Marie Curie Initial Training Networks – ITN – 2011 Call

ITN workshop
NCP, Bonn Germany
25/10/2010
What is ITN?
# PEOPLE Programme

## Initial training (~40% budget)
- **Initial Training Networks**

## Life-long training and career development (~25-30% budget)
- Intra-European Fellowships (IEF) / Reintegration Grants (RG)
- Co-funding of regional/national/international programmes (COFUND)

## Industry dimension (~5-10% budget)
- Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)

## International dimension - World Fellowships (~25-30% budget)
- Outgoing & Incoming International Fellowships (OIF & IIF)
- International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

## Specific policy support actions (~1% budget)
- Researchers’ Night; Support to Euraxess Network
Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN)

International research networks involving both the academic and commercial sectors to:

1. **Strengthen and structure** Initial Training of Researchers at European level
2. **Attract** individuals to scientific careers
3. **Improve career perspectives** by broad skills development (including private sector needs)

Directed at researchers in the earlier stages of their careers
MAIN FEATURES:

• International network of participants

• Joint Research Training Programme:
  (i) training through research
  (ii) complementary competences modules
  (iii) exposure to both public and private sectors

• Private sector involvement

• Mutual recognition of the quality of the training

• Four-year Grant Agreements
WHO ARE THE PARTICIPANTS?

• National organisations (e.g. universities, research centers, etc... whether private or public)

• Commercial enterprises, especially SMEs

• Non-profit or charitable organisations (NGOs, trusts, etc...)

• International European Interest Organisations (CERN, EMBL, ...)

• The Joint Research Center of the EC

• International organisations (WHO, UNESCO, etc...)

PARTICIPANTS FROM WHICH COUNTRY?

→ 4 categories

• EU Member States (MS) (27)

• Associated Countries (AC): Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, FYROM, Switzerland, Israel, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina

• International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) based on three categories according to income per capita (low-income, lower-middle-income, or upper-middle-income).

• Other (non-ICPC) Third Countries (OTC)
  • Funding under conditions
**ITN TYPICALLY SET-UP AS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of ITN</th>
<th>Country of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-site ITN</strong></td>
<td>≥3 Participants from at least 3 different countries (MS or AC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Additional Participants: MS, AC, ICPC or OTC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Can only be funded if a special agreement is foreseen between the country and the EU, or in very exceptional cases where funding is essential for the training programme</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No more than 40% of the total EC contribution may be allocated to the benefit of organisations within one country in Multi-site ITNs.
**ALSO:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of ITN</th>
<th>Country of Participant(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twinning ITN</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mono-site ITN</td>
<td>1 Participant from MS or AC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Contracting organisation(s) take(s) full responsibility for executing the proposed research training programme
- Recruited researchers are expected to benefit from the informal network (secondments)

The nature of the existing international collaboration + the way in which this will be exploited in the proposed training programme must be described in the proposal.
# PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

!!! CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL !!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Network Partner</th>
<th>Offer <em>research training</em> &amp; recruit eligible researchers and participate in the <em>supervisory board</em></th>
<th>Level 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated Partner</td>
<td>Provide research training, <em>complementary skills courses</em>, (communication, enterprise cycles, innovation, IPR, ...) <em>secondments</em> and participate in the <em>supervisory board</em></td>
<td>Level 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The level of commitment of the private sector will be assessed by the expert evaluators under each of the main evaluation criteria (S&T, Training, Implementation, Impact).

In fields known to have strong interactions with industry, proposals are likely to receive a less favorable assessment if they foresee private sector involvement only at the lower level.
## ELIGIBLE RESEARCHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Criteria at the time of recruitment</th>
<th>Duration of appointments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INITIAL TRAINING</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early stage Researchers (≥ 80%)</td>
<td>3-36 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 0 ≤ Research experience ≤ 4 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No PhD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced Researchers</td>
<td>3-24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- PhD or at least 4 years of research experience</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- &amp; Research experience ≤ 5 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Researchers (a limited number)</td>
<td>Costs covered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- with outstanding stature in international</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training and collaborative research</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VISITING RESEARCHERS (VR):

• To complement the network’s capacity to transfer new knowledge + strengthen supervision of the network-wide training activities

• Should be exceptional and duly justified in the proposal, with explicit reference to the punctual training events he/she would be expected to provide or organise

The role of Visiting Researchers and the value added by their involvement in the training programme will be assessed by the expert evaluators.
RESEARCH TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

- **Training on scientific and technological knowledge through research:** individual personalised projects within the frame of the research topics defined by the network.

- **Personal Career Development Plan** established for researchers recruited for $\geq 6$ months.

- **Provision of structured training courses:** tutoring, lecture courses, teaching

  - available either locally or from another participant of the network.

  - local training programmes are expected to be coordinated to maximise added value (e.g. joint syllabus development, opening up of local training to other network teams, joint Ph.D. programmes, etc.)
RESEARCH TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

- **Intersectorial visits and secondments**
- Development of **network-wide training activities**: workshops, summer schools
  - exploitation of the **interdisciplinary** and **intersectoral** aspects of the project
  - exposure of the participants to different schools of thought
  - provide **complementary training** in IPR, project management, presentation skills, language courses, ethics, communication, entrepreneurship, proposal writing, task coordination...

- **Visiting Researchers** may contribute to such activities
- coordinated by a clearly identified **Supervisory Board**
NETWORKING ACTIVITIES:

- Organisation of scientific/managerial network meetings
- Visits and secondments
- Invitation of external experts
- Attendance at international conferences and workshops and membership of professional societies
- Electronic networking (internet webpages, email, video conferencing)
- Collaboration with other ITNs in similar or complementary fields
- Organisation of a final network conference
TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

- Experienced Researchers ("Early Post-Docs")
  
  **Training objective:**
  - make them more independent
  - provide them the skills to become team leaders in a near future

  **Training activities:**
  - intersectoral or interdisciplinary ToK
  - taking part in the management of the research project
  - organisation of training events

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The expert evaluators must be able to see from the proposal how the opportunities offered within the network would be exploited for the career enhancement of these early «post-docs». 
What does the funding cover?
ITN FUNDING

2 main areas
• Costs of the researchers
  • includes all employers costs such as social security and pension contributions
  • takes into account the cost of living in the country of recruitment
  • takes into account the family obligations of the researcher
• Contribution to the costs of the project

No matching funds required
RESEARCHERS

Recruited Researchers

- Salary costs including employers costs
- Mobility allowance of €700 or €1000 per month depending on family status
- Both are adjusted for the cost of living in the host country by country correction coefficients
- Base rates for EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS before country correction coefficients and any deductions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researchers Categories</th>
<th>EUR/year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-stage researchers</td>
<td>38 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced researchers (&lt; 10 years experience)</td>
<td>58 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced researchers (&gt;10 years experience)</td>
<td>87 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE PROJECT

Research, training and transfer of knowledge activities
Flat rate of €1800 per researcher-month to contribute to expenses related to
• training activities;
• research costs;
• co-ordination between participants

Management activities
Maximum of 10% of the total EU contribution

Overheads
Maximum of 10% of the direct costs
How can I apply?
!!! CURRENT CALL CLOSES 26 January 2011, 17.00.00, Brussels local time !!!

http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions

“WHEN to apply”

Budget = € 318.41 million

ESSENTIAL READING:

2011 PEOPLE Work Programme

ITN 2011 Guide for Applicants
### 1.1 ITN - Funding Scheme 'Support for Training and Career Development of Researchers': Marie Curie Initial Training Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>S&amp;T Quality (award)</th>
<th>Training (award)</th>
<th>Implementation (selection)</th>
<th>Impact (award)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Threshold: 3, Weighting:30%</td>
<td>Threshold: 4, Weighting:30%</td>
<td>Threshold: 3, Weighting:20%</td>
<td>Threshold: 4, Weighting:20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority in case of ex aequo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;T objectives of the research programme, including in terms of inter/multi-disciplinary, intersectoral and/or newly emerging supra-disciplinary fields.</td>
<td>Quality of the training programme. - Consistency with the research programme. - Contribution and relevance to the training programme of the private sector and, where appropriate, of other socio-economic actors. - Transferable skills offered: entrepreneurship, management, communication, management of IPR, ethics, grant writing, take up and exploitation of results, research policy, etc.</td>
<td>Capacities (expertise / human resources/ facilities / infrastructures/private sector involvement) to achieve the research training programme and access of fellows to these resources. Adequacy of task distribution and schedule.</td>
<td>Contribution of the proposed training programme to: * - structure training at doctoral level with the acquisition of key skills needed in both the public and private sectors; - improve career prospects and employability of researchers, including ERs where appropriate; - stimulate creativity and entrepreneurial mindset of researchers at doctoral level.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific quality of the research programme.</td>
<td>Importance and timeliness of the training needs (e.g. multidisciplinary, intersectoral, and newly emerging supra-disciplinary fields)</td>
<td>Private sector involvement at the highest possible level appropriate to the research topic, and sufficient evidence of commitment.</td>
<td>Contribution of the training programme to the policy objective of structuring the initial research training capacity at the European level (through establishing longer term collaborations and/or lasting structured training programmes between the partners' organisations).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriateness of research methodology and approach.</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the size of the requested training programme with respect to the capacity of the host</td>
<td>How essential is non-ICPC Third Country funding, if any, to the objectives of the research training programme.</td>
<td>The contribution of the training programme towards the policy objective of enhancing public-private sector collaborations in terms of research training.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originality and innovative aspect of the research programme. Knowledge of the state-of-the-art. Where appropriate, plans for exploitation of results.</td>
<td>Meaningful exposure of each researcher to another sector, in particular through secondments.</td>
<td>Networking and dissemination of best practice among partners. Clarity of the plan for organizing training events (workshops, conferences, training courses).</td>
<td>Where appropriate, mutual recognition by all partners of the training acquired, including training periods in the private sector. *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution of the private sector and, where relevant, other socio-economic actors in the research programme</td>
<td>a) For multi-site proposals: Adequate combination of local specialist training with network-wide training activities. b) For mono-site proposals: Adequate exploitation of the international network of the participants, including the private sector, for the training programme.</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the plans for the overall management of the training programme (demarcation of responsibilities, rules for decision making, composition of supervisory board including involvement of the private sector); also working conditions, transparency of recruitment process and career development.</td>
<td>Impact of the proposed outreach activities.*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Sub-criteria to be evaluated in the light of the principles of the 'European Charter for Researchers' and the 'Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers'.
THANK YOU

http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions