EU FP7 People Specific Programme Success Stories Booklet

Impact of Marie Curie Actions on Fellows and Host Organizations with Respect to NCP Services

www.fp7peoplenetwork.eu

EU FP7 PEOPLE Programme (Marie Curie Actions) has long been one of the most popular and prestigious features of the Community Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. It aims at enhancing research and technology human resources capacity of Europe as a whole and of participating organizations.

Marie Curie Actions have developed significantly in orientation over time, from a pure mobility fellowships programme to a programme dedicated to stimulating researchers' career development. The 'Marie Curie Actions' have been particularly successful in responding to the needs of Europe's scientific community in terms of training, mobility and career development.

In the meantime, PEOPLE National Contact Points (NCPs) played a crucial role in the implementation of the PEOPLE Programme. They play a crucial role in the Framework Programme as providers of information and assistance to potential participants (applicants) of new projects and contractors in on-going projects. They reach out to the European research community in order to inform and raise awareness about the funding opportunities of the Framework Programme, to advise and assist potential applicants in the preparation, submission and follow-up of grant applications, and to offer support during the execution of projects – especially with respect to the management and administrative aspects of projects.

In order to develop and implement a coordination mechanism for stimulating closer cooperation among National Contact Points for the PEOPLE programme, PeopleNetwork Project has been funded by the European Commission for the period of 2009-2011. That's for sure that PeopleNetwork project facilitates the improvement of the overall quality of NCP services across Europe in the area of mobility and increase the transparency of EU fellowships and training opportunities to ensure equal access for all.

One of the Work Packages of the PeopleNetwork project, focused to enhance trans-national co-operation among National Contact Points, is about getting feedback from the participants' point of view. The booklet you have in your hands is prepared to achieve one of the tasks under this Work Package: The impact of Marie Curie Actions on organizations with a specific focus to NCP Services. This success stories booklet clearly reflects the achievements of each single NCP by promoting the programme as a whole and assisting the research groups/researchers the potential Marie Curie Coordinators and Partners.

This booklet, which incorporates, success stories from different countries, have been formulated with the help of each country NCP, both from the private and the public sector and also including funding agencies. In the booklet, you will find the Individual Marie Curie Actions Stories in the first part and Host Driven Marie Curie Actions Stories in the second part. For each Success Story, research objectives and benefits of participation to the related Marie Curie Action were provided both by the fellows and the host institutions. Besides and most importantly, you will find what kind of assistance has been taken from the NCPs for each success story during various phases of the project cycle.

We believe that this booklet will have great impact in enhancing the visibility of Marie Curie Actions. Moreover, we do believe that the readers of this booklet will see various examples on how to be supported by NCPs in different project phases. We wish you will discover the inspiring stories behind the researchers funded by EU Marie Curie Actions with the help of this booklet.

On behalf of PeopleNetwork Project Partners, we tender our sincere thanks to the researchers, research groups and institutions contributed preciously to this booklet with their success stories and their experiences during the evolution of these success stories. Furthermore, we thank to the NCPs for their great effort during preparation phase of this booklet. Finally, we thank to the European Commission and the Research Executive Agency for the support given to PeopleNetwork Project to enhance our trans-national co-operation among National Contact Points.

Hopefully, you will find the stories provided in this booklet, which is the result of a team work of PeopleNetwork NCPs, inspiring and useful.

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Marie Curie Team
Tuğba ARSLAN KANTARCIOĞLU - Selcen Gülsüm ASLAN
ncpmobility@tubitak.gov.tr

Austria

6,32 aRed

Therese Lindahl

Frédérique Zehnder-Mérot

Austrian Research Promotion Agency - FFG

Luxembourg

Helena Burg

Fonds National de la Recherche FNR

Silke Brüggebors

Luxinnovation

17,42 aRed

Estonia

12,37 aRed

Kristin Kraav

Archimedes Foundation - Archimedes

Netherlands

21,45 aRed

Daphne van de Sande

Anna Goedhart

NL Agency Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation - Agentschapn

Switzerland

Juliane Sauer

Euresearch

27,52 aRed

Belgium

7,33 aRed

Agency for Innovation by Science & Technology - FNRS

Bruno Moraux

Anne De Brabandere

Agency for Innovation by Science & Technology - IWT

Norway

22,46 aRed

Per Magnus Kommandantvold

Terje Strand

The Research Council of Norway - RCN

Crotia

9 aRed

Ana Grdović

Bojana Grubišin

Vesna Babaja

Agencija za mobilnost i programe EU / Agency for mobility and EU Programmes - AMPEU

Bulgaria

8,34 aRed

Elissaveta Gourova

Sofia University - Uni Sofia

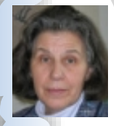
Czech Rep.

10,35 aRed

Petra Perutková

Technology Centre - ASCR

Slovenia



Radojka Vercko

Research and Technology Development in Slovenia - RTD

18,25 aRed

Sweden

26,51 aRed

Judit Wefer

Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems INNOVA

Romania

48 aRed

Alexandra Vancea

Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare Stiintifica - ANCS

Turkey

Tuğba Arslan Kantarcıoğlu

Selcen Gülsüm Aslan

Burçak Çullu

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey - TUBITAK

28,53 aRed

Spain

Nicolas Ojeda Belmar

David Israel Sayago Hilera

Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación MCINN

Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares CNIC

49,50 aRed

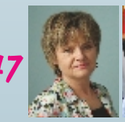
Portugal

24 aRed

Ana Margarida Santos

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia - FCT

Poland



Anna Wiśniewska

Bogna Hryniszyn

National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU

23,47 aRed

16,41 aRed

Italy

Katia Insogna

Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea - APRE

Hungary

14,39 aRed

Jeney Nóra

Hungarian Presidency of the Council of The European Union - NGM

FYR Macedonia

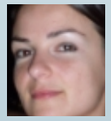
Bozin Donevski

University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bitola (UKLO)

19,43 aRed

Malta

20,44 aRed



Anthea Fabri

The Malta Council for Science & Technology - MCST

Greece

13,38 aRed

Loula Sigala

Georgia Ritou

National Hellenic Research Foundation EIE

Dimitrios Sanopoulos

Elizabeth Kokozila

The Center for Research & Technology Hellas - CERTH

Israel

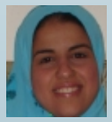
15,40 aRed

Smadar Hirsh

The Israel-Europe R&D Directorate for FP - ISERD

Egypt

11,36 aRed



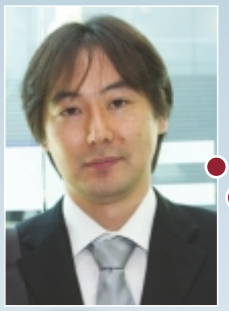
Yasmine M. Hassan Sabry

Egyptian National Science and Technology Information Network - ENSTINET

Individual

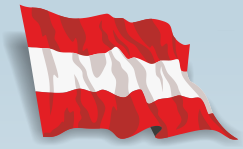
Individual

Marie Curie Actions
Success Stories



Tatsuaki Mizutani, PhD

Establishment of a novel CML model using Multi Hit technology - CMLMULTIHIT



Austria

> *"Marie Curie gave me the key to throw open the gates of my advanced research life."*

Host Organization	: Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cancer Research, Vienna (Austria)
Former Organization	: Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido (Japan)
Scientist in Charge	: Dagmar Stoiber-Sakaguchi, PhD
Start-End Date	: May 2010 - May 2012
Total Budget	: € 170.981
Keywords	: Leukemia, disease transition, mouse model
Website	: http://lbicr.lbg.ac.at

Main Research Objectives

My objective is to reveal the in vivo pathogenesis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) disease progression (from chronic phase to accelerated phase or blast crisis) using a novel mouse model. I anticipate to identify an essential molecule for CML transition through this project. This might be exploited for both, prognostic indicators as well as new targets for therapy.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
Excellent. The NCP pre-checked our application before submission and provided us with thoughtful suggestions.

Negotiation
Excellent. This is the most difficult phase for the researchers. We have received quick and accurate support from NCP side.

Implementation
Excellent. Regarding reporting, it was not so easy to find information on the EU FP7 People Specific Programs. NCP also kindly helped us at this phase.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

I am excited to learn new techniques as well as to meet European colleagues. My host institute, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cancer Research in Vienna (Austria), is a suitable place in terms of advanced biological technology and of developing animal models for human disease. I hope that the establishment of a world wide researcher community has great power to resolve any scientific and social problem in future. The International Incoming Fellowship of the FP7-PEOPLE Programme (Marie Curie Actions) is a very good opportunity to make such an international friendship and research collaboration. Finally, my wife loves classic music and opera, thanks to my wife and Vienna I am falling in love with classic music.

Host Organisation's View

The imaging techniques which Tatsuaki has been using and has brought from Japan to Vienna (Austria) were of great impact for our host institution. In addition, his presence at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cancer Research enriched the international and stimulating atmosphere of the institute. We hope the research activity will be enhanced through the intensive interaction between researchers with different cultural background.

Belgium

Assist. Prof. Dr. Thierry J. Massart

Coupled multi-scale modeling of mechanical degradation and transport phenomena in damaging multi-phase geomaterials for environmental applications - MULTIROCK

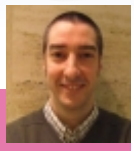
> "The Marie Curie fellowship will allow me to focus on extending research lines in a top university."

Host Organization : Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
Former Organization : McGill University (Montreal, Canada)
Scientist in Charge : Prof. Philippe Bouillard
Start-End Date : July 2011 - October 2013
Total Budget : € 211.490
Keywords : Geomaterials, porous materials, multi-scale computational modeling
Website : http://homepages.ulb.ac.be/~thmassar/

Main Research Objectives

The objective of the project is to develop and apply multi-scale modeling techniques for multi-physical processes in multi-phase geomaterials for the identification of evolving macroscopic properties due to their mechanical degradation (rocks, geomaterials). The proposed work will focus on fluid transport through porous materials with evolving damage and damage-induced permeability evolution. The developments targeted by the project have applications to environmental geosciences issues relevant, for instance, to deep geological storage of nuclear waste, CO2 sequestration, or groundwater-borne reactive pollutant dispersion.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
The interaction with NCPs definitely allowed me to increase the credibility of the proposal.

Negotiation
Starting from a scientifically sound proposal is a must, but interaction with NCPs helps in writing the sections related to training issues (among which complementary skills), impact, and also allows building a better case based on the researcher profile.

Implementation
I strongly recommend anyone who would apply to interact with NCPs on these points as I am sure that their input is absolutely crucial for these aspects.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

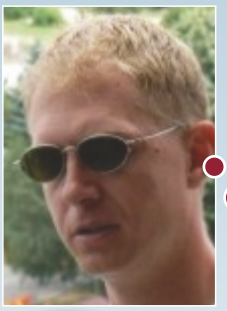
Fellow's View

The fellowship gave me the opportunity to join a top institution outside Europe to extend my research activities towards new themes, starting from pre-existing expertise at both sides. On a longer-term basis, the additional competencies will allow the integration of different physical phenomena in modelling, enhancing the opportunities to obtain funding through application-minded and transdisciplinary research proposals. Targeting European funding for projects is clearly an expected benefit from the experience gained from the fellowship. The position in a city (Montreal) with many universities also allows me extending my network of research collaborations.

Host Organisation's View

The fellowship will allow developing long term collaborations with McGill University. The likelihood of sustained interactions with McGill is high because the potential subsequent steps for collaborations beyond the duration of the fellowship are important from a scientific viewpoint, and because of the interest of the McGill host in the added value of multi-scale simulation tools. One way of implementing subsequent interactions in addition to short stays abroad is the potential exchange of PhD students and post-doctoral fellows between ULB and McGill.

The presence of two new academic members in the Department at ULB in related and complementary positions (soil mechanics and experimental geomechanics) will ensure the creation at ULB of a nucleus of expertise in fields closely connected to the present proposal, which will allow additional local interactions for the submission of subsequent proposals and use the acquired complementary skills upon return at ULB.



Boris D. Grozdanoff, PhD

Epistemic Revisability and A priori Scientific Principles - ERASP

Bulgaria

> *"Fellowship on the name of Marie Curie, work on Special Theory of Relativity, Philosophy of Space and Time: European chance for a young Bulgarian scientist in Oxford."*

Host Organization	: Oxford University
Former Organization	: Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Scientist in Charge	: Oliver Pooley, PhD
Start-End Date	: October 2009 – September 2010
Total Budget	: € 167.000
Keywords	: Epistemology, philosophy of science, scientific theories
Website	: http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/members/archive/boris_grozdanoff

Main Research Objectives

Current state of the art in scientific epistemology is governed by the modern doctrine of empiricism which meets problems in explaining cases of scientific knowledge achieved with no apparent use of experience. ERASP project addresses two major problems. The first is a scientific one: what is the epistemic engine behind the way science forms and evolves and is contemporary empiricism fully capable of serving this purpose? The second is a philosophical one: what is the nature of the a priori notion and how does it depend on the notion of epistemic revisability? Reformulating recent work in scientific epistemology by Michael Friedman (2000) the project would define and critically assess a radically new approach that treats the dynamics of science, the "a priori revisability" approach. It would counterbalance the traditional scientific doctrine of empirical observation and it would address those scientific problems that are either in principle unsolvable or too difficult to resolve by standard epistemology.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The National Contact Point was extremely helpful throughout all phases of the project and played major part in the success of the ERASP Project.

Negotiation
In all these phases I found the answers of all my questions with the help of the NCP, hence I advise all researchers to contact with their national NCPs starting from the application phase till the end of the project implementation phase.

Implementation
I do still have contact with the NCP and surely continue to get help till the end.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The project allowed me to work with perhaps the best professionals in the field of Space and Time, a rare chance seldom given. I was a colleague with the people I have written on in a fantastic academic environment, both research and teaching. The multicultural University of Oxford attracted many a specialist in the area of Philosophy of Physics and I did not miss the opportunity to continuously test my ideas with them. The two years as a Marie Curie Fellow at Oxford gave me intense and yet calm academic life which led to a work, which I consider to be my most valuable one until today.

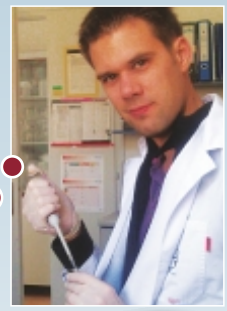
Host Organisation's View

The host institution benefited through dissemination of its academic style and excellence.

Crotia

Felix M. Wensveen, PhD

Memory Control; The role of NKG2D and the T cell receptor in memory T cell biology - NKG2D in T cells



"Science is not a job, it's a passion. Thanks for making it possible FP7!"

Host Organization	: Rijeka Medical School (Sveučilište Rijeka)
Former Organization	: AMC, Universiteit van Amsterdam
Scientist in Charge	: Bojan Polić
Start-End Date	: June 2011 - June 2013
Total Budget	: € 173.220
Keywords	: Health Sciences, Immunology, T-cells, memory, NKG2D, TCR, PI3K
Website	: http://www.medri.uniri.hr/~jstipan/staff.html

Main Research Objectives

Our immune system protects us from invading pathogens and disease. If we do get infected, immunity (or immunological memory) protects us against re-infection. Much is still unknown about how immunity is generated. This projects aims to study this process, with a special focus on the protein NKG2D, which is present on specific immune cells. We will study immunity using genetically modified laboratory mice and viral infection models.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application

I am provided background information by the National Contact Point about this fellowship programme which was really crucial at the starting point.

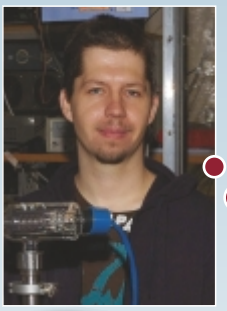
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The Marie Curie Action contributes greatly to the development of my career on many different levels. First of all, it allows me to do research abroad at a high-quality research lab. This will increase my knowledge on fields in which I had previously limited experience, it will contribute to my practical scientific training and it will introduce me in a foreign research culture. Second, it will add to my personal development, as I have to live and work in a culture which is completely different from the one that I am used to. Third, it allows me to share my knowledge with other (young) researchers, which adds to my teaching skills and my abilities to transfer knowledge to others. Finally, the Marie Curie Fellowship introduces me to the European Scientific communities, which will greatly facilities the establishment of future collaborations and scientific friendships in the future.

Host Organisation's View

The Marie Curie Action also benefits the host institution on various levels. First of all, it allows a skilled foreign researcher to do high-quality science, which adds to the prestige and intellectual baggage of the department. Second, the Marie Curie fellow actively contributes to the academic and international climate of the department, which benefits the personal development of its young researchers. Third, the unique skills of the fellow allow the establishment of new techniques and skills at the hosting institute, which increases the academic capacity of the department. Finally, the presence of a Marie Curie fellow facilitates acquisition of additional foreign quality (i.e. researchers), funding and collaborations, which facilitates the further development of a local scientific knowledge center.



Juraj Fedor, PhD
Imaging Photochemistry in Nanoparticles - IPhoN

Czech Rep.

A friend of mine from Poland: "It should be called Marie Curie Sklodowska Fellowship!!!!"

Host Organization	: J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry ASCR
Former Organization	: University of Fribourg
Scientist in Charge	: Michal Fárník, PhD
Start-End Date	: April 2009 - March 2011
Total Budget	: € 127.912
Keywords	: Nanoparticles, clusters, photodissociation, imaging
Website	: http://www.jh-inst.cas.cz/~farnik/

Main Research Objectives

The project concerned photochemistry of free nanoparticles. The influence of elementary environment on the molecular laser photo dissociation was studied. As a main experimental tool we used a combination of molecular beam technique with velocity map ion imaging detection system.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Implementation

We have contacted the NCP during the implementation phase and in several cases when it was not clear to us whether the project funds can be used for a particular purpose we are informed by the NCP.

The answer was always provided promptly.

Also, the NCP arranged several events, where the project itself and Marie Curie Actions in general were presented to wider public (media interview, public presentations).

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Acquisition of new experimental skills - work with lasers, imaging system, molecular beams.

Presentation skills - active participation at several international conferences.

New contacts - active collaboration with world-leading experts in the research field.

Supervision skills - daily laboratory work with students at BSc, MSC and PhD level.

Host Organisation's View

Via participating in this Marie Curie Action the host organization acquired a highly qualified fellow. He brought alternative insights into the host group. His main imprints on the host laboratory are:

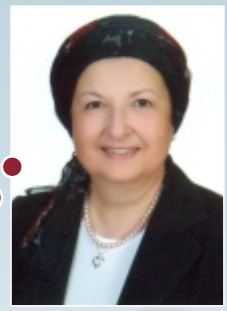
(1) Construction of a new experimental setup that is in operation also after the end of the project;

(2) Writing a computer program for manipulation of ion images that is still used in the group.

Egypt

Prof. Wagida A. Anwar

Life Style and Genetic Factors in Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes - Prevention T2D



> *"I believe that there is a need to share experiences, so as to identify existing knowledge and best practices."*

Host Organization	: Department of Clinical Nutrition, University of Kuopio, Finland
Former Organization	: Ain Shams University
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Hannu Mauno Mykkänen
Start-End Date	: August 2008 - July 2009
Total Budget	: € 123.848
Keywords	: Life style, nutrition, prevention, type 2 diabetes
Website	: http://www.uef.fi

Main Research Objectives

Type 2 diabetes (T2D) increases tremendously all over the world. It imposes significant economic consequences on individuals, families, health systems. Some risk factors of T2D (elevated plasma glucose, overweight and sedentary lifestyle) are shown to be beneficially affected by changing the lifestyle. Modifying these factors with a lifestyle-intervention program would prevent the development of T2D. University of Kuopio (UKU), together with several collaborating institutions in Finland has prominent experience in prevention of T2D using lifestyle changes.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application - Negotiation - Implementation

Full guidance was given during all these phase by the NCP to explain the procedure. We are guided by the NCP in a very prompt way.

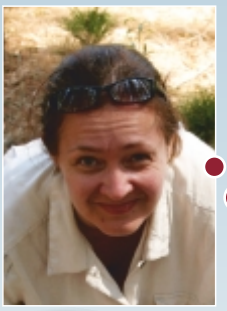
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Thanks to this Action, we have shared experience with an internationally recognized institution and disseminated the information to young scientists. It also produced other projects with more involvement of other staff from different specialties.

Host Organisation's View

Thanks to this Action, more international research projects can be developed between the different institutions and different countries. We are happy to be involved in such a project and hope to be a part of other Marie Curie Actions as well.



Maarja Öpik, PhD

Global biodiversity of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi: taxonomic and functional patterns - GLOBAM

Estonia

> *"My project GLOBAM has given me a more global view on my work and my study organisms."*

Host Organization	: University of Tartu, Department of Botany
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Martin Zobel
Start-End Date	: October 2008 – September 2011
Total Budget	: € 45.000
Keywords	: Biogeography, biodiversity, symbiosis, mycorrhizal, soil fungi
Website	: https://www.archimedes.ee/edukad/project/1246

Main Research Objectives

The project aims to fill gaps on the global diversity map of beneficial soil and plant root-dwelling fungi forming arbuscular mycorrhiza (Glomeromycota). This is reached by creating new data after sampling locations worldwide and sequencing DNA of these fungi. Additionally, existing data will be collected and compiled in an open-use database MaarjAM (http://maarjam.botany.ut.ee).

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Implementation

The NCP has helped me to find answers to questions related to reporting. The NCP has also assisted in communicating with REA - especially when project officers have changed.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The project provided me essential scientific freedom during the (re-) establishment phase in my home team after post-doctoral stay abroad. The financial contribution towards laboratory analyses and for employing technical staff gave me more resources and liberty in doing my research. This yielded some exciting results that I am really happy about and a number of high quality publications. During the re-integration years I have established links with teams abroad and strengthened collaboration with colleagues at home. I find myself actively leading one of the research topics of our team. Marie Curie Reintegration grant certainly contributed towards these achievements, towards the development of my career and the nature and quality of research being conducted in our team.

Host Organisation's View

This action offers the opportunity for experienced researchers from Member States or Associated countries to capitalize on their transnational mobility period after having participated in a Marie Curie Action either under the Seventh or the previous Framework Programme. Host organization benefited from this action by taking the opportunity to integrate well the researcher into our team. We have gained from her being active in publishing of her scientific results in the leading journals of ecology and plant sciences such as The New Phytologist, Molecular Ecology, Journal of Biogeography. She has established a number of international collaborations for the team and is invaluable for training both students and research staff.

Maarja Öpik is very skillful and motivated young scientist and the research made by her is of supreme quality. She is capable for applying the most advanced methods in molecular ecology and has very wide theoretical knowledge. Her research is truly cutting-edge, including the application of pyrosequencing in the study of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, development of an open-access database and describing patterns of diversity which were not known before. All this is important for our team as a whole.

Greece

Aristides Lytras, MD, PhD

Markers of prenatal metabolic plasticity and their reversibility by postnatal interventions - Metabolic Plasticity

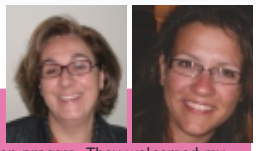
"The Marie Curie IOF award is a reassuring honor signifying Europe's investment and best wishes for the success of my efforts."

Host Organization	: Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA)
Former Organization	: Joslin Diabetes Center, Harvard Medical School
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. George P. Chrousos
Start-End Date	: July 2010 – June 2013
Total Budget	: € 238.375
Keywords	: Health sciences, diabetes, insulin resistance, mTOR, low birth weight

Main Research Objectives

General aim is to develop a model animal system to study preventive and therapeutic interventions in states of compromised metabolism. Specific aims are (a) identification of serum and tissue markers that characterize the metabolic derangements associated with in utero metabolic stress; (b) examination of the effects of medicinal/hormonal and life-style interventions on these markers and their association with changes in insulin resistance, fuel partitioning, and metabolic balance.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
The NCP was very supportive during the application process. They welcomed my visits setting appointments in at least two occasions. The NCP was able to convey the basic philosophy of MC-IOF, suggest the appropriate path to identify critical information for the application process and its specific requirements, and provided relevant brochures and guidance for web access.

Negotiation
The NCP was also able to support me during the negotiation phase by providing information regarding the actual stage of the selection process and allowing a gross estimation of the time frame for the announcement of the final result. Indeed, the process of selection was delayed and no information was available on the MC-IOF site at the time. Considering that information is crucial for planning and in fact for making the final commitment on a number of important issues, prior to a possible inter-continental translocation, this information provided the necessary flexibility to plan in advance.

Implementation
So far, there have been no major implementation problems. However, several issues arise and are reason for temporary distress. I will communicate such issues to the NCP, in order to help the planning for some preventive measures for future MC-IOF fellows.
Overall, I consider the current role of NCP very positive and a solid ground for further development of this important service that may become a "guardian angel" for MC-IOF fellows.

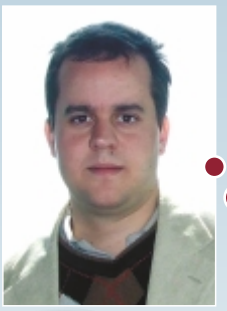
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

In my case, the MC-IOF represents a solid opportunity for the "rebirth" of a full research potential after a long period of research inactivity. It is undoubtedly an honor which, however, carries a strong functional outcome, as well: the potentiating of my commitment to pursue my research goals that were "validated" by this highly competitive process. In my view this award substantiates the investment and the best wishes of Europe for the success of my efforts.

Host Organisation's View

We worked closely with the Scientist in Charge and the Outgoing Host Mentor to plan a set of research training activities that will allow the transfer to the Return Host of important and largely missing technologies; these will also help establishing long term collaborations with the Outgoing Host and other International and Greek Institutions. My goal is the development of a multidisciplinary research program in energy metabolism in the Return Host (BRFAA) and the shaping of a competitive transatlantic metabolic research network that will create a permanent vital research platform sharing common scientific aims, infrastructure and expertise. I consider such a setting ideal for conducting research in Greece as it will amplify Greek research potential, as well as, training opportunities for young Greek scientists within the platform, and will increase the reciprocal efficiency of research funding.



Csaba Janáky, PhD

Development of inorganic / organic hybrid heterojunction solar cells - HybridSolar2010

Hungary

"I am very happy that I can start my Marie Curie fellowship in the field of chemistry, during the International Year of Chemistry (IYC2011), celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Nobel-prize of Marie Curie."

Host Organization : University of Szeged
Former Organization : University of Texas at Arlington
Scientist in Charge : Prof. Csaba Visy / Prof. Krishnan Rajeshwar
Start-End Date : July 2011 – June 2014
Total Budget : € 218.744
Keywords : Semiconductor, electrochemistry, p/n junction, solar energy

Main Research Objectives

The aim of this work is to study heterojunction hybrid solar cells, consisting of an organic electron donor and an inorganic oxide semiconductor electron acceptor. By combining our knowledge on inorganic nanotube arrays and conducting polymers, we can exploit the advantages of electrochemistry in order to achieve the fine tuning of the composition, morphology and properties of new hybrid materials.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The Hungarian National Contact Point gave me a great support from the very beginning of the application procedure. Her assistance not only covered the formal questions, but she even gave hints on what to include, and how to structure the proposal. She organized a workshop with successful applicants and previous reviewers, which was indeed important.

Negotiation
During the negotiation, the NCP gave me useful information on the legal side of program, especially considering the rules of employment. Having a thorough knowledge on the formal requirements, it was much easier to contract with my host institution.

Implementation
This is an ongoing project, but I have already got important information on the financial guidelines of the project, mostly related to the flat rate research allowance.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

For me this is a unique opportunity to visit a world class research group, working on my own project. I can acquire new knowledge and both technical and personal skills. This includes among others: synthetic protocols, characterization tools and methods, presenting my results both as written publication and oral presentations. Moreover, I can significantly develop my scientific and personal network, which I consider to be a key factor for my future career.

Host Organisation's View

The most important goal of the University of Szeged is to link the two research groups. We believe that during the fellowship, we will find competitive research areas, where we can collaborate on the basis of our complementary skills. It is also worth mentioning the importance of the new topics, brought in the group within the frame of the fellowship.

Israel

Asaf Degani, PhD
Formal Analysis and Modeling of
Human-Automation Interaction - FMAHI

> *"The Marie Curie Reintegration Grant is a very timely and good idea."*

Host Organization	: General Motors Israel Ltd.
Former Organization	: NASA, USA
Scientist in Charge	: Asaf Degani, PhD
Start-End Date	: November 2011 - October 2012
Total Budget	: € 100.000
Keywords	: Automation, Formal Methods, Human Factors, Modeling

Main Research Objectives

The first objective of the proposed project is to develop a common, industry-wide design and specification language and syntax for describing human-computer interaction, built and packaged to integrate safety, efficiency, and driver satisfaction. The second objective is to use formal mathematical techniques to define a generic set of "bad" properties that contribute to human error and frustration during interaction. A third objective is to establish a set of "good" design patterns, encapsulated in a formal mathematical description, productive of consistent, efficient, and elegant human-automation interaction throughout the entire suite of automotive connectivity and automation features. The final objective is to develop a systematic process and tools for the application of the abovementioned objectives.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The National Contact Point came in person into our office to provide information about the various programs in FP7. She came and listened to the type of research that is conducted at this organization and the type of people that manage and participate in it.

Negotiation
As such we received a personal invitation to participate in the program and physically met the person who would take us along the way. Once we decided to apply, NCP was there consistently and effectively to help us produce a winning proposal.

Implementation
So far, there have been no major implementation problems. However, several She reviewed the proposal and gave us pointers as to how such as proposal should be written (this was the first time that we participated in Fp7).

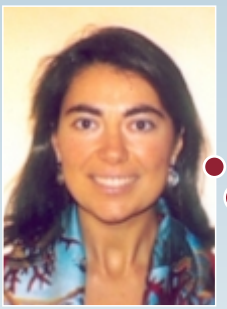
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

In my case, the MC-IOF represents a solid opportunity for the "rebirth" of a full research potential after a long period of research inactivity. It is undoubtedly an honor which, however, carries a strong functional outcome, as well: the potentiating of my commitment to pursue my research goals that were "validated" by this highly competitive process. In my view this award substantiates the investment and the best wishes of Europe for the success of my efforts.

Host Organisation's View

We worked closely with the Scientist in Charge and the Outgoing Host Mentor to plan a set of research training activities that will allow the transfer to the Return Host of important and largely missing technologies; these will also help establishing long term collaborations with the Outgoing Host and other International and Greek Institutions. My goal is the development of a multidisciplinary research program in energy metabolism in the Return Host (BRFAA) and the shaping of a competitive transatlantic metabolic research network that will create a permanent vital research platform sharing common scientific aims, infrastructure and expertise. I consider such a setting ideal for conducting research in Greece as it will amplify Greek research potential, as well as, training opportunities for young Greek scientists within the platform, and will increase the reciprocal efficiency of research funding.



Italy

Silvana Revellino, PhD

The management control of innovation: the role of management control technologies in the off-shoring of R&D processes - Innovation Control

"Unleashing mind transforming life"

Host Organization : Copenhagen Business School
Former Organization : University of Bergamo
Scientist in Charge : Prof. Jan Mouritsen
Start-End Date : January 2011 - December 2012
Total Budget : € 216.241
Keywords : Management control, accounting, innovation management, off-shoring

Main Research Objectives

- Enquiring into the dilemmas which are coupled with the control of innovation.
- Following the generation of innovation in the off shoring of R&D processes.
- Developing insights related to controlling innovation at a distance by managing inter-organizational networks which are characterized by a high geographic dispersion.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
During the application phase, I received a really great support from the NCP having had the lack to meet people with high professional competences and skills.

Negotiation
During the negotiation phase I had no difficulty.

Implementation
To better manage this phase without any doubt I will ask again the support of the NCP who I am sure will be very helpful.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

My Marie Curie Fellowship allows me to open new horizon of visibility, to reinforce identity, to let emerge an autonomous mind unleashed by local opportunisms and national constraints but rather oriented towards a wider scenario. This is for me a unique chance to enrich and spread life.

Host Organisation's View

We have the advantage to promote diversity and knowledge sharing and to benefit from the outcome of this research project free of charge.

Luxembourg

Anne Schroeder-Van den Bulcke
Researchers in the City
RECI

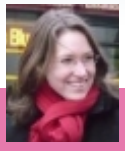
"A project about the 'very normal' researchers and their 'very normal' work"

Host Organization : Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)
Start-End Date : April 2010 - October 2010
Total Budget : € 260.000
Keywords : Researchers, public event, science & society, communication
Website : www.researchersnight.lu

Main Research Objectives

The overall objective of the RECI project consisted in enhancing the researchers' public recognition, their work and their societal role. It therefore offered a unique platform for researchers and the general public to meet and exchange, tackling the old stereotypes. Another positive effect was that the visitors could get a good overview of the rich and dynamic research panorama in Luxembourg.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
The NCP's assistance was very useful when drafting and submitting the project proposal.

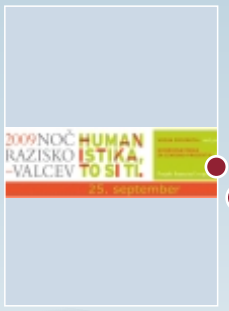
Negotiation
As the submission criteria and details had partly been modified since our first submission for the Researchers' Night 2008, we were happy to rely on the National Contact Points for explaining the new modalities and for proof-reading the project before submission.

Implementation
During the Negotiation and Implementation phases, the National Contact Points did not have to intervene as we knew the processes quite well from our previous Researchers' Night project.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Host Organisation's View

The main benefit of participating in the Researchers' Night Call is, of course, visibility. Being part of such a large, international event contributes to putting Luxembourg on the research map internationally, but also to improve visibility on the national level. Additionally, the funding and support by the European Commission highlights the quality of our project, and thus all actors involved - from the organisers to the researchers - feel even more valorised.



Humanities and Social Sciences on Stage in Ljubljana
HUMANITIES ROCK!

Slovenia

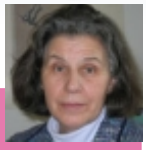
"HUMANITIES ROCK!"

Host Organization : Univesity of Ljubljana
Scientist in Charge : Rajko Muršič
Start-End Date : April 2009 - October 2009
Total Budget : € 94.352

Main Research Objectives

The objective of HUMANITIES ROCK! was to bring researchers of Humanities and Social Sciences closer to the public at large, enhancing their role in the mainstream society, and to present research as an exciting and attractive endeavour. Through the variety of activities in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences in Ljubljana public places we aimed to improve the perception and reputation of researchers and research in public. The events targeted the most different public: children and youth, families and ageing people. It was great!

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
NCP has helped us by giving the right information about info day which was crucial for preparing the application and by giving us the support we needed at that time.

Negotiation
NCP supported us in this phase by connecting us with other applicant and helping us to integrate the promotion activities on national level. We felt the support of the NCP during and after the negotiation phase in order to be the most successful.

Implementation
NCP has delivered advices during the implementation phase and visited our main event.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Host Organisation's View

We were the coordinators of the project and we are very satisfied to have an excellent opportunity to present our achievements to the public at large. It was necessary for us to foster communication with the general public and to present our researchers. Researchers in social sciences and humanities do their jobs in various research institutes and centres, within and outside of academia. Their research is in many ways related to the public and the private sphere: their "laboratory" is very often the very public life itself. Their research activities are almost an inseparable part of their way of life.

On the other hand, it was excellent opportunity to present the work of researchers for the visitors. The impact was immediate and long lasting and it was well recognized in different media. In the meantime, visitors of the event from various age groups were very happy to see what the researchers do in their daily life.

FYR Macedonia

Prof. Dr. Vesna Arnautovski-Toševa
Modelling of Electromagnetic Transients and PLC Services
EM TRANS PLC

> *"Marie Curie was one in a billion. I'm proud that I'm a Marie Curie Fellow"*

Host Organization	: University Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Former Organization	: University Ss Cyril and Methodius, Skopje
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Dr. Khalil El Khamlichi Drissi
Start-End Date	: October 2010 - September 2012
Total Budget	: € 223.547
Keywords	: Electromagnetic transients, Power line com., Electromagnetic comp.

Main Research Objectives

As to the objectives, the main ones are to achieve the expected scientific results of the project; to enhance my career as experienced researcher through competence diversity by complementing and acquiring new skills and knowledge; to strengthen my independent position by perfecting the quality of my research work; to promote and affirm my work and my position towards next research collaborations, projects and research networking.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The assistance of the National Contact Points was very important and helpful when preparing a project application. I have attended two times the one-day workshops that were organized in frame of promotion of the FP7 Marie Curie Actions. With FYR Macedonian National Contact Point we have established very good communication and collaboration.

Negotiation
In this phase since my host institution had experience, I didn't contact with the NCP. But I knew that he would be also very helpful to me if I needed.

Implementation
My communication and collaboration with National Contact Point continues during the first year of the project implementation. I particularly appreciate his assistance before and during the start of the project and his interest about my experience related to this mobility. He also gives me information about other activities in frame of FP7 Marie Curie Actions, such as seminars, events, promotions.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

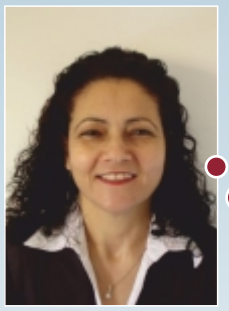
Fellow's View

The Marie Curie fellowship itself is prestigious; the strong competition between the candidates from all over Europe is really challenging. The training objectives and the experience of working in different language and geographical environment would influence positively my perfection by reinforcing my professional level as a researcher, increasing the scope of my competences and individual research quality for next new topics in frame of future activities. By complementing and acquiring new skills and knowledge this fellowship would support and improve my carrier and would affirm my position as experienced researcher in the domain of my research interest.

An important impact of this fellowship would come from disseminating scientific information in terms of methodologies and results. In this context, this fellowship supports significantly my attendance at scientific seminars, conferences and courses. This would open possibilities for future collaborations by facilitating my communication with researchers having similar scientific interest.

Host Organisation's View

Generally, the presence of the fellow in the host institution affects positively the work atmosphere since he/she brings new knowledge and experience, new and fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and makes necessary background for new theoretical and practical research, publications and promotion of the host institution, affects positively the research creativity and opens new possibilities for collaboration of the host institution with other EU research centers. The project outcomes have benefit to the research activities of the host institution that are important and valuable for: increasing the scope of the host research centre, presenting the host institution in the EU Framework Programme, networking of the host and the fellow's institution as well as other research centers, mobilizing the human and material resources existing in a given field, disseminating scientific information, facilitating communication between the centers having similar scientific interest, establishing new collaborations with universities and companies that will be added-value to the EU research.



Helen Grech, PhD

Communication Disorders in the Maltese Child Population

CDMCP

Malta

"The MC fellowship made my dream come true to complete a bilingual assessment battery for the local child population which will be a useful tool for practitioners for early identification of speech and language difficulties"

Host Organization	: University of Limerick, Ireland
Former Organization	: University of Malta
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Dr. Sue Franklin
Start-End Date	: March 2010 - March 2011
Total Budget	: € 65.444
Keywords	: Speech and language development; bilingual speech and language acq.

Main Research Objectives

The primary purpose of the project was to standardize speech and language assessments that can identify monolingual and bilingual Maltese children who have speech and language impairment. Such children (approx 10% of the child population) are at risk of disadvantage socially and academically unless identified early and therapy is provided. Normative data for these novel assessments, for monolingual and bilingual children aged 2;0-6;0, as well as developmental trajectories were compiled.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
Marie Curie National Contact Points in Malta gave briefings prior to the calls which were informative and useful.

Negotiation
During negotiation phase necessary support and guidance were offered by NCPs which was really beneficial for me.

Implementation
Also during the project implementation, NCPs provide useful guidelines that help us to find our way in this phase.

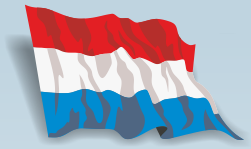
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Marie Curie Fellowship provided me not only the new opportunities for my career development but also the support in implementing research projects that would otherwise be difficult to complete.

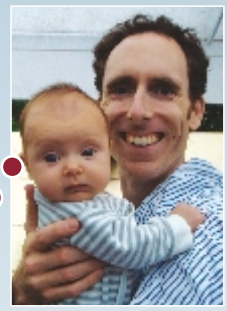
Host Organisation's View

Marie Curie Actions allow host organizations to employ researchers and to realize transfer of knowledge from the incoming fellow as an experienced or early stage researcher. Also host organisation enhance the research profile of the institution with this popular and prestigious fellowship programmes.



Geert Hamer, PhD

4D analysis of chromatin dynamics during the early stages of spermatogenesis: A journey to the stem of male infertility - Chromatin in SSCs



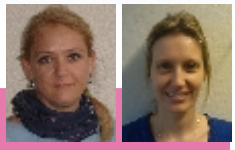
> *"The Marie Curie Career Integration Grant gives me financial headroom."*

Host Organization	: Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam
Former Organization	: Biomedicum Helsinki, University of Helsinki, Finland
Scientist in Charge	: Geert Hamer, PhD
Start-End Date	: December 2011 – December 2015
Total Budget	: € 80.000
Keywords	: LIFE
Website	: http://www.amc.nl/?pid=9236&&contentitemid=917&itemid=101

Main Research Objectives

I'm studying fundamental processes involved in spermatogenesis. More specifically, I'm looking at the role of chromatin dynamics in the development of spermatogonial stem cells. Covering our DNA, chromatin plays an essential role in the integrity of our genome and aberrations in germ cells can lead to infertility or congenital abnormalities in the offspring. In the CIG project, live-imaging techniques will be used to follow the dynamics of chromatin shaping and interacting proteins and gain insight in the role of chromatin in male fertility.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
This was my first application for a FP7 fellowship and I found the jargon and websites of Brussels quite inaccessible. Often it wasn't clear to me what they wanted. The Marie Curie NCP is more familiar with the requirements and the language used by the EC. They read my application and gave me useful feedback; for instance, the advice to add a Gantt-chart. I hadn't thought about that myself.

Negotiation
My application first had to be judged by the ethical commission, after which the negotiations started. All together the entire process took about 4-5 months. Fortunately, a special office within the Academic Medical Center, called the AMR, has expertise on FP7 and helped me with the negotiations. Thanks to the AMR, I haven't felt the need to turn to the Dutch NCP.

Implementation
I didn't need to get any support for the implementation phase but I know where to go if I need it one day.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The Marie Curie Career Integration Grant gives me financial headroom. From my employer I receive my salary and money to hire a PhD-student. With the CIG money I can for instance invest in improving a microscope or buy antibodies and other reagents that we need for the research project. My PhD-student and I can now more easily go to conferences or work visits. The Career Integration Grant gives me that opportunity.

Host Organisation's View

This grant provides better research opportunities and the project fits very well with the institution's overall research goal.

Evy Johanne Håland, PhD

Greek Women and Death, ancient and modern: A comparative Analysis - Greek Women - Death

Norway

> *"It is great for a Norwegian to work with Greek culture in Greece with the help of Marie Curie"*

Host Organization	: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Former Organization	: University of Bergen
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Dr. Georgia Kokkorou-Alevras
Start-End Date	: May 2011 - April 2013
Total Budget	: € 204.910
Keywords	: Humanities, history, religion, culture, modern and ancient Greece

Main Research Objectives

The project questions the ways in which history has been written through the ages in order to supplement a male with a female perspective. Accordingly, the principal objective of the project is to supplement a male with a female perspective on historical sources. This objective is achieved by throwing new light upon women's role in connection with death-cult in ancient and modern Greece, by using modern in conjunction with ancient sources. The project has relevance beyond the Greek context both in time and space.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The Norwegian NCP gave valuable help and information all through the application process.

Negotiation
NCP also helped me during the negotiation phase which was really crucial for me. NCP informed me whenever and wherever I had a question.

Implementation
NCP has also been helpful and always ready to give advice when contacted in the implementation phase.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

It is extremely valuable to be in a Greek environment when working on modern and ancient Greek culture. This kind of project, challenging transnational and cultural cooperation, cannot be carried out in Norway. Hence I am very happy to have this fellowship.

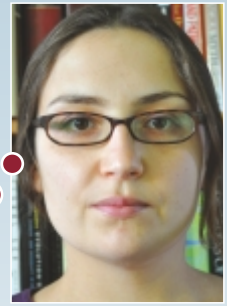
Host Organisation's View

The innovating research project about the ancient and modern Greek way of life and death from the special point of view which concerns the role of the women, challenges current methodologies, by crossing disciplines and is extremely interesting since these topics have not been systematically examined until now. We are happy to welcome such kind of a research project in our institution.

Poland

Agnieszka Koscianska, PhD

Biomedicalizing Gender: The Globalization of Sexual Science and the Redefinition of Gender Roles in Poland - BIOMEDGEN



"I will definitely apply again!"

Host Organization	: University of Warsaw
Former Organization	: Harvard University
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Magdalena Zowczak
Start-End Date	: August 2010 - September 2012
Total Budget	: € 156.658
Keywords	: Medical anthropology, gender studies, cultural - social anthropology

Main Research Objectives

Since 1989, gender roles have been in a state of continual flux and redefinition in Poland reflective of ideological battles between the reemerging Catholic Church, newly proclaimed scientific sex experts, and feminists and LGBT activists. This project is based on ethnographic fieldwork and analyses of written sources, and explores the relationship between scientific knowledge of sexuality and the construction of gender roles and stereotypes in Poland.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
NCPs were extremely helpful in this phase. They answered all my questions regarding the nature of the fellowship and gave me a lot of helpful suggestions regarding the proposal.

Negotiation
The host institution has a special office to assist scientists in charge in negotiation and implementation. Before going to this office, we contacted the NCPs and they answered all questions the host had.

Implementation
We didn't have any problem with the implementation phase yet, but if one day we do have, we know where to apply.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The fellowship gives me an opportunity to expand my field of expertise and conduct new research. Thanks to the fellowship, I have time for reading and writing as well as resources to attend seminars, conferences and other trainings. It also allows me to establish new international contacts.

Host Organisation's View

The fellowship allows us to build international collaboration (the scientist in charge from the American host institution will teach at the European host institution during the next academic year) and develop new fields of research. Furthermore, the fellow offers classes which cover new fields of knowledge, and the teaching curriculum of the host institution will become more attractive to students.

Maria Margarida Souto-Carneiro, PhD

The role of reactive oxygen species in B cell differentiation
B-NOX

Portugal

> *"It is never enough to state that the two Marie Curie fellowships will always be major landmarks in my research career"*

Host Organization : Center for Neurosciences and Cell Biology, University of Coimbra
Former Organization : National Institutes of Health (NIH) em Bethesda, USA
Scientist in Charge : Prof. Catarina Resende de Oliveira
Start-End Date : October 2009 – October 2012
Total Budget : € 45.000
Keywords : B cells; NADPH-oxidase 2; memory; reactive oxygen species

Main Research Objectives

In a previous work, we had observed that patients with defects in the production of reactive oxygen species had significantly less circulating memory B cells. Since B cells are the producers of antibodies against pathogenic microorganisms, we suggested that the reduction of the memory B cells (the ones that should "remember" previous infections) could be related to the recurrent infections observed in these patients. Therefore, in the project, we are using mice with similar defects in the production of reactive oxygen species to study if and how much B cell development, differentiation and antibody production are defective, and how this interferes with a normal response against pathogenic microorganisms like fungi.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Implementation

I was lucky that my host organization was an experienced one regarding the Marie Curie Fellowship applications and negotiation. Hence I didn't need to contact with the NCP. However, I know that the NCP will be helpful if I face up with any problem during the implementation phase of the project till it ends.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The Marie Curie fellowships I have received have contributed decisively for gaining my research independence. Equally, the prestige associated with the Marie Curie fellowships proved to be a major boost for my CV. The International Incoming Fellowship that I got previously, was very important to guarantee both my salary and some seed-money for research reagents upon my return to Portugal, allowing me to start an independent line of research. Later on, the International Reintegration Grant was crucial to complement the seed-money given by the host institution where I now have a permanent position, thus allowing the acquisition of preliminary data that sustained subsequent successful applications to other funding agencies. Overall, I'm very satisfied for having been given the opportunity to be a Marie Curie Fellow, and it is never enough to state that these fellowships were two major landmarks in my research career.

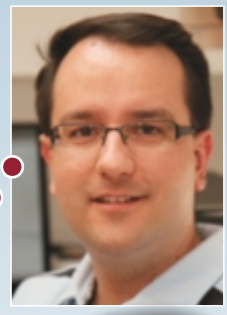
Host Organisation's View

The Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant was important for Dr Souto-Carneiro to establish her research team more rapidly, and to launch her line of investigation, which synergized very well with other existing teams in our institute. Moreover, the prestige of hosting Marie Curie fellows is important to guarantee the position of our institution as place of research excellence.

Slovenia

Robert Vianello, PhD

Computational Studies of Proton Dynamics in Hydrogen Bonded Systems and Enzymes - CoSProDyn



"Marie Curie Fellowship enables me to acquire state-of-the-art methods of computational biochemistry and acts as a springboard for a successful future in research."

Host Organization	: National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Former Organization	: Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia
Scientist in Charge	: Janez Mavri, PhD
Start-End Date	: October 2010 - April 2012
Total Budget	: € 99.127
Keywords	: Chemistry, computational biochemistry, enzyme biocatalysis
Website	: http://www.ki.si/?id=1644#4307

Main Research Objectives

The main objective of this computational research is to improve the understanding of how certain biomolecules work, aimed at uncovering the relationship between their structureand function, with the promising outlook of pharmaceutical and industrial application. The work focuses on three particular systems, but it is intended to identify ubiquitous trends and features that are applicable well beyond the scopes of these individual investigations.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
Compared to the application and negotiation phases, I asked the biggest support from the NCP during the implementation phase. The assistance during the implementation of this fellowship provided by Slovenian National Contact Point for the PEOPLE programme, can hardly be over-exaggerated. The difficult task of adopting all of the ideas and financial means of the European Commission to the framework of the national legislation of the host country was easily overcome with a kind and persistent help of NCP.

Negotiation
In my case, this mostly concerned implementation of all aspects of the Marie Curie financial budget into my contract with the host institution, where NCP's guidelines saved an enormous amount of local administration's efforts and time, and made the whole process efficient and smooth. Her patience, enthusiasm and, above all, a constant will to help, made things much easier for me upon my arrival to Slovenia.

Implementation
The knowledge she possesses about her home country laws and regulations, and a priceless insight into previous successful implementation practices, in my mind undoubtedly makes her an invaluable primary go-to person that I will turn to for any kind of issues that might arise until the end of my fellowship realization.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

This Individual Marie Curie Fellowship enabled me to change my working environment and join a prosperous research group with a well-balanced blend of experienced, established and internationally recognized senior scientists and very talented and promising young researchers. This represents a significant step forward in my carrier as it offers me a superb opportunity to work in a field of enzyme catalysis and biologically relevant molecules, which constitutes one of the main research avenues nowadays.

The fellowship will also increase my attractiveness as a researcher for industrial partners, which would allow me to take active role in enhancing cooperation with home country industrial subjects and bridge an enormous gap between scientific interests and industrial needs that, unfortunately, still exists in Croatia. Stay in the group of my scientist in charge certainly serves as a potential bridge to our future collaborations and joint international projects, either within EU Framework Programmes or within other initiatives.

Host Organisation's View

Implementation of any incoming Marie Curie fellowship is always beneficial for the host institution, because it increases its international flavor and positions it on the map of desirable European research destinations. It gives the administration an opportunity to get acquainted with the latest ideas of the European Commission, but even more so it offers other scientists and research stuff a role model of a successful applicant who brings a first-hand experience in applying to Marie Curie calls.

Since Marie Curie Actions are highly competitive, the benefits of participating for the host institutions are numerous, since they can employ a foreign researcher with a proven record in science at no cost, since the whole salary, other social benefits and even parts of the research expenses are all covered by the fellowship.

Carl Bruder, PhD

Investigation of influenza immune responses and vaccine efficacy correlates by global expression profiling and immunological analyses in the ferret model of influenza - Ferflu Express

Sweden

> "The Marie Curie award is an excellent way of reversing the brain drain out of Europe. It has allowed me to bring essential knowledge obtained in the USA back to Europe."

Host Organization	: Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm
Former Organization	: Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, AL, USA
Scientist in Charge	: Peter Liljeström
Start-End Date	: September 2010 – September 2012
Total Budget	: € 239.693
Keywords	: Influenza, ferret model

Main Research Objectives

The project aims at further understanding the mechanisms involved in host response to influenza infection. We are using the ferret model, one of the best models to study influenza. Identification and characterization of key immune responses triggered by influenza viruses, such as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic strains will provide tools for diagnostics, and may allow for development of more potent, broader spectrum vaccines against the current and future pandemic influenza threats.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
NCP helped me in explaining some of the sections in the application phase and came with useful hints to how to assemble the Grant proposal.

Negotiation
During the negotiation phase I didn't have difficulty in any part. But in implementation phase I may have problems till the end of project. I will be contacting with the NCP for sure.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

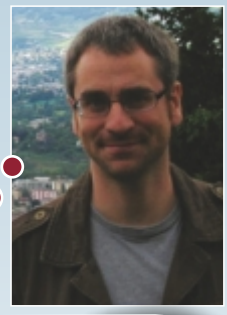
It has enabled the return to Sweden and Europe, as well as opened up for a scientific career in Europe. Hence I find this fellowship very useful for myself.

Host Organisation's View

As the host organization, we have been able to integrate knowledge of the researcher into additional projects which benefit several scientists in their work towards infectious agents.

Joao Neres, PhD

Exploring decaprenyl-phosphoryl ribose epimerase (DprE1) as a validated target for TB drug discovery: Assay development, high-throughput screening and search for novel DprE1 inhibitor scaffolds - DPRETB



"The Marie Curie Fellowship allowed me to return to Europe after a very productive stay in the USA and get to know yet another country, people and work in great research environment."

Host Organization	: Ecole Polytechnique Federale De Lausanne (EPFL)
Former Organization	: University of Minnesota, Center for Drug Design, USA
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Dr. Stewart T. Cole
Start-End Date	: May 2010 – May 2012
Total Budget	: € 174.065
Keywords	: Tuberculosis, assay development, drug discovery
Website	: http://people.epfl.ch/196878

Main Research Objectives

DprE1 is the validated enzyme target of the benzothiazinones, one of the most recent drugs in development for the treatment of tuberculosis. DprE1 (decaprenyl-phosphoryl ribose epimerase) acts in conjunction with DprE2 catalysing an essential step in the arabinan biosynthetic pathway in Mycobacterium tuberculosis. New molecules that inhibit this biosynthetic pathway could become extremely important in providing new drugs for treating Tuberculosis.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
I contacted the Swiss NCP in the preparation phase after finding Euresearch's material on the Marie Curie-Fellowships on Euresearch's website. The NCP helped me with giving a detailed and very helpful feedback on a proposal draft.

Implementation
Negotiation phase and implementation phase, were rather smooth and therefore I didn't need too much help. Overall, the project is runningwell and not much assistance is needed, But I know that if any assistance is needed, there are NCPs waiting for helping us.

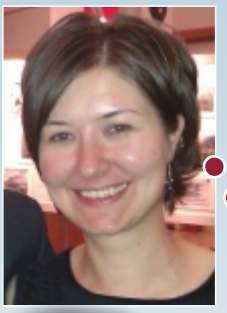
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The Marie Curie Fellowship allowed me to work in a very successful research group, learn new skills and also participate in a European Commission-funded consortium of various academic and pharmaceutical industry partners. This consortium - MM4TB (www.mm4tb.org) is actively working on the discovery and development of new drugs to fight tuberculosis.

Host Organisation's View

Welcoming a Marie Curie Fellow in an institution as EPFL is a clear added value. In fact, the Fellow, in plus than his knowledge, bring cultural diversity and new methodology or scientific approach to a group. Plus he increases the international network since it has been demonstrated that the Fellows keep contacts with the Host Institution after his stay.



Assist. Prof. Nejan Huvaj Sarıhan

Mechanism, Modeling and Forecasting of Landslide Displacements
FOLADIS

Turkey

> *"Marie Curie IRG funding is helping landslide research, supporting the beginnning of a new career with strong motivation..."*

Host Organization	: Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
Former Organization	: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. İrem Dikmen Toker
Start-End Date	: January 2010 - January 2013
Total Budget	: € 75.000
Keywords	: Landslide, slope movement, creep, forecasting, early warning
Website	: http://www.metu.edu.tr/~nejan

Main Research Objectives

Landslides cause significant damage and loss of life throughout the world. The overall goal of this research is to increase our understanding of the mechanism of slow-moving landslides. The specific objectives are: (1) to identify triggering factors and failure mechanisms, (2) to predict slope movements by numerical models calibrated with case histories (3) to establish threshold slope displacement rates for defining different alarm levels, (4) to improve forecasting methods for failure time of landslides to be used in early warning systems.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
Assistance of National Contact Points during the application process was excellent. Actually, they were the very first people who strongly encouraged me to apply to this grant, when at the beginning I was somewhat reluctant, not being sure about eligibility and requirements. The supporting documents (for example "do's and don'ts" document) they prepared and their feedback on my draft proposal were very helpful for me. Their knowledge and willingness to help, made things go much more smoothly for me in the application process.

Negotiation
In the negotiation phase of the Marie Curie IRG grant I actually did not need much of assistance since the procedure coordinated by Brussels was fairly straightforward. When I needed, NCPs were always very helpful and fast responding.

Implementation
During the implementation phase, I attended the Q/A sessions organized by NCPs with speakers from Brussels on IRG reporting and financial issues which was very well coordinated and professional. I did not submit my midterm report yet, but I am quite confident that they will do their best to help me and other researchers in this aspect if we need any help. In addition, our NCP frequently held information sessions at universities where they kept us informed about new funding opportunities within EC and they sent us reminder emails about upcoming deadlines for other available funding opportunities. I appreciate their continous support.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The funds provided by Marie Curie IRG gave me the chance to support graduate student researchers, who are essential part of carrying out valuable research and also important for the dissemination of knowledge to the host institute and country. I was also able to purchase necessary laboratory equipment to carry out various tests on soil samples and purchase the licences of necessary softwares for my modeling studies. Funding was also very useful for me and my graduate students to attend conferences and workshops. I took part myself in such activities and also I am happy that some of my students did also get the joy of research by attending to conferences and presenting their own research results. For the continous interaction and collaboration between Europe and other countries, the researchers should have this kind of mobility opportunities. In addition, the network of other Marie Curie grant holders was beneficial for me where I met new people who are outside of my research field, but who are also at the beginning of their research careers, share similar experiences and learn from each other.

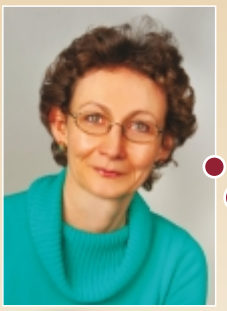
Host Organisation's View

Landslide is one of the most damaging natural hazards in Turkey and in Europe. With the changing climatic conditions, landslides will become more and more important for many parts of the world. Return of Dr. Huvaj from the United States to Turkey has been very beneficial for our university. She has brought with her the fundamental knowledge of geotechnical engineering combined with her specialization on landslides. These topics are complimentary to the existing researcher profile and their specialized topics currently at our department. After she joined our department she offered a new course on landslides. She was able to transmit her knowledge to young students in this way and also by way of leading Masters and PhD research of graduate students. We believe that her contribution to our department will continue progressively. She will continue to be part of the world research arena and increase our department's collaboration opportunities and visibility worldwide.

Host Driven

Host Driven

Marie Curie Actions
Success Stories



The role of the Calcium Sensing Receptor (CaSR) in health and disease, implications for translational medicine
Multifaceted CaSR

Austria

"Thanks to ITN, my host organisation has intensified its collaborations with several very good universities"

Host Organization : Medical University of Vienna
Scientist in Charge : Enikö Kallay
Start-End Date : January 2011 – December 2014
Total Budget : € 2.915.948
Keywords : Cancer research, molecular cellular biology, systems biology
Website : www.multifaceted-casr.org

Main Research Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- to define the contribution that CaSR signalling makes to cell proliferation/differentiation in colon, parathyroid, and breast cells, and its impact on tumourigenesis (at UNIFI, MUW, UPJV);
- to characterize the functional role of the CaSR in vascular calcification (4 early stage researchers (CU, UOXF, AZ, UPJV) and 1 experienced researcher (CU);
- to identify and model major signalling routes and controlling proteins for a CaSR-dependent signal transduction (2 early stage researchers (VUA, MUW)).

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The Austrian NCP has organised a workshop to train and coach those interested in applying for a Marie Curie Action. The colleagues at the Austrian NCP have read my application and have given constructive feedback how to improve it. The Austrian NCP has given financial support for the preparation of the Application. Due to this support the future partners had had the possibility to meet each other, decide upon the main scientific and training objectives, and discuss directly their expectations concerning the future project.

Negotiation
The Austrian NCP has given financial support thus enabling me to travel to Brussels and meet the Project Officer. I had also financial support in using an expert for finalizing the Grant Agreement. NCP team was very helpful in answering my enquiries regarding financial and legal questions as well as any type of questions linked to Marie Curie Actions).

Implementation
In this phase our National Contact Points were very helpful in answering my enquiries regarding financial and legal questions (or any type of questions linked to Marie Curie Actions).

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Being part of Marie Curie actions means having close supervision from leading scientists of the field, having extensive academic recourses along with superior education in the field you are currently working in. Receive an education that gives you both, the technical skills and the intellectual discipline to become leader in science. Access to state of the art techniques, break new grounds and create network that will help you in future career and prepare for lifetime learning.
(Irfete Sh. Fetahu)

Host Organisation's View

Due to the ITN the Medical University of Vienna has intensified its collaborations with several very good universities (e.g. Oxford University, Cardiff University, University of Florence, etc.) and enhanced the possibility of developing further collaborative projects. Due to the training plans, the level of the individual PhD programmes will be improved. The Early Stage Researchers, under the guidance of the Scientists in Charge, will help to understand and model CaSR signalling in cancer, and in cardiovascular diseases. By publishing their results in high ranked journals, it will contribute to the increasing reputation of the University.

Belgium

Consumer Competence as the hidden driver of consumer welfare - CONCORT

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

"ITN never alone"

Host Organization : KULeuven
Scientist in Charge : Siegfried Dewitte
Start-End Date : December 2011 - November 2015
Total Budget : € 3.760.000
Keywords : Consumer Comptence
Website : www.concort.eu

Main Research Objectives

Insights of consumer research typically fail to have a substantial impact on consumer welfare. CONCORT studies consumer competence, a broad set of abilities, intuitions and skills consumers needs in order to navigate successfully in the economic environment. CONCORT brings together researchers from consumer behaviour, behavioural economics, health psychology and corporate partners who are innovators in advanced behavioural measurement tools.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
After the first trial in December 2009, we were not selected among the funded projects. We got a reasonable score (86 over 100) so we decided to re-apply for the next call. We contacted the NCP for Belgium who read through the proposal.

Negotiation
We had a long meeting where she gave both general and detailed comments on what may be improved in the project and its palatability for a European jury. We drafted the proposal with her recommendations and finally got the funding. We are very happy about the research under this ITN project.

Implementation
The negotiation is still underway but we look forward to her advice in the following phases as well.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

As the coordinator, this program provides a splendid opportunity to collaborate with colleagues which is often difficult with our heavy agendas. Now, we have a research project and PhD researchers who will be working on it. Perhaps even more attractive side is to have frequent conventions which promise to be extremely interesting and inspiring. Being forced to come up with a common theme is actually something very inspiring in itself: we now stand for something and each individual's research gains sense from this. There are also some features in this program that make researchers think a bit differently (e.g. close collaboration with business). It appears to be a bit of a pain in the beginning but we are surprised at how interesting work we have now and how complementary this work can be to the academia.

Host Organisation's View

This is the first ITN project that has been funded in our faculty. It gives a bottom up pressure to make the PhD programmes more flexible and perhaps more rational in the end. It also creates a great opportunity to collaborate administratively with other institutions such as creating joint doctorate programmes.

Bulgaria

Implementation of Membrane Technology to Industry - IMeTI

> *"Project has a very good impact on the young researchers participating in the Project who received new skills and information."*

Host Organization	: University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy
Scientist in Charge	: Ludmila Peeva, PhD - Imperial College, UK
Start-End Date	: June 2008 – June 2012
Total Budget	: € 1.806.477
Keywords	: Organic solvent nanofilt., gas separation/purification, sol-gel synt.
Website	: http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/membranetechnology

Main Research Objectives

The project aims to create a programme of applied research to implement membrane technology in industry, based on experience and knowledge transfer between Academia and Industry. By integrating work at 7 partner sites and utilizing 237 research months a critical mass will be achieved in membrane production, scale-up and application, enabling to exploit multidisciplinary and inter-sectorial synergies. The IMeTI consortium provides an important balance between membrane technology companies (3), Universities (2) and Research Institutes (2). Multidisciplinarity is embedded through the inclusion of partners from diverse disciplines including, mechanical and chemical engineering.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application - Negotiation - Implementation

Whenever we needed National Contact Point helped us during all these phases.

Thanks to her experience and her former Marie Curie research fellowship she was very informative during the proposal preparation of this application.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Project has a very good impact on the young researchers participating in the project. They received new skills and information. They have carried out research with the supervision of competent scientists. Moreover they improved their foreign language knowledge.

Host Organisation's View

The University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy has a large experience in extraction and production of natural extracts from plants. Implementing Organic Solvent Nanofiltration Technology will be something new and will allow the team to investigate several high value natural products to create elaborated methods for their production. Scientists from five countries participate in the project (UK, Bulgaria, France, Netherlands and Italy). This could be a warranty for fruitful future collaboration.

- New facilities for Organic Solvent Nanofiltration were received and successfully used for investigations.
- Several young and experienced scientists have had very fruitful research stays in internationally renowned laboratories and gathered new experience, ideas and abilities.
- New and very close international scientific relations were established, several of them, especially with the industry, would be very fruitful.

Czech Rep.

Advanced Biological Waste-to-Energy Technologies
BioWet

"We will be a part of an international Project which will allow us to meet with international partners."

Host Organization : Institute for Chemical Technology, Prague
Scientist in Charge : Ing. Jan Bartáček, PhD
Start-End Date : January 2012 - January 2016
Total Budget : € 249.900
Keywords : Biogas production,Wastewater treatment,Biotechnology

Main Research Objectives

The concern of the international community in utilizing renewable energy sources is ever rising. The reasons are both economical and ecological. Biological methods for energy production have a great potential to substitute fossil fuels. Moreover, they often utilize waste, contaminated materials or polluted environments. The proposed IRSES "BioWET" project will integrate a number of advanced biotechnologies for waste-to-energy conversion.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
We have contacted the National Contact Point whenever we do need assistance, especially during the negotiation phase.

Negotiation
Both Marie Curie and Financial - Legal Issues National Contact Point have advised us what regards the preparation of partnership agreement, financial issues, requirements for audit etc.

Implementation
We found those assistances very helpful. We will be contacting with NCPs if need during the implementation phase as well.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

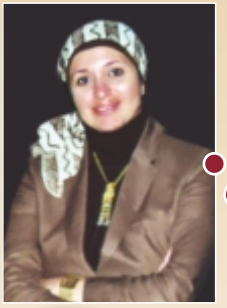
Fellow's View

As fellows we will make use of the project by having an international networking arena. We will gain new expertise and additional skills (languages, experience from abroad etc.). Furthermore, this project will help us to see new impulses for the field and to realize transfer of knowledge.

Host Organisation's View

As the host organization we will be a part of an international project which will allow us to meet with international partners. We will learn to make an international contract and of course the project will help us to get new knowledge via the transferred researchers from the partner countries.

International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)



Multicentre Discovery of Proteomic Breast Cancer Biomarkers Canomics

Egypt

"We are glad to be in this glorious project and share the knowledge we know and we learn.."

Host Organization	: Alexandria University - Faculty of Medicine
Scientist in Charge	: Pacint Moez, PhD
Start-End Date	: August 2010 - August 2012
Total Budget	: € 98.000
Keywords	: Breast Cancer , proteomics , mass spectrometry, markers
Website	: www.alexmed.edu.eg

Main Research Objectives

Our main aim is to build a comprehensive multi approach breast cancer proteomic biomarker discovery project applying several advanced discovery modules. Through a step wise research exchange progression of the project, we aim to introduce new proteomic biomarker discovery technologies to ICPC partners, and share knowledge and expertise among all involved centers. This will enable our network to adopt a comprehensive translational research approach for this and similar future projects

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
National Contact Point offered us a very beneficial assistance throughout the application process.

Negotiation
During the negotiation phase we have solved everything with the project officer in the Research Executive Agency and we didn't need the assistance of the NCP during the implementation phase.

Implementation
But it is good to know that we have NCPs that we can contact if we lose our way on this road.

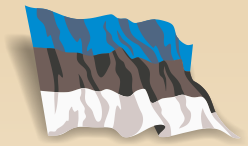
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

- Networking with scientists from 3 European research centers was a good opportunity to introduce proteomic sciences to our medical & scientific Egyptian society
- Visiting 2 proteomic centers in UK and 1 center in Greece offered a great experience for Egyptian scientists (2 from Ain Shams University & 4 from Alexandria University)

Host Organisation's View

This was an excellent attempt for our University. So far, we have organized a workshop and a conference for Proteomics with 5 scientists from Europe within the project. We found the chance to be in a network of scientists from UK and Greece. During the project, two early stage researchers will be sent to Greece and France for their MS in proteomics.



Estonia

Estonian Research Mobility Scheme
ERMOS

ERMOS

"Already 15 young postdoctoral researchers from 11 nationalities, financed from the programme ERMOS, are conducting their research in Estonia."

Host Organization	: Estonian Science Foundation
Scientist in Charge	: Kadri Mäger
Start-End Date	: September 2010 – August 2014
Total Budget	: € 4.500.000
Keywords	: Post-doctoral fellows, incoming mobility, re-integration grant
Website	: http://www.etf.ee/index.php?page=343&

Main Research Objectives

With a purpose to develop and diversify Estonian research potential through the mobility of researchers and exchange of experience, and thereby to activate international exchange of knowledge and support the development of careers of young researchers the programme enables researchers to blend in with the academic world by continuing the work in their field of science in Estonian research and development institution.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
National Contact Point provided us the know-how of Marie Curie Actions, procedures and previous experience which was very helpful for us during the application procedure.

Negotiation
We were contacting with the project officer from Research Executive Agency during this phase. But we got the know-how about the procedure from the NCP when we learned that we got funded by the Commission.

Implementation
National Contact point helped us to find channels and means for making the programme more visible in this phase.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The project provided me essential scientific freedom during the (re-)establishment phase in my home team after post-doctoral stay abroad. The financial contribution towards laboratory analyses and for employing technical staff gave me more resources and liberty in doing my research. This yielded some exciting results that I am really happy about and a number of high quality publications. During the re-integration years I have established links with teams abroad and strengthened collaboration with colleagues at home. I find myself actively leading one of the research topics of our team. Marie Curie Reintegration grant certainly contributed towards these achievements, towards the development of my career and the nature and quality of research being conducted in our team.

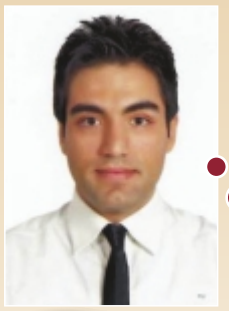
This action is addressed to organisations that finance and manage fellowship programmes. The programme funds many researchers who have at least a doctorate degree. We have the general impression that researchers are very happy to be a part of such a transnational mobility programme. Marie Curie Fellowship is considered prestigious. As the general benefit they think that they have a fellowship which is at the European standard covering everything that they may need.

Host Organisation's View

This action offers the opportunity for experienced researchers from Member States or Associated countries to capitalize on their transnational mobility period after having participated in a Marie Curie action either under the Seventh or the previous Framework Programme. Host organization benefitted from this action by taking the opportunity to integrate well the researcher into our team. We have gained from her being active in publishing of her scientific results in the leading journals of ecology and plant sciences such as The New Phytologist, Molecular Ecology, Journal of Biogeography. She has established a number of international collaborations for the team and is invaluable for training both students and research staff.

With the help of this programme, we have reached many more interested fellows, strengthened and diversified the skills and knowledge, and raised the quality and level of research among young researchers. With this action our funding has programme become more visible and international. Moreover, it amplifies the possibilities of funding young researchers which wouldn't be the case if we didn't get EU co-funding.

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



Multi-Scale Computational Modeling of Chemical and Biochemical Systems - MULTIMOD

Greece

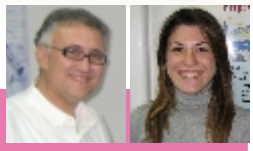
"In this unique experience I learn how to critically and systematically do in-depth research to combine pure science with reality. (Mohammad Rezaei, ESR recruited at CERTH)"

Host Organization	: Centre for Research and Technology- Hellas
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Costas Kiparissides
Start-End Date	: December 2009 - December 2013
Total Budget	: € 4.311.643
Keywords	: Chemical engineering, process engineering, multiscale modeling
Website	: www.multimod.eu

Main Research Objectives

MULTIMOD aims to extend the state of the art in multi-scale modelling of chemical and biochemical processes by integrating molecular, kinetic, thermodynamic, morphological, population balance and fluid dynamics models into a unified computational approach. The network's research objectives are focused on advanced modeling and simulation methods in selected areas of the chemical/biochemical industry, namely, **(i)** catalyst design **(ii)** polymer production **(iii)** synthesis in alternative reaction media **(iv)** biopharmaceuticals production **(v)** food processing and **(vi)** biofuels manufacture.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
With the help of the NCP office, we obtained the latest information about FP7 and open Marie Curie calls, accessed details about these calls and received assistance in the preparation and submission of the proposal.

Negotiation
We didn't face up with any problem during this phase. We only got information about the procedures from the NCP.

Implementation
The NCP office offers support during the execution of the network - especially with respect to the administrative procedures and financial issues. Its main feedback is on the correlation of the EC guidelines with the Greek rules.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Jovana Milenkovic (Serbia) mentioned: "It is an opportunity to gain Marie Curie Action prestige; acquire technological and scientific skills and undertake research training. The program allows me to reach and reinforce a position of professional accomplishment and independence", while Mohammad Rezaei (Iran) added: "Marie Curie action was most noteworthy in relation to three features for me. Firstly, it gives me a worldwide research involvement; secondly, the prospect to improvement of my research skills and to have dedicated time to accomplish research. Lastly, the fellowship also provides me access to a superior research atmosphere."

Host Organisation's View

The MULTIMOD ITN, fosters the co-operation between CERTH and other public research organization & private commercial enterprises on joint research objectives. Through this participation, CERTH was allowed to hire early stage researchers (ESRs)'s with different backgrounds (i.e., chemical engineering, biological engineering, mechanical engineering etc.) and to stimulate long-term collaboration with other sectors, through secondments of the ESRs. Last but not least, CERTH has promoted and enhanced its publicity in Europe through the participation of the ESRs in social & scientific events (i.e., coordination days, celebration days, conferences, workshops).

Hungary

Data Intensive Visualization and Analysis
DIVA

Initial Training Networks (ITN)

"To be a part of an international collaboration where I could constantly learn, apply my knowledge and build a stable carrier involving a chance to work with committed and dedicated people, will help me to explore my potential to the best."

Host Organization : Holografika Kft
Scientist in Charge : Péter Tamás Kovács
Start-End Date : December 2011 - December 2015
Total Budget : € 3.355.212
Keywords : Visualization in science and technology, data intensive visualization
Website : http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/marie-curieinbrief/home_en.html

Main Research Objectives

Visualization and interactive analysis, in a larger context includes a variety of research aspects from data acquisition to knowledge discovery. The program focuses on the core pipeline of visualization from data to visual interaction and understanding. This includes the principal topics such as: data processing, feature extraction, compression, multiscale modelling, interactive rendering, display systems, interaction, visual perception and cognition.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
We got the assistance of the National Contact Point during the implementation phase.

Negotiation
National Contact Point has given support in the clarification of financial and taxation issues which was difficult for us to understand. Our project will be finalized in the end of 2015.

Implementation
Till that time during the implementation phase, we will be in contact with the NCP for any inquiry we would have.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

This action aims to improve early-stage researchers' career prospects in both the public and private sectors, thereby making research careers more attractive to young people. This will be achieved through a transnational networking mechanism, aimed at structuring the existing high-quality initial research training capacity throughout Member States and Associated Countries.

As the fellows, we are benefiting from this programme by taking a European wide training.

Host Organisation's View

As the host organization, we do gain access to international researchers. This action helps us for the integration in the EU and taking part in international research cooperation.

Targeting Functional Tendon Regeneration Using a Loaded Biomimetic Scaffold. An Integrated Pan-European Approach Tendon Regeneration

Israel

"The redemption of tobacco: Leaves for Tendons"

Host Organization	: CollPlant Ltd.
Scientist in Charge	: Sigal Meirovitch, PhD
Start-End Date	: September 2010 – August 2014
Total Budget	: € 2.260.000
Keywords	: Regeneration of injured or degenerated tendons, biomimetic fib. com.

Main Research Objectives

This industry-academia proposal addresses the development of technology which will enable understanding of regeneration of injured or degenerated tendons. Biomimetic fibrous composites will be designed and developed that will mimic the structure of native tendons. The project objectives are to fabricate an optimally stabilized and effectively functionalized three-dimensional collagen-resilin composite scaffold to match the properties of native tendons.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
During the negotiation, the validation unit refused to register CollPlant as SME. Being an SME in an IAPP project was of top importance to us, as it provided us with the opportunity to purchase essential equipment for the project. Being a company, which started in Technological incubator at its first two years, the company could not show financial strength as the validation unit had expected.

Negotiation
ISERD explained us the EC regulations regarding registration of SME, helped us in presenting our case and contacted the European Commission and the validation unit in REA explaining the unique situation we had. The validation unit accepted all our arguments and we are now registered as SME in FP7, benefiting from the 10% of the budget dedicated to the equipment.

Implementation
Hosting researchers in a company in Israel requires special procedures at The Visas and Aliens Department of the Ministry of the Interior. ISERD has developed with the Visas and Aliens department a special procedure, dedicated to foreign PhD researchers, participating in FP7 Marie Curie projects, as IAPP, which assist the companies by reducing bureaucratic burden.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

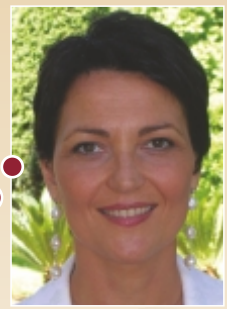
The Marie Curie program allowed me to experience work in an industrial setting and to broaden my scientific knowledge in regenerative medicine.

Host Organisation's View

Being part of the Marie Curie program allows the exchange of ideas with European partner, experts in the field of regenerative medicine. The ties between academic Institutions and Industry, including personnel relocation, ensures translation of a scientifically robust concept from bench to clinic. Furthermore, the program allows us to purchase equipment that aids in the fulfilling of the project goals.

Italy

Gas Sensors on Flexible Substrates for Wireless Applications
FlexSmell



"I am FlexSmell ITN Coordinator"

Host Organization : University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
Scientist in Charge : Prof. Luisa Torsi
Start-End Date : January 2010 – December 2013
Total Budget : € 3.829.388
Keywords : Organic electronics, organic chemical sensors, RFID.
Website : www.flexsmell.eu

Main Research Objectives

The FlexSMELL concept is to realize a hybrid (organic-inorganic) very low-cost, ultra low-power olfaction system based on bio-receptor and implemented on a flexible substrate. Such a system is to be compatible with wireless read-out, setting the ground for the future development of smart sensing RFID tags. The FlexSMELL technology platform will be in principle suitable for different applications with the main ones envisaged in the field of logistics for the monitoring of perishable goods along their transport and storing, though smart packaging solutions.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
NCP provided necessary support on explanation of the work program. NCP also provided help in checking the proposal when requested from the coordinator. NCP finally provided useful advises during Consortium Agreement preparation.

Negotiation
NCP provided all the necessary information in order to prepare the negotiation documents.

Implementation
During implementation NCP gave us:
-support in terms of initial information in order to get started with the implementation of the project;
-support in keeping the coordinating node in contact with other ITN on the National territory allowing a good practice exchange on (1) fellows employment contract regulations, (2) enrolment of fellows in PhD school of the coordinating institution

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

As Project coordinator the main benefit of participating in this ITN project is the possibility to contribute to an excellence network where each fellow and involved institution can benefit of sharing knowledge among partners.

Host Organisation's View

From the point of view of the hosting Organization the FlexSmell ITN project was particularly relevant. In fact this was the first time the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" had the chance of coordinating a European project. The main benefit given by FlexSmell Project to the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" was the substantial contribution in enhancing the excellence of the node.

Tribology of Elastomers on Lubricated Surfaces
TELLUR

Luxembourg

"IAPP: Fostering the human factor of knowledge transfer between industry and academia"

Host Organization	: Goodyear Innovation Center, Luxembourg and University Aalto, Finland
Scientist in Charge	: Georges Thielen, PhD
Start-End Date	: June 2010 - May 2014
Total Budget	: € 254.000
Keywords	: Elastomer tribology, tire, road, lubricated surface, friction

Main Research Objectives

The TELLUR project is based on a strong balanced public-private European partnership including one large multi-national company and one university. It aims at developing new knowledge and technologies in the field of friction between elastomers and lubricated surfaces. The TELLUR project produces innovative technological solutions for the automotive industry that can be further transferred to other areas as well.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The personalized assistance offered by the NCP was very helpful while drafting and submitting the project proposal.

Negotiation
For a private company it is not always easy to access the European Framework Programme for research and technological development (Fp7). The NCP offered tailor-made training as well as guidance and information on legal, financial and administrative matters. Together with us they analyzed our project idea and helped us to select the appropriate funding scheme.

Implementation
We can only recommend getting in contact with the NCP if anyone wishes to optimize the chances of a successful project submission to the European Commission.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

For the career development of young researchers it is important to be aware of the industry's needs. By creating personal links between academia and industry, Marie Curie Actions foster the human factor of knowledge transfer.

Host Organisation's View

The transfer of knowledge and skills is not a one-way road. The project helps us building bridges between industry and academia and to transfer knowledge and skills in both directions. Industry profits form the specialized knowledge and equipment provided by the universities.

FYR Macedonia

Complex Research of Earthquake's Forecasting Possibilities, Seismicity and Climate Change Correlations - BlackSeaHazNet

BlackSeaHazNet

"I am honored to contribute in Marie Curie Actions."

Host Organization	: Seismological Observatory, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
Scientist in Charge	: Lazo Pekevski, PhD
Start-End Date	: January 2011 - December 2012
Total Budget	: € 475.200
Keywords	: Seismicity, earthquake precursors, climate changes
Website	: http://web.inrne.bas.bg/BlackSeaHazNet/

Main Research Objectives

The main objectives of the project BlackSeaHazNet are:

1) development of long-term research cooperation in geophysics through coordinated joint program for exchange of data and know-hows between scientists;

2) creation of a complex program for investigation the possibilities of forecasting earthquake origin time, hypocentre, magnitude and intensity by use of reliable precursors;

3) postulating correlations between seismisity and climate changes.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The assistance of the NCP was very important and helpful when preparing the project. Many of the participants attended workshops that were organized within the frame of promotion of the Marie Curie Actions. The participants from my home organization had established an excellent communication and collaboration with the FYR Macedonian NCP.

Negotiation
All nine partner organizations of the project took part in the negotiation phase, during which the assistances of the National Contact Points were very important.

Implementation
We particularly appreciate NCPs assistance before and during the start of the project and the interest about the experience of the participants related to the mobility within the project. NCP is always ready to provide us information.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The training objectives and the experience of working with other researchers would influence positively my professional level as a researcher. All this will increase my competence and individual research quality for future scientific activities. By complementing and acquiring new skills and knowledge, this fellowship will support and improve my career and will affirm my position as an experienced researcher in the domain of my research interest. Also, this will promote my scientific work; experience and knowledge at researching centers in other courtiers also open possibilities for future cooperation by facilitating my communication with researchers having similar scientific interest. Altogether, this fellowship will benefit to my personal and career development, which will be valuable for me, as well as for my home and host institutions.

Host Organisation's View

Presence of a foreign fellow in host institutions affects positively the working atmosphere since s/he brings new knowledge and experience, new and fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and makes necessary background for new theoretical and practical research, publications and promotion of the host institutions, affects positively the research creativity and opens new possibilities for collaboration of the host institutions with other European research centers and their presentation within the EU Framework Programme. Disseminating scientific information, facilitating communication with the research centers and having a similar scientific interest will mobilize the human and material resources existing in the host institutions.

Promoting Mental Health in Schools
PMHS

Malta

"A great transcontinental collaborative adventure"

Host Organization	: University of Malta
Scientist in Charge	: Carmel Cefai, PhD
Start-End Date	: January 2011 - December 2013
Total Budget	: € 36.000
Keywords	: Mental health, school children

Main Research Objectives

The objective of the research is to facilitate exchange of researchers from EU and third countries and undertake joint research to develop a multilevel, transnational framework for the promotion of positive mental health in schools at universal, selective and indicated levels.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
National Contact Point was extremely helpful in completing the application, providing individual assistance, samples, calling the European Commission as well as the queries and difficulties encountered. It was a very helpful and supportive exercise.

Negotiation
Negotiations were quite lengthy particularly as we needed ethics approval as well. The time needed to finalize the negotiations necessitated moving the target dates by about one year which created difficulties for some of the researchers involved in rearranging their schedule of visits with their respective universities. On the whole however, the Brussels team and Malta NCPs were very supportive in the process.

Implementation
The implementation is going on as planned with four out of six visits already completed. The main issue is the limited budget available for the researchers; in all cases we had to seek extra funds in order to support our visits and undertake the research. We didn't face up with any difficulty yet but we will contact with the NCPs if needed.

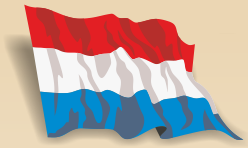
Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Meeting fellow researchers in other universities working in the area, observation of practices and contexts in the host country, undertaking research in a different context, undertaking collaborative transnational research, delivering talks, seminars and lectures, and publications in peer reviewed journals, are some of the benefits for the fellow. The project is still ongoing.

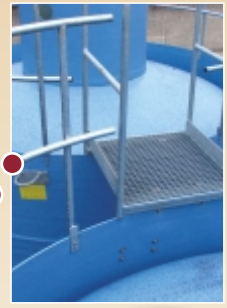
Host Organisation's View

Collaborative research projects at the host university by the visiting researchers as well as holding of seminars, talks, lectures and publications are some of the main benefits for the host organization. The project is still ongoing.



Netherlands

Developing the next generation air treatment based on replacing non-renewable resources by microbiology - Next Air Biotreat



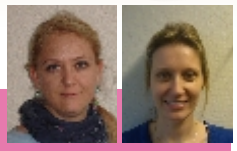
"A quote from Mary Lou Cook: "Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."

Host Organization	: Pure Air Solutions
Scientist in Charge	: Albert Waalkens
Start-End Date	: January 2011 - September 2015
Total Budget	: € 1.050.000
Keywords	: Environment
Website	: www.pureairsolutions.nl

Main Research Objectives

Pure Air Solutions is a medium-sized company that makes air purification devices by means of an innovative technique, called biotrickling. This technique removes solvents from air emission from various production processes which are now emitted into the atmosphere and cause smog. The IAPP-research project aims to further develop this technique, so it can be used to clean the air from styreen, a harmful substance releases from the production of polyester.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
For this project the Spanish National Contact Point referred us to the Dutch National Contact Point for help and we gratefully made use of that. The Dutch NCP has given us a lot of advice during the process of writing the proposal. That has been very helpful.

Negotiation
Prior to the negotiation we went with the Spanish coordinator, the University of Valencia, to the Dutch NCP, in order to prepare ourselves well. The negotiations went very smoothly, so we didn't need further assistance in this regard.

Implementation
We have just started with the implementation of the project and already a lot of questions arose about accounting. Of course we want to make sure that we meet the accounting requirements of the Research Executive Agency , so we will definitely turn to the Dutch NCP soon with our questions.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The project has started recently. No external researchers have been recruited yet.

Host Organisation's View

Due to the IAPP fellowship we can develop a new product and conquer a new market. In addition to this we can build on a lengthy and unique cooperation with the University of Valencia and Exel Composites. This company makes frames of polyester and is therefore an end user of the product we are developing. The IAPP project allows us to set up a pilot at one of their facilities. If the project is successful, the technique can be used in all their factories. This way we can stay a step ahead of the competition.

Norway

Colour Printing 7.0: Next Generation Multi-Channel Printing
CP7.0

"Forget web 2.0 – here comes print 7.0!"

Host Organization	: Gjøvik University College
Scientist in Charge	: Jon Y. Hardeberg
Start-End Date	: October 2011 - September 2015
Total Budget	: € 2.450.000
Keywords	: Printing, colour imaging, spectral, halftoning, gamut mapping
Website	: Not yet (keep an eye on http://www.colorlab.no for updates)

Main Research Objectives

To fulfill the project's overall goal of training a new generation of researchers within the field of color and printing science, in addition to a series of targeted training events, we will carry out high quality research within the field of multi-colorant printing, addressing challenging research topics such as spectral modeling of the printer/paper/ink combination, spectral gamut mapping, and multichannel half toning. As a result of this project, the color printing field will be brought to its next generation of scientific and technological advancement.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
We got good support from the National Contact Point. They provided prompt answers to our critical questions and gave feedback on application.

Negotiation
National Contact Points answered our questions and explained the procedures during this phase. Meanwhile EU project officer has been also very helpful so didn't need to get high support in this phase.

Implementation
Support of National Contact Point will be demanded if needed.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

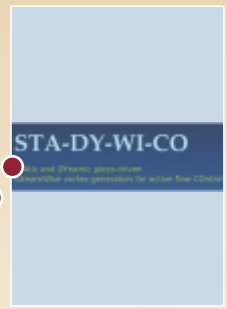
The project didn't recruit any researcher yet.

Host Organisation's View

It is a huge honor and responsibility. Our institution is small and does not have previous experience with managing EU projects. It will give us valuable experience; improve our international reputation, in addition to the obvious benefits of providing funding for hiring PhD students and other relevant research activity.

Poland

STAtic and DYnamic piezo-driven StreamWIse vortex generators for active flow COntrol - STA-DY-WI-CO



"It is expected that within the STA-DY-WI-CO project the lasting cooperation between the various groups of actors will develop so that the research center will become a strategic partner for the industry involved."

Host Organization : Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery Polish Academy of Sciences
Scientist in Charge : Piotr Doerffer
Start-End Date : October 2010 - September 2014
Total Budget : € 935.868
Keywords : Environmental impact, Exhaust emissions, Aircraft design
Website : http://stadywico.eu/

Main Research Objectives

STA-DY-WI-CO is Marie Curie IAPP transfer of knowledge programme involving two partners, Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery of the Polish Academy of Sciences and LMS International in Belgium. This exchange programme for researchers from industry and academia combines expertise of fluid dynamics, Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS), experimental techniques and numerical modeling of fluid-structure coupled with physical phenomena.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
The assistance provided by Polish NCP covered all aspects of the proposal development process. Since the IAPP is based on the secondment exchange rule, there were numerous very detailed and specific questions which we asked at the stage of developing the proposal. All these doubts were clarified in an extensive manner almost immediately. There was a number of "good practice" examples provided for better understanding of the often complex text of the guide.

Negotiation
This was the continuation of the cooperation at the stage of proposal development. We were guided and received professional help whenever it was needed. Based on the guidance from Polish NCP, we were able to suggest some adjustments to Project Officer due to some changes which appeared between submission and negotiation.

Implementation
As the project is in the early execution stage, we still have a number of questions to Polish NCP and we hope that their consultancy will continue throughout the entire project duration.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

With the increasing complexity of aircrafts and wind turbines, full understanding of the aerodynamic phenomena is needed, including the AFC. The corresponding design and analytical tools to enable the development of advanced rotor (control) concepts need significant improvements. STA-DY-WI-CO has the potential and knowledge and will train future AFC technology experts ready to take those challenges. Proposed research project of mutual interest to partners will address key questions in the complex multi physics phenomena research related to active flow control with the application of the novel piezoelectric materials. The proposed project will both foster existing long-term collaboration between partners and create new collaborations through recruited researchers.

Host Organisation's View

Partnership collaboration of teams active within their fields of expertise will create a unique opportunity to explore and exchange expertise of other than own scientific domains related to AFC and they will have access to R&D facilities.

Involved parties have a commitment to cooperate not only in this particular project, but to use this cooperation as a starting basis for a long-lasting relationship. New links will develop, not only between the partners, but also between the project members and external institutes/universities/industry (e.g. from where researchers will be recruited). Developing relations between the academia and the industry partner is also worth noting.

Advanced Studies on Improving Sheep Fertility by Using Artificial Means of Reproduction - SheepRep

Romania

> "It is a great and honorable experience."

Host Organization	: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest
Scientist in Charge	: DVM Laura-Daniela Urdes, PhD
Start-End Date	: January 2012 - December 2013
Total Budget	: € 197.700
Keywords	: Sheep, aI, cryopreserved semen

Main Research Objectives

We are aiming at increasing the conception rate in ewes following AI, by using frozen-thawed semen.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application - Negotiation - Implementation

We were fully supported by our National Contact Point during application and afterwards.

We advise everyone to contact with the National Contact Points before the proposal submission phase.

They make everything easier.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The project will start at the beginning of 2012. Hence no researcher has been recruited yet.

Host Organisation's View

It is a great and honorable experience. The host organization will gain visibility within the scientific community.

Spain

UPM-Marie Curie International Mobility Programme
UNITE

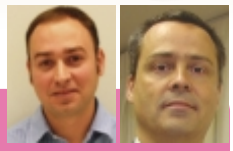
"This project was a next step in consolidating Universidad Politécnica de Madrid mobility networks"

Host Organization : Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Scientist in Charge : Gonzalo León
Start-End Date : January 2010 - December 2013
Total Budget : € 1.771.023
Keywords : International mobility, recruitment of researchers
Website : http://www.upm.es/institucional/Investigadores/AyudasConvocatorias/BecasContratos/ProgramaPropio/MarieCurie_COFUND

Main Research Objectives

UNITE complements the policy measures implemented by Madrid Polytechnic University to facilitate the recruitment and mobility of experienced researchers and increases the internationalization of Madrid Polytechnic University researchers by facilitating their mobility to/from other countries. It also opens the possibility to establish a professional research career in Madrid Polytechnic University offering tenure-track positions for research and technological staff.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
Assistance form Spanish NCP was crucial throughout the whole process of the proposal preparation: included a face to face meeting outlining in details the philosophy behind a COFUND scheme at the initial stage of proposal preparation and revision of a draft proposal at a further stage.

Negotiation
Madrid Polytechnic University staff being familiar with European Commission negotiation procedures, National Contact Points provided general important advice.

Implementation
No specific NCP support was needed as the implementation of the project is regulated by internal Madrid Polytechnic University human resources rules. Nevertheless, it is appreciated that professional support will be given if needed.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

COFUND Programme of Madrid Polytechnic University consisted of 3 schemes: senior, outgoing, and incoming. Senior scheme gives the possibility to the researchers to stabilize their research career within a large technological university. Outgoing and incoming schemes provide researchers the opportunity to create stable links with other European research institutions, gaining international mobility and experience.

Host Organisation's View

With the help of this COFUND scheme Madrid Polytechnic University gained more visibility and its selection processes became more transparent. Thanks to COFUND Programme, Madrid Polytechnic University has internationalized all other programmes. This action has incremented the percentage of non-national researchers at the university as well.

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

Developing the next generation air treatment based on replacing non-renewable resources by microbiology - NEXT AIR BIOTREAT

Spain

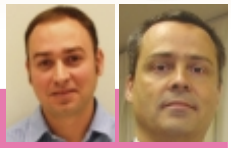
"All of us are so exciting to be Marie Curies facing the challenge towards a Green Europe"

Host Organization	: University of Valencia
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Carmen Gabaldón
Start-End Date	: October 2011 – September 2015
Total Budget	: € 1.051.433
Keywords	: Air pollution control, biotrickling filtration, environmental eng.
Website	: http:// www.nextairbiotreat.eu

Main Research Objectives

Biological VOC treatment can be economically beneficial and contributes to a lower ecological footprint, adding value to the EU policy on climate change. With most industrial sectors searching for cleaner and cheaper solutions to reduce VOC emissions, our industry-academia partnership wants to provide these companies with an answer. The principal challenge is enhancing biological treatment and bringing it to the next level of air pollution control.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points



Application
In our case, NCPs have been a key element for the success as applicants. In an early stage, an interview with the Spanish NCP helped us to orientate our ideas, giving us such positive support that made us to speed up the work on the proposal. Spanish and Dutch NCPs helped a lot on improving our proposal with their thorough and expertise feed-back on it. We are grateful and impressed about their work.

Negotiation
Taking into account that this is our first participation in an IAPP funding scheme, Spanish and Dutch NCPs have also given us relevant support in the negotiation phase, explained us how the process should be managed and helped us with questions related to finance and budget.

Implementation
We continue being supported by the Spanish and Dutch NCPs in solving particular questions in the implementation of the project related with reporting, financial or other contractual obligation of the project.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

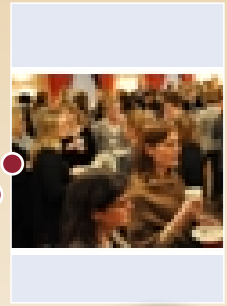
The project will benefit everyone of us in acquiring and/or transfer a lot of new knowledge about biological VOC treatment, improving our professional skills. Additional benefits will be enjoying and sharing the cultural experience through the interchange.

Host Organisation's View

This project is an excellent opportunity to host researchers of high quality in the three organizations. This project will give European dimension to the corporate image of the partners and is the foundation for a long-term collaboration.

Sweden

VINNMER-PEOPLE
VINNMER



"VINNMER how to promote researchers for top positions"

Host Organization	: VINNOVA
Scientist in Charge	: Erik Litborn
Start-End Date	: April 2009 - March 2013
Total Budget	: € 5.000.000
Keywords	: Career, promotion, engagement, support, gender balance, mobility
Website	: www.vinnova.se/vinnmer

Main Research Objectives

- To promote career development and qualification possibilities for researchers in areas of great need for better gender balance.
- To increase the engagement and support to the individual researchers in a long term perspective.
- To increase the quality in collaboration projects
- To increase mobility between different sectors - industry/academia/research institutes/public partners.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
National Contact Point assisted us by guiding through documentation and focusing the application on the relevant questions that needed to be addressed.

Negotiation
National Contact Point supported us by interpreting European Commission's and Research Executive Agency's questions and needs of clarification. We had a Physical contact in Brussels with Project Officer.

Implementation
National Contact Point assisted us in what to be presented in the reports.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

Thanks to this action fellows will have an international quality stamp at the end of their fellowship. With this action attention is given to the individual and not only to the research project as such.

Host Organisation's View

Thanks to this action our organization will have an international quality stamp as well as international publicity. This will aid to streamline the programme construction in order to reach international standards.

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

Controlled component and assembly-level optimization of industrial devices (CASOPT) - CASOPT

Switzerland

> *"It's the synergies in the IAPP project which will guarantee it's success."*

Host Organization	: ABB SCHWEIZ AG
Scientist in Charge	: Andjelic Zoran, PhD
Start-End Date	: March 2009 -March 2013
Total Budget	: € 1.250.000
Keywords	: Component-level optimisation, automatic mesh smoothing/exporting
Website	: http://www.casopt.com/htm/home.htm

Main Research Objectives

The CASOPT Project proposes to facilitate a paradigm change from state-of-the-art Simulation-Based Design to novel Optimisation-Based Design of complex electromagnetically-driven industrial products. This new design philosophy will first enable automatic, physics-governed re-sizing / miniaturisation of complex environmentally-friendly device assemblies and at the same time enforces a re-thinking of industrial design in general.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
During the application phase, National Contact Point and coordinator closely worked together, e.g. in a meeting of the future consortium where the whole proposal was talked through and set up in its first version.

Negotiation
During the negotiation phase, National Contact Points at Euresearch (Switzerland's network for research and innovation in Europe) helped with all financial and legal questions.

Implementation
Whenever a problem occurs, coordinator and National Contact Point get in touch and try to solve the issue.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

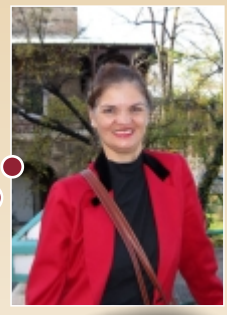
This action seeks to open and foster dynamic pathways between public research organizations and private commercial enterprises based on longer term co-operation programmes with a high potential for increasing knowledge-sharing. Exchange of know-how and experience through inter-sector two-way secondments of research staff of the participants, with in-built return mechanisms, and also by enabling these staff to attend events in a trans-national setting is the great feature of this action.

Host Organisation's View

The IAPP projects offer, via the collaboration of partners of different research disciplines and different ways of working, the unique chance to work and carry out research on a very broad basis. This enables future research activities and the possibility to develop subsequent projects.

Turkey

Detection and analysis inter- and intra-specific variability of common pest and predatory mites using new molecular and imaging tools. - DetanMite



International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

"Marie Cruie gave me opportunities to share my ideas with the excellent scientists and to develop new projects"

Host Organization	: Ankara University, Plant Protection Department
Scientist in Charge	: Prof. Dr. Sultan Çobanoğlu
Start-End Date	: May 2011 - May 2013
Total Budget	: € 132.300
Keywords	: Mites, molecular biology, electron microscopy, taxonomy

Main Research Objectives

The main aim of the project is professional European scientist capacity building through exchanging young scientist about new, classical and rapid diagnostic methods for both pest and predator mites based on molecular markers (DNA) and comprehensive morphological review using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The partners of DetanMite have high level scientific expertise about plant parasitic and predatory mites and good complementarily in competences and skills.

Assistance of Marie Curie National Contact Points

Application
National Contact Points guided us on how to prepare an excellent project. They firstly informed us about the existence of this action and encouraged me with my colleagues for preparing such a project. They gave me, as the coordinator, the idea on how to make use of this action and how to find partners. Then they pre-checked our proposal before submission and gave us very helpful advice. We are very happy with their services that they showed us which way we had to follow.

Negotiation
This stage was very long and difficult for us. Thanks to the National Contact Points, we have completed all negotiation phases successfully. As coordinator, I am assisted in a very accurate way by the NCPs. Thanks to them I didn't give up and learned how to be more tolerant and patient on working in an EU project.

Implementation
This phase will end in 2013 and the National Contact Points are informing us on how to submit the project reports and deliverables with SESAM portal. It is not easy to fill all the forms in EU FP7 ifthisis your first trial. NCPs are helping us in kind manner on this issue.

Benefits of Participation in this Marie Curie Action

Fellow's View

The mite specialist of the host organization (Dr. UECKERMANN) was and has still well known for their mite expertise world-wide and as already mentioned have a large mite and mite literature collection to their disposal. The partner organisation French research team (Dr. NAVAJAS and her colleagues) have potential of expertises in systematics, and their institute maintains reference collections and databases for acarology. The latest molecular tools are used to increase the efficiency and accuracy of taxonomic identification by the team. Thanks to this Marie Curie Action, we have the opportunity to work with all these excellent scientists.

Host Organisation's View

Our project partners have the infrastructure and the experience necessary to perform Detan Mite's above mentioned objectives. This exchange program will also enable us to build a capacity through exchanging young scientist about identification of common plant parasitic and predatory mite species using new (molecular and SEM) and classical methods.

University of Ankara research team is dedicated to providing innovative and plant parasitic and predatory mites using molecular and SEM methods. The experience and skills will enable the team to implement and gain knowledge and further experience within the project. The project will provide knowledge transfer in terms of identification of mites using phenotypic characters which clearly imaged innovative technology (SEM).

www.fp7peoplenetwork.eu

This document has been prepared by TÜBİTAK as a deliverable of PeopleNetwork Project
The booklet can also be reached via
www.peoplenetworkplus.eu