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RESEARCH CAREERS A POCKET GUIDE

EUROPEAN RESEARCH CAREERS

A POCKET GUIDE



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS IN BRIEF

A POCKET GUIDE

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MARIE CURIE THE RIGHT ACTION FOR YOU

“In life, nothing is to be feared. Everything is to be understood.”

Marie Curie

Europe needs research and research needs Europe. The EU's Marie Curie Actions help to fund all kinds of training and mobility opportunities for researchers throughout their careers. At first sight, the very range of Marie Curie Actions may seem daunting. Fear not. This booklet is designed to take busy researchers straight to the Action they need.

In the first five years of your research career? Want to know how Marie Curie can help with initial training?

STARTING OUT
→ SECTION 1

Public research seeks private partner. Private research seeks public partner. Marie Curie makes the match.

**RESEARCH
MEANS
BUSINESS**
→ SECTION 2

Been in research for a while? Want to get some new research skills and see some other sectors? Let Marie Curie be your guide.

**RESEARCH
& CAREER
DEVELOPMENT**
→ SECTION 3

Are you a top-class researcher from a country outside Europe? Fancy working on some projects over here? Marie Curie bids you welcome.

**FROM
THE WORLD
TO EUROPE**
→ SECTION 4

Are you a European researcher? Would you like to do some high-level research outside Europe for a while? Marie Curie will speed you on your way. But she wants to see you back again.

**FROM EUROPE
TO THE WORLD**
→ SECTION 5

Already on a Marie Curie Action in Europe? Wondering how you'll fare afterwards on the employment market? Marie Curie can lend a hand.

BACK TO A JOB
→ SECTION 6

Been researching outside Europe for at least three years? Want to come home and find a good job here? Marie Curie can put you back on the ladder.

**BACK
TO EUROPE**
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Do you fund and manage fellowship programmes for researchers? Need a co-funder? Marie Curie might well be interested.

**FUNDS FOR
FUNDERS**
→ SECTION 8

Does your research organisation cooperate long-term with institutes outside Europe? Or does it plan to? Marie Curie can help you set up a coordinated exchange programme for your researchers.

**SWAPPING
STAFF**
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Do you really want to know what a Researchers' Night is?

**RESEARCH
REACHES OUT**
→ SECTION 10

Would you sooner see all of Marie Curie's main Actions side by side in one researcher-friendly overview?

**AN OVERVIEW
OF RESEARCH
FUNDING**
→ AT THE END

FP7* Structure



COOPERATION

- Health
- Food, agriculture & fisheries, & biotechnologies
- Information & communication technologies
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate change)
- Transport (including aeronautics)
- Socio-economic sciences & the humanities
- Space
- Security

CAPACITIES

- Research infrastructures
- Research for the benefit of SMEs
- Region of knowledge
- Research potential
- Science in society
- Coherent development of research policies
- Activities of international cooperation

PEOPLE

IDEAS

EURATOM



SECTION 1

STARTING OUT

INITIAL TRAINING NETWORKS (ITN)

www.ec.europa.eu/research/fp7

* EU's funding instrument for research



Embarking on a research career is not always easy. And yet today's young researchers are vital to Europe's future. At Marie Curie Actions, we are well aware of that. So we want to make research careers more attractive to young people.

Our Initial Training Networks (ITN) offer early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects.

Who can apply?

Well, it takes two to tango but three to network. So usually, **at least three participants** join together to propose a coherent programme for an ITN. The participants can be **universities, research centres or companies** [large or small].

There are some exceptions to the minimum of three. **Single research organisations** may sometimes get ITN support. **Twinning of research institutions** is another possible candidate. But in these cases, you must show quite clearly that the necessary elements of the research training programme are covered. So **well-established, international collaboration with other research institutions** will have to be demonstrated, even if there is no formal network.

Which topics can be funded?

Any research field in the humanities or science may qualify for ITN funding – provided that there is an element of **mobility across national borders**. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

Your network will **recruit and employ eligible researchers or host them**. You will be providing **specialised training modules** or other dedicated actions. The application should contain a strong element of transnational networking, aimed at **structuring the existing high-quality initial research training capacity** throughout EU Member States and Associated Countries.

An emphasis on **interdisciplinary and newly emerging supra-disciplinary fields** will count in your proposal's favour.

Training should be primarily through **research on individual, personalised projects**, complemented by substantial **training modules** in other **relevant skills and competences**.

Training topics may include:

- ➔ **Management and financing of research projects and programmes**
- ➔ **Intellectual property rights**
- ➔ **Means of exploiting research results**
- ➔ **Entrepreneurship**
- ➔ **Ethical aspects**
- ➔ **Communication and societal outreach.**

But that list is by no means exhaustive.

ITN funding supports:

- ➔ Recruitment of **researchers who are in the first five years of their career** for initial training – for instance, they may be studying for a research-level degree (PhD or equivalent) or be doing initial post-doctoral research
- ➔ Recruitment of **experienced “visiting” researchers** of outstanding stature in international training and collaborative research, so that they can strengthen knowledge transfer

- **Networking activities, workshops or conferences** that involve research staff from the participating research establishments and external researchers.

ITNs are mainly for the recruitment of researchers from **EU Member States and Associated Countries**, but the scheme is also open to researchers from **Third Countries**. Researchers supported by an **ITN** are normally required to undertake **transnational mobility** (i.e. move from one country to another) when taking up an appointment.

Successful proposals are funded for **up to 4 years**. Support provided by the networks to individual researchers may be **from 3 to 36 months for early stage researchers** or up to a **maximum of 24 months for experienced researchers**.

Who decides?

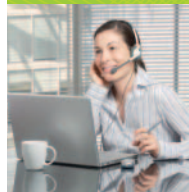
ITN proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Calls for ITN proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



SECTION 2

RESEARCH MEANS BUSINESS

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA
PARTNERSHIPS
AND PATHWAYS (IAPP)

Research and business have to work hand in hand. For their own good and for society as a whole. To compete on world markets, Europe's industry needs the fruits of your research. And you need the extra resources that industry can put in.

That's why we at Marie Curie Actions have been building up Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP). They help commercial and non-commercial research organisations work together. Partners include universities and companies of all shapes and sizes.

Focussing on joint research projects, IAPPs aim to boost skills exchange between the commercial and non-commercial sectors.

Who can apply?

To qualify for an IAPP, your proposal must include **one or more universities/research centres and one or more enterprises**. On the business side, participation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged. So getting them involved could count in your favour.

All of the partners get together and propose a project based on a joint cooperation programme. The industrial partners must be operating on a commercial basis. In other words, they must be companies that earn most of their money by competing in the marketplace. But they may include incubators, start-ups, spin-offs, venture capital companies, etc.

Cross-border cooperation is another must. To be valid, an IAPP project proposal must come from **partners in at least two different EU Member States or Associate Countries**. Partners from Third Countries can also join in, but only if enough EU members or associates are represented in the partnership too.

Which topics can be funded?

Proposals from **all scientific and technological research fields of interest to the EU** are welcomed by the IAPP team. Your project should promote a **strategic research partnership**, which can be co-ordinated by either a commercial or a non-commercial participant. It should also highlight longer-term cooperation. And it should make full use of all the skills and synergies available in the partnership. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

Successful IAPP project proposals receive **100% funding** for labour costs. If your project is chosen, you will be funded for **3-4 years**.

This is to support:

- ➔ **Exchange of know-how and experience** through two-way or one-way secondments of research staff between the commercial and non-commercial partners
- ➔ **Recruitment of experienced researchers** from outside the partnership, for involvement in the transfer of knowledge and/or the training of researchers
- ➔ **Networking, workshops and conferences** involving external researchers as well as the partners' own research staff.



Strong strategic partnerships are what the **IAPP** programme is all about. It is looking for long-term, targeted knowledge sharing and staff mobility between the public and private sector partners.

Who decides?

IAPP proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through transparent, **independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Calls for IAPP proposals are announced on the **CORDIS** website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

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SECTION 3

RESEARCH & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

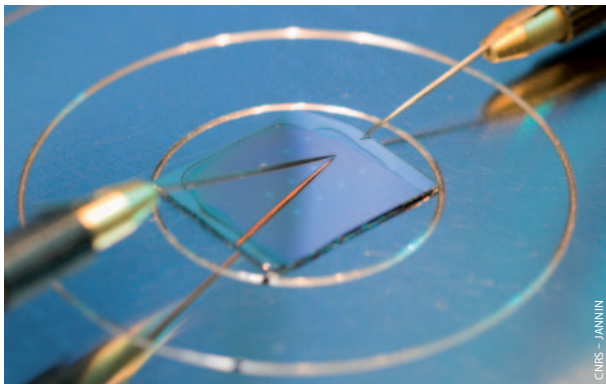
INTRA-EUROPEAN
FELLOWSHIPS
FOR CAREER
DEVELOPMENT (IEF)

At various stages of their career, experienced researchers may welcome an opportunity to acquire new research skills or experience working in other sectors. This broadening of their horizons also helps to broaden Europe's knowledge base. In turn, that makes our economy more competitive, providing more and better jobs.

So at Marie Curie Actions, we have developed our Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development (IEFs). They are specifically aimed at helping experienced researchers to try something new for a while.

Who can apply?

Researchers from **EU Member States or Associated Countries** can apply for an IEF. You must have either a **doctoral degree or at least 4 years' full-time equivalent research experience, after obtaining a degree permitting you to embark on a doctorate.** Generally, you must carry out the project on the premises of a host organisation in an EU or Associated Country other than your own.



CHRIS - JANNIN

Which topics can be funded?

IEF proposals are welcomed from **all areas of scientific and technological research.** But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

IEF funding is provided for advanced training and career development. This may include the acquisition of **new and/or complementary skills, and transnational mobility.** The project is based on a **personal career development programme** agreed between the researcher and the supervisor at the host organisation. Financial support is provided for a period of **12-24 months** (full-time equivalent), for individual projects presented by experienced researchers from Member States or Associated Countries in liaison with a host organisation from a Member State or Associated Country.

The fellowships may include:

- ➔ **Training-through-research** under supervision, through an individual personalised project
- ➔ **Hands-on training** to develop your scientific skills (new techniques or instruments, etc.) and your complementary skills (proposal preparation to request funding, patent applications, project management, tasks coordination, technical staff supervision, etc.)
- ➔ Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary **knowledge transfer**
- ➔ **Building Collaborations**
- ➔ Active **scientific and financial management** of your research project
- ➔ Developing **organisational skills** through organisation of training or dissemination events.

Who decides?

IEF proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on excellence **using a series of predetermined criteria**.

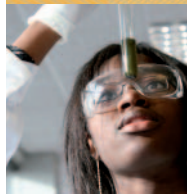
How do we apply?

Calls for IEF proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
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SECTION 4



FROM THE WORLD TO EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL
INCOMING
FELLOWSHIPS (IIF)

Top-class researchers from Third Countries are welcome to work on projects in Europe. This helps to develop research cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world – to everybody's benefit.

International Incoming Fellowships (IIFs) are a Marie Curie Action specially designed to encourage these moves.

Who can apply?

Researchers from Third Countries are eligible for an **IIF**. That means countries that are neither EU Member States nor Associated Countries. To apply, you must have either a **doctoral degree** or at least **4 years' full-time equivalent research experience, after obtaining a degree permitting you to embark on a doctorate**. But that is the minimum. The more experience you have, the better will be your chances of being accepted for this Action.

Your application for an **IIF** should be made in liaison with the organisation or institution that would be willing to host you in Europe. Host organisations can be universities, research centres or companies.



Which topics can be funded?

All areas of scientific and technological research that are of **interest to the EU** may be eligible for **IIF** funding. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

IIF funding is provided for a research project which will **transfer knowledge** into your host organisation and building or enhancing **collaborations** between Europe and the rest of the world. The research project will also allow you to **advance your career**. Financial support is provided for **12-24 months** (full-time equivalent).

Funding allows you to:

- ➔ join a **European research team** that doesn't have your experience
- ➔ establish a **collaboration** through a research project with your lab or your country
- ➔ gain **new knowledge** in a European lab.

Your **IIF** may also cover a **return phase** of up to one year. This will be spent back in your country of origin, applying the experience that you have gained. To qualify for a return phase, you must be from one of the **International Cooperation Partner Countries**. These are listed at <ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/icpc-list.pdf>. If you want a return phase, you must include details of it in your initial application. And you must specify the potential return host organization in your country of origin.

Who decides?

IIF proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Calls for IIF proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



CHRIS - RAGUET

SECTION 5

FROM EUROPE TO THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL
OUTGOING
FELLOWSHIPS
FOR CAREER
DEVELOPMENT (IOF)

European researchers can learn a lot from conducting high-level research in other parts of the world. The knowledge that they acquire in Third Countries can then be brought back and used in Europe.

To encourage European researchers to venture further afield (and then to come back), Marie Curie Actions offers International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development (IOFs).

Who can apply?

IOFs are for **researchers from EU Member States and Associated Countries**. To apply, you must have either a **doctoral degree** or at least **4 years' full-time equivalent research experience, after obtaining a degree permitting you to embark on a doctorate**. But more experienced is welcomed, it will not affect your chances of obtaining an IOF.

Which topics can be funded?

IOF proposals are welcomed from **all areas of scientific and technological research that are of interest to the EU**. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

IOFs fund advanced **training**. In particular, they include a salary for the researcher and a contribution to research-related costs. Financial support can be given for up to **3 years** in all. This includes an initial **outgoing phase** of 1-2 years in a Third Country followed by a **mandatory reintegration phase** of 1 year. In other words, you will be committing yourself to return to an EU Member State or an Associated Country.

Your **host organisation** should be a **university, research centre or enterprise** established and located in a Third Country (for the outgoing phase) and another one in an EU or Associated Country (for the return phase).

The main activities will be based on a **research project** which you should prepare in coordination with the organisation that will host you when you return to Europe. You should also agree a **personal career development plan** with your supervisor in the return host organisation.

An IOF should significantly develop and widen your competences. In particular, it should strengthen your **multi- or interdisciplinary expertise, inter-sectoral experience** and **complementary skills**.

The fellowships may include:

- ➔ **Training-through-research** under supervision, through an individual personalised project
- ➔ **Hands-on training** to develop your scientific skills (new techniques or instruments, etc.) and your complementary skills (proposal preparation to request funding, patent applications, project management, tasks coordination, technical staff supervision, etc.)



- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary **knowledge transfer**
- **Building Collaborations**
- Active **scientific and financial management** of your research project
- Developing **organisational skills** through organisation of training or dissemination events.

Who decides?

IOF proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Your application for an IOF should be made in liaison with the return host organisation.

Calls for IOF proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



SECTION 6

BACK TO A JOB

EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION GRANTS (ERG)

Many researchers have already benefited from training within a Marie Curie Action.

Naturally and positively, most of them will want to enter or re-enter long-term research employment as soon as possible after their training. Marie Curie's European Reintegration Grants (ERGs) help them to do just that.

Who can apply?

To qualify for an **ERG**, you must be a **researcher from an EU Member State or an Associated Country** with at least **4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree**. And you must have benefited from a **Marie Curie training and mobility action** lasting at least **18 months**.



CNRS - CHATIN

Which topics can be funded?

ERG proposals are welcomed from **all areas of scientific and technological research**. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

The **reintegration grant** is a flat-rate contribution towards your project costs. These may, for example, contribute to the salary costs of the researcher or other staff employed for the project, travel costs, consumables, patent costs and publication costs. The grant will be paid for **2-3 years**. If your grant application is successful, the European Commission will establish a **grant agreement** with your host organisation in Europe. The host will then reach an **employment agreement** with you and is expected to pay your salary. Your **host organisation** must be a **university, a research centre or an enterprise** in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The grant **must be used within 2-3 years** for a research project. Your host institution must give a contractual undertaking to ensure your **reintegration for at least the duration** of the grant.

Who decides?

ERG proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

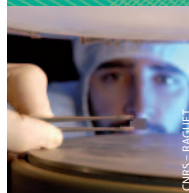
How do we apply?

Your application for an ERG should be made in liaison with your reintegration host organisation.

Calls for ERG proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



CRIS - RAGUET

SECTION 7

BACK TO EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL REINTEGRATION GRANTS (IRG)

As Europe's knowledge-based economy develops and grows, top-level European researchers who have been working in other parts of the world now see bright new career prospects back home.

Their return is a good move for them and good news for Europe. But they sometimes require a little help to get back on the European career ladder. Marie Curie's International Reintegration Grants (IRGs) meet that need.

Who can apply?

IRG applicants must be **researchers from EU Member States or Associated Countries** with at least **4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree**. You must have been actively engaged in **research in a Third Country for at least 3 years** – in other words, a country that is neither an EU Member State nor an Associated Country.



Which topics can be funded?

All fields of research are eligible for an IRG. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

The **reintegration grant** is a flat-rate payment, which is a contribution towards your project costs. The grant will be paid for **2-4 years**. If your grant application is successful, the European Commission will establish a **grant agreement** with your host organisation in Europe. The host will then reach an **employment agreement** with you and is expected to pay your salary (although the grant may help paying part of your salary). Your **host organisation** must be a **university, a research centre or an enterprise** in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The grant **must be used within 2-4 years** for a research project. Your host institution must give a contractual undertaking to ensure your **reintegration for at least the duration** of the grant.

Who decides?

IRG proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence** using a series of predetermined criteria.

How do we apply?

Your application for an IRG should be made in liaison with your reintegration host organisation.

Calls for IRG proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



CNRS - PACQUET

SECTION 8

FUNDS FOR FUNDERS

CO-FUNDING
OF REGIONAL,
NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES
(COFUND)

Transnational mobility opens up new horizons for researchers.

To encourage their movement across borders, Marie Curie Actions offer additional funding to existing or new regional and national fellowship programmes for research training and career development. This COFUND scheme can also support and strengthen existing and new international programmes.

Who can apply?

Applicants for COFUND funding should be **public or private bodies that are responsible for funding and managing fellowships or research training programmes**. They may be **ministries, research academies or agencies, international organisations or other bodies with a public mission**.



Which topics can be co-funded?

All fields of research and research training are eligible for COFUND, provided that an element of **mobility across borders** is involved. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

COFUND participants submit **multi-annual proposals for specific fellowships/research training programmes** for co-funding. These programmes must include at least one form of **transnational mobility**, such as incoming or outgoing mobility of researchers or an action to reintegrate them into research employment in Europe. The COFUND contribution consists of a fixed percentage contribution of the costs of eligible researchers involved with the scheme, with a maximum funding cap. Grant agreements are signed with the Commission for a period of two to four years.

Who decides?

COFUND proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria** with focus on the quality of the evaluation process for selecting the fellows in terms of transparency and equal treatment; the management capacity; the user friendliness of the application process and the benefit of the programme in terms of career development of the participating researchers.

How do we apply?

Calls for COFUND proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:

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SECTION 9

SWAPPING STAFF

INTERNATIONAL
STAFF EXCHANGE
SCHEME (IRSES)

Mobility by individual researchers has been supported by Marie Curie Actions for some time now. But something similar was needed for research organisations in particular for exchanges outside Europe.

Marie Curie's new International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) plugs that gap. It helps research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated exchange programme for their staff.

Who can apply?

Public organisations or private bodies with a public mission (e.g. universities, research centres etc) **which carry out research** can take part in IRSES. Your proposal must include **at least two independent participants in at least two different EU Member States or Associated Countries PLUS one or more organisations located either in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement (a science and technology cooperation agreement) or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.**

The EU's S&T agreements are listed at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=countries>

The European Neighbourhood Policy website is at:
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

One of the Member State or Associated Country partners in your project will act as its **coordinator**.

Which topics can be funded?

Proposals are welcomed from **all areas of scientific and technological research that are of interest to the EU**. But there is one exception: research areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty cannot be funded.

What does the funding cover?

For **each staff member from an EU Member State or Associated Country staying in an eligible Third Country**, a fixed monthly allowance to cover mobility costs (including travel costs) will be paid by IRSES. In exceptional cases, the costs of stays by staff from certain Third Countries in Europe may also be covered. In all cases, **the staff must remain employed by their organisations** and are expected to **return after the mobility period**.

Grant Agreements with the Commission are signed for a period of 2-4 years. The maximum duration of the individual staff exchanges will be 12 months.



Who decides?

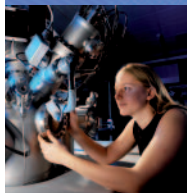
IRSES proposals are selected in an **open competition**. Selection is through **transparent, independent peer review**, based on **excellence using a series of predetermined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Calls for IRSES proposals are announced on the CORDIS website:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Proposals can be submitted online at:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7SubmitProposalPage>

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



SECTION 10

RESEARCH REACHES OUT

RESEARCHERS' NIGHTS

Mad Boffins Gather At Dusk To Plot World Domination

That is precisely what Researchers' Nights are not about. In fact, they set out to overcome some well-worn prejudices and bring the public at large a little closer to the world of research.

Every year, Researchers' Nights are held right across Europe – currently on the fourth Friday in September.

The key element is meeting researchers in a pleasant environment. But the message is a serious one. The research profession is vital to us all. Marie Curie helps to fund Researchers' Nights throughout Europe. The idea has caught on rapidly. In 2007, more than 150 cities and towns in 28 European countries were involved. Over 220,000 people took part.

Who can apply?

Researcher's Night grants may be awarded to **any legal body**, established in an **EU Member State or Associated Country**, that is organising a national or regional research community and is able to run evening or night events that can reach out to the public at large on the defined date in September. **Researchers working in any field of research** can participate. So can **private and public research organisations, academics, companies, public authorities, schools, science museums, parent-teacher organisations, mobility centres, foundations, the media...**

What can be funded?

More or less any action or event that boosts **public awareness of the positive role of research in society.**

What does the funding cover?

You can use the funding to cover **any expenses linked to the organisation of a research outreach event.** It can be spent on preparations and publicity as well as the event itself. Assessments of the event's impact can also be paid for.

Grants cover a period of **seven months.** Their value varies in line with the scale of the events proposed.

Activities that can be supported include:

- ➔ **hands-on experiments** conducted by researchers
- ➔ **scientific demonstrations** by researchers with public participation
- ➔ **guided visits** of labs, research institutions and other relevant places that are usually closed to the public (particularly at night)
- ➔ "real" scientific **experiments to be handled by the public**
- ➔ **workshops for children** (build a robot, conduct a real experiment, help a researcher in solving a problem etc.)
- ➔ **competitions** (scientific quizzes, puzzles, photo and art contests etc.).



But that list is by no means exhaustive. Creativity is the key. To see what other people got up to on Researchers' Night, check out http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersineurope/events/event_2216_en.htm

Who decides?

Your proposal will be judged by a panel of **independent experts** on **its scientific and/or technological excellence, its quality, the efficiency of its implementation and management, and its potential impact through** the development, dissemination and use of the results.

How do we apply?

All the rules, application forms, FAQs and other useful information are available on the Researchers in Europe site: http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersineurope/index_en.htm

For more information about Marie Curie Actions see: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>

AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FUNDING IN THE MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

	MARIE CURIE ACTIONS – INDIVIDUALS APPLY					MARIE CURIE ACTIONS – HOST APPLIES			
	IEF Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development	IIF International Incoming Fellowships	IOF International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development	ERG European Reinte- gration Grants	IRG International Reintegration Grants	ITN Initial Training Networks	IAPP Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways	COFUND Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes	IRSES International Staff Exchange Scheme
Aims	Helping experienced researchers at various career stages to acquire new research skills or undertake intersectoral experiences.	Encouraging top-class researchers from Third Countries to work on projects in Europe. Promoting mutually beneficial research cooperation.	Enabling European researchers to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level research organisation in a Third Country.	Supporting reintegration of researchers after they have benefited from a Marie Curie Action by providing a grant towards their research project.	Attracting European researchers who are performing research outside Europe to return and transfer the knowledge they have acquired.	Initial training of researchers in order to improve their skills, help them join established research teams and enhance their career prospects.	Promoting commercial and non-commercial partnerships through joint research projects. Exchange of skills and human resources. Cross-border cooperation.	Reinforcing international programmes and supporting new or existing regional and national programmes to provide for transnational mobility.	Assisting research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated staff exchange programme.
Profile of the researchers	Experienced researchers from EU or Associated Countries.	Experienced researchers from a Third Country.	Experienced researchers from EU or Associated States.	Experienced researchers from EU or Associated State who have been funded as a Marie Curie Fellow for at least 18 months.	Experienced researchers from EU or Associated State who have been active in research in a Third Country for at least 3 years.	Researchers within the first five years of their research career.	Experienced researchers may be recruited to the contract; seconded researchers can be of all levels of experience.	COFUND provides support for regional and national fellowship programmes for experienced researchers.	All research staff of the participating organisations.
Profile of the hosts	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in EU or Associated Country.	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in EU or Associated Country (and certain Third Countries if return phase applicable).	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in a Third Country (outgoing phase) and in EU or Associated Country (obligatory return phase).	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in EU or Associated Country.	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in EU or Associated Country.	Universities, research centres, companies, SMEs.	Partnerships of commercial and non-commercial research organisations (universities, companies, SMEs etc.)	Public or private bodies responsible for funding and managing fellowship programmes.	At least two research organisations in different EU or Associated Countries and one or more organisations in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement or covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.
How does it work?	Proposal submitted by researcher in liaison with host. Successful proposals receive up to 2 years support for the researcher's salary and a contribution to research expenses.	Proposal submitted by researcher in liaison with host. Successful proposals receive up to 2 years' support (+ 1-year return phase if applicable).	Proposal submitted by researcher in liaison with return host (in EU or Associated Country). Successful proposals receive up to 3 years' support covering the outgoing and return phases.	Researchers apply jointly with host institution, project starts within 12 months of the end of initial fellowship. Successful proposals awarded grant agreement with reintegration host.	Researchers apply jointly with host institution. Successful proposals awarded grant agreement with reintegration host which ensures reintegration. Grant towards research project to be used within 2-4 years.	Successful proposals from a network receive funding for up to 4 years to cover the costs of the researchers and for network activities including conferences and workshops.	Successful proposals receive funding for up to 4 years to cover the costs of the seconded and recruited researchers and for network activities including conferences and workshops.	Programme with at least one type of transnational mobility submits proposal for co-funding. Successful proposals receive up to 40% of full total costs.	Individual staff exchanges last 12 months maximum. Staff remain employed by their organisations and return after the mobility period. Staff exchange programmes receive IRSES support for 24-48 months.

European Commission

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You can obtain their contact details by sending a fax to (352) 29 29-42758.

Training, mobility, career help, public/private partnerships, staff exchanges, outreach. The EU's Marie Curie Actions fund all kinds of opportunities for researchers. But the very range of Actions can sometimes seem a little intimidating. So which is the right Marie Curie Action for you? This starter booklet gives you just enough detail to make the right first choice.

