

FAQs published on Cordis for Call 2012

Q: Will it be checked if the doctoral degree has actually been awarded?

A: Fellows recruited under EID and IDP must be enrolled in a doctoral programme and are expected to finish it, but no check will be made as to whether the final degree is actually awarded.

Q: Is there a recommended number of Associated Partners?

A: No. This will depend on each individual research training programme and on the added value of each partner to the programme.

Q: How will the mobility requirements be applied in the case of EID? If a fellow is employed at both participating organisations in an EID, must the mobility rule be fulfilled for both countries?

A: EID is a pilot and could allow some flexibility in its implementation in order to answer different needs. The fellows can be recruited by only one partner or by both partners. In those cases where the researcher signs an employment contract with both the academic and industrial partner, the researcher should respect the mobility requirements for each of the two partners. In the case where the researcher signs an employment contract with only one of the partners, the mobility requirement must only be fulfilled for this partner and will not apply to the periods of secondment.

Q: In an EID, how can research institutions participate? In particular, how can an applicant prove that a research institution (level 1) is associated to a university (level 2)?

A: If in an EID the academic partner at level 1 is an institution entitled to deliver doctoral degrees and recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country concerned, a research institution can be associated (level 2) to it for the purpose of the training. In the case a research institution is the "full" academic partner, a university should be associated at level 2 in order to deliver the degree. Moreover, as the ESRs enrolment in a doctoral programme is a requirement for EID, the proposal will have to clearly describe the role of each participant and their management. Additionally, letters of commitment from associated partners have to be included in the proposal.

Q: Where should bibliographic references be mentioned in the proposal? Can this also be done in an annex (within the same pdf-file) and thus not count into the maximum page limit?

A: Bibliographic references must be mentioned within the text of the proposal, as appropriate, but be kept brief. They can take the form of footnotes or, where the references are well-known, could also appear in the Harvard style, e.g. (Joyce, 1922: 75). Bibliographic references must not be included in an annex or separate file.

Q: Are the Expert Evaluators allowed to read excess pages?

A: The evaluators will be instructed to disregard any pages over the specified limits. This rule is clearly explained in the Guide for Applicants page 30 and will be strictly enforced.

Q: Will the evaluation of the new European Industrial Doctorate (EID) modality differ from that for the Multi-Partner ITN and Innovative Doctoral Programme (IDP) modalities?

A: EID proposals will be evaluated by experts in the scientific field chosen by the applicant in form A1 and will be ranked in a separate list, since there is a specific budget allocation of EUR 20 million for this modality. As such EID proposals will only compete against each other and not against multi-ITN and IDP proposals. Therefore applicants must still specify which of the 8 major fields of research (or "panels") the proposal should be considered under.

Q: Will Associated Partners in Multi-Partner ITNs, European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP) receive the costs for the training and/or hosting seconded researchers?

A: The costs of the Associated Partners will be reimbursed through invoices to the beneficiary. The cost of the invoice paid by the full participant is then covered by the EU contribution under the cost category relevant for the activity/ies carried out by the Associated Partner.

Q: Cost Category 2: what are the expenses included in the mobility allowance, for example for a single researcher without a family?

A: This is a flat-rate category that covers expenses linked to the personal household, relocation and travel expenses of the researcher and her/his family in the host country. The rate for individual countries is obtained by applying the correction coefficient listed in the 2012 People Work Programme page 71.

Q: Is the EU contribution calculated similarly for EID and IDP compared to Multi-Partner ITNs?

A: Regarding the monthly living and mobility allowances, the same salary levels and country correction coefficients apply. Only category 3 costs, namely "contribution to the training expenses of eligible researchers and research/transfer of knowledge programme expenses", are lower under these modalities (1200 EUR per researcher month for EID and IDP) compared to Multi-Partner ITNs (1800 EUR per researcher month).

Q: How will the ITN call budget be distributed?

A: All proposals are classified under eight major panels (areas of research) for organisational reasons. The main function of the separation of proposals into panels is to assist the REA in the selection of the best expert evaluators. For multi-partner ITN and IDP, the budget is allocated to each of these panels in proportion to the number of eligible proposals submitted by panel. For EID proposals, even if they are evaluated by the experts of the different panels, they will be ranked together in a

separate list, since there is a specific budget allocation of EUR 20 million for this modality.

Q: What is the role of external representatives (referred to as “any stakeholders”) in the supervisory board in an ITN proposal?

A: The participation of external stakeholders (e.g. future employers) in the supervisory board is not compulsory, although the possibility is indeed kept open. These possible external stakeholders are not mandatory but can be part of the board if they bring an added value to the supervision of the training programme.

Q: Must all Associated Partners be involved in the Supervisory board?

A: Yes. As written on page 14 of the 2012 People Work Programme "Each programme will have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network-wide training. The board will be composed of the network participant(s) and associated partners, and may also include any other stakeholders of relevance to the training programme".

Q: Are Multi-ITN and IDP secondments compulsory?

A: Secondments are strongly encouraged and expected. Secondments will be assessed by the expert evaluators under the criterion "training". Secondments should not, however, exceed 30% of a fellow's recruitment period.

Q: Can Experienced Researchers be appointed under the EID and IDP modalities?

A: No. Only Early Stage Researchers can be appointed under the EID and IDP modalities. For Multi-Partner ITNs, a maximum of 20% of the total researcher months can be allocated to Experienced Researchers.

Q: Is it mandatory to appoint fellows for the maximum 36 month period under the EID and the IDP modalities?

A: In principle, yes. Since these modalities are essentially designed to fund doctoral research, Early Stage Researchers should generally be appointed for the maximum 36 month period. Any deviation from this would have to be carefully explained and justified and would be considered by the expert evaluators during the evaluation procedure.

Q: Project duration is normally 4 years. Are longer or shorter durations possible? If EID and IDP are doctoral programmes, why can Early Stage Researchers only be appointed for a maximum of 36 months when many will take longer than this to complete their PhDs?

A: Project duration is maximum 4 years, allowing fellows to be appointed for a 36 month period maximum. Additional funding from other sources can be added by the participant in order to fund a 4th year of PhD. Shorter durations are theoretically possible but not recommended, since experience in the Framework Programme has shown that a 4 years project duration could offer the project consortium a useful margin for manoeuvre.

Q: Can Associated Partners be from the same country as the Coordinator?

A: Yes, Associated Partners can be from any country, any discipline and any sector. It should be emphasised, however, that the network should have a European/International dimension.

Q: Who are "other socio-economic actors"?

A: In addition to participants from the private sector, socio-economic actors like non-profit making museums or hospitals, charities, etc can also participate in the training. They will not, however, be considered as partners from the private sector unless they gain the majority of their revenue through competitive means with exposure to commercial markets.

Q: What is the definition of "industry"?

A: For the purposes of this Marie Curie action, the definition of industry is the same as for the private sector, which is to say organisations gaining the majority of their revenue through competitive means with exposure to commercial markets.

Q: What happens if more researcher-months are requested than the maximum indicated in the Guide for Applicants?

A: The 500 person months is the upper limit which may not be exceeded in IDP and Multi-Partner ITN, while 180 person months is the upper limit for EID (Guide for Applicants page 6). Any excess will be corrected by the expert evaluators, but in so doing the applicants run the risk of negatively affecting the evaluation of their proposal.

Q: What is the difference between the Multi-Partner ITN and the IDP?

A: In the 2012 People Work Programme the IDP modality is a dedicated doctoral programme where ESRs are directly enrolled, whereas a multi-site ITN is a transnational research training programme where each partner has the possibility to recruit ESRs. However, it is true that in multi-site ITN, most of the ESRs are usually enrolled in a doctoral programme. In addition, multi-site networks allow for the recruitment of Experienced Researchers for a maximum of 20% of the total person months, while IDP is exclusively for ESRs.

Q: Is private sector participation essential in an ITN proposal?

A: As specified in the evaluation criteria (page 8 of the Guide for Applicants, or page 60 of the Work Programme 2012), private sector participation is essential to increase career prospects of ESRs in public and private sectors. In particular, in those fields of science known to have close interactions with the private sector, participation is expected to be at "level 1" (i.e. as a full participant recruiting researchers). In each case, the degree of involvement and commitment of partners from the private sector will be assessed during the proposal's evaluation, taking into account the research field.

Q: Are re-submissions of multi-ITN proposals allowed?

A: Each evaluation is conducted independently from previous ones, and each proposal will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria of the current call. In the case of proposals that have been submitted in a previous call, it is strongly expected that they include significant improvements, following as well the expert advices.

Q: Is it possible for an institution to participate as Coordinator in one ITN modality and as partner in another ITN modality? Is it possible for an institution to participate in the same ITN modality once as coordinator and in another proposal as partner?

A: Yes. One institution can participate in more than one ITN proposal. The applicant will indicate clearly under which modality each proposal will be evaluated by ticking the right box. This is to be indicated both in the A1 form and in the part B (cover page and header). Should an organisation be successful with several proposals, it will have to demonstrate that it has the capacity to implement them in parallel. If more than one proposal is submitted by the same institutions in different roles and/or in different modalities, any possible overlap in the work will be assessed and addressed during the negotiation.

Q: Can an organisation submit a proposal to each of the three ITN modalities (multi-site ITN, IDP and EID)?

A: Applicants are allowed to submit different proposals to the different ITN modalities (ie they can submit proposals to multi-ITN, EID and IDP in the same call by simply ticking the right boxes). However, the eligibility requirements and implementation of the three modalities are different. Therefore each proposal can only be eligible in one of the modalities.