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# FP7: Marie Curie Actions

## Initial Training Networks (ITN)

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 DG Research  
 Marie Curie Actions - Networks  
 Frank MARX


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# FP7 overview (2007-2013)

## EU's main instrument for funding research

**Aim : Contribute to the Union becoming the world's leading research area**

**Cooperation :**  
€ 32 413

**Ideas :**  
€ 7510

**People :**  
€ 4750

**Capacities :**  
€ 4097

**Euratom :**  
€ 2751

**Nuclear research**

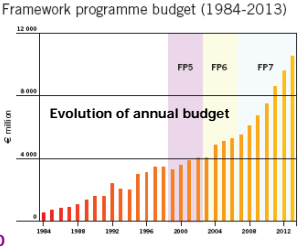
**Collaborative research**  
10 thematic areas

**Frontier Research**  
ERC



**Marie Curie Actions**

**Research Capacity**

Framework programme budget (1984-2013)



Evolution of annual budget

## Marie Curie Actions in FP7 The political context: from Lisbon to Barcelona

- Strong research policy to support the **Lisbon** Strategy (innovation, competitiveness and jobs)
- Stepping-up research efforts needed more than ever: **Barcelona** objective to invest 3% of the GDP in research
- 2005 Commission Recommendation on the « **European Researchers' Charter and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers** »



## Marie Curie Actions in FP7 Numerical impact

### Objectives

- **35.000** researchers Marie Curie funded training and career development **fellowships**
- **35.000 researchers participate** in other Marie Curie funded activities (seminars, workshops etc.)
- All in all a very **significant** contribution **but cannot replace national efforts** for research, training and mobility



## Marie Curie Actions in FP7 A European labour market for researchers

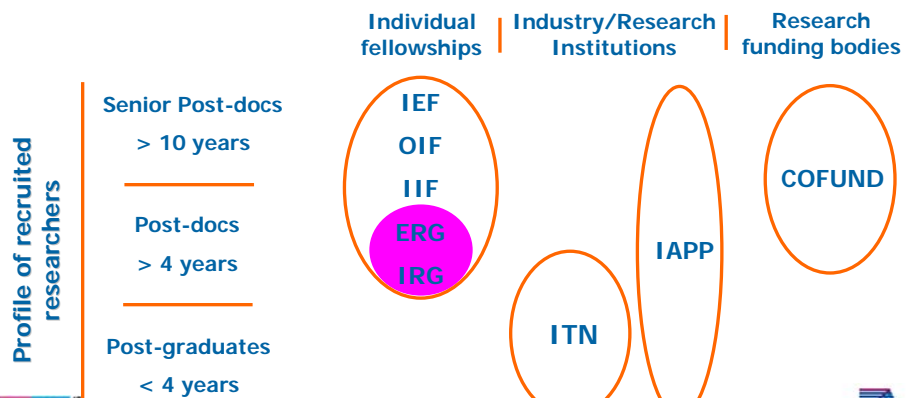
### What is needed

- **Human resource development** in R&D in Europe
- **Attract researchers to Europe**
- Retain Skills and sustainable **career** development
- Facilitate **mobility between academia and industry**, in Europe and beyond
- Appropriate **gender** balance



## Marie Curie Actions

### Applicants





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## FP7 (2007-2013) "People" Specific Programme - Marie Curie Actions


**Initial training**  
**Initial Training Networks\***

**Life-long training and career development**  
Intra-European Fellowships / European Reintegration Grants  
Co-funding of regional/national/international programmes


**Industry dimension**  
Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways\*


**International dimension**  
Outgoing & Incoming\* International Fellowships; International Cooperation Scheme; International Reintegration grants; Support to researcher 'diasporas'\*

**Specific actions**  
Mobility and career enhancement actions; Excellence awards



Open to third-country nationals







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## Marie Curie Actions in FP7 Training, mobility and research

**Main features**

- For **researchers at all stages** of their careers
- From **EU and Third Countries**
- Open to **all domains of research** and training (bottom up)
- Cooperation between **industry and academia**
- Selection of projects based on **open competition**, with research, training, implementation capacity and impact as selection criteria

## TOPICS

- Bottom-up approach
- Evaluation carried out in panels: (% in 2007)
  - Chemistry (13%)
  - Social and Human Sciences (9%)
  - Economic Sciences (2%)
  - Information Science and Engineering (20%)
  - Environmental and Geo-sciences (10%)
  - Life Sciences (26%)
  - Mathematics (3%)
  - Physics (17%)



## PARTICIPANTS



### 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)
- Associated Countries (AC):  
*Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, FYROM, Switzerland, Israel*
- 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-AC, non-ICPC) Third Countries (OTC)

Funding  
under  
conditions



### ITN typically set-up as:

Type of ITN	Country of Participants
<b>Multi-site ITN</b>	<p>≥3 Participants from 3 different countries (MS or AC)</p> <p>- Additional Participants: MS, AC, ICPC or OTC*</p> <p>* 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</p>

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




### In certain cases:

Type of ITN	Country of Participant(s)	
<b>Twinning ITN</b>	Well-established transnational collaboration	2 Participants from 2 different countries (MS or AC)
<b>Mono-site ITN</b>		1 Participant from MS or AC

- 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







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## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN (multi, twinning or mono)

Direct or indirect **involvement** of **private business sector** as:

<b>Full Network Partner</b>	Offer research training & <b>Recruit</b> eligible researchers	<b>Level 1</b>
<b>Associated Partner</b>	Provide research training, <b>complementary skills courses</b> , (communication, enterprise cycles, innovation, IPR, ...)	<b>Level 2</b>
	Member of the <b>Supervisory Board</b> : definition of skills requirements for targeted researchers	<b>Level 3</b>







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## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

- Involvement of industry should be at the **highest possible level**
- Proposals should include **clear evidence** of the **commitment of industry** to be involved
- The expected **minimum involvement** is **Level 3**

- The level of commitment of industry will be assessed by the expert evaluator under each of the evaluation criteria.
- In fields known to have strong interactions with industry, proposals are likely to receive a less favorable assessment if they only foresee industry involvement at the lowest level.



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**Marie Curie Actions in FP7:  
ITN**

**ELIGIBLE  
RESEARCHERS**









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**Marie Curie Actions in FP7:  
ITN**

**Eligible researchers: Member States, AC, ICPC and OTC**

	Eligibility Criteria at the time of recruitment	Duration of appointments	
<b>INITIAL TRAINING</b>	Early stage researchers ( $\geq 80\%$ )	$0 \leq$ Research experience $\leq 4$ years No PhD	3-36 months
	Experienced researchers	PhD or at least 4 years of research experience & Research experience $\leq 5$ years	3-24 months
<b>TRANSFER OF NEW COMPETENCES</b>	Visiting scientists ( <i>a limited number</i> )	Experienced researchers (experience $\gg 4$ years) with outstanding stature in international training and collaborative research	$\geq 1$ month  Multiple stays

## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

### Visiting Scientists recruitment:

- 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 duration of appointment should not exceed what is reasonable

The role of visiting scientists and the value added by their involvement in the training programme will be assessed by the expert evaluators.

## Marie Curie Research Training Networks *FEEDBACK FROM FELLOWS*

- **86%** believe their involvement in RTNs would have a **positive or very positive impact on future career**
- **70%** of the fellows see their next career position in **academics**
- **17%** on average would find a research post in "**industry**" suitable



## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

### Trans-national mobility:

- Researchers can be nationals of any country other than the country of the premises of the host institution
- Nationals of ICPC or OTC can only be recruited by hosts located in MS or AC
- Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment

## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

### Typical ITN Activities



- TRAINING
- NETWORKING
- INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES open to external researchers

### Training activities:

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



### 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 scientists** may contribute to such activities
  - coordinated by a clearly identified **Supervisory Board**



### Training activities:

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



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 « postdocs ».



### Networking activities:

- Organisation of scientific/managerial **network meetings**
- Invitation of **external experts**
- Attendance at **international conferences** and workshops
- **Electronic networking** (internet webpages, email, video conferencing)
- **Collaboration with other ITNs** in similar or complementary fields
- Organisation of a final network conference widely publicised



### International Conferences and other training events open to external researchers:

- Opportunity for the recruited researchers to **exchange knowledge with more experienced researchers**
- Opportunity for the members of the network to **disseminate the skills and knowledge** that the teams have to offer
- Open training events can be international conferences, workshops, seminars, summer schools, etc...

- Full details of the contents, quality and expected number of participants of such events should be given and fully justified in the proposal.
- Justification and integration of the proposed events in the joint training programme will be assessed by the expert evaluators.

### Supervisory Board co-ordinating network-wide training:

- Each network should have a clearly identified Supervisory Board.
- It ensures that scientific and technological training is balanced with complementary skills training.
- It is composed of representatives of each of the participants in the network as well as external representatives.
- Industry must be involved to give the trained researchers the widest possible employment prospects.



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## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

**Community Contribution**









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## Marie Curie Actions in FP7: ITN

### Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the recruited researchers


	Managed by the researchers			Managed by the host institution
<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">ESR and ER</div> <div style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 10px;">Visiting scientists</div>	<b>A*</b> Monthly living and mobility allowance  <i>Allowance rates adjusted by applying a country correction factor</i>	<b>B</b> Travel allowance  <i>Based on direct distance between place of origin and host institution</i>	<b>C</b> Career Exploratory allowance  <i>2000€ for each researcher with a stay of at least 1 year</i>	<b>D</b> Participation to training / networking activities  <i>-300€/researcher-month: non laboratory projects -600€/researcher-month: laboratory projects</i>
	*Budget category, see Work Programme 2008			







**Marie Curie Actions in FP7:  
ITN**

**Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the host organisations**

- Contribution to the research/training/ToK programme expenses (E)\*
  - Fixed amount of 600€ / researcher-month
- Contribution to the organisation of international conferences, workshops and events (F)
  - Fixed amount of 300€ / researcher-day for researchers from outside the network and for the duration of the event
- Management activities (G)
  - 7% of the total EC contribution for Multi-site ITN
  - 3% of the total EC contribution for Mono-site and Twinnings ITN



**Overheads - 10% of direct costs (except subcontracts) (H)**  
\* Budget category, see Work Programme 2008





**ITN in 2008 WP**


**DATES and FIGURES**

- Call Identifier: *FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2008*
- Call Date: *4 April 2008*
- Submission Deadline: *2 September 2008 (17:00 Brussels time)*
- Procedure: **Single stage submission / evaluation**
- Evaluation results: *~ January 2009*
- Contract signature: *~ March 2009 onwards*



– <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>  
 – For call: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>







**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

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