

## Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

COFUND offers funding to existing or new regional, national and international fellowship programmes for research training and career development.

### Who can apply?

Applicants for COFUND should be public or private bodies that are responsible for funding and managing fellowships or research training programmes. They may be ministries, research academies or agencies, international organisations or other bodies with a public mission.

### What type of fellowship programme is eligible to apply?

The programme should be open to experienced researchers (i.e. doctorate holders or researchers with at least four years of research experience). It must include at least one form of transnational mobility, such as incoming or outgoing mobility of researchers or an action to reintegrate them into research employment in Europe. A combination of the three mobility types is possible. There is no minimum size requirement



### What does the funding cover?

Eligible programmes are co-funded for 40% of their fellowship costs, with a maximum Community contribution of €5 million for any organisation per call.

Selected programmes will be co-funded for 24 to 48 months. Longer periods of support are possible via reapplication.

### Which topics can be funded?

All Marie Curie actions have a bottom-up approach, i.e. research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. COFUND programmes can cover several or all fields or can be restricted to a specific domain.



### How are the proposals evaluated?

COFUND proposals are selected through transparent and independent peer review, based on excellence. Criteria examined during the evaluation include: the quality of the evaluation process for selecting fellows in terms of transparency and equal treatment; the management capacity; the user-friendliness of the application process and the benefit of the programme in terms of career development of the participating researchers.

For evaluation purposes, the proposals are separated into two panels, one for existing fellowship programmes and a second for new programmes.



### Examples of how the COFUND contribution can be used?

- *To create a new trans-national programme;*
- *To open an existing programme to trans-national mobility;*
- *To increase the number of trans-national fellowships currently awarded by an existing programme;*
- *To improve the working/research conditions of the fellows*

## Impact so far

The first call for COFUND was launched in 2008, with a subsequent call in 2009. The impact of these two calls has been tremendous. In total, 50 fellowship programmes worth more than €370 million have been selected, of which €140 million has been co-funded by the People programme. Over 3400 new fellowships have been created.

*"The COFUND programme will not only boost the careers of the fellowship recipients, it will also promote the ERA by facilitating the platform needed to enhance and maintain scientific networks"*

*European Respiratory Society*

Some of Europe's largest and most prominent research organisations have already chosen to use cofunded fellowships as a means of "feeding" their organisation with talented new researchers and acquiring knowledge and excellence from the scientific community across the globe.



## How to apply?

The essential information for applicants who wish to prepare and submit a proposal for COFUND can be found in the Guide for Applicants on the following website:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/>

## Call information

The latest call for proposals was published on **18 November 2009** with a budget of €75 million.

The call will close on **18 February 2010** at 17:00 CET (Brussels local time).



## For further assistance :

### National Contact Points :

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html)

### FP7 People Helpdesk :

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>

### Examples of co-funded programmes:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/cofund\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/cofund_en.html)

**COFUND is a  
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION