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Marie Curie actions under the FP7 specific programme “PEOPLE”

Legal and financial issues
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Objectives of People programme

'Strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the **human potential** in research and technology in Europe, by stimulating people to **enter into the profession of researcher**, encouraging European researchers to **stay** in Europe, and **attracting** to Europe researchers from the entire world, making Europe more attractive to the best researchers.





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Structure of the People Programme

5 action headings

- Initial training of researchers (ITN)
- Life Long training and career development (EIF, ERG, COFUND)
- Industry-Academia partnerships and pathways
- International dimension (IOF, IIF, IRG, IRSES)
- Specific actions (NIGHT)

As of WP 2009: ERG and IRG will be under LLTCD as RG and ID becomes World Fellowships





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Implementation of People Programme

Indirect support to training and career development of individual researchers through grants to host organisations

Two types of actions

- Host driven actions (ITN, IAPP, COFUND, IRSES)
individual researchers not identified at evaluation/selection
- Individual actions/fellowships (EIF, IOF, IIF, ERG, IRG)
individual researchers known and considered at evaluation/selection





Tailored structure of budget by category of expenditure

– Expenses for the activities carried out by the researchers (I)

- A-Monthly living allowance and mobility allowance
- B-Travel allowance
- C-Career exploratory allowance
- D-Contribution to participation expenses of researchers

– Expenses for the activities carried out by the beneficiaries (II)

- E-Contribution to research training/ToK
- F-Conferences, workshops, events
- G-Management
- H-Indirect costs
- I-Other

No transfer from (I) to (II) =>the opposite is possible for multi contractors

As of WP 2009 category cost F NA and some amounts modified



Budget structure by action

Action	Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the researcher				Eligible expenses for the activities carried out by the host organisation				
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ITN	✓	✓	✓	(1)	€600 per researcher/month	✓	7% / 3% (2)	10%	-
IAPP	✓	✓	(3)	-	€800 per researcher/month	✓	3%	10%	(4)
IEF/IOF/IIF(5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	3%	10%	(7)
							€700 per researcher/month (6)		
IRG/ERG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(8)

(1) €600 per researcher/month for lab projects and €300 for non-lab projects.

(2) 7% for networks; 3% for mono beneficiary and twinning actions.

(3) For newly recruited researchers only, not for seconded staff members.

(4) A maximum amount of 10% of their share in the EU contribution can be charged by SMEs for small equipment expenses (with prior agreement of the Commission).

(5) In selected cases a specific allowance for the return phase can also be provided for the IIF scheme.

(6) As of the Work Programme 2009 the Commission intends to replace the contribution to management and indirect by a flat rate amount of some €700 per researcher/month (subject of correction factor for the cost of living as referred to in the work programme).

(7) A fixed amount of €15 000 by researcher/year is granted for the IOF return phase.

(8) A fixed amount of €15 000 by researcher/year is granted for ERG and of €25 000 for IRG.



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Activities carried out by researchers

- A-Living allowance
 - o ranging from <20K to >100K (per year)
 - o depending on professional experience
 - o as a rule: employment contract with full social security
exception: stipend with minimal social security (short stays)
 - o subject to correction coefficient for cost of living
- A-Mobility allowance
 - o €800/month with family
€500/month w/o family
 - o subject to correction coefficient for cost of living
- B-Travel allowance
 - o ranging from €250 to €2500 per started period of 12 months
- C-Career exploratory allowance
 - o €2000/fellow appointed >1year
- D-Participation expenses (see table on previous slide)

Activities carried out by researchers (2)

- All allowances cover gross salary and allowances paid to the researcher plus employer social security charges
- All flat rate allowances A-C are for the exclusive benefit of the researcher
 - ⇒ actual costs can be audited to demonstrate that they are equal or higher than flat rates declared
 - ⇒ declaration of actual costs which remain below flat rates will trigger a COM request to make additional payment to researcher

CONDITIONAL FLAT RATES

structuring effect on fair employment conditions for researchers

- COM will consider “underpayment” of researchers on a cumulative basis for categories A-C



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Activities carried out by the beneficiary(ies) (hosts)

- Research training/ToK (see table on previous slide)
- Conferences/workshops/events
 - €300/researcher-day for researchers from outside the partnership for the duration of the event.
- Management
 - Max 7% for networks / Max 3% for mono-beneficiary & twinning
 - No average costs allowed
 - For project as whole – not by beneficiary
 - When non-subcontracted: also in basis for calculating indirect costs
- Indirect costs (OH)
 - 10%
 - not by beneficiary but to be applied by period

as of WP2009: EIF, OIF, IIF: €700 researcher/month for mgt and OH



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Example of calculating grant for one beneficiary

	Direct Costs	indirect costs (category H)	Total	
A. Living and Mobility allowance	323 683.50			
B. Travel allowance	6 000.00			
C. Career Exploratory allowance	6 000.00			
D. Participation expenses of eligible researchers	50 400.00			
E. Research / training / ToK programme expenses	51 600.00			
F. Organisation of int. conferences, workshops and events	72 000.00			
Subtotal	509 683.50	50 968.35	560 651.85	93%
G. Management activities (including audit certification)	38 363.27	3 836.33	42 199.60	7%
Total Community contribution to partner 1	548 046.77	54 804.68	602 851.45	100%



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Specificities of COFUND

Financial support for Programmes

- COFUND
- IRSES



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Specificities of COFUND

PARTICIPANT

Typically organisations under these categories:

- Official public bodies, e.g. ministries, state committees for research, research academies...
- Other public and private bodies, including large research organisations, that finance and manage fellowship programmes
- Bodies at international level that run comparable schemes at European level as part of their mission

CONTRIBUTION

- Proportional to the total number of estimated researchers complying with the trans-national mobility
- Co-funding of a fixed percentage of 40% of the full fellowship costs of the eligible researchers
- Maximum overall community contribution of €5M/single applicant



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Specificities of IRSES

PARTICIPANT

Partnership: min. 2 independent EU/AC research organisations of at least 2 different countries and one or more organisations in a third country

Coordinator from EU/AC

Duration of Partnership: 2-4 years

CONTRIBUTION

- Balanced exchange expected out/in Europe (in person years)
- Each partner funds its own outgoing researchers
- Community contribution for EU/AC partners
- Fixed 1800€/person/month (incl. travel, subsistence)
- Only for EU/AS partners
- Non-EU/AC partners may apply their own rates
- Community funding of ICPC and Neighbourhood policy countries in exceptional cases



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Other contractual issues

- Reporting periods upto 24 months
- Possibility for project start date to be notified by the beneficiary (mainly for individual actions)
- Interests generated on pre-financing for mono-beneficiary grants:
 - use of bank accounts remunerated in accordance with market conditions
 - interests to return to the Community budget
- Threshold for audit certificates on financial statement =
€375 000
=> individual actions exempted



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Thank you for your attention
Questions

