Marie Curie ITN’s

Key to success...

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InterDeC

PolarNet

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Why?

- European research area
- People
- Expertise
- Training
- Network
- Experience
- Technology
- Collaborations
- Career development
- Links to industry
Who?

• Leading EU experts
• Qualified coordinator
• Complementary skills
• Balanced network (M/F & age)
• Academics
• Industry
• Career development
• Soft skills experts
How?

- English
- Need a vision
- Credible
- Feasible
- Original
- Societal impact
- Training impact
- Value added
- Synergy
The Marie Curie Actions are widely recognised as a shining example of what European funding does for researchers. They have helped to change the R&D human resources landscape in Europe, giving tens of thousands of excellent researchers the opportunity to gain new knowledge and expertise within the best research groups through prestigious mobility fellowships. But the Marie Curie Actions are not only about making researchers mobile or helping them acquire new skills; they are also about ensuring that researchers enjoy a rewarding career and are motivated and inspired. The Actions promote better, more stable careers through employment contracts with full social security rights instead of traditional stipends. This book presents stories of the passionate researchers shaping your world and shows how an effective policy was crucial to them attaining excellence in research.
Marie Curie Early Stage Training (EST) Network
FP6-2002-Mobility 2

International PhD Program in Developmental and Cellular Decisions.

Mono-site 10 ESR’s; 1.7 M€
Sensing and integration of signals governing cell polarity and tropism in fungi.

Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN)
Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2013-ITN

Mulit-site 10 ESR’s & 2 ER’s; 3.9M€
12 partners (9 academic & 3 industrial)
UK, FR, CH, DE, DK, ES

http://www.inflammation-repair.manchester.ac.uk/FungiBrain/
Principles of Polarity
– Integrating genetic, biophysical and computational approaches to understand cell and tissue polarity.

Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015

http://polarnet-itn.eu

Mulit-site 15 ESR’s; 3.9M€
14 partners and 3 associate companies
(12 academic & 2 industrial)
NL, UK, FR, CH, DE
ITN’s: students’ perspective

Patrícia Silva
Portugal

Charles Puerner
U.S.A.
Innovative Training Networks

• “Aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit”

• Competitively selected joint research training/doctoral programmes implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe (and beyond).

• Focus on scientific/technological knowledge through research on individual/personalised projects

• Exposure to non-academic sector

• Transferable skills training e.g. communication, research management, IP, ethics, societal outreach, entrepreneurship
ITN Activities

- Networking
- Research and innovation
- Career development of researchers
- Training
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Secondments, placements
- Summer schools
**Award Criteria**

- Evaluation scores awarded for each criteria from 0 to 5
- Each award criterion has a weighting
- Total score is subject to a threshold of 70%
- Proposals ranked
- Proposals funded in ranking order
- Evaluation summary reports provided
- No restrictions on re-application

**Interpretation of the score:**

0—The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1—Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2—Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3—Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4—Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5—Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
ITN evaluation criteria

- **Criteria 1 – Excellence (Weight 50%)**
  - Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)
  - Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)
  - Quality of supervision
  - Quality of the proposed interaction between participating organisations

- **Criteria 2 – Impact (Weight 30%)**
  - Enhancing research and innovation related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and provide new career perspectives
  - Contribution to structuring doctoral/ESR training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity including the potential for a meaningful contribution of non academic sector to the doctoral training as appropriate to implementation mode/field
  - Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and dissemination of results

- **Criteria 3 – Implementation (Weight 20%)**
  - Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
  - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures including quality management and risk management
  - Appropriateness of infrastructure and operational capacity of participating organisations
  - Competences, experience and complementarity of participating organisations and their commitment to the programme
What makes an ideal ITN?

Remember: Quite a few ITNs funded every year
- many applications out there/similar

- A unique training program and training perspective
- Innovative science that has clear added value for EU
- Real industrial participation (in research and training)
- A well balanced/mixed group of participants
- Top level research with training oriented groups
- A reactive, well organized coordinator
- Professional training in applicable soft skills

Credible & Feasible
How to put together a competitive ITN

Need a proactive coordinator and sufficient time

• Big and small company that make scientific sense and are real participants
• Separate projects that are synergistic and fit together
• Clear proposal with training emphasis, not too heavy on science specifics
• Ample use of charts/flow charts to simplify
• Ability to modulate consortium composition during project assembly
• Sufficient time to have project read through by an ‘expert’

Credible & Feasible
What is important?

- Credible recruitment plan
- Clear management structure
- Risk assessment and how deal with problems (scientific or otherwise)
- Credible secondment plan
- Well described and defined soft skill courses by ‘expert’ scientists
- Gender balance (in PI’s)
- Age/stage in career balance
- Real interdisciplinarity that makes scientific sense

Credible & Feasible
Do’s and Don’ts

Do’s
• Original, timely, innovative
• Important private sector contrib.
• Good interconnection
• Break down borders
• Diversity
• Justify fellow distribution
• Justify skill set acquisition
• Private sector involved in training
• Mentoring/career plan
• Well balanced secondments
• Complementary/synergistic

Don’ts
• Forget risk assessment
• Unequal task/resource distribution
• Artificial collaborations
• Single discipline
• Too detailed scientifically
• Trainings lacking detail
• Use professional companies lacking scientific experience and/or credentials
• Too complex or too many deliverables
• Forget to address gender balance
• Overly extensive secondments
• Forget it’s a PhD in the end
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