



## **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**

**November 25<sup>th</sup> 2009** the European Commission launches a call for proposals under the FP7 *Marie Curie Action: "International Research Staff Exchange Scheme" (IRSES)*.

The Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme is a type of action that aims to strengthen research partnerships through staff exchanges and networking activities between European research organisations and organisations from countries with which the Community has an S&T agreement or are in the process of negotiating one, and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood policy. This action provides support to research organisations to establish or reinforce long-term research cooperation through a coordinated joint programme of exchange of researchers for short periods.

The organizations from the following *Third countries* can participate:

- 1) Countries with an S&T agreement with the EC: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Egypt, India, Japan, (Rep. of) Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States;
- 2) Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy:
  - 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.

Partnership in this action shall be composed of at least two independent participants established in at least two different Member States or Associated countries, and one or more participants either located in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The partner acting as proposal coordinator must be from an EU Member State or Associated country. A staff exchange programme can apply for Community support for a period of 24-48 months.

The maximum duration of the individual staff exchanges will be 12 months. IRSES programme can cover any scientific disciplines, but can also focus on a specific discipline. This scheme targets early stage and experienced *researchers*, but if appropriate and justified, technical and managerial staff can also benefit from the exchange programme.

For staff from EU Member States or Associated countries, the mobility must be towards the *Third country* partners and vice-versa. Staff exchanged between European partners will not be eligible to apply for the subsistence allowance paid by the Community. All partners involved in a joint ex-

change programme are expected to second their staff and thus continue paying their salary during the stay abroad.

Partner institutes select their staff for exchange.

For each member of staff from an EC/AC staying in an eligible *Third country* partner organisation, the Community will pay a subsistence allowance. As far as International Cooperation Partner Countries, and in particular countries covered by the European Neighbourhood policy, are concerned, a Community contribution towards travel and subsistence for these partners may be requested and granted according to the budget availability.

The call closes on **March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010**.

The evaluation of proposals is carried out on behalf of the Commission by independent experts. Evaluation Summary Reports will be sent to proposal coordinators in June 2010. Signature of first contracts will start from October 2010.

Each proposal will be assessed independently against the following criteria:

- Quality of the exchanged programme:
  - Objective and relevance of the joint exchange programme;
  - **Scientific quality** of the partners;
  - Complementarities/synergies between the partners;
- Transfer of knowledge:
  - Quality and mutual benefit of the transfer of knowledge;
  - Adequacy and role of staff exchanged with respect to the transfer of knowledge;
- Implementation:
  - Capacities (expertise/human resources/facilities/infrastructure) to achieve the objectives of the planned cooperation;
  - Appropriateness of the plans for the overall management of the exchange programme;
- Impact:
  - Relevance of the proposed partnership to the area of collaboration and for the ERA;
  - Potential to develop lasting collaboration with eligible Third country partners.

More information can be found at the CORDIS web-page:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=174&act\\_code=PEOPLE&ID\\_ACTIVITY=12](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=174&act_code=PEOPLE&ID_ACTIVITY=12).

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