EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Community research

FP7: Marie Curie Actions

Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

PEOPLE

Marie Curie Actions in FP7: COFUND

The Essentials (1):

- COFUND supports **existing** or **new** regional, national and international fellowship programmes to increase **trans-national mobility** for **training and career development** of **experienced researchers**
- Participants: public or private **bodies operating fellowship programmes**
- No maximum or minimum **size** of programme required, but the programme should have sufficient **impact** in the specific scientific field(s) or geographical area.

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The Essentials (2):

- Community contribution: 40% of the fellowship costs of trans-national fellowships
- Duration of a co-funded programme: 24 - 48 months
- Total available budget for the first Call: € 65 million
- Maximum contribution to a single applicant entity: € 5 million per Call

The Essentials (3):

Evaluation in two separate panels, both applying the same evaluation criteria**:**

- **Panel A:** existing trans-national fellowship programmes (including those opening for the first time for trans-national mobility)
- **Panel B:** new fellowship programmes

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Eligible organisations:

- Official public bodies responsible for funding or managing fellowship programmes (e.g. ministries, state committees for research, research academies, councils or agencies)
- Other public or private bodies that finance and manage fellowship programmes with an official mandate or recognised by public authorities (e.g. agencies established by governments under public law with a public service mission, charities)
- Bodies at international level that run comparable schemes at European level as part of their mission

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Eligible researchers:

Experienced researchers who at the time of the selection by a fellowship programme

- are in possession of a doctoral degree OR
- have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience after the degree which allowed them to embark on a doctorate in the country in which the degree/diploma was obtained or in the country where the fellowship is taking place

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Eligible transnational mobility:

Programmes have to include **at least one** of the following activities:

- **Outgoing mobility** for a stay in another Member State, Associated or Third country
- **Incoming mobility** for fellowships to researchers from other Member States, Associated or Third countries
- **Re-integration** of researchers from Member States or Associated countries who spent at least three years in a Third country

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Implementation:

- All Community co-funded fellowships must be evaluated and started within the duration of the grant agreement, and no fellowship costs can be claimed after its end
  - **Example:** a 24-month fellowship that starts 18 months before the end of the grant agreement can only claim fellowship costs for 18 months under the COFUND grant agreement
- It is therefore in the interest of the applicants to plan their programmes in such a way that the fellowships end within the duration of the grant agreement.

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The Community contribution can be used to:

- Open up an existing programme for trans-national mobility
- Create a new trans-national programme
- Increase the numbers of trans-national fellowships awarded by a programme
- Improve the conditions of the fellows (e.g. by improving social security/pension conditions, extending the duration of the fellowship, promoting the implementation of the European Charter for Researchers.)

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The Community contribution…

- …will be implemented in form of a scale of unit costs
- These fixed amounts will be determined during the negotiation phase, based on the information provided in the proposal about:
  - the average yearly fellowship costs for each type of mobility (incoming, outgoing, re-integration)
  - the total number of expected trans-national fellow-years for each type of mobility

How to calculate the Community contribution (1)

- The Community contribution **may not** be used to replace or substitute the existing budget of fellowship programmes
- Applying fellowship programmes are encouraged to increase their own budget contribution in order to contribute to the objective of the COFUND action

How to calculate the Community contribution

Example 1: Increase of own budget

Budget in the year prior to application	1,000,000 €
Proposed increase of the programme	1,000,000 €
Total cost of the programme	2,000,000 €
COFUND contribution (40 % of total)	800,000 €
Own budget contribution	1,200,000 €

How to calculate the Community contribution (2)

- If an increase of own budget is not possible, the programme must **at least** maintain the amount of own budget as in the year prior to the COFUND application
- In this case, the COFUND contribution of 40% will allow the total budget of the programme to increase by two thirds of the existing budget. This will allow the Community contribution to entirely fund the additional budget.

How to calculate the Community contribution

Example 2: Own budget unchanged

Budget in the year prior to application	900,000 €
Proposed increase of the programme	600,000 €
Total cost of the programme	1,500,000 €
COFUND contribution (40 % of total)	600,000 €
Own budget contribution	900,000 €

How to calculate the Community contribution

Example 3: New fellowship programme

Own budget of the programme	1,200,000 €
COFUND contribution (40% of total)	800,000 €
Total cost of the programme	2,000,000 €