



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

The Academy of Europe

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION APPLICATION

Title: Enhancing cross-border collaborations within the Visegrád Group Society for Developmental Biology (V4SDB)

MAE/YAE Investigator(s): Prof. Gáspár Jékely (COS, Germany)

Other investigators: Dr. Máté Varga (ELTE, Budapest – V4SDB Vice-President), TBD (4-5 young researchers, elected members of the V4SDB YoRC)

Category: Barriers and Bridges (but the other categories also apply)

Problem (max. 50 words):

Despite V4SDB's previous attempts to tap the cross-border collaboration potential in the region, developmental biology researchers across Visegrád countries remain largely unaware of available partnership opportunities. Our current database (https://v4sdb.org/v4sdb_mobility_db_jan2024) lacks visibility and promotional support, limiting resource pooling and collaborative research that could significantly enhance regional scientific output and competitiveness.

Unmet Need (max. 50 words):

A systematic communication strategy is needed to promote V4SDB's mobility opportunities and showcase successful cross-border collaborations. Young researchers require dedicated networking support and visible success stories to encourage participation in regional partnerships, transforming V4SDB's existing online platforms into active collaboration catalysts.

Project Description (max. 200 words):

This project envisages the establishment of V4SDB's Young Researcher Committee (YoRC) to enhance cross-border developmental biology collaborations within Visegrád countries during our upcoming, biannual Fall Conference (<https://v4sdb2025.img.cas.cz>). The YoRC will comprise 4-5 PhD students and early-career researchers who will revitalize V4SDB's existing social-media accounts and mobility database through strategic communication and networking initiatives.

Key activities include: developing regular newsletters featuring collaboration testimonials and success stories of inter-V4 mobilities; creating targeted social media campaigns highlighting partnership opportunities; organizing quarterly networking meetings in regional academic centres to foster direct researcher connections; and establishing a mentorship program connecting junior researchers with successful collaboration veterans.

The committee will transform V4SDB's dormant mobility database into a dynamic platform by actively promoting available opportunities, documenting collaboration outcomes, and creating visible pathways for resource sharing between institutions. Using an innovative combination of communication tools, YoRC will demonstrate how cross-border partnerships can amplify research impact, share expensive equipment and expertise, and accelerate scientific discoveries.

This grassroots approach leverages young researchers' digital fluency and enthusiasm while building sustainable networks that will mature with their careers. The project directly addresses V4SDB's core mission of promoting functional integration and establishing professional networks, particularly benefiting junior researcher career development across Central Europe.

Hypothesis (25 words):

Regular promotion of collaboration success stories and dedicated young researcher networking will significantly increase cross-border partnerships and resource sharing within V4 developmental biology labs.



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Implication for Practice (50 words):

Successful implementation will establish sustainable networking practices and communication strategies that other regional scientific organizations can adapt to enhance cross-border research partnerships. It will be also essential for the training of the next generation of developmental biology principal investigators in the region.

Implication for Research (50 words):

Enhanced collaboration will accelerate developmental biology research through improved resource accessibility, methodology sharing, and complementary expertise combination. Increased mobility and partnerships will generate novel research questions, expand experimental capabilities, and produce higher-impact publications while strengthening Central Europe's position in international developmental biology research.