



NATIONAL RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY



Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007-2013)

FP7 “People” Programme

MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL CO-FUNDING OF REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES (COFUND)

What is COFUND?

COFUND aims to increase the transnational mobility for training and career development of experienced researchers, in line with the objectives set out in the activity heading "Life-long training and career development" of the "People" 2012 Work Programme. The purpose of this action is to encourage existing or new regional or national programmes to open up to and provide for trans-national mobility, as well as to reinforce international programmes. The programmes must run an open, merit-based competition for the applying researchers, founded on international peer review. The freedom of the fellows to choose a research topic and the appropriate host organisation fitting their individual needs is a key element for the COFUND action.

Who can apply?

Participants applying to the cofunding modality are bodies that finance and manage fellowship programmes. They can be public bodies, other bodies, either with an ro or recognised by public authorities and can include research organisations, and international organisations and international European interest organisations that are responsible for funding and managing fellowship programmes at European level. **Organisations** applying for the COFUND scheme have to be located in **the EU Member States or Associated countries**.

COFUND is a "monobeneficiary" action, which means that the grant agreement with the Research Executive Agency (REA) is signed by one single organisation, which is responsible for the implementation of the fellowship programme. Therefore COFUND proposals are presented by one single applicant organisation. If a proposal has several partners some additional conditions must be fulfilled.

Eligible researchers under the co-funded programmes: Applicants are encouraged to open their programmes to **all researchers, independently of nationality (Russian researchers are eligible)**, research background, language, etc. To be eligible, researchers supported under the programmes co-funded in the frame of this action must comply with the definition of experienced researchers (with a PhD or at least 4 years research experience) and of trans-

national mobility rules (except if the host organisation is an international European interest organisations or an international organisation located in any of the EU-27/AC).

Eligible Programmes: To be eligible for cofunding, programmes have to include **at least one** of the following *Mobility types for experienced researchers*:

(1) Outgoing mobility for fellowships/grants to residents of Member States or Associated Countries. Outgoing mobility can be of two types: (1) from one Member State or Associated Country to another Member State or Associated country; and/or (2) from one Member State or Associated country to an Other Third Country, preferably with a return phase;

(2) Incoming mobility for fellowships/grants to nonresidents of the country of the host organisation. Incoming mobility can be of two types: (1) from one Member State or Associated Country to another Member State or Associated country; and/or (2) from an Other Third Country to a Member State or Associated Country.

(3) Reintegration of Member State or Associated Country nationals having carried out research in an Other Third Country for at least 3 years, to establish them in a longer-term career after this transnational mobility period.

A combination of the three activities is possible and even desirable.

Which research topics are supported?

All Marie Curie actions have a **bottom-up approach**, i.e. research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. Proposed COFUND actions can cover **all scientific disciplines**, but can also focus on a specific discipline. In this case the range covered should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers.

How does it work?

Proposals are submitted by organisations operating a transnational fellowship programme within the specified deadlines, and are evaluated by external independent experts against a series of predetermined criteria. The evaluation will be organised in two different panels:

- Panel A) Existing trans-national fellowship programmes (including national programmes opening for first time for trans-national mobility);
- Panel B) New fellowship programmes with trans-national mobility.

The requested European Union contribution for each programme and fellowship type will be the flat-rate contribution multiplied by the number of fellowship-years. In principle, selected programmes will be cofunded for a duration of 24 to 60 months.

What does the funding cover?

The European Union contribution is estimated as 40% of the fellowship costs of transnational fellowships for each experienced researcher, with a maximum overall of EUR 10 million granted to a single applicant entity. Fellowships awarded by cofunded programmes are expected to be normally between 1 – 2 years, but short-term fellowships as well as longer periods may be proposed, depending on the specific objectives of the programme.

How can the European Union contribution be used?

The Cofunding can be used to:

- Open up an existing programme for transnational mobility;
- Create new transnational programmes;
- Increase the number of transnational fellowships awarded by an existing programme;

- Improve the conditions of the fellows or contribute to the training and career development objective of the COFUND scheme (e.g. by extending the duration of the fellowships, by improving the contributions for the fellows' research, by paying higher monthly rates, improving social security and/or pension conditions, and more generally by promoting the implementation of "The European Charter for Researchers and The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers").

Where to find open calls of COFUND fellowship programmes?

Information on the current fellowship programmes supported by COFUND and their planned calls for proposals can be found in 'Find a Cofunded Call under the People Programme' page on the Research Participant Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true>

and in the Fellowship Portal on the [EURAXESS Jobs](#) web site

(<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>) where you can also find [RSS for active fellowship programmes](#) (http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/customRSS/fp_mca_cofunded.cfm).

This leaflet is prepared with the use of the European Commission Participant Portal.

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