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Information Sheet

# *FP7 - Marie Curie Actions 2012*

# *ITN, Initial Training Network*

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*"The Marie Curie ITN scheme in FP7 has opened a way to train the next generation of scientists in understanding both the academic and business cultures. It can act as a model for universities to develop similar activities" (EARMA)*

## What is an ITN, Initial Training Network?

ITN aims to improve career perspectives of researchers who are in the first 5 years of their career, in both public and private sectors, thereby making research careers more attractive. This will be achieved through a trans-national network aimed at establishing high quality training schemes for researchers. The ITN is divided in 3 sub-programmes: Multi-partners ITN, Innovative Doctoral Programme (IDP) and The European Industrial Doctorates (EID).

## Who can apply?

ITN is a host driven action, i.e. applicants are research organizations: universities, public and private research centers, non-profit organisations, large companies, SMEs, etc. Multi-ITN networks comprise at least 3 partners, IDP one participation only and EID 2 participants (one private and one public) form different countries.

## Which research topics are eligible?

As for the other Marie Curie Actions, ITN follows a *bottom-up approach*, i.e. the research topic is chosen freely by the applicant(s). Proposals are classified under 8 major panels: chemistry, social & human sciences, economic sciences, information & engineering, environment and geosciences, life sciences, mathematics and physics.

## What is the duration?

The usual duration of an ITN is 4 years from the start of the grant agreement.

## What is the budget?

The overall budget for the ITN Call 2012 is € 423.23 mio. Of this amount € 20 mio are earmarked for European Industrial Doctorate (EID).

## When is the ITN Call 2011?

The ITN Call 2011 is open since 20 July 2011, with a deadline for submission on 12 January 2011.

## What is funded in an ITN?

Salaries & allowances of recruited researchers are covered:

For an early-stage researcher, ESR[1]:

- Monthly Living allowance (i.e. gross salary): € 38 000/year x country coefficient (109.9 for CH)
  ESR are recruited for a duration from 3 months up to 3 years for Multi and Mono ITNs.

For an experienced researcher, ER[2]

- Monthly Living allowance (i.e. gross salary): € 58 500/year x country coefficient (109.9 for CH).
  ER are recruited for a duration from 3 months up to 2 years in the Multi-ITN.

Additional allowances (for both ESR and ER)

- Mobility allowance (monthly): €1000 x country coefficient (109.9 for CH) for researchers with family. €700 for researchers without family

Host organisations can expect contributions to overheads from the European Commission in order to cover costs of the activities carried out during the project

## What is the overview structure of ITN?

The table below gives an overview.

[1] Early-Stage Researchers must, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree.

[2] Experienced Researchers must, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have **at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience**. In ITN, experienced researchers must also, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, have **less than five years of full-time equivalent research experience.**

| | Multi-ITN | IDP | EID |
|---|---|---|---|
| Partners level-1 | 3 minimum<br>3 diff. MS/AC | 1<br>any MS/AC | 2<br>2 diff. MS/AC |
| Partners level-2 | unlimited<br>(any country/sector/disc.) | unlimited<br>(any country/sector/disc.) | unlimited<br>(any country/sector/disc.) |
| Private sector involvement | highest possible level (partners level 1 and 2) | expected via associated partners | 1 partner level 1 + associated partners |
| Eligible researchers | ESR (3-36 months)<br>ER (3-24 months) ≤ 20% | ESR (3-**36** months) | ESR (3-**36** months) |
| PhD enrolment | typically expected (ESR) | mandatory | mandatory |
| Intersectoral aspects | secondments encouraged (≤ 30%) | secondments encouraged (≤ 30%) | ≥ 50% in private sector |
| Res. months | 500 max | 500 max | 180 max |
| Budget/country | 40% max to 1 country | n/a | n/a |
| Panels and ranking lists | 8 ranking lists (corresponding to scientific panels CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC) | | EID ranking list (20M€ earmarked) |

## Eligible organizations

Types of organisations that can take part in an ITN:

- National organisations, such as universities, research centres (private or public)
- Commercial enterprises: SMEs, large companies
- Non-profit organisations: NGOs, trusts
- Joint Research Centres of the EC (JRC)
- International European interest organisations: CERN, EMBL, etc.
- International organisations : WHO, UNESCO.

Level of participation in an ITN :

A distinction is made between partners in a network, based on their level of participation:

- *Participants (level 1)*: full partners of a network. They contribute directly to the implementation of the project, by recruiting and employing researchers and by providing training programmes. Full networks partners are signatories to the contract (grant agreement).
- *Associated partners (level 2)*: they do not recruit any researchers but provide research and complementary training, and secondment opportunities. Associated partners are not signatories to the contract (grant agreement).

Four categories of country groups, where participants must be located:

- EU 27 member states
- Associated countries to FP7: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey
- International Cooperation Partner Countries: http://cordis.europa.eu7/who_en.html#countries
- Third countries: e.g.: USA Canada, Australia, Brazil, India, etc.

## Indicative time table for the ITN Call 2011

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication of ITN Call | 20.07.2011 |
| Deadline for submission | 12.01.2012, 17:00 |
| Evaluation phase | 20.02-11.03.2012 |
| Evaluation Summary Reports sent to coordinators | 26-30.03.2012 |
| Grant agreement negotiation phase | June 2012 |
| Signature of first grant agreements | September 2012 |
| Start of the project | As of September 2012 |

## Tips for application success

- Do your reading! You find decisive information in the 3 Guide for Applicants ITN 2011 and in the Work Programme 2012.
- ITN is highly competitive! The success rate of the last call was 9%. Your application must be impeccable. Plan and discuss your project with project partners and Euresearch.
- The participation of partners from private sector is strongly recommended .
- Demonstrate in as many ways as possible that the participants and technology in your project are the very best in Europe.
- Keep in mind that past experience has shown that a manageable size of an ITN is in the range if 6 to 10 partners .
- Respect all evaluation criteria: S&T Quality (30%), Training (30%), Implementation (20%) and Impact (20%).

## More information here

- Guide for Applicants ITN 2012
- Check out the People Work Programme 2012
- Find more information on our Mobility page: www.euresearch.ch/people
- Euresearch services: www.euresearch.ch/services
- General information and support via your regional office: Basel, Bern, Geneva, Fribourg, Lausanne, Lugano, Luzern, Neuchatel, St. Gallen, Zürich: www.euresearch.ch/ro

## For further help, please contact:

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