



European Funding Guide and Frequently Asked Questions

British Medical Association, Brussels Office

EUROPEAN FUNDING

Introduction

The European Commission and agencies acting on behalf of the European Commission, manage funding streams to support the implementation of policy objectives agreed at the European level. As such, calls for projects are focused on specific themes and projects must usually demonstrate a European dimension to their expected outcomes.

This European Funding Guide¹ outlines the European funding opportunities that are available to support health-related projects. The BMA Brussels Office provides a comprehensive funding advice service to assist members to apply for EU funding. The full list of funding-related services provided by the BMA Brussels Office is:

- Publication of a European Funding Guide
- Quarterly European Funding newsletter to highlight open and upcoming calls
- Signposting service to help members find relevant information on funding opportunities, the application process and relevant application documents
- Information service to answer queries on European funds
- Support to find project partners

¹ Information in this guide is taken from the web-pages of the specific funding streams outlined. For further information on any of the funds outlined or advice on how to access European funding, please contact Tanja Siggs:

tsiggs@bma.org.uk

INDEX

Name of the Fund	Page
7 th Framework Programme for Research and Development.....	4
Marie Curie Actions.....	5
- ITN – Initial Training Networks	
- IEFD – Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development	
- CIG – Career Integration Grants	
- COFUND – Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes	
- IAAP – Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways	
- IOF – International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development	
- IIF – International Incoming Fellowships	
- IRSES – International Research Staff Exchange Scheme	
European Research Council Grants.....	8
Innovative Medicines Initiative.....	8
Public Health Programme.....	9
Progress Programme for Employment and Solidarity.....	10
CIP - Ambient Assisted Living Programme	10
CIP – ICT Policy Support Programme.....	11
European Drug Prevention and Information Programme	11
European Refugee Fund (III).....	12
European Integration Fund.....	12
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs).....	14

Overview of European Funding Streams

7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7)

Introduction

The Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) runs from 2007-2013 and has a total budget of over 50 billion Euros.

FP7 is the European Union's main research funding instrument and it supports multidisciplinary research and cooperative trans-national research and development activities in Europe and beyond.

The Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) has two main strategic objectives:

- To strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry;
- To encourage its international competitiveness, while promoting research that supports EU policies.

Funding is made available to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects based on competitive calls and independent peer review of project proposals.

Structure

The 7th Framework Programme is split into four main categories:

- Cooperation

This category represents the core of FP7 and it aims to foster collaborative research through trans-national consortia of industry and academia.

- Ideas

This category funds frontier research and does not require a cross-border partnership. Instead, projects are implemented by 'teams' around a 'principle investigator.'

- People

This category supports researcher mobility and career development (Marie Curie Actions)

- Capacities

This category aims to strengthen European research infrastructure and knowledge transfer.

Each category then has specific themes ranging from health to energy and transport. The themes of relevance for health-related projects are:

Cooperation

- Health
- Nanoscience and nanotechnologies
- Information and communication technologies
- Socio-economic sciences and humanities

Capacities

- Research infrastructure
- Regions of knowledge
- Science in society
- International Cooperation

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects under the 7th Framework Programme usually run for up to three years, but large-scale projects often run for longer than this.

FP7 has specific priorities, which are outlined in annual work programmes. The work programme provides details on the topics to be funded, the amount of funding available and the expected impact of the project.

Marie Curie Actions

Introduction

Marie Curie Actions aim to support the career development of researchers and encourage researcher mobility across Europe. Their objectives are to:

- Strengthen, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe
- Stimulate people to enter into the researcher's profession
- Encourage European researchers to stay in Europe
- Attract researchers from all over the world to Europe
- Make Europe more attractive to the best researchers

The actions form a coherent series of training and mobility activities, which address the needs of researchers in both the public and private sectors, and fund researchers at all career levels from PhD programmes onwards:

- Initial training of researchers
- Life-long training and career development
- Industry-academia pathways and partnerships
- International dimension (programmes promoting researcher's mobility internationally)
- Specific policy actions

The Marie Curie Actions are open to researchers of all ages, experience and nationality including those returning to research after a break.

Structure

The Research Executive Agency (REA) manages the Marie Curie Actions on behalf of the European Commission. There are eight actions, which are:

- ITN – Initial Training Networks
- IEFD – Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development
- CIG – Career Integration Grants
- COFUND – Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes
- IAAP – Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways
- IOF – International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development
- IIF – International Incoming Fellowships
- IRSES – International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

Funding awards under all eight actions are made following specific calls for proposals, which take place throughout the year.

Project Duration and Funded Activity²

ITN – Initial Training Networks

ITN projects usually require networks to have at least three partners from universities, research centres or companies (large or small), who then employ or host researchers.

ITN project duration is usually between 3-36 months for early stage researchers and up to a maximum 24 months for experienced researchers. The network itself can receive funding for a maximum of four years.

The funding is available for the following activity:

- 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.
- Networking activities, workshops or conferences that involve research staff from the participating research establishments and external researchers.

IEF – Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development

IEF project duration is usually between 12 -24 months (full time equivalent) and fellowships may include:

- Training-through-research under supervision, through an individual personalised project
- Hands-on training to develop scientific skills (new techniques or instruments, etc.) and complementary skills (proposal preparation to request funding, patent applications, project management, tasks coordination, technical staff supervision, etc.)
- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary knowledge transfer
- Active scientific and financial management of research projects
- Developing organisational skills through organisation training or dissemination events.

Researchers undertaking IEF activity must have either a doctoral degree or at least four years full-time equivalent research experience.

CIG – Career Integration Grants

CIG project grants last between two to four years. The CIG is a flat rate contribution towards research costs, for example, salary costs, project-related patent and/or publication costs.

Researchers applying for CIG grants must be experienced researchers from any country in the world, with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree.

COFUND – Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

COFUND project grants are signed with the Research Executive Agency (REA) for a period of two-five years. Applicants for COFUND funding should be public or private bodies that are responsible for funding and managing fellowships or research training programmes (ministries, research academies or agencies etc.).

Activity funded under COFUND 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.

IAAP – Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways

IAPP projects must include one or more universities/research centres and one or more enterprises. Partners must be based in at least two different EU member states or associate countries.

² Please note, additional requirements and restrictions can apply. Please contact the BMA Brussels Office for further information on specific actions – tsiggs@bma.org.uk

Activities funded under IAPP include:

- Exchange of know-how and experience through two-way or one-way secondments of research staff between the commercial and non-commercial partners
- Recruitment of experienced researchers from outside the partnership, for involvement in the transfer of knowledge and/or the training of researchers
- Networking, workshops and conferences involving external researchers as well as the partners' own research staff.

IOF – International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development

IOFs fund advanced training. In particular, they include a salary for the researcher and a contribution to research-related costs. Financial support can be given for up to 3 years in all.

The host organisation should be a university, research centre or enterprise established and located in a third country (for the out going phase) and another one in an EU or associated country (for the return phase).

IOF projects aim to significantly develop and widen research competences. Fellowships may include:

- Training-through-research under supervision,
- Hands-on training to develop scientific skills (new techniques or instruments, etc.) and complementary skills (proposal preparation to request funding, patent applications, project management, tasks coordination, technical staff supervision, etc.)
- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary knowledge transfer
- Active scientific and financial management of a research project
- Developing organisational skills through organisation of training or dissemination events.

IIF – International Incoming Fellowships

IIF projects are funded for between 12-24 months (full-time equivalent). The host organisation can be a university, research centre or company. IIF funding is for activity which will transfer knowledge into the researcher's host organisation and build or enhance cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.

Researchers must have either a doctoral degree or at least 4 years' full-time equivalent research experience, after obtaining a degree permitting you to embark on a doctorate.

IRSES – International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

IRSES project applicants can be public or private bodies with a public mission (universities, research centres etc.) which conduct research. Project partners must include at least two participants from different EU member states or associated countries. Projects can run for between two to four years and the maximum length of the individual staff exchange is 12 months.

ERG –European Reintegration Grant

The ERG is available for researchers of any nationality with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree. The grant will be paid for two-three years and participants must have recently benefited from a Marie Curie training and mobility action lasting at least 18 months.

IRG - International Reintegration Grants

IRG applicants must be researchers who are nationals of EU member states or associated countries with at least 4 years' full-time research experience or a doctoral degree. Researchers must have been actively engaged in research in a third country for at least 3 years. The projects run between two to four years

European Research Council

The European Research Council was created in 2007 and aims to encourage high-quality research in Europe through competitive funding. One of the main aims of the ERC is to promote wholly investigator-driven, frontier research. The total budget for ERC grants from 2007-2013 is 7.5 billion Euros.

ERC funding is available through three types of grant:

- ERC Starting Independent Research Grants (ERC Starting Grants). Starting Grants aim to support researchers who are starting or consolidating their own independent research team or programme.
- ERC Advanced Investigator Grants (ERC Advanced Grants). Advanced Grants aim to support ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain research.
- ERC Synergy Grants. Synergy Grants aim to support small groups of Principal Investigators (with a designated Lead Principal Investigator) and their teams.

Project Duration and Funded Activity

- ERC Starting Grants are normally up to 1.5 million Euros for a period of up to five years;
- ERC Advanced Grants are normally up to 2.5 million Euros for a period of up to five years; and
- ERC Synergy Grants may be up to 15 million Euros for a period of up to six years.

Additional funding can be made available under the Starting and Advanced Grants for principal investigators moving from a third country or for the purchase of major equipment. An ERC grant can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution towards indirect costs.

Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)

Introduction

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is Europe's largest public-private initiative and aims to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is a public-private partnership between the European Union and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). The IMI has a total budget of 2 billion Euros.

Structure

The IMI Research Agenda focuses on four areas:

- Predicting safety: more accurately evaluating the safety of a compound during the pre-clinical phase of the development process and the later phases in clinical development.
- Predicting efficacy: improving the ability to predict how a drug will interact in humans and how it may produce a change in function.
- Knowledge management: more effective utilisation of information and data for predicting safety and efficacy.
- Education and training: closing existing training gaps in the drug development process.

The IMI funds research consortia to conduct research in the following thematic areas: drug safety, neurosciences (Alzheimer, schizophrenia, depression, chronic pain), education & training, diabetes, lung disease, oncology, inflammation and infection.

Project Duration and Funded Activity

The IMI launches a new set of research and/or training projects every year, in order to support prospective, pre-competitive pharmaceutical research and development. The funding available for each call varies, but is usually around 450 million Euros.

Project participants are recruited through open and competitive calls for research proposals. Project proposals are submitted under a two-stage application process. The selection of the winning proposals is based on independent peer review and concluded by a Grant Agreement and Project Agreement.

The IMI supports collaborative research projects and builds networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

Public Health Programme

The Public Health Programme aims to complement and support member state public health policies. The total funding available for this fund from 2008-2013 is 321 million Euros.

Structure

The Programme's broad objectives are:

- To improve citizens' health security
- To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge

The priority actions for the Public Health Programme are published each year in a work programme. The annual work programme provides details of the topics that will be funded that year. Funding under the programme is provided for four types of actions: projects, operating grants, conferences and joint actions.

Projects

Calls for projects are issued annually. Projects must demonstrate a genuine European dimension and involve at least two partners from two different member states/participating countries. The average number of partners per project is 6-10.

Operating Grants

Operating grants are provided to finance some of the core operating costs for organisations that promote a health agenda in line with the Public Health Programme. Eligible organisations must be independent and non-profit and have members from at least 14 European Union member states.

Conferences

Funding is available to fund conferences which meet one or more of the priorities of the Public Health Programme work programme.

Joint Actions

Joint Actions are activities carried out by the European Union and one or more member state or competent authority acting on behalf of a non-EU member state participating in the Public Health Programme

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects

Projects funded under the programme should normally last no longer than three years. Projects can receive up to 60% of project costs, although up to 80% can be given for exceptional projects.

The annual work plan and call text provide detailed information on the focus for each call in line with the overall programme objectives listed above.

Operating Grants

Operating grants last for one accounting year and can cover up to 60% of the organisation's expenditure related to eligible activity. Grants of up to 80% can be given for exceptional activities.

The annual work plan and call text provide detailed information on the focus for each call.

Conferences

Conferences must be organised by a single organisation, or the country holding the rotating Presidency of the European Union. The conference theme must meet one or more of the priorities of the work programme. Non-Presidency conferences are usually held in the year following the deadline for conference proposals. Up to 100,000 Euros is available per conference, but this must not exceed 50% of the total conference costs.

Joint Actions

Joint Actions can run for up to three years and grants will fund up to 50% of project costs, or 70% in very exceptional circumstances.

Progress Programme for Employment and Solidarity

PROGRESS is the EU's employment and social solidarity programme. It was established to support the implementation of the European Union's policy objectives in employment, social affairs and equal opportunities. The total funding available under the Progress Programme 2007-2013 is 743 million Euros.

Project Duration and Funded Activity

The duration of the project depends on the activity being funded, but projects can run from 12 months to three years. The Progress Programme funds activity such as studies, sharing best practice and establishing benchmarking criteria.

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Ambient Assisted Living

The objective of the AAL Joint Programme is to enhance the quality of life of older people through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The concept of Ambient Assisted Living is understood as:

- To extend the time people can live in their preferred environment by increasing their autonomy, self-confidence and mobility,
- To support maintaining health and functional capability of elderly individuals,
- To promote a better and healthier lifestyle for individuals at risk,
- To support carers, families and care organisations.

The total budget available for the Ambient Assisted Living Programme (AAL) from 2008-2013 is 700 million Euros. Of this, 50% is public money and 50% will come from the private sector.

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Previous calls for projects have focused on the following themes:

- ICT to manage chronic health conditions
- ICT to enhance social interaction of the elderly
- ICT-based solutions for independence
- ICT for older person mobility

Projects under the AAL programme take the form of Joint Action Collaboration Projects. These projects must always include the active participation of end-users and/or end-user organisations. Projects can run for 12-36 months and the maximum total project budget is 1-7 million Euros with a maximum of 3 million from the AAL programme.

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – ICT Policy Support Programme

The ICT Policy Support Programme provides funding to support the objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe strategy. The ICT-PSP targets obstacles hindering the better and wide-spread use of ICT-based products and services. The programme has a total budget of 730 million Euros from 2007-2013 and focuses in particular on areas of public interest, such as:

- Health and ageing
- Inclusion
- Sustainable mobility
- Efficient public administrations

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects under the ICT-PSP programme can run for between 24-36 months depending on the requirements of the call for projects. Projects fall under the following thematic headings:

- ICT for health, ageing well and inclusion
- Innovative government and public services
- Open innovation for internet enabled services

Projects are either large-scale pilots building on member state initiatives (Pilot Type A), operational pilots to stimulate the up-take of innovative ICT-based products and services (Pilot Type B) or Thematic Networks, which aim to provide a forum for stakeholders to exchange good practice and build consensus. Pilot Type A and B projects can receive up to 50% funding from the ICT-PSP programme and Thematic Networks generally receive between 300,000-500,000 Euros.

European Drug Prevention and Information Programme

The European Drug Prevention and Information Programme aims to address some of the immediate and long-term consequences of drug use. The programme has a budget of 21 million Euros from 2007-2013 and the main objectives include:

- Prevent and reduce drug use, drug addiction and associated inherent risks
- Improve information about drug use
- Support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy
- Promote transnational actions

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects under the Drug Prevention and Information Programme are split between Action Grants, which focus on transnational projects, and Operating Grants, which support the annual activity programmes of NGOs.

Projects can run for between 12 and 24 months depending on the specific call requirements and project type. Co-financing of up to 80% of projects costs is available and Action Grant projects must include at least two partners from two different member states.

European Refugee Fund (III)

The European Refugee Fund has a total budget of 630 million Euros from 2008-2013. The UK-specific portion of this funding amounts to 40 million Euros.

UK Border Agency

The UK Border Agency is responsible for administering some of the European Refugee Fund in the UK.

European Refugee Fund

The focus of the ERF in the UK is:

- Innovative refugee-specific entry level English language provision
- Innovative solutions to housing for newly granted refugees

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects can run for up to three years and they must address the objectives listed above. Funding per project can range from £75,000 to £350,000.

European Integration Fund (EIF)

The EIF is focused on the integration of third country nationals (those from outside the EU/EEA). Total funding available from 2007-2013 is 825 million Euros. The UK-specific proportion of this is 67 million Euros.

UK Border Agency – National Actions

The UK Border Agency is responsible for administering some of the European Refugee Fund in the UK.

In each area, the minimum amount that can be applied for is £100,000 per year per project; there is no maximum amount.

1) Priority 1 projects:

- Address capacity issues in respect of language learning;
- Develop process and programmes that help new migrants to become full and active members of UK society;
- Enable newly arrived third-country nationals to fulfil the criteria for citizenship; or
- Develop programmes that provide opportunities for third-country nationals and members of the receiving community to interact with each other.

A particular focus is the provision of these activities to domestic workers currently in the UK.

2) Priority 2: Enhance immigrants' participation in the democratic process

Specific objectives:

- Promote involvement of immigrants in relevant consultative bodies at national and local level, and their voting rights in local elections;
- Explore the links between acquisition of nationality and the integration processes;
- Encourage effective measures for facilitating immigrants' access to citizenship

3) Priority 3 projects: develop actions which enhance the knowledge and skills of national and local government officials in developing policy concerned with integration and building intercultural competence. These projects may involve, for example, written guidance and training programmes.

4) Priority 4 projects: aim to evaluate existing initiatives which support the involvement of legal migrants in volunteering and identify what works best. The information could be used to develop good practice guidance

for use by future projects in the UK, but could also be shared with other European Union member states seeking to introduce similar initiatives.

Information for applicants

Eligible applicants for the ERF and the EIF include non-governmental organisations, charities, academic institutions, local government, inter-governmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations.

Under EU funding rules, the amount applied for must be matched with funds from other non-European Union sources (either 25 per cent or 50 per cent, depending on whether specific priorities are met, as described in the application pack).

European Integration Fund – Community Actions

Community Actions are initiatives that focus on the Europe-wide dimension of immigration and integration. Projects support national and EU initiatives to facilitate the integration of non-EU immigrants into EU societies. Projects can include diversity management in neighbourhoods, intercultural training, platforms to share good practice and tools for comparative learning.

Activities under Community Actions must include partners from at least three different European Union member states/participating states.

Project Duration and Funded Activity

Projects can last for up to three years.

Community Action projects can receive up to 90% of total project costs and co-financing must be a minimum of 400,000 Euros and a maximum of 1 million Euros.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How much funding is available?

A. The amount of funding available depends on the type of fund in question and the type of project activity. Funding can range from 100,000 to over 4 million Euros. The exact details of the funding available are given in the annual work programmes for each fund.

Q. Will I have to provide match funding?

A. In many cases projects are not financed to 100% of total eligible project costs and so a percentage of match-funding will have to be found. Match-funding can range from 20-50 percent of total eligible project costs, so it is important to have sources of match-funding available. In some cases, match-funding can be in the form of in-kind contributions, but many European funding streams do not allow this as eligible match-funding.

Q. How many project partners will I need?

A. The type and number of project partners depends on the funding stream in question and the type of project you are considering. Some projects do not require additional partners, while others will require at least two-three project partners from different member states or participating countries. Project partner details will be outlined in the work programme of the fund in question.

Q. How do I find suitable project partners?

A. Many European funding streams provide a partner search portal to help applicants find project partners that fit their area of interest. The BMA Brussels Office is also able to circulate targeted requests for project partners and advise on potential partner organisations to consider.

Q. How do I know if my project idea has been funded before?

A. As competition for European funding can be very intense, it is important to know if the topic of your draft project proposals has in any way been funded before. The BMA Brussels Office can provide advice on any previous/currently-funded projects, as this can help you to demonstrate how your project proposal differs from what has been funded in the past.

Q. Where can I find more information on specific European funding streams?

A. The BMA Brussels Office can assist in finding detailed information on the requirements of the fund, the call for projects and additional information you might need to consider when submitting a bid.

Q. How will I know what the focus of the call for projects will be?

A. The European Commission, or agency acting on behalf of the Commission, will publish an annual work programme prior to the call being announced. The work programmes provides the details of the upcoming call and the focus for project activity. The BMA Brussels Office follows EU-level policy developments very closely and this information is important, as European funding often exists to support and implement specific policy objectives.

Q. How will I know when a call has been published?

A. The BMA Brussels Office produces a quarterly European funding brief, which outlines open and upcoming calls for projects. If you have a specific project idea in mind, do not hesitate to contact the BMA Brussels Office to get advice on the most appropriate fund to consider and when the next call is due to be published.

Q. How much time will I have to submit a project proposal?

A. Applying for European funding can be quite a complex task. The amount of time given to submit a project proposal depends very much on the fund in question and any organisational timetable the European Commission might be facing. It is important to bear in mind the time needed to find suitable project partners and get all the relevant financial data together, such as audited organisation accounts, staff salary and equipment cost details.

Q. What documents will I need to provide for the application process?

A. The type of documentation needed for the application process depends very much on the type of fund in question and the type of project activity. In most cases, project applicants will need to submit a copy of their Curriculum Vitae (e.g. Marie Curie Actions), audited accounts of the organisation, company/organisation statutes, evidence of match-funding, evidence to demonstrate the need to conduct the project and evidence of the European added-value of the project (i.e. the project focus and outcomes are not specific to just one area or member state).

Q. How long will it take before I know if my project has been accepted?

A. The length of the assessment process for submitted project proposals depends on the fund and the type of project activity. Some European funding streams apply a two-stage submission process, so applicants are informed quite early on if their bid has passed to the next stage. Some funding streams require an in-depth peer review process (such as clinical trial projects under the FP7 research programme) and so it can be several months or more before approval is given and the project start date can be confirmed.