



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION / European
Research Area



Marie Curie Actions

A pocket guide to
European Research Careers

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Interested in European research?

Research*eu is our monthly magazine keeping you in touch with main developments (results, programmes, events, etc.). It is available in English, French, German and Spanish. A free sample copy or free subscription can be obtained from:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research
Communication Unit
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 29-58220
E-mail: research-eu@ec.europa.eu
Internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/research-eu>

***EUROPE DIRECT is a service to help you find answers
to your questions about the European Union***

Freephone number (*):
00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access
to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS IN BRIEF

A POCKET GUIDE

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010

ISBN 978-92-79-18493-2

doi:10.2766/86687

© European Union, 2010

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Belgium

PRINTED ON ELEMENTAL CHLORINE-FREE BLEACHED PAPER (ECF)

2010

People

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.

Would you like to see all of Marie Curie's main actions side by side in one researcher-friendly overview?

AN OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FUNDING

Before you start looking for the right action for you, here are a few useful pointers to Marie Curie Actions.

TIPS AND TRICKS

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? Need 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 in 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

You find the idea of a position in Europe attracting? Marie Curie can help establish you and your research career here.

A CAREER IN EUROPE → SECTION 6

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

FUNDS FOR FUNDERS → SECTION 7

Does your research organization 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 → SECTION 8

And finally, do you really want to know what a Researchers' Night is?

RESEARCH REACHES OUT → SECTION 9

THE RIGHT ACTION FOR YOU

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	CIG Career Integration 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 moving 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.	Encouraging researchers to establish themselves in Europe or in an Associated Country.	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 based in EU or Associated Countries.	Experienced researchers based in a Third Country.	Experienced researchers from EU or Associated Countries.	Experienced researchers from any nationality after a period of mobility.	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 an Associated Country.	Universities, research centres or enterprises established and located in EU or an Associated Country (and certain Third Countries if return phase is 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 an 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 which are covered by the 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 (+ one-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. Successful proposals get a flat rate contribution for 2 to 4 years and a grant agreement is signed with the host with a view to a lasting professional integration.	Successful proposals from a network receive funding for up to 4 years to cover 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 seconded by their organisations and return after the mobility period. Staff exchange programmes receive IRSES support for 24-48 months.

For further information

<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

GENERALITIES

Rights of the fellows

The European Commission has adopted two key documents in the EU's policy to make research an attractive career: the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Link to the EU Bookshop website for downloadable versions:

http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KINA21620

Success Stories

Over the years, Marie Curie Actions have given tens of thousands of bright researchers opportunities to gain new knowledge and expertise within the best research groups. Here, you can find a link to the EU Bookshop website for the downloadable version of a book presenting success stories of passionate researchers, showing how an effective policy was crucial to attaining excellence in research.

http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KI3209199

National Contact Points

For further assistance and information about Marie Curie Actions, you can always contact the National Contact Point of your country. In a search engine, type "Cordis FP7 Get Support" or follow the link http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html where you'll find the list of NCPs in the EU and in third countries.

Research Executive Agency

The REA is an executive agency of the European Commission in charge of the implementation of Marie Curie Actions. Over the course of your work under a Marie Curie Action, the REA will most probably be your contact point. Here's the agency's website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/rea>

Definitions

Early-stage researchers: Researchers that must be, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree. This is measured from the date when they obtained the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is envisaged.

Experienced researchers: Researchers that must, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals or recruitment by the host organisation, depending on the action, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. In ITN, experienced researchers must also, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, have less than five years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Mobility: At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals or recruitment by the host organisation, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Compulsory

national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account. As far as international European interest organisations or international organisations are concerned, this rule does not apply to the hosting of eligible researchers. However the appointed researcher must not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference deadline for submission of proposals or recruitment by the host organisation, depending on the action, in the same appointing organisation.

Research organisation: Institution defined as a non-profit organisation which carries out research or technological development as one of its main objectives.



SECTION 1

STARTING OUT

INITIAL TRAINING NETWORKS (ITN)

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. But in this case, 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**.

Involvement of **private commercial entities** in your network is considered essential. It will help **diversify** the traditional research training settings and add to the **employability of the recruited researchers**.

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 key **transferable skills common to all fields**.

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.

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

ITNs are for the recruitment of researchers from **all over the world**. 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 pre-determined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <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 public and private research to 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 else at least one Member State plus one Associated Country**. 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 an industrial or an academic 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 **4 years**.

This is to support:

- ➔ **Exchange of know-how and experience** through two-way or one-way secondments of research staff between the industrial and academic 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?

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

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>

SECTION 3

RESEARCH & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

INTRA-EUROPEAN
FELLOWSHIPS
FOR CAREER
DEVELOPMENT (IEF)

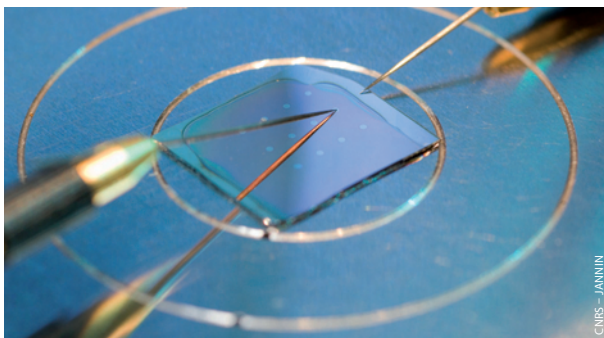


At various stages of their career, experienced researchers may welcome an opportunity to acquire new research skills or to work in other sectors. This broadening of their horizons also helps to broaden Europe's knowledge base. In turn, that makes our economy more competitive, providing more and better 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 based in **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 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. Special consideration is also given to those returning to a research career after a break.



CHIS - 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. This may include the acquisition of **new and/or complementary skills**, and **transnational mobility**. The training 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 **types of training** might 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)
- ➔ Intersectoral or interdisciplinary **knowledge transfer**
- ➔ The capacity to **build 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 pre-determined criteria.

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>



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 moving from **Third Countries** to EU Member States or Associated Countries are eligible for an **IIF**. To apply, you must have either a **doctoral degree** or at least **4 years' full-time 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 or enhance **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 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 http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/icpc_countries_en.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 organisation 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 pre-determined criteria.

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the “When to apply page” of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <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 offer 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 research experience, after obtaining a degree permitting you to embark on a doctorate**. But more experience is welcome; 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. But there is also a **mandatory reintegration phase**. 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 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 on 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, intersectoral 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.)
- ➔ Intersectoral or interdisciplinary **knowledge transfer**



CNRS - DELHAE

- **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 pre-determined criteria**.

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>

SECTION 6

A CAREER IN EUROPE

CAREER INTEGRATION GRANTS (CIG)



© ESIF

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

This move is a good one for them and it is also good news for Europe. But they sometimes require a little help to get on the European career ladder: Marie Curie's Career Integration Grants (CIGs) meet that need.

Who can apply?

CIG applicants must be **experienced researchers from any country in the world**, with at least **4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree**. You must have been actively engaged in research, but you **cannot have carried out your work in the country of your host organisation** for more than twelve



CNRS - CHATIN

months over the last three years. Finally, you must have never in the past benefitted from a European or an International Reintegration Grant (ERG or IRG) nor from a Career Integration Grant.

Which topics can be funded?

CIG 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 **career integration grant** is a flat-rate contribution towards your research costs. These may, for example, include the salary costs of the researcher or other staff employed for the project, travel costs, consumables, patent costs and publication costs. The grant will cover a period of **2 to 4 years and must be used within this period**. If your grant application is successful, the European Commission will establish a **grant agreement** with your host organisation in Europe. The host will then provide you with an employment contract (if one does not already exist), on the basis of which it is expected to pay your salary and ensure your integration for at least the duration of the grant. Your **host organisation** must be **a university, a research centre or an enterprise** in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

Who decides?

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

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>



SECTION 7

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 of experienced researchers. This COFUND scheme can also support and strengthen existing and new international programmes.

Who can apply?

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



Marie Curie Actions in brief

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. COFUND programmes can cover **several or all research fields** or can be **restricted to a specific domain**. 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 research and training programmes** for co-funding. These programmes should be open to **experienced researchers** and 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. Eligible programmes are co-funded for 40% of their fellowship costs with a maximum EU contribution of €10 million for any organisation per call. Selected programmes will be co-funded for 24 to 60 months.

Who decides?

COFUND proposals are selected through **transparent and independent peer review**. **Criteria** examined during the evaluation include: focus on the quality of the evaluation process for selecting the fellows in terms of transparency and equal treatment of applicants, quality of the peer review, management capacity, user-friendliness of the application process and benefit of the programme in terms of career development for the participating researchers.

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the "When to apply page" of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>



SECTION 8

SWAPPING STAFF

INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH 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 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?

Active research organisations (e.g. universities, research centres, etc.) 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 monthly allowance to cover mobility costs (including travel costs) will be paid by **IRSES**. The costs of stays by staff from certain Third Countries in Europe may also be covered. In all cases, **the seconded staff members must continue to be paid their salary** and are expected to **return to their home organisation after the mobility period**.

A **staff exchange programme** can receive **IRSES** support for a period of **24-48 months**. The maximum duration of the **individual staff exchanges** will be **12 months**.



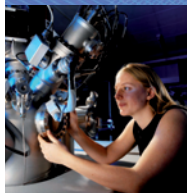


Who decides?

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

How do we apply?

Proposals are submitted in reply to a **call for proposals**. Calls can be found on the “When to apply page” of the Marie Curie Actions website, which also contains all useful information about the actions: <http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions/>



SECTION 9

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 fun. But the message is a serious one. Research is vital to us all. Marie Curie helps to fund Researchers' Nights throughout Europe. The idea has caught on rapidly. In 2010, more than 250 cities and towns in 33 countries were involved.

Who can apply?

Researchers' Night grants may be awarded to **any legal body**, established in an **EU Member State or Associated Country** that is capable of organising a national or regional research community and is able to run events that can reach out to the public at large on the defined date in September. **Researchers working in any field of research** can apply. 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, visit Researchers' Night website, see link below.

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' Night site:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersnight/>

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

European Commission

Marie Curie Actions - *A pocket guide to European Research Careers*

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2010 — 44 pp. — 10,0 x 14,8 cm

ISBN 978-92-79-18493-2

doi:10.2766/86687

HOW TO OBTAIN EU PUBLICATIONS

Free publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- at the European Union's representations or delegations. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://ec.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

Priced publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>).

Priced subscriptions (e.g. annual series of the Official Journal of the European Union and reports of cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union):

- via one of the sales agents of the Publications Office of the European Union (http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index_en.htm).



Training, mobility, career development, public/private partnerships, staff exchanges and outreach activities. The EU's Marie Curie Actions fund all kinds of opportunities for researchers. But the very range of the 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.



Publications Office

ISBN 978-92-79-18493-2



9 789279 184932

MARIE CURIE THE RIGHT ACTION FOR RESEARCHERS



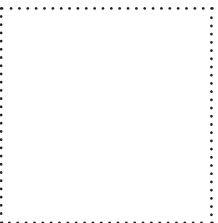
- ➔ INITIAL TRAINING
- ➔ PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
- ➔ NEW SKILLS AND SECTORS
- ➔ MOBILITY
- ➔ CAREER HELP
- ➔ CO-FUNDING
- ➔ OUTREACH



**WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?**
[http://ec.europa.eu/
mariecurieactions](http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions)



**Put the right stamp
on your research career**





<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>