

The European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Marie Curie Actions (MCA)



Overview of Presentation

- Overall scope of the Marie Curie Actions (MCAs)
- Overview of the MCA
- Outline of each action
- MCA evaluation criteria
- DST support for FP7 participants



Overall scope

- Human resource development in R&D in Europe
- Numerous, well-trained, motivated researchers
- Attract students to SET careers
- Skills and sustainable career development
- Continuity of previous Framework programme



Five MCA Building blocks

- **Initial training of researchers (ITN)**
- **Life long training and career development** (Intra European Fellowships and European Reintegration grants)
- **Industry dimension** (Industry Academia Pathways and Partnerships)
- **International dimension** Incoming and outgoing fellowships, reintegration and research staff exchange scheme (IOF, IIF, IRG, IRSES)
- **Specific actions** (Networking of NCPs and awards (NIGHT and EURAXESS)

Overview of MCA

- Respond to calls for proposals
- Proposals drafted in conjunction with EU partners
- All actions are for experienced researchers, except for ITN, IRSES and IAPP
- No consortium agreement except for IRSES
- EU funding for some actions



Overview of MCA

Host Actions

- Aimed at building institutional capacity
- Open for researchers, management and technical staff
- IRSES, IAPP, ITN

Individual Actions

- Aimed at building individual capacity
- Open for experienced researchers (PhD or 4 years full time in research)
- IIF, IOF, ERG, IRG



Host Actions

1. International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

- The objectives is to strengthen partnership between research **organisations** within the EU member state/associated countries and third countries
- Through joint exchange programmes of researchers, staff and networking activities

Requirement for participation

- Countries with existing or in a process of negotiating S&T agreements with the EU
- Countries covered by European neighbourhood policy
- Minimum of 2 EU partners and one other participating country

Countries eligible for participation in IRSES

Countries with EC agreements on S&T

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Egypt, India, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, **South Africa**, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States

Countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

- Eastern Europe & Central Asia (EECA) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- Mediterranean Partner Countries (MCP) Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administrated areas, Syrian Arab Rep., Tunisia

IRSES MAIN FEATURES

- Exchange of researchers, technical and management staff between organisations
- Development of institutional capacity rather than individual
- Short term exchanges (max 12 months) and stay can be split into several periods
- Proposal to be submitted by European Coordinator
- Balanced exchanges principle (each country fund its outgoing researchers), but EU funding of ICPC countries is possible
- EU provide 1800€/person/month as lump sum
- DST will provide (R30000/p/m and 2500/p/m) support for successful SA participants
- Seconded researchers should maintain their salary at home institution and return

Next call (open 28 November 2009- close 25 March 2010)



2. IAPP

- The objective is to encourage knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, technical expertise and sustainable cooperation between industry and academia (in particular SMEs)
- Research staff and technical & managerial staff of all levels of experience
- Enhance sustainable cooperation between partners of both sectors in joint projects
- Joint research projects or programmes addressing real or perceived barriers which inhibit movement of research between public and private sectors



IAPP MAIN FEATURES

Main features

- Longer-term (4yrs full cost) co-operation between sectors ≥ 1 university/research centre + ≥ 1 private sector; ≥ 2 different Member States/Associated countries
- **Open to researchers from Third countries**
- 2-way staff secondments / hosting of experienced researchers from outside the partnership
- Secondments for 2 months to 2 yrs with 1 yr active in seconding organisation
- Recruited experienced staff 12-24 months
- Organisation of workshops/conferences, including for researchers from outside the partnership
- Special measure: equipment costs for SMEs

3. ITN

- Objective: to strengthen and structure Early Stage (first 5yrs of career) Training to:
 - improve research and broad skills development (including industrial needs)
 - help join established research teams
 - enhance career prospects in public and private sectors
- Must have industry participation and a letter of commitment is required from industry partners



ITN MAIN FEATURES

- International network of participants -at least three participants established in at least three MS or Associated countries
- Funding for up to 4 years
- Open to researchers from Third countries (motivation)
- Joined training programmes with (i) training through research (ii) complementary competences (structured training) modules
- Involvement of private sector
- Allowances for:
 - “*early-stage*” researchers (incl. first post-docs) and *visiting scientists* position
 - short training events (also open to researchers from outside the network) and training and networking activities

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

1. International Incoming fellowship (IIF)

Objectives:

- To reinforce the scientific excellence of the Member States (MS) and the Associated Countries (AC) through knowledge sharing with **incoming researchers from Third Countries (TC)**;
- To develop mutually beneficial research co-operation between Europe and TC; and
- To build sustainable connections through mobile researchers



IIF MAIN FEATURES

Main features

- Aimed at experienced researchers
- Fellows work full time on the project
- Can't replace a fellow who withdraw in the middle of the project
- Project duration: 12 up to 24 months
- Application submitted by the TC researcher in conjunction with the host organisation in a MS or AC
- Salary plus contribution to research related costs
- 1 year return phase for EU/AC and ICPC 15 000€ /yr, and incoming host to sign contract with the EC



2. International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF)

- The objective is to reinforce the international dimension of the career of European researchers by training and acquisition of new knowledge in a Third Country (TC)
- High level research organisation
- Transfer acquired knowledge in organisations from Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC) upon return
- Structured long term professional development and advanced training and life-long learning



IOF MAIN FEATURES

- Fellowships of 2 phases: initial outgoing phase in a TC (partner organisation) and a mandatory re-integration phase in a MS or AC (return host organisation)
- Project duration: up to 36 months (outgoing phase:1-2 years reintegration phase:1 year)
- Application submitted by the researcher in conjunction with the host organisation
- Personal career development plan to be established by researcher and supervisor at return organisation



MCA evaluation criteria

- Quality of exchange programme (25%)
 - Transfer of knowledge (30%)
 - Implementation (15%)
 - Impact (30%)
- > 3 points each and total ≥ 13



Thank you!

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