



European
Commission

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA- CURIE ACTIONS

Implementation

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

Alan Craig

**Web-streaming training
10 June 2014**

Key features



- ✓ **Budget:** € 80 Million in 2014 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)
€ 80 Million in 2015 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)
- ✓ **Maximum € 10 Million per single applicant** per call
- ✓ **Duration of projects:** minimum 3 years, maximum 5 years (including the time taken to publish calls and recruit researchers)
- ✓ **Fellowships: minimum 3 months**
- ✓ **EU contribution to cover living allowances for researchers and management costs.** Rates fixed in the Work Programme.
- ✓ **Minimum living allowance fixed in the Work Programme**

Key features



- ✓ Each single application must **only address the doctoral or fellowship programme**, but
- ✓ **More than one** application can be submitted
- ✓ Recruited researchers must respect the **same mobility rule as IF** (for the fellowship programme) **or ITN** (for the doctoral programme). Existing programmes can continue with own mobility rule if well-justified.
- ✓ Unless prohibited by national legislation all fellows, including doctoral fellows, **must be recruited on a work contract**.
- ✓ It is possible to COFUND 'part' of programme. For example, if in a doctoral programme, there are some fellows who are not mobile then we simply do not contribute to these fellows.



- Recruited researchers must respect the **same mobility rule as Individual Fellowships**
- Existing programmes can continue with own mobility rule if well-justified.
- Fellows must be **Experienced Researchers** (PhD or 4 years research experience)



- Fellowships must be granted via **regular calls for proposals**, internationally advertised and published, with fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates (max. 4 per year)
- Selection of researchers must follow an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable procedure, based on **international peer review**
- **Typical** appointment of researchers: from 12 to 36 months
- Candidates to the programmes should be able to submit proposals, with the **freedom to draft their research project** and to **choose the host organisation** in which they wish to carry out their research work



- Recruited researchers must respect the **same mobility rule as Innovative Training Networks**
- **Existing programmes** can continue with own mobility rule if well-justified.
- Fellows must be **Early Stage Researchers** (neither PhD nor 4 years research experience)



- Selection of researchers must follow an **open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable** procedure.
- Vacancies must be **internationally advertised** and published.
- Appointment of researchers corresponding to **typical time needed to complete a PhD** in the corresponding country.
- Candidates to the programmes should be given **freedom to choose among research projects** of their preference.



- Attention will be paid to qualitative and quantitative supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as to career guidance.
- A supervisor with adequate experience must be appointed for each researcher to provide the researchers with academic support and a career plan.
- All fellows must be **registered for a PhD**

Who can apply?



COFUND is **monobeneficiary**

- Legal entities established in an **EU Member State or Associated Country** that fund or **manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes** for researchers.
- **International European interest organisations** that fund or manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers can also participate in this action.



- Possibility to add **as many partner organisations as relevant** for the programme, **from any country in the world**
- Partner organisation include those who will host researchers.
- Collaboration with a **wider set of partners**, including from the non-academic sector, which may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training in research or transferable skills, as well as innovative elements of the proposed programme, will be **positively taken into account** during the evaluations.
- Partner organisations which **contribute to the programme funding must provide a letter of commitment** to be added to the Part B proposal.

Award Criteria



Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
<p>Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunity)</p>	<p>Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives</p>	<p>Overall coherence, effectiveness and appropriateness of the work plan</p>
<p>Quality of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, intersectorality and level of transnational mobility</p>	<p>Impact of the programme on aligning practices at participating organisations with principles set out by the EU for the human resources development in research and innovation</p>	<p>Appointment conditions of researchers</p>
<p>Quality of career guidance and training, including supervision arrangements, training in transferable skills</p>	<p>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination of the programmes</p>	<p>Competence of the participant to implement the programme</p>

COFUND – EU contribution



- ✓ EU contribution to **living allowance** for contracts with full social security:
 - Early stage researchers (ESR): € 1855 per person-month
 - Experienced researchers (ER): € 2625 per person-month
- ✓ EU contribution to **management costs**: € 325 per person-month

Example (Fellowship programme – ER)

- ✓ Minimum amounts for monthly living + mobility allowances:

- ESR: € 2597
- ER: € 3675

- ✓ Other cost items may be funded through other resources (including ESIF funds)

Cost item	Total cost [€ per person-month]	EU contribution [€ per person-month]
Living allowance	4800	2625
Mobility allowance	500	
Research costs	500	
Management costs	600	325
Indirect costs	600	
Total	7000	2950



To put the previous example in another way:

- The **living allowance and management costs** are 5400 EUR and the EU contributes 2950 EUR to this
- The remaining 2450 EUR in this category can come from any source, except EU funding.
- The **mobility, research and indirect costs** are 1600 EUR and these can come from any source except H2020 (for example ESIF)



NB

**In the exceptional case where fellows are recruited on a stipend
the EU COFUND contribution to the living allowance is further
halved**



All Cofunded programmes must operate under the **ethics framework of H2020**

However, as the individual research projects are usually not known at the time of application the evaluators will be instructed to assess whether the proposed **programme operates clear and high-level ethics procedures**



Questions?

REA-MSCA-H2020-COFUND@ec.europa.eu