



S&T INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION NETWORK FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES

The European Union Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

The “People” Programme

April 4th 2008 the European Commission launched a call for proposals under the FP7 Marie Curie Actions ITN Scheme – Initial Training Networks. The call closes on **September 2nd 2008**.

ITN Scheme – Initial Training Networks

The scheme will be implemented by supporting competitively selected networks of organisations from different countries engaged in research training to improve career perspectives of *early-stage researchers* in both public and private sectors, thereby making research careers more attractive to young people. The networks should be built on a joint research training programme, responding to well identified training needs in defined scientific or technological areas, with appropriate references to interdisciplinary and newly emerging supra-disciplinary fields. The action will be primarily for researchers from Member States and Associated countries, but also open to researchers from *third countries*.

Network in this action should be composed of at least three participants (e.g. universities, research centres, companies, SMEs) established in at least three different Member States or Associated countries.

Direct or indirect involvement of organisations from different sectors is considered highly desirable in this scheme, as appropriate to the research discipline. Industry participation is foreseen at three levels: full network partner; provider of research training and complementary training including secondment opportunities; members of the supervisory board of the network, which would be expected to define the skills requirements for the *early-stage researchers*.

Participants of the network have to prepare a joint training programme. These training programmes will address in particular the development and broadening of the research competences of the *early-stage researchers*. Training will be primarily focused on scientific and technological knowledge through research on individual, personalised projects.

Each network will have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network wide training. The board will ensure that scientific and technological training through personalised research projects is balanced with complementary skills training, appropriate to the needs of each recruited researcher.

The announcements of vacancies for recruiting researchers are publishing at the European Researcher’s Mobility Portal http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/index_en.cfm.

Each researcher recruited for initial training will establish, together with her/his personal supervisor in the host organisation, a Personal Career Development Plan comprising his/her training needs (including complementary skills) and scientific objectives and will later on report upon the success with which these objectives were met.

This scheme supports the initial training of researchers, typically during the first five years (or full-time equivalent) of their careers in research. The initial training phase is predominantly directed at *early-stage researchers*, and includes inter alia training in the frame of doctoral programmes. Support for *early-stage researchers* will be for periods of 3 to 36 months. The initial training can also be directed to *experienced researchers* as long as they are within the first five years mentioned above. In this case support, based on the definition of *experienced re-*

searchers, will be limited to 24 months maximum. In all cases eligibility will be determined at the time of recruitment.

Researchers must be nationals of a Member State, Associated country or *third country*. Above the minimum of organisation in the consortia, the participation of *third countries* and of international organisations is foreseen under the conditions provided by the Rules for Participation.

Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the researchers:

- Monthly living allowance: €1,500 - €4,300 per month (depending on the category of researchers and what kind of employment contract/fellowship has been chosen within the national legislation);
- Monthly mobility allowance: €500 - €800 per month (depending on the family situation of the researcher);
- Travel allowances: €250 - €2,500 per year (depending on the direct distance between the place of origin and the host institution of the researcher, up to 10,000 km);
- Fixed amount of €300 per researcher-month for non-laboratory based research projects; €600 per researcher-month for laboratory based search projects.

Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the host organizations:

- Contribution for the execution of the training project (publication of vacant positions, internal joint training actions, teaching material, etc) and contribution to the expenses related to the coordination between participants;
- Contribution for the organisation of international conferences, workshops and events open to participants outside the network;
- Management activities (including audit certificate);
- Contribution to overheads.

Example:

A multi-site ITN of 8 partners proposes to provide initial training of 36 months to 11 ESRs (total 396 person months) and complementary training to 4 ERs (total 42 person months). A senior visiting scientist (VS) will be recruited to share his knowledge and skills during the workshop and summer school organised in year 3 (recruitment for 1 period of 2 months). A conference will be organised in year 3. The event is programmed to run over 2 days and it is expected that 40 external researchers will attend. 25 of these external researchers will be paying their attendance themselves, whilst additional funding from the Commission is sought for the remaining 15 researchers. . Thus support for a total of 30 external researcher days is requested. The Commission estimates that the approximate total budget for this network will be M€2.5

Participant	Initial Training 0-5 years				Visiting Scientists (VS)				Open training events and conferences	
	Early-Stage Researchers (ESR)		Experienced researchers (ER)		Visiting Scientists (≤ 10 years)		Visiting Scientists (≥ 10 years)		Number of researcher days for researchers from outside the network	Number of events
	Fellow Months	Number of researchers	Fellow Months	Number of researchers	Person Months	Number of scientists	Person Months	Number of scientists		
Partner 1 – Germany	72	2	12	1			2	1	30	1
Partner 2 – Spain	72	2	12	1						
Partner 3 – Romania	36	1	6	1						
Partner 4 – Estonia	36	1	0	0						
Partner 5 – Italy	36	1	0	0						
Partner 6 – Croatia	36	1	0	0						
Partner 7 – Austria	72	2	12	1						
Partner 8 - France	36	1	0	0						
Total	396	11	42	4	0	0	2	1	30	1

In the following is detailed how the budget of one of the partners (Partner 1 - Germany) can be estimated.

(a) Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the researchers (*Annex 3 of Work Programme “People” and “Guide for Applicants” FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2008*):

- Category A – Monthly living and mobility allowance

Based on the following assumptions:

- the three researchers (ESR, ER and VS) will be recruited under an employment contract,
- the ER and the VS both have family charges, while the ESR does not yet have a family,
- the VS has more than 10 years of research experience and will be paid according to the stipend rate due to the short duration of her appointment,

the monthly living and mobility allowance can be calculated as follows:

	ESR	ER	VS
Appointment duration	3 years = 36 months 2 researchers	12 months	2 months
Monthly living allowance (€year)	34 500	53 000	51 675
Monthly mobility allowance (€month)	500	800	800
Country correction coefficient (%)	101,5	101,5	101,5
Living and mobility allowance (€)	=2 * (34 500 * 3 + 500 * 36) 101,5% = 246 645	= (53 000 + 800 * 12) * 101,5% = 63 539	= (51675 * $\frac{2}{12}$ + 800*2) * 101,5% = 10 366

The budget for Category A is equal to 246 645 + 63 539 + 10 366 = €320 550

- Category B – Travel allowance

	ESR	ER	VS
Assumed direct distance between the place of origin and the host institution (km)	1 000 - 1 500	500 - 1 000	1 500 - 2 500
Fixed – amount contribution (€)	750	500	1 000
Number of travel allowances to be paid	3 / researcher	1	1
Travel allowance (€)	= 3 years * 2 researchers * 750 = 4 500	= 1 year * 1 researcher * 500 = 500	= 1 time * 1 000 = 1 000

The budget for Category B is equal to 4 500 + 500 + 1 000 = €6 000

- Category C – Career exploratory allowance

	ESR	ER	VS
Appointment duration	3 years = 36 months 2 researchers	12 months	2 months
One single payment / fellow for stays of at least one year (€)	2 000 *2 researchers = 4 000	= 2 000	= 0

The budget for Category C is equal to 4 000 + 2 000 + 0 = €6 000

- Category D – Contribution to the participation expenses of eligible researchers

	ESR	ER	VS
Appointment duration	3 years = 36 months 2 researchers	12 months	2 months
Assumption	Laboratory based research project	Laboratory based research project	-
Fixed – amount / researcher-month (€)	600	600	0
Participation expenses of eligible researchers (€)	2 researchers * 36 * 600 = 43 200	=1 researcher * 12 * 600 = 7 200	= 0

The budget for Category D equals 43 200 + 7 200 + 0 = €50 400

(b) Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the host organisations (*Annex 3 of Work Programme “People” and “Guide for Applicants” FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2008*)

- Category E – Contribution to the research/training/transfer of knowledge programme expenses

	ESR	ER	VS
Appointment duration	3 years = 36 months 2 researchers	12 months	2 months
Fixed – amount / researcher-month (€)	600	600	600
Research/Training/ToK expenses (€)	2 researchers* 36 * 600 = 43 200	=1 researcher * 12 * 600 = 7 200	= 1 researcher * 2 * 600 = 1 200

The budget for Category E is equal to $43\,200 + 7\,200 + 1\,200 = \text{€}51\,600$

- Category F – Contribution to the organisation of international conferences, workshops and events

A large conference of 2 days is planned to close the summer school planned in year 3. 15 external researchers will be invited to attend the event along with a number of other researchers who will bring their own funding. The network may claim a lump sum contribution of €300 per researcher-day for researchers from outside the network and for the duration of the event.

The budget for Category F = $2 * 15 * 300 = \text{€} 900$

- Category G – Management activities and Category H – Contribution to Overheads

The total Community Contribution is the basis for the calculation of the management costs, whereas to calculate the overheads the total direct costs need to be known. While in reality management costs can be made up of both direct and indirect cost, they will be treated as direct costs for the purposes of the initial budget estimation:

Directs costs = expenses for the activities carried out by the researchers + contribution to the research/training programme expenses + contribution to the organisation of international conferences + management activities

Overheads = 10% direct costs (1)

Total Community Contribution = direct costs + overheads (2)

Management costs = 7% Total Community Contribution (3)

The total community contribution and the budget of cost categories G and H can be estimated by solving this system of 3 equations with 3 unknown factors:

Contribution Budget (€)	Total (€)
A. Living and Mobility allowance	320 550
B. Travel allowance	6 000
C. Career Exploratory allowance	6 000
D. Contribution to the participation expenses of eligible researchers	50 400
E. Contribution to the research / training / transfer of knowledge programme expenses	51 600
F. Contribution to the organisation of international conferences, workshops and events	9 000
G. Management activities (including audit certification)	37 003
Total Direct Costs	480 553
H. Contribution to Overheads	48 055
TOTAL Community contribution to Partner 1	528 608

For full details about the call and information package go to the CORDIS Calls Page directly at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=121.

Newsletter is prepared with the use of web-site CORDIS within the project «S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries» IncoNet EECA (www.inco-eeca.net) financed by European Union.

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