



- **IEF:** An experienced researcher may submit an IEF proposal in collaboration with a host organisation located in a MS/AC. Eligible researchers must move from a MS/AC to a MS/AC and comply with the mobility rule.
- **IOF:** Experienced researchers (including 3rd country nationals who have been residing and carrying out their main activity in MS or AC for at least the 5 years prior to the submission deadline) may submit an IOF proposal in collaboration with a European return host organisation
- **CIg:** Experienced researchers submitting a proposal in collaboration with a European host organization for establishing themselves in a MS/AC and improve their prospects for professional long-term integration. Researchers must comply with the mobility rule

● **How is “full-time equivalent” research experience being measured?**

Full-time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the research training is provided.

● **How can my research experience be confirmed?**

You can confirm your research experience by scientific degree, scientific publications (preferably in peer-reviewed journals), participation and reports at international conferences, participation in research projects, international cooperation, and reference letters

D. Tips and Advice for Participation

● **Where can I get an advice on participation in FP7 People Programme?**

The NCP network dedicated to the Marie Curie Actions is the main provider of advice and individual assistance. By using the following services, you can easily find the contact details of the designated National Contact Points for your country. National Contact Point service is available on the Europa CORDIS web site http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/ncp_en.html for EU Member States and Associated Countries and for NCP contacts in third countries: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/third-countries_en.html

Additionally, information about the Marie Curie Actions may be found at the Marie Curie Actions website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

● **Where can I find Marie Curie research job vacancies?**

Open Marie Curie research job vacancies are published at the EURAXESS Jobs Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>.

You can, also, find other research vacancies under a ‘Cofunded project under the People Programme’ on the Research Participant Portal website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true>

● **How do I submit my proposal?**

The Participant Portal <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home> is the single-entry point to interact with the research programmes of the European Commission. It offers the possibility to use a great variety of tools that facilitate the monitoring and the management of proposals and projects throughout their lifecycle. The Participant Portal currently allows to register an organisation through the Unique Registration Facility (URF), get a Participant Identification Code (PIC) which can then be used in proposal submissions (using the Electronic Proposal Submission Service – EPSS) <https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/>, search for FP7-related support documents, view or to search for FP7 calls and view/manage ongoing projects.

● **General tips for drafting a proposal?**

- Always read the Guide for Applicants when applying, follow the given template
- Ensure you meet the minimum eligibility requirements
- Good match between fellow(s) and Host // Good match between partners
- Very good Research Project/Programme
- Structure and organize the information well
- Be precise, less is sometimes more...
- Impartial view... ask your colleagues, friend to read it before submission
- Register on EPSS as soon as possible and:
 - Fill in the administrative forms (part A)
 - Save the first draft of your technical part of the proposal (part B)



Partner Organisations

COORDINATOR

Agenzia per la promozione della ricerca europea
ITALY

PARTNERS

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva
ARGENTINA

Austrian Research Promotion Agency
AUSTRIA

Sofia University «Saint Kliment Ohridski»
BULGARIA

Research Promotion Foundation
CYPRUS

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology
EGYPT

Estonian Research Council
ESTONIA

Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas
GREECE

Israel-Europe R&D Directorate
ISRAEL

Malta Council for Science and Technology
MALTA

Agentschap NL
NETHERLANDS

The Institute of Fundamental Technological Research PAS
POLAND

National Research University «Higher School of Economics»
RUSSIA

Euresearch
SWITZERLAND

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
TURKEY



Tips and advice for 3rd country participation in Marie Curie Actions



Tips and Advice for 3rd country participation in Marie Curie Actions (MCAs)

The strategic objective of the “PEOPLE Programme” under FP7 is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. The PEOPLE specific programme aims to strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to take up the profession of researchers, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe, and attracting to Europe the best researchers from the entire world. In this respect the role played by **National Contact Points (NCPs)** as providers of information and assistance to potential applicants and contractors in on-going PEOPLE funded projects is crucial. NCPs bridge the European and international research communities in order to inform and raise awareness about the funding opportunities of the MCAs, to advise and assist potential applicants in the preparation, submission and follow-up of grant applications, and to offer support during the execution of projects – especially with respect to the management and administrative aspects of projects. **PeopleNetwork+** is a 2-year project which aims at focusing on sharing good practices and promoting trans-national co-operation among PEOPLE NCPs. Especially, this project aims to further develop and implement the coordination mechanisms for stimulating closer cooperation among FP7 PEOPLE National Contact Points, with a focus on strengthening cooperation with Third Country and newcomer NCPs.

www.peoplenetworkplus.eu

A. General Information about the Marie Curie Actions

What are the opportunities offered in the PEOPLE Specific Programme?

The PEOPLE Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) includes all Marie Curie Actions. The Marie Curie Actions help to fund all kinds of training and mobility opportunities for researchers throughout their careers and are open to all scientific fields (bottom-up approach). The Marie Curie Actions include the following schemes:

Host-driven Actions

- **Initial Training Networks (ITN):** Offering young people opportunities to embark on a research career through recruitment in research organisations
- **Industry-Academia Partnerships & Pathways (IAPP):** Funding for supporting industry-academia research collaborations through exchange of staff
- **International Research Staff Exchange Schemes (IRSES):** Funding provided to support partnerships between at least two research institutions located in MS/AC and one or more organizations located either in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy
- **Co-funding of regional, national & international Programmes (COFUND):** Offering additional funding to existing or new regional and national fellowship programmes for research training and career development. The fellowship programmes must be implemented by organizations located in MS/AC.

Individual Actions

- **Intra-European Fellowships (IEF):** Funding for supporting intra-european mobility opportunities to experienced researchers so as to acquire new research skills and strengthen their research experience
- **International Incoming Fellowships (IIF):** Offering research funding to experienced researchers for conducting research in an organization located in an EU Member State or Associated Country. Experienced researchers can be of any nationality, however they will have to comply with the mobility requirements (i.e. mobility from an Other Third Country to a Member State or Associated Country)
- **International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF):** Offering research funding to experienced researchers for conducting research for a specific period of time (1-2 years) in an organization located in a 3rd country, and, then, returning back to Europe (obligatory return)
- **Career Integration Grants (CIG):** Providing funding to experienced researchers for establishing their career in a research organization located in a MS/AC

Who can participate in Marie Curie Actions?

Researchers of any nationality:

- Early-stage researchers: must be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree
- Experienced researchers: must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Organisations:

- Higher or secondary education establishments and research organisations (e.g. universities, research centres, etc, whether private or public);
- Commercial enterprises, especially those of small and medium size (SMEs);
- Non-profit or charitable organisations (e.g. NGOs, trusts, etc.)
- International European Interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL, etc.);
- The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission;
- Other International Organisations (e.g. WHO, UNESCO etc.)

Which countries are considered “Other third countries” in the EU language?

The European Commission divides countries into Member States (EU-27) and Third Countries. The third country definition includes those “Associated to FP7” and those which are considered “Other Third Countries” (OTC). The Associated Countries can participate in the Marie Curie Actions on the same condition as EU-27 Member States but for OTC some additional requirements and provisions can be applied. So, Other Third Countries are neither EU-27 Member States, nor third countries associated to FP7 (Associated Countries: Switzerland, Israel, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, Croatia, Republic of Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Republic of Moldova).

Which countries are considered as “International Cooperation Partner Countries” (ICPC)?

ICPC are Other Third Countries that can participate in International Cooperation Specific Actions, and some of them have signed S&T Agreements with the EC, such as Brazil, China, India and Russia, Argentina, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and are eligible to participate in some of MCA, eg. IRSES, ITN actions.

What is the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)?

ENP was developed in 2004 setting out in concrete terms how the EU proposes to work more closely with its 16 closest neighbours. The European Neighbourhood Policy countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian-administered areas, Syria, Tunisia

What is the mobility rule?

At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, or recruitment by the host organisation, depending on the action, 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. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

Where can I find Marie Curie open calls?

Marie Curie Actions open calls are published on the Research Participant Portal <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people>

What should I know about preparation and submission of proposals?

The Call Information Package published on the Participant Portal call page includes the following key documents required for the preparation of proposals:

- Call fiche
- Work Programme
- FP7 factsheets
- Guide for Applicants - Common Part
- Guide for Applicants - Ethics
- Guide for Applicants - Call Specific

as well as additional useful documents, such as the Rules for Submission and Evaluation of Proposals etc. Proposals in the call must be submitted electronically using a special web-based service (Electronic Proposal Submission Service, EPSS <https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/>) before a strictly enforced deadline. The Participant Portal call page contains link to the EPSS.

B. Marie Curie Actions available for institutions located in 3rd countries

To which Marie Curie Actions can legal entities from 3rd countries participate?

- **ITN:** Legal entities established in OTCs are eligible to participate over and above the minimum number of Member States and Associated Countries in a Multi-Partner ITN. Note, however, that in the Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP) and European Industrial Doctorates (EID) implementation modes, OTCs can only have the role of associated partners
- **IAPP:** Legal entities established in an FP7 International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC) are eligible for funding in IAPP above the minimum number of Member States and Associated Countries.
- **IIF:** An organization located in an FP7 International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC) may participate in an IIF project as the Return Host Organisation
- **IRSES:** In an IRSES project, the participation of organizations located either in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy is obligatory
- **IOF:** Organisations located in Other Third Countries participate in IOF projects as Partner Organisations (Outgoing host organizations)

How can an organisation find partners to participate in Marie Curie Actions?

The best way to find FP7 partners is to use your existing networks in academia and industry as well as suppliers, customers and even your competitors. You can, also, use the following sources:

- “Find a partner service” on the Europa CORDIS web site <https://cordis.europa.eu/partners/web/guest/home>
- The database of FP7/FP6 projects is a useful source of information; the abstracts of the projects include a list of the organisations involved (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html)
- Advanced Search Service on the Europa CORDIS web site <http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=proj.advSearch>
- EURAXESS list of registered organization: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/registeredOrganisations>
- You can also contact your FP7 People National Contact Point.

C. Marie Curie Actions available for 3rd country researchers

To which Marie Curie Actions can researchers from 3rd countries participate?

Marie Curie Actions are open to researchers from all nationalities. However, it is important to note that some actions are restricted only to experienced researchers, while in most Marie Curie Actions researchers must comply with the mobility rule. Thus, 3rd country researchers can participate in the following actions:

- **ITN:** Being recruited by host organisations as early-stage or experienced researcher (only if in the first 5 years of their research experience) The definition of an eligible researcher is based on professional research experience and not on age. Professional experience is counted from the date the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctoral degree and is calculated based on full-time equivalent research experience, rather than by calendar year. Researchers must comply with the mobility rule.
- **IIF:** An experienced researcher who is a national of any third country may submit an IIF proposal in collaboration with a host organisation located in a MS/AC. Eligible researchers must comply with the mobility rule
- **IRSES:** Researchers (ESRs, ERs and technical and managerial staff) working in organisations located in 3rd countries and participating in an IRSES project can be seconded to European host organisations
- **COFUND:** Experienced researchers of any nationality may be recruited in the framework of COFUND fellowships. Eligible researchers must comply with the mobility rule
- **IAPP:** Researchers (ESRs, ERs) working in organizations participating in an IAPP project may be seconded to a partner organization. All secondments must be intersectoral in nature (i.e. from the commercial to the non-commercial partners or vice-versa). Experienced researchers from outside the partnership may be recruited and must comply with the mobility rule