



## Marie Curie Actions – Opportunities for Industry and Information Events

### What are the Marie Curie Actions and what are the opportunities for industry?

The Marie Curie actions are part of the European Commission's Framework Programme 7 (FP7) for European Research and Technological Development (2007-2013). They are implemented through the FP7 'People' Programme and provide funding opportunities for international and inter-sectoral mobility and training at all stages of a researcher's career.

While most of the Marie Curie Actions are open to organisations from all sectors, there are two schemes with open calls which particularly focus upon the involvement of commercial organisations, with the aim of encouraging inter-sectoral mobility, partnerships and knowledge transfer and broadening the skills-base and career options of researchers. These are the **Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways** scheme and the **Initial Training Networks** scheme.

### What is the definition of industry in this context?

Both schemes require the involvement of at least one private sector partner; for these purposes the private sector is said to "comprise organisations gaining the majority of their revenue through competitive means with exposure to commercial markets."

### The Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP) Scheme

The IAPP Scheme aims to open and foster interactions between public research organisations and private commercial enterprises, in particular SMEs. Financial support is provided for the development of strategic partnerships between such organisations through: the exchange of know-how and experience through inter-sectoral two-way secondments of research staff; the recruitment of experienced researchers from outside the partnership for involvement in transfer of knowledge and/or training of researchers; and networking activities, networks and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge and culture between the participants.

Participating SMEs can also claim for costs relating to small equipment costs up to a maximum of 10% of the total Community contribution, if they can be justified for the project.

Benefits for commercial partners include:

- Research staff seconded from academic partners;
- Potential to recruit funded staff specifically to work on the project;
- Establishment of links with academic partners in Europe and the UK;
- Potential to form the nucleus of network with possibility of applying for larger EU research grants, e.g., through FP7 Co-operation programmes.

Partnerships must as a minimum involve at least two organisations, one from each sector and from at least two different Member States or Associated countries, but beyond this the funding scheme aims to be flexible. The closing date for the 2010 call for proposals is 7 December 2010 at 17:00 Brussels time.



## The Initial Training Networks Scheme

The ITN scheme aims to improve the career prospects of researchers in the first five years of their research career (early stage researchers), both in the public and private sectors. Funding will be provided for the establishment of training networks, which will offer fellowships to doctoral researchers and early post-docs.

Each network must comprise at least three different research groups from different member states or associated countries and must involve a commercial organisation. Commercial organisations can be involved at one of two levels: as a **full participant**, meaning that they recruit early stage researchers directly into their organisation; or as an **associated partner**, meaning that they provide secondment and training opportunities for researchers recruited into the other partners.

Benefits for the commercial partner include:

- The possibility of recruiting doctoral researchers and early post-docs to work on research projects in their organisation;
- The chance to contribute to the training of a new cohort of researchers working in their field;
- The development of networks and partnerships with academic partners across the EU and associated countries.

The closing date for the 2010 call for proposals is 26 January 2011 at 17:00 Brussels time.

## National Contact Point Events

**The UK National Contact Point (NCP) are holding a series of free events open to all during September which will give information on applying to the IAPP and ITN schemes. These will be held in:**

- **Belfast – 10 September 2010**
- **Birmingham – 17 September 2010**
- **Edinburgh – 20 September 2010**
- **London – 28 September 2010**

**Further information and registration is available at:**

**<http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/events/index.htm>**

## Further information

Further information on both schemes is available from the UK NCP website at: [http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/organisations\\_schemes/index.htm](http://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/organisations_schemes/index.htm). Queries can be directed to the NCP helpdesk by e-mail at [mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk) or by telephone on +32 2 230 5275.