



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

September 8th 2009 the European Commission launched a call for proposals under the FP7 Marie Curie Actions ITN Scheme – Initial Training Networks. The call closes on **December 22nd 2009**.

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);
- Career exploratory allowance (single payment) of €2,000/fellow, only for stays at least one year, is intended to help researchers to develop their careers by e.g. attending job interviews, additional course, job fairs, etc.
- 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 to the research/training/transfer of knowledge programme expenses of a fixed amount of €1,200 per researcher month (to contribute to the overall expenses related to the execution of the training project (publication of vacant positions, internal joint training actions, teaching material, etc.) to the organization of conferences, workshops and events (invitation of keynote speakers, publications, rental of premises, web casting) and to the co-ordination between participants (network meetings, visits of staff other than Marie Curie fellows, etc);
- Management activities (including audit certificate);
- Contribution to overheads.

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.peopleDetailsCallPage&call_id=247.

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