

EU Grants and Fellowships for Post-docs





Julia Epp and Dr. Layla Bahmad, Regional EU-Office Bavaria of MPG Reports of experiences with fellowships:

Dr. Charo Robles (MPI of Biochemistry) and Dr. Kevin Flynn (MPI of Neurobiology)



About us – Regional EU-Office Bavaria

We are in charge of nine MPIs in Bavaria:

- Astrophysics
- Extraterrestrial Physics
- Foreign and International Social Law
- Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law
- Neurobiology
- Ornithology
- Physics
- Psychiatry
- Quantum Optics



Presentation - structure



Part I: FP7 – overview

Part II: Marie Curie Actions

I. Marie Curie Actions – Introduction

II. Marie Curie Fellowships including reports of experiences

III. Marie Curie Grants

IV. Marie Curie Actions – Application and evaluation

Part III: ERC Starting Grant

- I. European Research Council Introduction
- II. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant



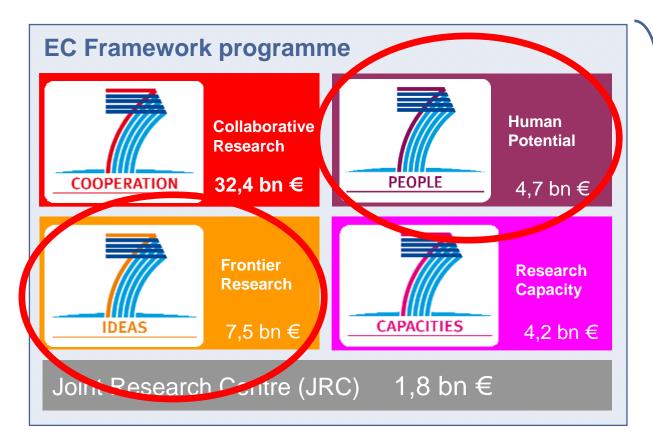
About FP7





FP7 Structure





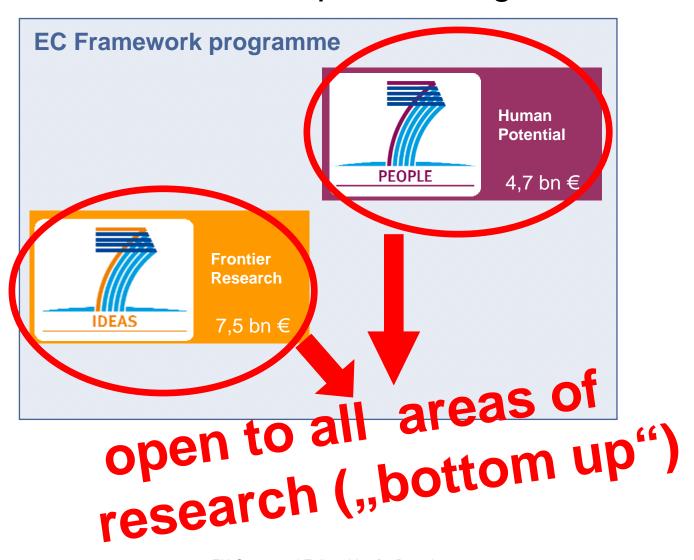
Total 53,3 bn €





Grants and fellowships in FP7 Specific Programmes







Grants and Fellowships Specific Programme PEOPLE





Specific Programme PEOPLE = Marie Curie Actions





Objectives





Overall strategic objective: Make Europe more attractive for researchers.

"[The specific programme PEOPLE] aims to strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to take up the profession of a researcher, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe, and attracting to Europe the best researchers from the entire world."

(PEOPLE work programme 2009, p. 3)



Concept of research experience





MARIE CURIE

Early-stage researchers:

 are in the first four years (FTE) of their research careers (starting at the date of obtaining a degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate)

Experienced researchers:

 are in possession of a doctoral degree, independently of the time taken to acquire it

OR

have at least four years (FTE) research experience



Mobility rule

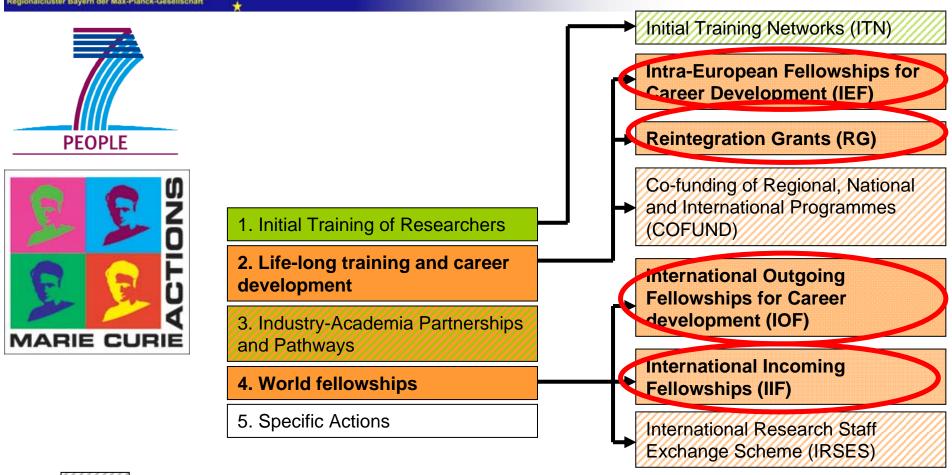




"At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, [...] researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Short stays, such as holidays, are not taken into account. As far as international European interest organisations or international organisations are concerned, this rule does not apply to the hosting of eligible researchers, however the appointed researcher must not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference deadline for submission of proposals [...], in the same appointing organisation."



Activities and funding schemes





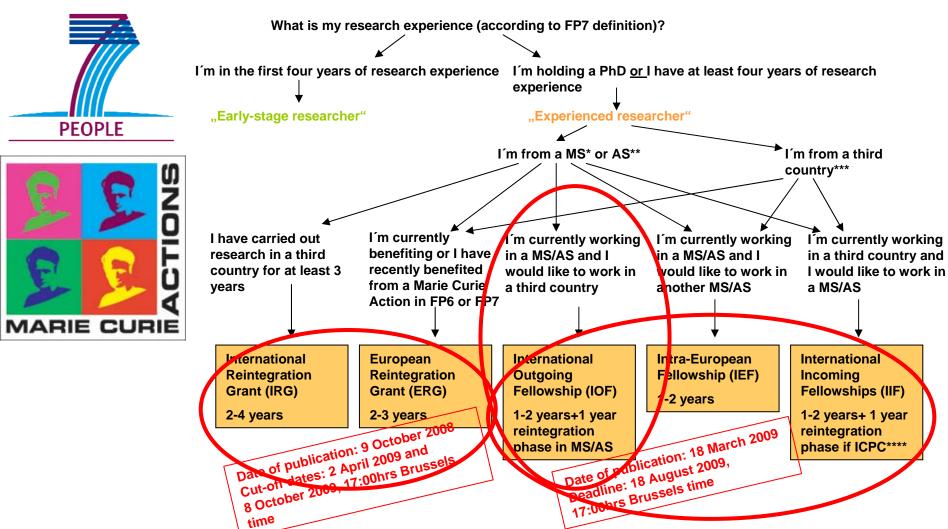
= proposal submitted by one or several organisations ("host-driven actions")



= proposal submitted by an individual researcher in conjunction with the host organisation ("researcher-driven actions")



Individual grants and fellowships



^{*}EU Member State

^{**}Associated countries to FP7 (Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, 13 Albania and Montenegro)

^{***}countries which are neither EU Member States nor Associated countries

^{****} International Cooperation Partner Countries (cf. PEOPLE work programme, Annex 1)



International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF)





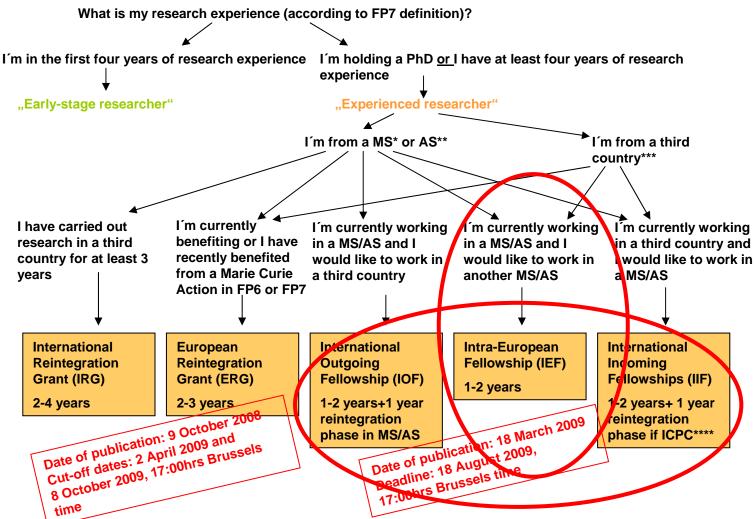
- Objective: new research competences and contact network acquired in a third country help advance the research career in Europe towards professional maturity and independence
- 1-2 years research stay in third country and mandatory reintegration phase in MS or AS of 1 year
- Individual applies together with the host institution (return host)
- the research project should be coherent for the total duration of the fellowship (outgoing and reintegration phase)



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^{****} International Cooperation Partner Countries (cf. PEOPLE work programme, Annex 1)



Intra-European Fellowship (IEF)





- Objective: career development through competence diversification to reach and/or to reinforce a position of professional maturity/independence or to resume a research career after a break
- 1-2 years research stay in another MS or AS
- Individual applies together with the host institution
- the research project should help to significantly advance the career and should not represent a temporary solution



IEF - CLOCKPROTEOMICS



Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry



Circadian clock function by quantitative proteomics and phosphoproteomics (CLOCKPROTEOMICS)

- Specific programme: People (Marie Curie Actions)
- Funding scheme:Intra-European Fellowship
- Call Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2008-IEF
- Participants: 1
- Funding: currently under negotiation
- **Start Date:** 1 May 2009
- Duration of the Project: 24 months
- Host institution: MPI of Biochemistry
- Name of fellow: Charo Robles, PhD

- My expertise: Circadian biology (5 year postdoc HMS)
- Host group expertise (Mann Department): Quantitative proteomics
- Proposed project: Study protein oscillations in a circadian manner
 - First time application of quantitative proteomics to circadian clocks

◆ MC-IEF Table of contents:

Scientific quality:

- Multidisciplinary
 - Relevant
- Host expertise

Training:

- •Complementary skills
- Host expertise

Researcher:

- Independence
- Match with project
 - Acquisition of knowledge

Implementation:

- Infrastructure
- Administrative and management arrangements

Impact:

- Professional maturity
- Career development
- •European excellence and competitiveness

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

Proposal Nr :	237255	Acronym:	Clockproteomics		
Scientist in Charge Name :	Matthias Mann	•	•		
Instrument :	FP7-PEOPLE-IEF-2008		Scientific Panel:	LIF	
Title :	Circadian clock function by quantitative proteomics and phosphoproteomics				

Overall score (Threshold : 70)	95.2
Has the proposal passed all numerical thresholds?	

1. Scientific quality of the project (Weight 25/ Threshold 3)

Mark (out of 5)

Overall comments

This is an outstanding project related to molecular mechanism controlling circadian rhythms using pioneered phospho-proteomic technologies. It has a clear concise research rationale. It is highly innovative as it addresses these issues using proteomics, rather than transcriptomics; the latter being where other researchers are focusing their efforts. It has thus a potentially wide biological impact that extends the limits of currently available methodology. Besides, the supervisor has an outstanding track record in proteomic technology.

5. Impact (Weight 20 / No Threshold)

4. Implementation (Weight 15 / No Threshold)

Mark (out of 5)

4.8

Mark (out of 5) 4.7

Overall comments

Overall comments

institute.

This project may have a great impact on the researcher's career in the fields of circadian clock biology and proteomics and will be crucial for a European career of this young but successful researcher. It will also increase the European competitiveness in the fields of phosphoproteomics and cell physiopathology.

There is a great implementation including the proteomic facilities. Work plan is clearly defined, including milestones, and highly convincing. Besides, there is a great host support by the

2. Training activities (Weight 15 / Threshold 3)

Mark (out of 5)

Strength

Very clear and very high quality objectives for the researcher.

High quality of scientific training offered. The researcher will have the unique opportunity to acquire a strong expertise in proteomics and bioinformatics analyses.

There is some evidence of additional training beyond what is pertinent to the project.

The host competence in mentoring is convincingly described.

4.8

Mark (out of 5)

3. Quality of the researcher (Weight 25 / Threshold 4)

Strength

<u>Very experienced and highly independent researcher.</u> The fellow has ample experiences in working international leading scientific institutions.

<u>Perfect fellow-project match.</u> The applicant has acquired a strong expertise during the first postdoctoral training. The fellow will be in the position to address the proteomic aspect of the circadian clock biology with the technologies pioneered by the host laboratory.

The researcher seems to have a very high professional maturity.

Key points

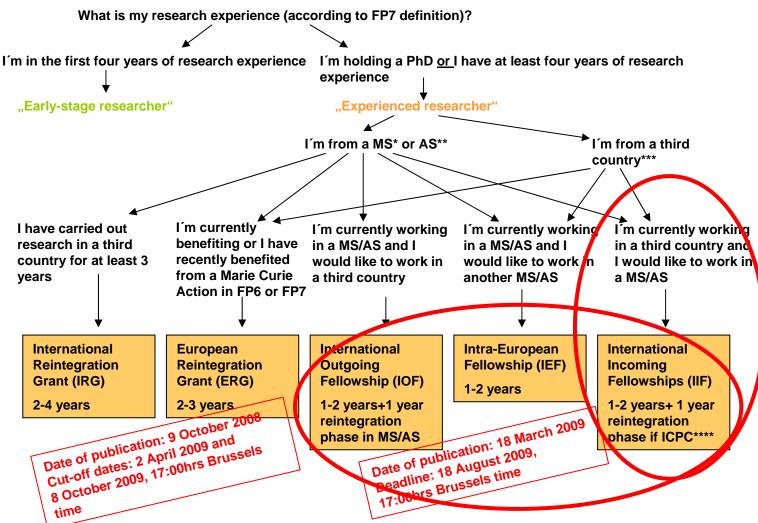
- Read carefully the instructions
- Try to address all the indicated points, even if it seems repetitive
- Read successful applications from previous calls
- Work together with supervisor
- Get feedback from lab mates and friends
- Do not forget any documents!!, avoid last minute submission



Individual grants and fellowships







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International Incoming Fellowship (IIF)





- Objective: encourage researchers who have been working in third countries to work in research projects in Europe, with the view to sharing knowledge and developing mutually beneficial research cooperations
- Individual applies together with the host institution
- possible return phase for researchers from ICPC countries: support for the application of the acquired knowledge in the country of origin



IIF – AC Breaks the Sphere



max-planck-institut für neurobiologie

The physiological role of ADF/Cofilin in neuronal development (AC Breaks the Sphere)

- Specific programme: People (Marie Curie Actions)
- Funding scheme:International Incoming Fellowship (IIF)
- Call Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-IIF-2008
- Participants: 1
- Funding: currently under negotiation
- Start Date: 2-3-2009
- Duration of the Project: 24 months
- Host institution: MPI of Neurobiology
- Name of fellow: Kevin Flynn, PhD

IIF - Getting started

Basic Information

- I researched funding for international postdocs before arriving at MPI (a little)
 - Options: Humboldt, Human Frontiers Science, NIH, and Marie Curie Fellowships
 - I identified Marie Curie as lucrative and prestigious and one that had the earliest deadline – Do or die
- Definition of Project What do you bring to the table
 - I had two possible projects in mind, but after meeting with supervisor and reviewing the basic information it became clear that my experience was heavily weighted – Thus I chose the project in which I brought a lot of expertise

IIF - Getting started

Basic Information

- What is Project?
 - Role of ADF-Cofilin proteins during in vivo neuronal development
 - My former lab discovered ADF-Cofilin so I had experience
- How does project fit with my future career?
 - Training for research career studying nerve growth and regeneration – good to get funding in this area

IIF - Getting started

Basic Information

- Was the proposal a lot of work?
 - Yes, but I had the advantage of having a strong background in the subject
- How much time did it take?
 - 2 weeks of Full-time effort plus a couple weeks of parttime effort (I would allow 80+ hours)
- What to expect -- communication?
 - After submission you will not hear anything for 3 months. Then you receive an evaluation summary, but you still do not know if you will be funded.

IIF - Evaluation

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

Proposal Nr :	237407	Acronym :	AC breaks the sphere	
Scientist in Charge Name :	Frank Bradke			
Instrument :	FP7-PEOPLE-IIF-2008		Scientific Panel:	LIF
Title :	The physiological role of ADF/cofilin in neuronal development			

Overall score (Threshold : 70)	93.5
Has the proposal passed all numerical thresholds?	

1. Scientific quality of the project (Weight 25/ Threshold 3)		
	4.7	

- Two weeks later you get a preliminary evaluation results with a Grade A (recomendation for funding), B (maybe), C (good but no), D (no good)
- Then another 10 days and you receive an invitation to join in negotiations

IIF vs. NIH predoctoral fellowship

Similarities

- Competitive
- Need to show project is managable (preliminary data)
- Need to propose something novel/exciting
- Need to sell yourself (you are exceptional!)
- Evaluation includes preliminary score a grade, which is later followed by a final decision

Differences

- NIH fellowships have up to two resubmissions, whereas with EU fellowship, you only have one shot --- MAKE IT COUNT!!!!
- University Grades and GRE scores are counted heavily for NIH fellowship – CV seems more important in Marie Curie
- With NIH, I had 2 failures before final award
 - 44 percentile OK, at least it was not triaged
 - 23 percentile better but not good enough (can get Marie Curie at 20%)
 - 11 percentile --- just barely good enough for NIH (now it is worse)

IIF - Writing the Application

Step one is the ask: What is the application asking for?

- Identify main points and address them in your proposal:
 - What is exciting about your project? Why is this work important? (ex: Diseases, Relevence to Clinic) How is the Project State-of-the-Art
 - What do you bring to the project (experience make your CV look good. you have been sucessful in the past and will be sucessful with this project)?
 - How will you communicate with the scientific community?
 - How will the project involve collaborations?
 - How will the project be sucessfully executed?

Focus

- Stress novelty and state-of-the-art, but keeping in mind that the experiments are plausible
- This project is important!
- In methodology, stress new techniques and cross-disiplinary approach
- You are a perfect match for the project and you and your mentors lab are complimentary...
 you or the host have experience in a given technique
- Transfer of knowledge (everybody is learning) and collaborations

Style

- Write in scientific style for part B1 be technical, but clear, keeping in mind that reviewers may not be experts
- In the rest, write in a more casual communicative language do not want to bore your reader
- First impressions count. Draw your reader in with a good introduction--- Make it sound like 29 a Hot topic?

IIF - AC Breaks the Sphere

What is Novel/Exciting?

- Well-known proteins but still not much in vivo
- Possible role in developmental diseases brain development disorders lissencephaly
- Role in axon growth and regeneration (Spinal cord injury)
- State-of-the-art: Use of two photon in vivo imaging techniques, live-cell imaging, novel mouse genetic knockouts, etc...

What do I bring to the project?

 Experience with AC proteins in neurons, techniques, scientific collaborations and communication

How will I communicate to scientific community?

Attend meetings in EU and USA, publish findings at appropriate time

How will the project involve collaborations?

International (W. Witke, Italy) and internal collaborations (at MPI Biochemistry)

How will project be sucessfully executed?

- Show preliminary data that is convincing. Provide an effective workplan. I stressed how any
 gaps in my experience was compensated by the experience in the lab
- I will use expertise of laboratory and of collaborators

How is the project interdisplinary?

 Project is at the crossroads of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular biology, and Neurobiology employing a range of effective techniques, both traditional and state-of-the-art

Troubleshooting – Advice from my experience

Referees

- I was confused and asked inappropriate people initially (the explanation in the guidebook led me to believe these were internal reviewers— experts in the field)
- Actually they want a recommendation
 - Previous advisors, professors, bosses (relevant)
 - Be sure you give them ample time they need to fill out electronic forms before submission deadline

Make use of all resources

- Use expertise of your mentor especially for scientific portion
- Use expertise and services of Julia Epp -- Helps tremendously with non-scientific
- Use National Contact point for feedback
- Have a native English speaker help with grammer and language

Criticisms of my proposal

- lack of alternative approaches and/or hypotheses
- Not interdisiplinary (???)
- May not have enough time to complete project

Negotiations are not really negotiable

- no choice between stipend or full contract --- Not as lucrative as I thought --
- All you (your mentor) is doing is verifying the information
- Only can specify a start date



Fellowships – funding (IEF)





- Monthly living allowance * country correction coefficient
- 2. Monthly mobility allowance * country correction coefficient
- 3. Travel allowance
- 4. Career exploratory allowance
- 5. Contribution to the participation expenses of eligible researchers
- (Management activities + overheads) * country correction coefficient



Fellowships – calls for proposals





Intra-European Fellowship (IEF), International Incoming Fellowship (IIF), International Outgoing Fellowship (IOF)

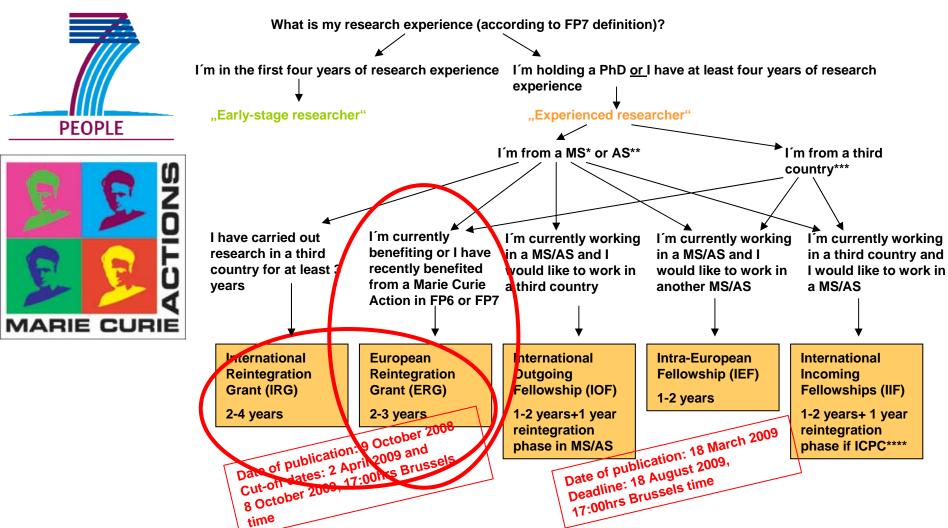
Calls are published yearly

Publication of next call: 18 March 2009

Deadline: 18 August 2009, 17:00:00 Brussels time



Individual grants and fellowships



^{*}EU Member State

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European Reintegration Grant (ERG)



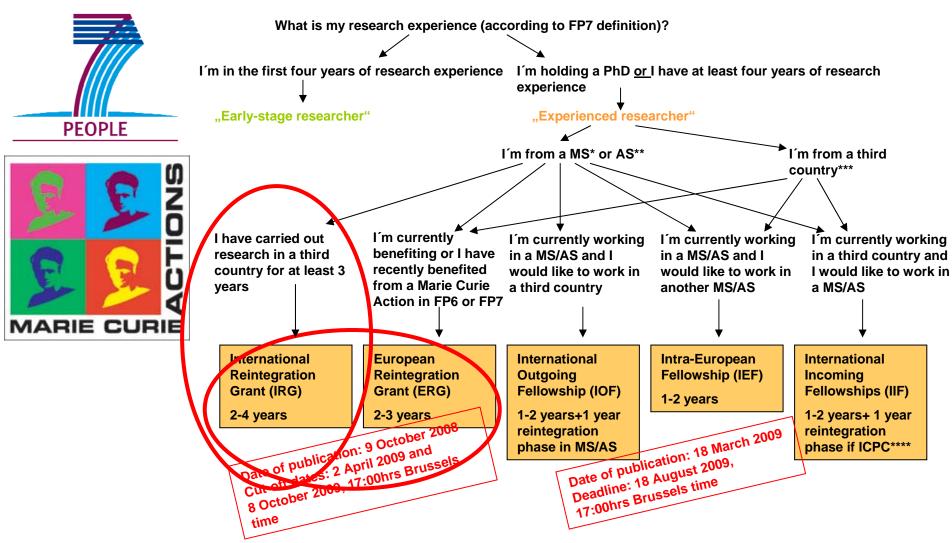


- Objective: (re)integration into a research career after a trans-national mobility experience; long-term employment in research
- duration of initial Marie Curie Action*: at least 18 months
- apply at the earliest 1 year before and not later than 6 months after the end of the initial Marie Curie Action; project must start at the latest 12 months after the end of the initial fellowship
- funding: fixed-amount contribution to the employment and/or research costs of 15.000 EUR/year

*eligible Marie Curie Actions: FP6: RTN, EST, ToK, EIF; FP7: ITN, IEF, IIF, IAPP



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International Reintegration Grant (IRG)





- Objective: encourage European researchers to reintegrate into a research career in Europe (including home country), reinforce cooperation with third countries
- Individual applies together with the host institution
- funding: fixed-amount contribution to the employment and/or research costs of 25.000 EUR/year



Reintegration Grants – closure dates





European Reintegration Grant (ERG)
International Reintegration Grant (IRG)

Calls are published yearly

Closure dates: 2 April 2009, 17:00:00 Brussels time

+ 8 October 2009, 17:00:00 Brussels time



Application (IEF)

A – Information on the proposal, the researcher, the host, the budget

B – Scientific proposal

Part B	Max. pages	
Part B1	Scientific and Technological Quality	8
Part B2	Training	2
Part B3	Researcher	7
Part B4	Implementation	6
Part B5	Impact	2
Part B6	Ethical issues	no max. length

Always use the <u>latest version</u> of work programme and Guide for Applicants which are available once the call is published!!!



Submission of fellowship/grant





- go to http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm for all relevant documents (work programme, Guide for Applicants)
- use of web-based tool EPSS mandatory
- submit well before the deadline (17hrs Brussels time)!!



Evaluation of fellowship (IEF)





- criteria depend on the funding scheme and are linked to its objectives

- scores: 0 (fails) - 5 (excellent)

IEF criteria and their weightings + thresholds:

- S & T quality: weighting: 25%, threshold: 3

- Training: weighting: 15%, threshold: 3

- Researcher: weighting: 25%, threshold: 4

- **Implementation**: weighting: 15%

- Impact: weighting: 20%



IEF – timeline last call (2008)





Publication of call: 19 March 2008

Deadline: 19 August 2008

Evaluation of proposals: 6-24 October 2008

Evaluation summary report (ESR) sent to proposal coordinators ("initial information letter"): end of November 2008

⇒ check http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm

Invitation letter to successful coordinators: around 19 December

Contract negotiations ("NEF"): January 2009

Earliest start of projects: 1 March 2009

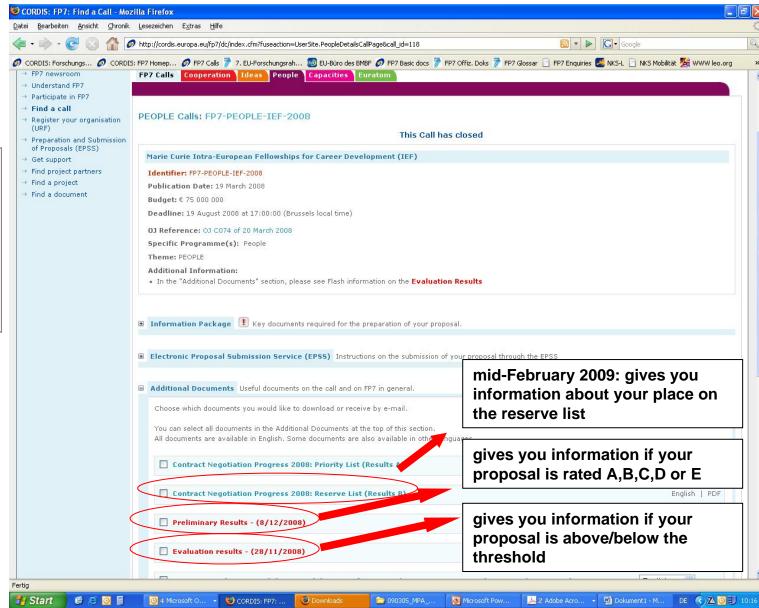
EU Grants and Fellowships for Post-docs



Information on CORDIS (IEF)









IEF - Reserve list on CORDIS





					- CINIDI	Reserve List
		,	2360	43	PROINDI	Reserve List
IF	7		2375	79	MARGUS	Reserve List
IF		В	2377	06	NOVELAB	Reserve List
.IF		9	2371		ORG-RYE	Reserve List
.IF		10	2350		Healthtom	Reserve List
.IF		11	2360		PIVirNano	Reserve List
_IF		12	236		PRESP	Reserve List
LIF		13	237		astrexbr	Reserve List
V.F		14		326	Neuromitosis	Reserve List
LIF		15		448	AvrBlb2 perception	Reserve List
LIF		16		859	NABAIDS	Reserve List
LIF		17		6428	Signaquorum	Reserve List
LIF		18			RRP6FUN	Withdrawn
LIF		19		6046 C	DEVOLGENDUPPHOTSIGN	Reserve List
LIF		20		6615	LagOmic	Reserve List
LIF		21		4937	Epigenetic profiling	Reserve List
LIF		22			PROMevo	Reserve List
LIF		23		7341	INTEGRA-BIO	Reserve List
LIF		24		6698	LEafGROwthStress	Reserve List
LIF		25		36251	PANDImage	Reserve List
LIF		26		35784	PPINLPD	Reserve List
LIF		27		36400	ASPASYDIV	Reserve List
LI		28	2	36545	AFPs Studies	Reserve List
LI		29		37394	ABC	Reserve List
		30		35113	GspGHIJK	Reserve List
		31		237153	DGMASP	Reserve List
_	IF	32		237771	CRAE REGULATION	Reserve List
	IF I	33		237366	watchBIGBROTHER	Reserve List
_	IF.	34		236603	HANAdaptation	Reserve List
_	IF.	35		236247	VEGFregulation	Reserve List
_	IF.	36		237659	CaroConversion	Reserve List
_		37		236801	Sterility Rescue	Reserve List
	LIF	38	$\neg \vdash$	237693	Amphibian Bd	Reserve List
	LIF	39	$\neg \vdash$	235203	SalmoFilm	Reserve List
	LIF	40	-	237825	Superresolved mGluRs	Reserve List
	LIF	41	\neg	235524	GENETOOLS	Reserve List
	LIF	42	-	237135	EMFLA	Reserve List
-	NF	43	-	235438	PRL1-NTC	Reserve List
1	LIF	44		236775	REATIP	Reserve List
-	LIF	45		236693	Blastocystis MLST	Reserve List Reserve List
-	LIF	46	$\overline{}$	237074	SPIRALWAVE09	Reserve
	LIF	1		235593	N:GAGEMenT	Reserve List
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	MAT	3		236112	GAUDAS	Reserve List
	MAT	1 2		235659	BOT FRAME	Reserve List
	MAT		5	236851		Reserve List
	MAT		5	235500	ModDefs MSAPS	Reserve List
	MAT			236716	MSAPS	Reserve List
PHY PHY PHY PHY			1	236073	OPTIQUOS	TRY Reserve List
		-	2	236454	SUSY SUGRA GEOME	Reserve List
			3	235024	ClusterMagnetism	Reserve List
			4	237839	HologramsSky	Reserve List
1	PHY		5	235671	BSM in Stars	Reserve List
PH			6	235467	BioFuS	Reserve List
ŀ	PHY		7	237337	PHAGEO	Reserve List
Ph			8	23/33/		Deconie List
			9			

12 March 2009 PHY 10 23000 1



Ideas





Ideas - ERC





- The Specific Programme IDEAS is implemented by the **European Research Council (ERC)**
- European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding agency for Frontier Research

Frontier Research: a new understanding of basic research. Frontier research avoids distinctions between "basic" and "applied" research, between "science" and "technology" and between traditional disciplinary boundaries. Projects are "high-risk high-gain"



Objectives and funding schemes





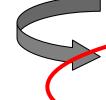
"Retain – Repatriate – Recruit"

 increase competition, recognition and international visibility for excellent individual scientists and scholars in Europe



ERC Advanced Investigator Grant: attract and reward established independent research leaders

 improve career opportunities and independence, especially for young researchers



ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant: attract and retain the next generation of independent research leaders



ERC grants – Guiding Principles





- support of "Individual teams" (Principal Investigator her/his research team)
- all fields of research are eligible
- scientific excellence as the sole criterion for selection
- PI applies together with host institution
- host institution commits to conditions of independence for PI
- research project must be carried out in EU member state or Associated country
- "portability" of grants
- Grant covers 100% of total eligible costs + <20% for indirect costs



ERC Starting Grant





- funding of up to 2.000.000 EUR for a duration of up to 5 years
- calls are published once a year
- next call: to be published in summer 2009,
 with deadlines in autumn 2009
- current reapplication rule: "No PI who has submitted an eligible proposal to a Starting Grant call may apply to the next Starting Grant call, unless her/his proposal was evaluated above the quality threshold during the 2nd step but not funded due to insufficient available budget"



ERC StG – Am I eligible?





- researchers of any age, any nationality,
 residing in any country of the world at the time of application
- researcher must be at the stage at which s/he is starting or consolidating her/his own independent research team/programme
- PI must have been awarded his/her first PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree) at least 3 and less than 8 years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals (extensions possible for eligible career breaks)



ERC StG – Am I competitive?





- you must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of scientific maturity: at least one important publication without the participation of your PhD supervisor
- you must be able to demonstrate a promising track-record of early achievements (appropriate to your research field and career stage): significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals in your respective field, invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.



Websites

General information

Calls in FP7 on CORDIS

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm

German portal to FP7

www.forschungsrahmenprogramm.de

Koordinierungsstelle EG der Wissenschaftsorganisationen (KoWi)

www.kowi.de

EU-office of Federal Ministry of Education and Research

www.eubuero.de

Webseite Research of European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm

Mobility in Europe

Portal to Marie Curie Actions

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/

EURAXESS-Portal

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

EURAXESS Germany

http://www.eracareers-

germany.de/portal/netzwerk_der_forscherberater.html

German National Contact Point Mobility

http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/3097.html

European Research Council

Website of ERC

http://erc.europa.eu/

ERC on CORDIS

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home en.html

German National Contact Point ERC

http://www.eubuero.de/arbeitsbereiche/erc

Other funding opportunities

http://eu.tuebingen.mpg.de/young-scientists/funding-programmes



Contact

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EU-Office

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http://www.biochem.mpg.de/en/service/eu/index.html

internal page: http://www.biochem.mpg.de/eu-office

MPI of Neurobiology

Regional EU-Office Bavaria

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Thank you for your attention!

...Questions??