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# EU Funding

## Winning FP7 Contracts

Dr Ilse Vickers, Adviser on European Research Strategy

## Content

- The structure and scope of the 7<sup>th</sup> FP for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP7)
- What are the funding schemes & how much funding is available?
- Who can apply?
- How to prepare a successful proposal

## The Scope of FP7

- Framework Programmes are the EU's main instrument to fund R&D at European level
- Strategic objectives
  - to strengthen European industry
  - to promote international competitiveness
- Duration
  - 7 years (2007-2013)
- Budget
  - ca. EURO 54 billion

## Scope of FP7

- Most of the FP7 funding goes on grants for research providers from Europe and beyond
- Highly competitive calls and peer review, i.e., no fixed national allocations
- Key characteristic: “European added value”, through multi-national, multi-sectoral, multi-annual nature of many actions
- But FP7 offers opportunities for individual participation: “European added value” through frontier research at international level

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## The Scope of FP7

**FP7 is the EU's largest ever Framework Programme for research and technological development**

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# Structure of FP7

## Four Specific Programmes

### Cooperation

*to support research collaborations in & between universities and industry*

### Ideas

*to fund investigator-driven frontier research implemented by the European Research Council*

### People

*to support mobility, training and career development within and outside Europe*

### Capacities

*to help develop the capacities for a competitive European knowledge-based economy*

# Cooperation Programme

- By far the largest component of FP7
- It promotes trans-national research collaborations in key thematic areas:

*health; food, agriculture and fisheries; biotechnology; IT; nanosciences; nanotechnologies; materials & new production technologies; energy; environment; transport; socio-economic sciences, and the humanities; space and security*

- Joint Technology Initiatives & Joint Undertakings: industry-driven, large-scale multi-financed actions
- ERA-NET: coordination of national & regional research programmes

# Ideas Programme

## European Research Council (ERC)

The ERC funds investigator-driven research of groundbreaking nature, independent of thematic priorities

- Individual team participation (not trans-national partnerships)
- Bottom-up approach
- Cross-disciplinary research
- Selection solely on criterion of excellence

## People Programme (Marie Curie Actions)

- People Programme promotes European research careers
- Financial support for research mobility & career development
- Activities include:
  - Initial Training of researchers (Networks)*
  - Life-long training and career development (Individual)*
  - Industry-academia pathways and partnerships (Individual)*
  - International dimension (Individual)*
- Outgoing & Incoming fellowships

# Capacity Programme

- Designed to strengthen research capacities
- Programme embraces the following areas:

Research Infrastructure; research for the benefit of SMEs  
Regions of knowledge; Research Potential; Science in  
Society; International Cooperation activities

# Funding Schemes

- Funding schemes = types of projects
  
- Operating 'horizontally' across the Specific Programmes
  
- Main funding schemes:
  - Collaborative projects
  - Networks of Excellence
  - Coordination & support actions
  - Individual projects (ERC)
  - Support for training & career development

## Collaborative Projects

- Collaborative research projects with clearly defined goals and specific results
- Collaborative projects will always involve a partnership consisting of a number of participants coming from different countries and involving both universities and industry

## Networks of Excellence

- An instrument for research institutions to substantially integrate activities, resources and capacities in a given area to create a European “virtual research centre” in this field.
- The NoE objectives are achieved through a Joint Programme of Activities

## Coordination & support actions

- These projects are for the purpose of coordination and networking of e.g. a number of projects, programmes or policies. They do not support research.
- Examples for EU funded activities:
  - coordination & networking activities, dissemination
  - studies or expert groups assisting the implementation of FP
  - support for trans-national access to research infrastructure

## Individual projects

- European Research Council projects

In distinction to Collaborative Projects carried out by many partners from different countries, the Individual projects are carried out by individual teams (or multinational teams), with a “principal investigator”

## Support for training & career development

- These are the Marie Curie projects which aim to promote training and career development of researchers from the European Union and beyond.

Activities include:

*Initial Training of researchers (Networks)*

*Life-long training and career development (Individual)*

*Industry-academia pathways and partnerships (Individual)*

*International dimension (Individual)*

## How much funding?

### FP7

- FP7 has an overall budget of c. EUR 54 billion
  - of which the lion share with EUR 32 billion is for Cooperation Projects
  - ERC has a budget of EUR 7.5 billion
  - Marie Curie Actions are supported with EUR 4.75 billion

## How much funding for individual projects

- FP7 has a new funding structure based on the principle of co-financing
- Each participant can charge all real actual direct and indirect costs to which the Commission will contribute
- The reimbursement rate will depend on 1) the funding scheme, 2) the legal status of the participant, and 3) the type of activity

## How much funding for individual projects

- Funding rates for universities are:
  - for R&D activities: 75%
  - for demonstration activities: 50%
  - for training activities: 100%
  - for management activities: 100%
  - for dissemination, use & networking: 100%

NB: the funding rate for frontier research (ERC) projects: 100%  
with fixed indirect cost rate of 20%

## Funding Structure for Marie Curie Actions

### Researcher

- Category A – monthly living and mobility allowance
- Category B – travel allowance
- Category C – career exploratory allowance
- Category D – contribution to participation expenses

### Host

- Category E – contribution to research / training
- Category F – contribution to the organisation of workshops
- Category G – management
- Category H – indirect costs

## Who can apply?

- Universities, research centres, industry, SMEs, even individuals – all have the opportunity to participate
- Applications are invited from participants from EU Member States, the so-called New Member States, and the Associated Countries
- International Cooperation Partner Countries (Russia & other Eastern European and Central Asian states, developing countries, Mediterranean partner countries, and Western Balkan countries – the conditions usually state a minimum number of MS and AC before ICPC can join
- 'Third Country' participation is encouraged by FP7. The aim is to assist the best scientists of these countries to work in Europe on topics of world-wide benefit
- Marie Curie outgoing and incoming fellowships

## How to prepare a successful bid

- FP funding is highly competitive and getting a good understanding of what is required is the first step towards success
- Outstanding science or ideas are a prerequisite
- Identify the FP7 activity under which your activity is eligible
- Not all activities are open for funding at all times
- Download the 'Work Programme' where the plans for implementation are announced. It also gives the schedule for 'Calls for Proposals' to be published during the year.

## How to prepare a successful bid

- All Calls are announced in the EU's Official Journal and on the Cordis website
- Follow the Call text in every minute particular
- Download all key documents: Work Programme, Guide for Applicants, evaluation criteria
- Write for the non-specialist
- Stress the uniqueness of your research
- Select the members of your consortium with care and **consideration for complementarity, experience, reliability**

## How to prepare a successful bid

- Spell out the risks and fall-back positions
- Realistic milestones – support with charts & diagrams
- Sound management structure – legal expertise for contracts, experienced FP project manager
- Use EC provided checklist
- Give yourself enough time – ask a friend/colleague to read the proposal
- Submission via Web-based online tool called EPSS (Electronic Proposal Submission Service)

## Useful sources of information

CORDIS

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

For ERC:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

For People programme:

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

National Contact Points:

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

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