

About FP7

(Mireille Martin-Deschamps)

The Developing Countries Committee of EMS is looking for financial support, in order to promote its projects. The aim of this paper is to summarize the different possibilities offered by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union which could correspond to our demands.

The CDC projects which are possibly concerned are the following :

- « Twinning » (around 2000 € for each scheme)
- « Emergent Centers of Excellence » (ECE)

First I want to explain my process :

- to analyze (and to list) which areas and activities the EU plans to fund under the programme ;
- to determine which FP7 purposes the CDC projects can fit ;
- then to study if the CDC projects are relevant for the calls.

To be exhaustive, I list every time all spheres of activity and then I precise those which concern us.

The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development runs for seven years. Its overall budget should be EUR 50 521 million for the period 2007 - 2013.

Funding decisions are made on the basis of proposals submitted following calls published by the Commission.

For each call there are eligibility conditions.

On the web page :

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding

you can download a leaflet of around 30 pages, available in 23 languages (!!!) which is a good introduction.

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories (specific programmes) :

- 1. Cooperation – Collaborative research
- 2. Ideas – European research Council
- 3. People – Marie Curie actions
- 4. Capacities

For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy.

The concrete plans for implementing the specific programmes are announced in annual Work Programmes, which include the schedule of Calls for Proposals to be published during the year. Each call usually covers specific research areas.

A Web-based electronic online tool called EPSS (Electronic Proposal Submission Service) is the obligatory channel for submission of proposals.

The specific programmes 1 and 2 involve exclusively research activities. We can be interested only in the « People» and « Capacities » programmes.

I will summarize their objectives and the calls which have been published until today.

« People » Programme

Objective : To make Europe more attractive for researchers. To strengthen the human potential in research and technology. To encourage European researchers to stay in Europe and to attract the best researchers from the entire world.

Budget : 4,7 billions over 7 years.

5 headings :

- Initial training of researchers
- Life-long Training and Career Development
- Industry-Academia Pathways and Partnerships
- International Dimension- World Fellowships
- Specific Policy Actions

We are concerned only by the **4th heading**. Let's explain in details (the following is taken from the brochure « FP7-Tomorrow's answers start today » and the document « Work Programme 2009 » of the programme People) :

An international dimension to be addressed through international outgoing and incoming fellowships aiming to increase research talent outside Europe and fostering mutually beneficial research collaboration with researchers from outside Europe. The activity will also include measures to counterbalance "brain drain" and create networks of European researchers working abroad.

The international dimension is addressed by ... other actions aiming to strengthen the international collaboration and the knowledge transfer. Most of these actions are open to third countries researchers.

Since it is about « non-european countries and researchers » and international collaboration, our « Twinning » project is in line with this context.

There are 3 calls in 2009 under the 4th heading :

- International outgoing fellowships for career development (IOF)
- International ingoing fellowships (IIF)
- International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES).

Once again, we are concerned only by the 3rd call, **IRSES**.

I will give here details, by selecting from the text of the call what I think important.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STAFF EXCHANGE SCHEME (IRSES)

Call Reference FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IRSES

4.3.1 Introduction and objective of the action

The Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme is a new type of action first implemented in 2008, that aims to strengthen research partnerships through staff exchanges and networking activities between European research organisations and organisations from countries with which the Community has an S&T agreement or are in the process of negotiating one, and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood policy. Compared to existing Marie Curie actions, which provide mobility possibilities to

individual researchers, this new action will provide support to research organisations to establish or reinforce long-term research cooperation through a coordinated joint programme of exchange of researchers for short periods.

4.3.2 Technical content/scope

Participants: A participant in this action is a research organisation that will be a member of the partnership that contributes directly to the implementation of the joint exchange programme, by seconding and/or hosting eligible researchers.

A partnership in this action shall be composed of at least two independent participants established in at least two different Member States or Associated countries, and one or more organisations either located in countries with which the Community has an S&T agreement or are in the process of negotiations, or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Remark : a participant is a research organisation and not a person, and there are at least 2 of them, established in a Member State or Associated country. The participants could be the institutions which participate to our « twinning program », but they are far too many ; how is it possible, from an administrative point of view (to prepare a proposal for each participant, asking for around 2000 €, is not reasonable).

Eligible programmes and eligible staff

Participants will submit to the Commission multi-annual proposals for joint programmes for short exchanges of research staff. Technical and management staff may however, also participate in the exchanges.

Financial support will be provided for a period of 24 to 48 months, to joint programmes aiming at trans-national mobility of researchers, technical and management staff. For organisations in Member States and Associated countries, the mobility must be towards the *third country* partners, and vice-versa. The duration of exchanges for each researcher or technical/management staff will be for a maximum of 12 months.

The staff to be exchanged should be 'seconded' (i.e. maintain their salary in their institution of origin, and have the right to return), so as to guarantee full re-integration and the positive recognition of the mobility experience, thus maximising the benefit of this action for long term cooperation.....

Typical activities

joint research and training activities, or joint workshops and seminars, as well as other networking activities.

As far as ICPC (International Cooperation Partners Countries),.. are concerned, in specific and well justified cases, a Community contribution towards travel and subsistence for these participants may be envisaged.

Remark : The eligible programmes are only for exchanges of research staff. It is only a part of what we want to do in our « Twinning programme », which has a much wider scope.

CONCLUSION

The objectives of our « Twinning programme » meet some international objectives of the specific programme « People». Most of the countries are eligible as ICPC (International Cooperation Partners Countries). However none of the actual calls seems adapted.

« Capacities» Programme

Objective : To become more competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Community needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy. This international policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe.
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contact with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Collaboration with ICPC (International Cooperation Partners Countries) is an important dimension, through « cooperative activities targeting developing and emerging countries».

Budget : 4,2 billions over 7 years.

7 headings :

- Research Infrastructures
- Research for the benefit of SME's
- Regions of knowledge
- Research potential
- Science in Society
- Support for the coherent development of research policies
- Activities of international cooperation.

We are concerned only by the 7th heading.

There are 4 calls in 2009 under this heading :

- Bi-regional coordination of S&T cooperation (INCO-NET)
- Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T Partnerships (BILAT)
- Supporting the transnational cooperation among NCP (National Contact Points) (INCO-NCP)
- Supporting the EU access to third country programmes (ACCESS4EU)

This proposal targets only one of the countries of a list (Australia, Brazil, Canada, ...) which are not developing countries.

Do they correspond to our projects ?

- INCO-NET aims at establishing bi-régional dialogues. The areas covered by the call are the Arabic Gulf Countries, the Carribean Region, the Central America Region, the Pacific Region, the Central Asia Region (including South Caucasia), but each proposal must target only one single Area.
- BILAT aims at establishing bilateral dialogues and coordination of policy initiatives. The countries open to this call are Argentinian, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Jordan and USA, each proposal must target only one single Area.
- INCO-NCP aims at reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP).

- ACCESS4EU aims at making easier the access of researchers from Europe (and from Associated Countries) in programmes managed by the third countries. Among the 12 countries which are concerned, there are 3 emerging countries (China, India, South Korea) and no developing country. Moreover, for this call again, each proposal must target only one single country.

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CONCLUSION

The objectives of our « Twinning programme » meet some international objectives of the specific programme « Capacities». Most of the countries are eligible as ICPC (International Cooperation Partners Countries). However none of the actual calls seems adapted.

The last point above may apply to our ECE project, but we probably need a more concrete proposal.