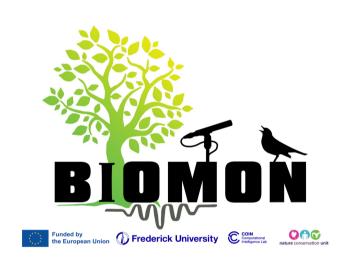# BIOMON

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Christos Mammides

What is your project about and why is it important for the advancement of science?

The primary goal of BIOMON is to develop an innovative passive acoustic monitoring protocol that can be used to survey bird communities in biodiverse agricultural farmlands across Europe using acoustic sensors and AI techniques. Agricultural intensification and other human activities frequently result in biodiversity loss. As a result, there is an urgent need to develop automated tools that can accurately monitor an area's ecological status over large temporal and spatial scales.

Why is your project important for society? Have you planned any public engagement activities for those interested to learn more?

The development of automated biodiversity monitoring tools is a key objective of the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and, subsequently, of the European Green Deal. Such tools can be used to protect species with high conservation value, which are integral elements of Europe's natural heritage. BIOMON includes a number of communication and public engagement activities, including participation in the European Researchers' Nights, where members of the public can learn about the project's objectives, visits to schools during which students are introduced to the

project and technology used, and social media engagement.

What kind of support did you get, and what materials did you use during the application process?

To successfully prepare my application, I relied heavily on the guidelines made available by the European Commission. I also found the "MSCA-IF Manual For Evaluators" to be extremely useful, as it describes in detail how proposals are evaluated in relation to the various sections. I participated in MSCA-specific webinars, where I was able to ask questions about my proposal. I read multiple successful proposals that were available online, as well as proposals submitted by applicants in Cyprus in previous years. More importantly, I worked closely with the MSCA National Contact Points in Cyprus, who reviewed my proposal and offered helpful feedback. I truly believe my proposal would not have been successful without their feedback.

Why did you choose Cyprus as a host country?
Cyprus is one of the EU's most biodiverse countries. Because of its rich avifauna, the island represents an ideal study area for the development of such biodiversity monitoring tools. Furthermore, the island's research capacity has grown rapidly over the last few years, hosting a large number of talented scientists, making Cyprus an ideal location for conducting cutting-edge research.

How did you find your host organisation?
As a native Cypriot, I was already familiar with Frederick University (FU) and its leading role in conserving the island's biodiversity. FU is home to the Computational Intelligence Laboratory, led by Dr. Harris Papadopoulos, an expert on Machine Learning and the algorithms that are integral to BIOMON's monitoring methods.

What tips can you give other researchers who would like to apply for MSCA?
Given the highly competitive nature of MSCA actions, interested researchers must use all of the resources made available by the European Commission and the National Contact Points. I strongly recommend that you speak with previous applicants about their experiences. I also advise you to contact the NCP as soon as possible so that they can assist you with the proposal preparation process.

Project: Using passive acoustic monitoring methods to survey birds communities in biodiverse agricultural farmlands in the EU
Start date: 1 June 2022 - **End date:** 31 May 2024

Topic: HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-02
Grant agreement ID: 101090273

Coordinated by: Frederick University

⬀ Find out more on CORDIS

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⬀ Find out more on fellow's social media

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