



„PEOPLE“ IN THE 7TH EU-FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

7TH EU-FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION (2007-2013)

OBJECTIVES

The specific programme “People” in the 7th EU-Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (FP7) has the objective of strengthening the human potential in research and technology in Europe. The overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, and on strong participation by women in research and development.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The mobility of the researchers, as overall objective of the programme, is supported through specific funding schemes – the Marie Curie Actions. These actions are open to all areas of research and technological development and can be freely chosen (bottom up). A high participation of enterprises, in particular of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) as well as the improvement of the cooperation between industry and academia is of great importance. The international dimension, the gender issue and the sustainable development are taken into consideration in all actions.

The general conditions for a participation in a Marie Curie Action are

- the mobility of the researchers: trans-national and inter-sectoral;
- funding from the time of graduation;
- no age limit: the programme addresses researchers at all stages;
- gender mainstreaming: the aim is a participation of at least 40% women;
- bottom up approach: the research areas can be freely chosen.

THE PROGRAMME

The dedicated “People” programme will establish a coherent set of Marie Curie Actions addressing researchers at all stages of their professional lives, from early-stage research training to lifelong training opportunities. The following Marie Curie Actions are envisaged:

The initial training of researchers – Marie Curie Networks

This action will support the initial training of researchers, typically directed at the first four years of researchers’ careers, plus up to one additional year if necessary for the completion of the initial training. The action will be implemented through support to competitively selected networks (*Marie Curie Networks*) of complementary organisations from different countries engaged in research training.

Community support under this action would comprise:

- the recruitment of early-stage researchers to be trained;
- the possibility for setting up academic chairs, or equivalent positions in enterprises, for experienced researchers, with a view to transferring new knowledge and strengthening supervision;
- the organisation of short training events (conferences, summer schools and specialised training courses), open to both trainees of the network and to researchers from outside the network.

Industry-academia partnerships and pathways

This action will seek to open and foster dynamic pathways between public research organisations and private commercial enterprises, including in particular SMEs.

Community support will take one or more of the following forms:

- staff secondments between both sectors within the partnership, with a view of reinforcing the inter-sectoral cooperation;
- temporary hosting in both sectors of experienced researchers recruited from outside the partnership;
- organisation of workshops and conferences enhancing the inter-sectoral experience and knowledge exchange, in order to reach a larger number of staff members from both sectors;
- as an SME specific measure a contribution to small equipment related to their participation in the cooperation.

The international dimension

The career development of researchers from Member States and associated countries and the international co-operation through researchers will be supported through:

- *outgoing international fellowships*, with mandatory return, for experienced researchers;
- *return and international reintegration grants* for experienced researchers after an international experience;
- *incoming international fellowships* in order to attract highly qualified third-country researchers to Member States and associated countries;
- *partnerships* between several research organisations in Europe and one or more organisations in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy and countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement.

FACTS AND LINKS

Duration: from 2007 to 2013

Budget: 4,73 billion euros

For more information on “People” and the Seventh Framework programme please consult the following web sites

<http://cordis.europa.eu.int/fp7/people.htm>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/index_en.cfm

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/future/documents_en.cfm

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp7/>

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