Structuring the European Research Area
Human Resources and Mobility
Marie Curie Actions

WORK PROGRAMME
Edition December 2002
2.3.1.1. - Marie Curie Research Training Networks

Specific objectives of the action

These Networks provide the means for research teams of recognised international stature to link up, in the context of a well-defined collaborative research project, in order to formulate and implement a structured training programme for researchers in a particular field of research. Networks will provide a cohesive, but flexible framework for the training and professional development of researchers, especially in the early stages of their research career. Networks also aim to achieve a critical mass of qualified researchers, especially in areas that are highly-specialised and/or fragmented; and to contribute to overcoming institutional and disciplinary boundaries, notably through the promotion of multidisciplinary research. They will also provide a straightforward and effective means to involve the less-favoured regions of the EU and Associated Candidate Countries in internationally recognised European research co-operation.

Less favoured regions and Candidate countries
For the definitions see www.cordis.lu/improving/fellowships/lessfavouredregions.htm and http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/candidate.htm

Implementation

Participants

Participants in this action are selected by the Commission and are those organisations, who are members of a network which recruit researchers or directly contribute to the research and training project.

The network will be composed of at least three participants (e.g. universities, research centres, companies, SMEs) established in at least three Member or Associated States from which two must be Member or Associated Candidate Countries. It is expected, however, that a network will consist of a larger number of organisations.

Projects

The size of the project and of the network will depend on the nature and scope of the research and training activities undertaken by the network, as well as considerations regarding management and effective interaction amongst participants.

The joint research project provided by the network should serve to provide a platform for training, for the transfer of knowledge and for the career development of those researchers involved in its activities. The researchers should therefore be fully integrated into the research by involving them, for example, in exchanges between teams, network meetings, collaborative research or the dissemination of results. In this context, the participating teams will also need to develop a structured programme for training (e.g. courses, seminars, training in research management and exploitation of research results, to the benefit of all researchers recruited by the network), and for mentoring of the appointed researchers (e.g. supervision, following up the careers of those researchers trained in the activity).

Priority will be given, in this context, to training in a multidisciplinary and/or intersectorial context which, at least, allows the appointed researchers to become acquainted with the different disciplines and different actors within the topic of research covered by the project.

Partners will be given significant autonomy and flexibility in the detailed operation of the networks.

The maximum duration of a project will normally be four years from the date of commencement given in the contract.
As an indication, the budget of an individual project would be expected to range between €800,000 and a few million Euro, depending on the number of participants, the anticipated number of trainees accommodated at each network node, the nature and scope of the training activities, etc.

**Eligible Researchers**

This action will be directed at **early stage researchers** [i.e. 0-4 years after graduation – added by David Williams], for the purpose of initial training (including within the frame of doctoral studies) while **more experienced researchers** [i.e. 5-10 years after graduation – added by David Williams] will be eligible with respect to the needs of transfer of knowledge in the project. Researchers with more than 10 years of research experience (full-time equivalent), counting from the time the degree/diploma was obtained and giving access to embark on a doctorate in the country where it was awarded, will not be eligible for selection.

Each researcher will establish, together with his/her personal supervisor, a **Personal Career Development Plan** comprising his/her training needs and scientific objectives and later on report upon the success with which these objectives were met. In this way the researchers will be encouraged to play an active role in shaping their own training programme and professional development.

The training opportunities for researchers within the coherent training and mobility scheme provided by the project may range from 3 months to 3 years.

In the case of a researcher being seconded to another participant for a period of more than 30% of the total period of recruitment, he/she will have to be recruited by this other participant.

2.5.2. Participants

As a general rule, the participants of the **Marie Curie** actions are organisations active in research or research training (universities, national or international research centres or commercial enterprises, etc) implementing **Marie Curie** actions and signing contracts with the Commission.

**Conditions specifically applicable to legal entities participating from third countries**

**For Marie Curie Research Training Networks,** …..

**Participation** of legal entities from third countries … is foreseen under the conditions provided by the rules of participation and by those in the present work programme in the following actions: **Marie Curie** Research Training Networks, ………

The **financing** of these entities, particularly those of developing countries and those with emerging economies or in transition, is possible if it is essential to attain the objectives of the action.

2.5.3. Eligible researchers

**Definitions**

**Early-stage researchers** are defined as researchers in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research activity, including the period of research training.

The reference period to qualify for an early stage training activity:
- is counted from the diploma giving access to doctoral studies (the degree must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies, without having to acquire any further qualifications) in the country in which the diploma was obtained,
- covers the first 4 years of experience in research or the period until a doctoral degree is obtained, whichever is shorter.
Persons who have obtained a doctorate are ineligible for the early stage actions, independently of the time taken to acquire it.

The overall cumulative maximum early stage training through Marie Curie Host Fellowships for Early Stage Research Training and Marie Curie Training Networks is 4 years (full-time equivalent).

**Experienced researchers** are defined as researchers having at least 4 years of research experience (full-time equivalent) since gaining a university diploma giving them access to doctoral studies (the degree must entitle the holder to embark on doctoral studies, without having to acquire any further qualifications), in the country in which the degree/diploma was obtained or researchers already in possession of a doctoral degree, independently of the time taken to acquire it.

For host-driven actions, the reference deadline for eligibility is the selection of the eligible researcher by the host organisation in the framework of this action. For individual-driven actions, researchers must comply with this rule at the latest eight months after the relevant deadline for submission of proposals. In all cases, the researcher must have met all the necessary requirements for the conferment of the doctoral degree, as officially certified by the awarding body.

Eligible researchers under these schemes are “third party” beneficiaries of the Marie Curie actions. They do not sign a contract with the Commission, but benefit from the Marie Curie actions and are therefore in this way beneficiaries of Community funds.

**Indicative scope of the action (in terms of training)**

As an indication, for each 100 M € spent this action should allow:

- the creation of about 60 Marie Curie Research Training Networks; \([i.e. \text{average} = \text{1.6 M € - added DW}]\)
- foster co-operation between about 600 research teams; \([i.e. \text{average} = 10 \text{ teams/network - added DW}]\)
- facilitate the mobility of about 1200 researchers; \([i.e. \text{average} = 20 \text{ movements/net - added DW}]\)
- provide about 1750 person-years of training for researchers;
- Overall it is anticipated that the expected number of researchers profiting directly from this action through training or networking will be at least 2000.

Taking into account the participation of researchers from outside the network at meetings and network-wide training events, this figure is expected to rise to over 5000.
2.6. Planning of activities and budgetary aspects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Indicative Amounts for the calls closed in 2003</th>
<th>Indicative Amounts for the intermediates closing of open calls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marie Curie Research Training Networks</td>
<td>115 (April); 115 (Nov)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 These amounts comprise the total indicative amounts for the calls including contributions from Associated States. Other expenses such as evaluation costs and administration costs are not included.

2 Indicative amounts foreseen in the closed calls or the intermediate closing of open calls which have been or will be open in the year of reference. This does not signify that these amounts will be engaged in the year of reference.

3 Indicative amounts foreseen in the closed calls or the intermediate closing of open calls which have been or will be open in the year of reference. This does not signify that these amounts will be engaged in the year of reference. These amounts can be reviewed in the frame of the periodical revision of the work programme and on the basis of budgetary availabilities for 2004.
Call Information for Marie Curie Research Training Networks for 2003

1. Specific Programme: “Structuring the European Research Area”
2. Activity: Human resources and mobility activities
3. Call title: Call for proposals for Marie Curie Research Training Networks
5. Date of publication5: 17 December 2002.
6. Closure date(s)6: 3 April 2003 and 19 November 2003 both at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
8. Instruments: see section 2.3.1.1 of the work programme
9. Minimum number of participants: see the conditions specified in sections 2.3.1.1 of the work programme
10. Restrictions to participation (types of organisation, type of activity, third countries): see the conditions foreseen in the sections 2.3.1.1 and 2.5 of the work programme
11. Consortia agreements: Participants in RTD actions resulting from this call are not required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. Evaluation procedure: The evaluation shall follow a single stage submission; and Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
13. Evaluation criteria: See Annex Mob-B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:
   • Provisional evaluation results: estimated to be available within some 3 months after the closure date.
   • Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force before the end of 2003.
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4 The call identifier shall be given in the published version of this call.
5 The director-general responsible for the publication of this call may publish it up to one-month prior or after its envisaged publication date.
6 When the envisaged publication date is advanced or delayed (see previous footnote), closure date(s) will be adjusted accordingly.
### II. General Annexes to Human Resources and Mobility

#### Mob-A. Road Map of Calls for Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of actions covered by the call</th>
<th>Publication of call for proposals</th>
<th>Dead-line for reception of proposals</th>
<th>Estimated dates for conclusion of first and last contracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Networks</td>
<td>Dec 02</td>
<td>3 April 03</td>
<td>October 03 - January 04</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 November 03</td>
<td>June 04 - October 04</td>
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