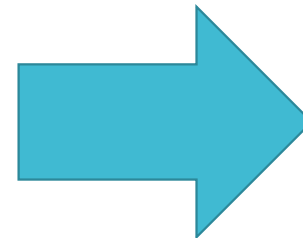
Subtask 1.3.3 Webinars ✓

Subtask 1.3.4 Workshop at P3 ✓

Subtask 1.3.5 Seminar during International Scientific Conference ✓

Subtask 1.3.6 Visits from UNSPMF to P3 ✓

Subtask 1.3.7 Visits from P3 to UNSPMF ✓



D1.3 submitted successfully on time at 31 May 2022

Iteration 2 submitted successfully at M33 (July 2023)

Achievements so far in all ongoing twinning projects

- **Articulated type and extent of support to academics** needed at various stages (pre-award, post-award, etc.)
- Established task force of **Departmental Research Coordinators** mandated to work with academics, increase visibility, understanding and awareness of the international funding opportunities, and facilitate support provided by the UNSPMF International Relations and Project Office
- Established effective working relationships and coordination among the UNSPMF's research support structures (IRO, legal and finance)
- Established culture of academics who share their networks and partnerships (**Luncheon Talks**)
- Developed international research partnerships (**NEW Horizon grants, NEW COST Actions, etc.)**
- International funding helped UNSPMF **showcase funded research internally and externally** and brought greater external visibility of research outputs and success stories
- Provided **training for academic staff for continuous professional development** (as articulated through needs analysis)
- **Established internal peer review culture**
- **Project members working closely with twinning colleagues → WIN-WIN!**

Benefits of external funding

Internationalisation of Research

- More than 90 framework collaboration agreements
- More than 50 international ongoing projects

- Horizon Europe
- Horizon 2020
- COST Actions
- IPA Interreg CBC Programme
- Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
- World Bank
- V4 – Visegrad Fund
- Bi- and multi-lateral collaboration
- ERASMUS+ KA131, KA103, KA107, KA2
- CEEPUS

- *Research management and capacity building (Horizon twinning projects)*
- *Networking*
- *Institutional visibility and recognition*
- *Research Excellence*
- *Openness of Research (Open Access, FAIR guiding principles)*
- *Gender Equality Plan (GEP)*



UNSPMF scoreboard in EU FPs for R&D&I



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

EN

Register

Login

HOME SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS HOW TO PARTICIPATE PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT

Partner search:

University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences

PIC: 997718624

Serbia - Novi Sad

Higher or secondary education establishment

29 projects funded

Contact organisation

Description

University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences (UNSPMF) is a leading educational and research institution in Serbia comprising research in chemistry, biochemistry, environmental protection, biology, ecology, physics, computer science, mathematics, geography, and tourism. UNSPMF is strategically oriented to EU and other external funding (Horizon Europe) and is experienced in managing and implementing international R&D&I projects in broad range of disciplines it encompasses. Overview of UNSPMF's international projects can be found on: <https://www.pmf.uns.ac.rs/en/research/projects/> University of Novi Sad was awarded the HR Logo of Excellence in the field of improving the work conditions of researchers hence UNSPMF is committed to principles of The European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. Web site: <https://www.pmf.uns.ac.rs/en/>

Tags/Keywords

- Ecology of aquatic and wetland vegetation
- High Performance Computing
- astronomy
- big data science
- bioavailability
- biochemistry
- biochemistry of natural products
- bioclimatology
- bioinformatics
- biology
- biophysics
- bioremediation
- chemistry
- climate change
- climate extremes

More tags

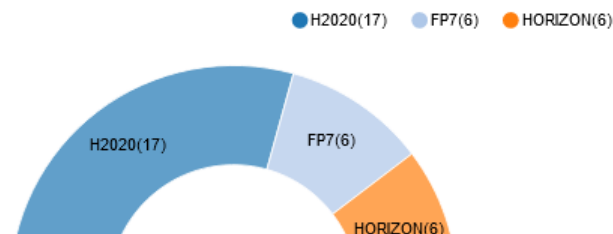
Charts pie

Main collaboration partners

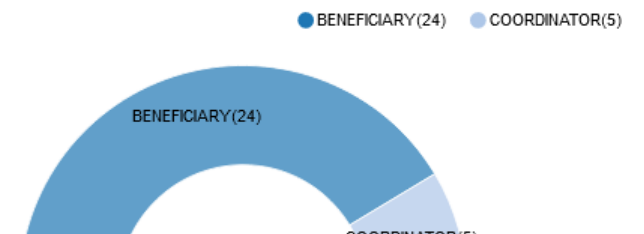
Projects list

Partner search announcements

Programmes



Roles



UNSPMF successful grants



Climate Research

Climate Extremes

Urban Climate

Sustainable energy

Environmental Protection

Eco-friendly solutions

Big Data

Artificial Intelligence

Biochemistry of Natural

Products

Biodiversity

Nature Conservation

Cultural Heritage

...

[Overview of international projects](#)

Horizon 2020 European Green Deal
[Smart Citizen Education for a green fuTure](#) (GreenSCENT)

H2020 EXtremeClimTwin (climate extremes and hazards)
→ IRO & Project Office capacity building

H2020 Phy2Climate (Clean biofuel production and phytoremediation solutions from contaminated lands worldwide)

EU Instrument for Pre-accession - IPA CBC
[GReENERGY](#) (production and use of sustainable energy using solar energy plants and to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings)

Horizon Europe (WIDERA – twinning calls)
[SmartWaterTwin \(Twinning For Smart Water- Thinking And Rethinking Wastewater Management In Circular Economy Frame\)](#)

[TwinSubDyn \(Twinning excellence on organic soil amendments effect on nutrient and contaminant dynamics in the subsurface\)](#)

Horizon Europe (Cluster2) [STECCI Stone monument ensembles and the climate change impact | Horizon Europe](#)

Horizon Europe (Cluster2) [Restore4Life](#) - Restoring wetlands for a sustainable future

Horizon Europe HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-04 UPSTREAM - Circular and Bio-Based Solutions for the Ultimate Prevention of Plastics in Rivers Integrated with Elimination And Monitoring Technologies

Horizon Europe HORIZON-CL3-2022-CS-01 Revolutionised Enhanced Supply Chain Automation with Limited Threats Exposure **RESCALE** (CL3: Civil Security for Society)

Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges – ClearClimate

Direct outcomes as most measurable KPIs



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- **Horizon 2020 European Green Deal**
[Smart Citizen Education for a greenN fuTure \(GreenSCENT\)](#)
- **Horizon Europe (Cluster2)** [STECCI Stone monument ensembles and the climate change impact | Horizon Europe](#)
- **Horizon Europe (Cluster2)** [Restore4Life](#) - Restoring wetlands for a sustainable future
- **Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges – ClearClimate**
- Publications, conference participations, workshops, webinars, project promotions, new networks, strengthened role of research support services, twinning further and helping others win a grant...



Colleagues to Colleagues Lunchtime Talk series

Milestone in implementing D1.3 Roadmap



Dr Stevan Savić



Dr Biljana Basarin

Lunchtime Talk #1

Progress towards creating the internal peer culture at UNSPMF by sharing and caring

Colleagues to Colleagues Lunchtime Talks
by EXTremeClimTwin

CREATE CLIMATE FOR A CHANGE

Success Story on how to turn attractive ideas into impactful projects and build excellence

25. januar (sreda) od 12-13h

Svečana sala na Departmanu za biologiju i ekologiju, IV spr





Lunchtime Talk #2

Shine bright with Fulbright



Join us for  **EXtremeClimTwin** Lunchtime Talk 2
Colleagues to Colleagues

Shine bright with



success stories



Dr. Mihajla Đan
PhD in Biology
Geneticist

Date: 29 March 2023
Time: 12:00h – 13:30h
Place: PMF Blue Building, V floor, Svečana sala



Dr. Michael Allen
Ph.D., Geography, Climatology;
Public Health Cognate



*Friends
before funds!*



VISION ➡ STRATEGY ➡ ACTION!

- Long standing, fruitful partnership!
 - Learning from and with colleagues
 - EU Programmes offer immersive exchange and networking experience with peers to enhance skills and competences
 - Embrace every opportunity to advance skills and competences in:
academic, professional leadership and development, research enhancement, internationalisation, cultural exchange, professional affiliation...
- ➡ Stepping out of your comfort zone is challenging but very rewarding!

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Thank you for your attention!

