

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

COFUND offers funding to existing or new regional, national and international fellowship programmes for research training and career development.

Who can apply?

Applicants for COFUND should be public or private bodies that are responsible for funding and managing fellowships or research training programmes. They may be ministries, research academies or agencies, international organisations, but also other bodies with a public mission such as universities.

What type of fellowship programme is eligible to apply?

The programme should be open to experienced researchers (i.e. doctorate holders or researchers with at least four years of research experience). It must include at least one form of transnational mobility, such as incoming or outgoing mobility of researchers or an action to (re)integrate researchers into research employment in Europe after a period of transnational mobility. There is no minimum size requirement for co-funded programmes.



What does the funding cover?

Eligible programmes are co-funded for 40% of their fellowship costs, with a maximum EU contribution of €10 million for any organisation per call.

Selected programmes will be co-funded for 24 to 60 months. A programme that has been co-funded at an earlier call for proposals is eligible for reapplication.

Which topics can be funded?

COFUND programmes can cover several or all fields of research or can be restricted to a specific domain.



How are the proposals evaluated?

COFUND proposals are selected through transparent and independent peer review. Criteria examined during the evaluation include: the quality of the evaluation process for selecting fellows (in terms of transparency, equal treatment of applicants and quality of the peer review); the management capacity; the user-friendliness of the application process and the benefit of the programme in terms of career development for the participating researchers.

For evaluation purposes, to assure equal opportunities for all proposals, existing fellowship programmes and new programmes are assessed separately in 2 panels.



Examples of how the COFUND contribution can be used?

- *To create a new trans-national programme;*
- *To open an existing programme to trans-national mobility;*
- *To increase the number of trans-national fellowships currently awarded by an existing programme;*
- *To improve the working/research conditions of the fellows*

Impact so far

The first call for COFUND was launched in 2008, with subsequent calls in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The impact of these four calls has been tremendous. In total, 100 fellowship programmes worth more than €760 million have been selected, of which €305 million has been co-funded by the People programme. Over 6700 new fellowships have been created.

"The COFUND programme will not only boost the careers of the fellowship recipients, it will also promote the ERA by facilitating the platform needed to enhance and maintain scientific networks"

European Respiratory Society

Some of Europe's largest and most prominent research organisations have already chosen to use cofunded fellowships as a means of "feeding" their organisation with talented new researchers and acquiring knowledge and excellence from the scientific community across the globe.



How to apply?

The essential information for applicants who wish to prepare and submit a proposal for COFUND can be found in the Guide for Applicants on the following website:

cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/

Call information

The latest call for proposals is published on **19 October 2011** with a budget of €110 million.

The call will close on **15 February 2012** at 17:00 CET (Brussels local time).



For further assistance :

National Contact Points :

cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html

FP7 People Helpdesk :

ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries

Examples of co-funded programmes:

ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cofund

**COFUND is a
Marie Curie Action
of the People
Programme (FP7)**



Publications Office

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Printed in Belgium



EUROPEAN COMMISSION / European Research Area / Human resources & mobility



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