



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

# MSCA 2020

Achieving More Together  
Online Conference

Workshop II: Supervision in  
MSCA and beyond – Perspective  
of postdoctoral students



Marie  
Skłodowska-Curie  
Actions

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- Currently MSCA IF  
University of Tartu, Estonia
- Mobilitas Pluss Estonian Research  
Agency Post-doctoral scholarship  
University of Tartu, Estonia
- Researcher (non-academic)
- PhD Geoinformatics (New Zealand)
- MSc GI-Science (Austria)
- IT Job (Industry)
- BSc Computer Science (Germany)





# My experiences with supervision

- Single academic supervisor during BSc and MSc theses
- PhD split between applied Research Institute and University (science project in CRI, writing in University)
- Post-doctoral supervision, integrated into a team with only occasional very focussed supervision meetings with Professor



# Supervision in my current position as postdoc

- professional work environment in my lab, feeling part of something bigger
- Asking and implementing senior advice is own duty, no one is “pushing you”
- independent own work organisation, but with experienced MSCA fellows and senior researchers as lab members “everyday guidance” super valuable



# Is supervision necessary / useful at the postdoc stage?

- Acknowledge “Growing as a researcher”
- Raise awareness of “Holistic vs classic supervision”

(i.e. modern/integrated vs “the Professor boss”)



# Supervision in real life

- I have a rather independent personal project, my responsibility
- The main Professor doesn't have enough time or is not deep enough into my niche
- The lab integration and (“senior”) peer support is very important
- Weekly/bi-weekly lab meetings, progress reports



## **‘If I were a supervisor ...’**

- Actually, I am involved in supervision myself already (PhD and MSc students)  
-> “learning on job” / reflect own position
- give directions/feedback, but don’t solve for the supervised person
- Take time regularly, but with structure and time limit (30/60 minutes max)



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