International Cooperation and African countries: enhancing scientific excellence through mobility and training

IAG/AIG REGIONAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 18-22, 2011

Ilaria Lener
Project and Financial Manager
T6 Ecosystems – Rome, Italy
Aims

• to make a step forward in the “IAG Training Programme”

• to support African scientists’ involvement in mobility and training programs

• to enhance the research and co-operation between organizations based in African and in other Countries
Contents

• Overview on Programs and related actions granting/funding Third Countries’ research, mobility and training
• Practical information regarding the open/forthcoming calls and application procedures
  • Today
    – FP7 Research Framework Program
      Cooperation Program
      Marie Curie
      European Research Council
      EURAXESS
    – ITTO Fellowship Program
    – Ford Foundation
  • Help Desk
  • On February, 22
    – Erasmus Mundus Program
    – EuropeAID Development and Cooperation Program
    – Intra ACP Mobility Program
    – Royal Geography Society Grants
Opportunities within the FP7 Research Program

Coordination Work-Program
Marie Curie (People)
The European Research Council (Ideas)
The FP7 Research Program of the European Commission

Length: 2007 – 2013 - Overall Budget: about € 52.000.000

Approach the International Cooperation addressing specific objectives:
- support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries
- engage the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe
- facilitate contacts with partners in third countries with the aim of providing better access to research carried out elsewhere in the world

Who can apply:
- Member States - The EU-27
- Associated Countries – with S&T cooperation agreements that involved contributing to the framework program budget
- Candidate Countries – currently recognized as candidates for future accession
- Third Countries
Third Countries

- Asia
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America
- Western Balkan Countries
- ACP (Africa – Caribbean – Pacific)
- MPC (Mediterranean Partner Countries)
  - Algeria
  - Egypt
  - Libya
  - Morocco
  - Tunisia
  - ......
## Third Countries - Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-C</th>
<th>D-L</th>
<th>M-R</th>
<th>S-Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
4 Work Programs

- **The Capacities Programme** supports a range of activities to support S&T cooperation *policies* and strengthen research capacity in the European scientific community and other regions of the world.

- **The Cooperation Programme** enables research cooperation between different *global research partners* in collaboration with European researchers.

- **The People Programme (Marie Curie)** fosters both incoming and outgoing *international mobility* of researchers.

- **The Ideas Programme (ERC)** supports excellence in frontier research and enables *individual top international researchers* to participate in European teams.
The Cooperation Programme

- Trans-national Cooperation based
- Trans-national Consortia made of universities, industry, research centers and public authorities
- Support to all types of research activities

10 distinct themes
- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology
- Information & Communication technologies
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate Change)
- Transport (including aeronautics)
- Socio Economic Sciences and the Humanities
- Space
- Security
Environment: Funded Actions

**Activity 6.1 Climate Change, pollution and risks**
- Sub-Activity 6.1.1 Pressures on environment and climate
- Sub-Activity 6.1.3 Natural Hazards

**Activity 6.2 Sustainable management of resources**
- Sub-Activity 6.2.1 Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources and biodiversity

**Activity 6.3 Environmental technologies**
- Sub-Activity 6.3.1 Environmental technologies for observation, simulation, prevention, mitigation, adaptation, remediation and restoration of the natural and man-made environment
- Sub-Activity 6.3.2 Protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, including human habitat

**Activity 6.4 Earth observation and assessment tools for sustainable development**
- Sub-Activity 6.4.1 Earth and ocean observation systems and monitoring methods for the environment and sustainable development
- Sub-Activity 6.4.2 Forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development taking into account differing scales of observation
Forthcoming Call for proposal

- Expected publication: July 2011
- Expected deadline: November 2011

- For each sub-activity and Area of intervention:
  - Indicative budget
  - Funding Scheme
  - Eligibility conditions
  - Evaluation procedure and Criteria

Start now thinking to your idea and build a Consortium!!
Marie Curie (The People Programme)

• Entirely dedicated to support the mobility of human resources in research in **ALL areas of scientific and technological Research that are of interest of the EU**

• Supports to **researchers** or **research organisations**, whether are based in an EU or Associated country or **in a Third country**

• Overall budget of more than € 4,7 billion over a 7 year period until 2013
MARIE CURIE ACTIONS
Promoting passionate people!

Initial training
- ITN - Initial Training Networks

International dimension
- IOF - International Outgoing Fellowships for career development
- IIF - International Incoming Fellowships
- IRSES - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

Life-long training
- IEF - Intra-European Fellowships for career development
- CIG - Career Integration Grants
- ERG - European Reintegration Grants
- IRG - International Reintegration Grants
- COFUND - Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes

Industry - Academia
- IAPP - Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways
International Incoming Fellowships (IIF)

- To encourage top class researchers of any nationality to:
  - join a European research team that doesn't have your experience
  - establish a collaboration through a research project with your lab or your country
  - gain new knowledge in a European lab

- Researchers active or recently active in Third Countries are eligible, with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree

- Application should be made in liaison with a hosting organisation in Europe

- Financial support is provided for 12-24 months

- Your IIF may also cover a return phase of up to one year to be spent back in your country of origin, applying the experience that you have gained
Aimed to support coordinated staff exchanges among Public organisations or private bodies with a public mission (e.g. universities, research centres etc.)

The proposal must include:
- At least 2 independent participants
- Based in at least 2 different EU Member States or Associated Countries

PLUS

- 1 or more organisations located either in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement (Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, in Africa: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa)

- or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (in Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia)
Initial Training Networks (ITN)

- Usually, at least 3 participants (universities, research centres or companies (large or small)) join together to propose a coherent programme

- The scheme is also open to researchers from Third Countries

- What does the funding cover:
  - Recruitment of researchers who are in the first five years of their career for initial training
  - Recruitment of a limited number of experienced "visiting" researchers of outstanding stature in international training and collaborative research, so that they can strengthen knowledge transfer
  - Networking activities, workshops or conferences that involve research staff from the participating research establishments and external researchers
Intra-European Fellowships for career development (IEF)

• Aim at helping experienced researchers to try “something new” in order to support advanced training and career development.

• Researchers can be of ANY nationality but as a general rule they must move from one Member State or Associated Country to another in order to carry out the project.

• A doctoral degree or at least 4 years’ full-time equivalent research experience, after obtaining a degree are required.

• Financial support is provided for a period of 12-24 months.
Career Integration Grants (CIG)

- Supports researchers aimed to get a stable position in a European research institution
- The host organisation must be a university, a research centre or an enterprise in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- Applicants must be experienced researchers from any country in the world, with at least 4 years’ full-time research experience or a doctoral degree
- Cannot have carried out their work in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months over the last 3 years
- Flat rate contribution towards research costs (f.i. contribute to the salary costs of the travel costs, consumables, patent costs and/or publication costs)
- The grant will cover a period of 2 to 4 years
European Reintegration Grants (ERG)

• Help researchers that benefited from training within a Marie Curie Action to enter or re-enter long-term research employment

• Participating researchers can be of any nationality with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree

• Must have recently benefited from a Marie Curie training and mobility action lasting at least 18 months

• The reintegration grant is a flat-rate contribution towards your project costs (f.i. contribute to the salary costs of the travel costs, consumables, patent costs and/or publication costs). The grant will be paid for 2-3 years

• The host organisation must be a university, a research centre or an enterprise in an EU Member State or Associated Country
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

- Offers additional funding to existing or new regional/national and International fellowship programmes for research training and career development
- Applicants should be public or private bodies responsible for funding and managing programs
- These programmes 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
- The COFUND contribution consists of a fixed percentage contribution of the costs of eligible researchers involved with the scheme
4. Industry Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)

- To foster cooperation between Research and Industry
- Partnerships include universities and companies of all shapes and sizes
- Aims to boost skills exchange between the commercial and non-commercial sectors
- Proposal must:
  - include one or more universities/research centres and one or more enterprises (operating on a commercial basis)
  - come from partners in at least 2 different EU Member States or Associate Countries
  - Partners from Third Countries can also join in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Id</th>
<th>Call title</th>
<th>Publication Date</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FP7-PEOPLE-2011-CIG</td>
<td>MARIE CURIE CAREER INTEGRATION GRANTS (CIG)</td>
<td>2010-10-20</td>
<td>2011-03-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IRSES</td>
<td>Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)</td>
<td>2010-10-20</td>
<td>2011-03-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Identifier</td>
<td>Call title</td>
<td>Foreseen Date of Publication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IEF</td>
<td>INTRA-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (IEF)</td>
<td>2011-03-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP7-PEOPLE-2011-IIF</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL INCOMING FELLOWSHIPS (IIF)</td>
<td>2011-03-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marie Curie Application Procedures

- Proposals selected in open competitions
- Selection through transparent, independent peer review
- Based on excellence and on predetermined criteria
- Panel of experts selected

Electronic Proposal Submission System – EPSS

- Register
- Get an Id & Password to enter
- Deadline (CET- Bruxelles Time)
PART A

• A1- Information on the Proposal
  - Title, acronym, objective etc. / free keywords / 2000 character proposal abstract/ Duration /Scientific Panel

• A2 – Information on the Host Organization/Organizations
  - Legal status/ Legal address/Representatives referral & address

• A3 – Information on the Researchers

• A4 – Funding Request - Budget
PART B

- Scientific & Technological Quality
- Implementation
- Impact
- Ethical Issues

- Pages limits must be kept in mind!
- bullet points = sections
- The Part B must be submitted as a PDF file
European Research Council (The Ideas Programme)

The European Research Council (ERC) funds every "frontier research" projects in any scientific discipline, aiming at broadening the scientific and technological knowledge.

Who can apply:

- Researchers from any country in the world and of any age
- from both public and private institutions
- However, the ERC-funded research should be carried out in one of the 27 EU Member States or in one of the Associated Countries
ERC grants

**ERC Starting Grants: 2-12 years after PhD**
- Provide support to the independent careers of excellent researchers, whatever their nationality, located in or moving to the EU Member States and Associated Countries.

The *Starting Grant* calls are published in summer with deadlines in autumn.

**ERC Advanced Grants: at least 10 years of significant research achievements**
- Advanced Grants encourage and support excellent, innovative investigator-initiated research projects by leading advanced research leaders located in or moving to the EU Member States and Associated Countries.
- This funding scheme complements the Starting Grant scheme by targeting the population of researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right.

The *Advanced Grant* calls are published in autumn with deadline in spring.
Principal Investigator (PI)

• ERC Grants work supporting single research leaders – *'Principal Investigators' (PI)* heading a research team and being engaged by an host organisation based in EU or Associated Countries

• PI must be **scientifically independent**:  
  – Apply for funding independently of senior colleagues;  
  – Direct the project, manage the research funding and make appropriate resource allocation decisions;  
  – Supervise team members, including research students or others;  
  – Have access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research
What is Funded?

An ERC grant can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution up to 20% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs.

Maximum EC contribution for a period of up to 5 years
- Starting Grants may be up to **2 Million €**, up to **3.5 Million €**
- Advanced Grants maybe up to **3.5 Million, but normally limited to 2.5 M€**

An grant is awarded to the host institution that engages and hosts the Principal Investigator (PI)

The host institution must be situated in a Member State of the European Union or in an Associated Country. It may also be an International European Interest Organisation.
Submit a Proposal

• ERC grant applications can be submitted only in response to an open Call for Proposals

• Yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields over 3 domains:
  – "Social Sciences and Humanities" (SH)
  – "Life Sciences" (LS)
    • LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology: evolution, ecology, animal behavior, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, ecotoxicology, prokaryotic biology
  – "Physical Science and Engineering" (PE)
    • PE10 Earth system science: physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management
Proposal Evaluation

• Peer review panels composed of renowned scientists and scholars selected by the ERC Scientific Council

• Each funding scheme involves at least one set of 25 Panels covering all fields of science, scholarship and engineering

• Each Panel is headed by a highly distinguished Panel Chair and composed of 10-14 Panel Members.
Advanced Grants:

**OPEN**

- "Life Sciences” – **Deadline on March 10, 2011**
- "Social Sciences and Humanities” - deadline April 6, 2011

**CLOSED**

- "Physical Science and Engineering” – Expired on February 9, 2011

• Depending on the Domain 3 deadlines applying to a call
The Application Form

- A proposal consists of:
  - PART A - Administrative forms
  - PART B - The research proposal and supporting documentation

- Proposal formats and page numbers are strictly limited

- Submission of all the documents is accepted only via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)
EURAXESS – Research in Motion

A web site targeting Researchers seeking to advance their careers and personal development by moving to other countries can find information on:

• training
• jobs vacancies
• living, working and relaxing in Europe

EURAXESS Jobs

• find constantly updated information on job vacancies, funding opportunities and fellowships throughout Europe
• Post your CVs
• Companies or research institutes can post vacancies and search for the CVs
• free of charge
EURAXESS Services
• A network of more than 200 Service Centres located in 35 European countries
• Helping researchers and their family to plan and organize their move to a foreign country (accommodation, visa and work permits, language lessons, schools for your children, social security and medical care)

EURAXESS Rights
• Provides all information regarding the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

EURAXESS Links
• Find extensive information about research in Europe, European research policies, career opportunities in Europe, international collaboration and trans-national mobility. It also provides interactive web tools promoting networking amongst European researchers living abroad
Other Opportunities
Beyond Europe

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
Fellowship Program

Ford Foundation & International Fellowship Program (IFP)
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Fellowship Program

• Promotes human resource development and professional expertise in member countries in tropical forestry and related disciplines

• Supports mainly short-term activities, such as:
  – Participation in international conferences, training courses and study tours
  – Preparation of manuals and monographs
  – Small grants for post-graduate study

• The maximum amount for a fellowship grant is US $10,000
Open Call – Selection Procedure Spring 2011

• Only nationals of ITTO member countries are eligible to apply
  Africa: Cameroon - Central African Republic Congo - Côte d'Ivoire - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Gabon - Ghana - Liberia - Nigeria - Togo

• **Timeline for Fellowship for 2011: March, 25**

• Fellowship activities are expected to start not earlier than September, 1
Ford Foundation & International Fellowship Program (IFP)

- Supports for up to 3 years of formal post-baccalaureate study
- Fellows from countries in Africa, Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Russia
- Innovative Country – Based structure:
  - a Secretariat in New York manages the program and sets policy guidelines, while partner organizations in 22 countries manage key aspects of the program in each local context
- Local Requirements and deadlines vary among IFP Countries
- 3 Field of Study:
  - A. ASSET BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
  - B. PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
  - C. KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM
A. ASSET BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Environment and Development
- Environment Studies
- Rural Sociology
- Urban/regional Planning
- Development/Resource Economics
- Geography
- Forestry
- Resources
- Conservation/management
- ..... 

Community Development
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Economics
- Geography
- Agriculture/Environmental Economics
- .....
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amideast.org/programs_services/exchange_programs/ifp">http://www.amideast.org/programs_services/exchange_programs/ifp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHANA</td>
<td>Association of African Universities (AAU)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aau.org/ifp">http://www.aau.org/ifp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGERIA</td>
<td>Pathfinder International</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pathfind.org/ifp">http://www.pathfind.org/ifp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANZANIA</td>
<td>The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.esrftz.org/ifp">http://www.esrftz.org/ifp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGANDA</td>
<td>Association of the Advancement of Higher Education and Development (AHEAD)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ahead.or.ug">http://www.ahead.or.ug</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENYA</td>
<td>The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifpeastafrica.org">http://www.ifpeastafrica.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOZAMBIQUE</td>
<td>Africa-America Institute (AAI)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifpmoz.co.mz">http://www.ifpmoz.co.mz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>Africa-America Institute (AAI)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aaisa.org.za">http://www.aaisa.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks for your attention!!!

Dr. Ilaria Lener
Project and Financial Manager

T6 Ecosystems srl
i.lener@t-6.it