



RESTATE PROGRAMME

Cofounded by the FP7-PEOPLE – COFUND action

FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER (FBK)

Trento – Italy

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

OVERVIEW

The Fondazione Bruno Kessler – FBK – invites the submission of proposals for the Programme RESTATE, cofounded by the FP7 Marie Curie Actions – People - Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes. Applicants, shall comply with the eligibility conditions detailed below.

FBK, which acts as Host Institution and Coordinator of the Programme, is a non-profit research organization of the Autonomous Province of Trento – Italy. FBK represents a point of reference in the international scientific community and a hub for the development of technologies and applications of social and market interest. FBK conducts research in the areas of Information Technology, Materials and Microsystems, Theoretical Physics, Italian-German Historical Studies, and Religious Sciences.

GENERAL AIMS

FBK has designed RESTATE with the following goals:

1. To contribute to the mobility of talented researchers across European research organizations, according to the scope of Marie Curie COFUND Actions;
2. To contribute to the internationalization of the Trentino Research System;
3. Identifying research topics of common interest to candidates, FBK Research Units and possibly local enterprises;
4. To promote in the recipients the acquisition of management tools and industry practices, and the enhancement of their complementary skills. Promoting entrepreneurship not necessarily limited to traditional technical areas;
5. To provide enterprises and researchers with opportunities to meet each other, and work together on mutually agreed projects, as a preliminary step towards the development of long term relationships (in line with EIRMA's "Responsible Partnering", October 2009).

Projects being proposed should pursue one or more of the following objectives:

1. To contribute to the growth of knowledge in a specific field of that Centre, or generate new areas of interaction between Centres at FBK;
2. To have an impact on the research system, by attracting interest and funding for scientific projects in cooperation with industry partners;
3. To contribute to the transfer of knowledge from the laboratory to industry/society;
4. Last, but not the least, to contribute to the career development of Researchers through scientific cooperation, training, mobility, and diversity of experience.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FELLOWSHIPS

The call is organized according to the following mobility schemes:

- a) **New Incoming fellowships.** Applicants to this scheme may originate from any country inside or outside Europe, provided however that over the previous 36 months they have worked outside Italy for at least 24 months. At the deadline for submission of proposals, applicants must either be in possession of a PhD degree, or can exhibit evidence of having at least four years full time equivalent experience as researchers.

Total funding for this scheme amounts to €773.000,00.

- b) **New Re-integration fellowships.** This scheme is reserved to applicants of any nationality who have carried out secondary or advanced studies in Italy, have then worked in one of the third countries¹ for at least three years, and are now interested in returning to Italy to further their research interests. At the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, applicants must either be in possession of a PhD degree, or can exhibit evidence of having at least four years full time equivalent experience as researchers.

Total funding for this scheme amounts to €258.000,00.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Applicants should meet the following eligibility conditions:

1. To be experienced researchers, according the definition given by the European Commission, i.e. be **either** in possession of a doctoral degree, irrespective of the time spent to acquire it, **or** to have at least a four year full-time equivalent experience as researcher;

¹ Third Countries are neither countries which are EU Member States nor countries associated to FP7 (Associated countries). [[read more on CORDIS](#)]

2. For incoming fellowships, applicants may originate from any country inside or outside Europe, provided however that over the previous 36 months they have worked outside Italy for at least 24 months;
3. For re-integration fellowship, applicants must have carried out secondary or advanced studies in Italy, have then worked in one of the third countries for at least 3 years, and are now and are now willing to return to Italy to further their research interests.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECTS

Projects being proposed shall have an average length of 24 months (min 12 months, max 36 months) and exhibit a maximum yearly cost of € **64.400**, including salary, allowances, travel and any other costs related to the project.

As a general rule proposals should be written so to allow the evaluation of the following elements:

- Subject and general and specific objectives of the project;
- Feasibility and project management;
- Financial planning of the project.

The proposals must be written in English.

Thematic areas

Only projects within the strategic research areas of FBK, as listed below, will be considered for evaluation.

- Embedded Intelligence and Systems;
- Multimodal Perception;
- Knowledge and Data Management and Visualization;
- Software and Services;
- Human Computer Interaction;
- Human Language Technologies;
- Material Science and Condensed Matter Physics;
- Nano- and Micro-Technologies;
- Life Science (Biomedical Sensors, Bioinformatics and Neuroinformatics);
- Materials and Technologies for Energy and Environment;
- Transition as an historical problem (16th-20th centuries);
- Religion as a social and political mean for ruling transitions (16th-20th centuries).

In all these areas strong competition is expected. In order to improve the quality of proposals, applicants are warmly invited to take advantage of guidelines and advice provided by the hosting environment through the help desk or the heads of the Research Units.

Industry/societal topics

In the evaluation of proposals, extra points will be assigned to the projects exhibiting high potential for industrial and/or societal impact. A list of possible industry topics that candidates may want to address is the following:

1. Computational tools for the development of new materials for energy production and storage;
2. Novel catalytic materials for energy production;
3. Innovative materials for energy storage and micro-generation;
4. New Protection barriers for the food sector;
5. MEMS based RF components for ground or satellite communications;
6. Silicon based radiation sensors for biomedical applications;
7. Technologies and processes for electrical and thermal energy generation (m-CHP);
8. Remote sensing for environmental mapping and monitoring;
9. ICT to support clinical practice;
10. Predictive data mining for pharmaceutical high throughput data;
11. Advanced methods for validation and certification of critical systems;
12. Wireless sensor networks for industrial and environmental monitoring;
13. ICT based tools and methods for (automatic) matching between academia research results and industry needs;
14. Cultural approaches to transition;
15. Political communication and transition.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS

The five evaluation criteria against which the proposals will be scored are the following:

1. Scientific level of the applicant: quality of applicant's background; quality and impact of publications; autonomy; quality of collaborations; potential for leadership and management.	30 points
2. Research Project: strength and novelty of the proposed research; clarity in formulating the problem and in identifying the objectives; method and approach; awareness of prior research and critical points; feasibility and strategic potential; organization of the project.	30 points
3. Collaboration: context and synergy with the hosting environment.	20 points
4. Professional growth: acquisition of new skills; potential for a lasting impact on career.	10 points
5. Relevance to the Program's objectives (including the industrial relevance and any other kind of impact, e.g. economic, societal).	10 points

Please notice that, with the 5th criterion, the overall fit of the applicant and proposal with the objectives of the RESTATE Programme is evaluated; this includes also the industrial and/or societal impact of the project.

Only projects passing a threshold of 75/100 will be considered for funding.

Complying with the FP7 Marie Curie Grant Agreement – Annex III, section III.3 “Selection of experienced researchers”, FBK will ensure that the researchers will be selected following an open, transparent, impartial and equitable selection process.

At the closure of the call, all applications received will be checked for eligibility requirements. An Internal Selection Committee (hereinafter ISC) will conduct this process. Eligible applications will move on to the evaluation process, as follows:

1. phase 1: assessment of the potential for **collaboration** between proposals and the hosting environment. This first phase will be carried out by the ISC ;
2. phase 2: evaluation of technical merit of proposals will be carried out by the Technical and Scientific Committee of the Autonomous Province of Trento – CTS, which relies on a panel of external experts with strong international reputation. CTS will concentrate on evaluating: a) **the scientific level of applicants**; b) **the scientific quality of proposals**; c) **the potential for the professional growth** of applicants; d) **the relevance to proposals with the program's objectives**.

All ethical issues that may have been risen by proposals recommended for funding, will be reviewed and cleared.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

- Submissions are accepted **only** through the RESTATE online platform (<http://cofund.fbk.eu>). Proposals must be written in English using the templates available on the website. An helpdesk will be activated at the following address: cofund@fbk.eu.
- The deadline for the submission of the applications is **January 13th, 2012**, at 5.00 PM (GMT+1), when the online submission system will be deactivated.

A **complete application** will consist of the following forms/files:

- a. **Candidate personal information:** fill in the fields under the online registration form.
- b. **General Project Details** fill in the following fields on the online proposal submission form:
 - mobility scheme;
 - title;
 - proposal acronym;
 - duration;
 - thematic area;
 - keywords;

- abstract of the project;
 - total costs of the project;
 - “Final Version” check box.
- c. **Documents:** the following documents, in pdf format, have to be uploaded in the dedicated area of the online submission form.
1. The **Proposal** filled out following the Proposal Template.
 2. **Ethical issues table.** Duly completed and signed. Template available.
 3. The scientific and professional **Curriculum Vitae** of the applicant. European format recommended.
 4. A signed copy of an **Identity Document** of the applicant.
 5. Any other documentation providing evidence of the applicant's professional qualification and experience.

REASONS FOR EXCLUSION

- Incomplete application (see page 5)
- Failure to meet eligibility conditions (see page 2)
- Submission of more than one proposal by the same applicant

PUBLICATION OF THE EVALUATION OUTCOME

Evaluation outcome will be published on the RESTATE website within 90 days after closure of the call. Applicants will be notified by email about the selection outcome of their application, through a summary evaluation report based on the above mentioned evaluation criteria.

Fellowships will be awarded according to the selection ranking and the available budget.

APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS

Selected applicants will be required to **communicate their acceptance and the starting date of the project within 30 days from notification of the outcome of the selection process; otherwise the funding will be revoked.** The starting date of the project must be chosen between either 60 or 180 days after the date of publication of the final ranking.

FBK will appoint a “collaboration for research activity,” contract to the selected applicants.

Fellowship costs breakdown

The annual cost for the salary, awarded to the researcher, is up to €52.400,00, which corresponds to a gross salary of €44.477,00. Researchers will benefit from contribution to Italian pension national funds, health and accident insurance.

Other costs may include:

- a) *Mobility allowance*. There are two reference amounts depending on the family situation of the researcher at the time of the recruitment:
 - €500/month: researcher with family obligations (marriage or relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognized by the national legislation of the fellow);
 - €350/month: researcher without family obligations.
- b) *Travel*. In case the distance between the researcher's residence and the host organization is between 1.500 – 2.500 km, a travel allowance up to a maximum of € 1.000,00 per year;
- c) *Research Costs* contribution of up to € 420/month (max € 5.000/year), for lab based activities, and € 200,00/month (max € 2.400/year) for non lab-based activities.

Amounts given for *Mobility allowances* and *Travel* are to be intended before taxes.

Other Benefits

The following benefits are also provided by FBK to all its employees.

- The FBK Welcome Office is a Local Contact Point for the Euraxess Services Network and, as such, it will provide all the necessary help and support for both European and non-European researchers, for e.g. visa formalities, accommodation, childcare, taxation, social security and medical care;
- Parental leave: fellows are entitled to 5 months maternity leave during their fellowship. Fellows who take maternity leave during the fellowship are entitled to an extension of their fellowship for a period of up to 5 months;
- Discount on banks, transport, sport, accommodation, etc.;
- Access to work canteen.

RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTIES OF THE RECIPIENTS

The recipients of fellowships are fully responsible for the scientific and financial conduction of the project. In this respect any deviation/change from the project implementation ought to be motivated.

Moreover, recipients have to ensure the accomplishment of the following conditions:

- Start the project within the date indicated in the acceptance letter;
- Work regularly at the implementation of the research project in the hosting unit;
- Deliver project reports as scheduled in the proposal and according to the rules given in paragraph "Reporting Methods".

REPORTING METHODS

Progress Reports have to be delivered not later than 30 days after each fellowship year's end, to the Programme Scientific Officer. Reports should contain the following elements:

- Illustration of the project development and its state with respect to the planned activity;
- Preliminary results;
- Any deviation from the original proposal;
- Accounting of the expenses incurred;
- Possible Ethical issues emerged during the research activity;
- List of publications.

A *Final Report* has to be presented at the end of the fellowship while a *Preliminary Final Report* is requested 3 months prior to the end of the fellowship. The reports will contain the following elements:

- A description of the project and its implementation during the fellowship;
- A comparative description of the results obtained with the results expected;
- Any deviation of the project from the original proposal and relative justification;
- Any perspective of further development;
- For those researches who have taken stage at industry, a description of skills learned;
- An overall account of expenses;
- Possible Ethical issues emerged during the research activity;
- List of publications.

MONITORING OF THE FELLOWSHIPS

Monitoring of the fellowships is in charge to the Programme Scientific Officer, who relies on the support of the CTS of the Autonomous Province of Trento. Monitoring of activities are accomplished through the evaluation of the *Periodic Reports* and possible visit to the hosting units.

FBK may take action to correct any unjustified deviation from the project Workplan, possibly resulting in discontinuation of the fellowship.

DISCONTINUATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Should conditions for discontinuation arise it will be notified to the recipient and to her/his supervisor by the Programme Scientific Officer.

PRIVACY

By law, FBK manages the recipients' data supplied according to the legislative decree of 30th June 2003, n. 196 (Code for the protection of personal data).

In particular applicants are informed that:

- Handling of the data will take place in relation to the execution of procedures related to the implementation of the present call for proposals, with regards to the selection process, the fellowships awarding, the publication of results and the fellowships management;
- The provision of data is compulsory in order to carry out the procedures linked to the implementation of the present call for proposals;
- The data controller handling the data shall be the Fondazione Bruno Kessler;
- At any time, the persons concerned may exercise their rights, in relation to the data controller handling the data, according to art.7 of D.Lgs. 196/2003.

OWNERSHIP OF RESEARCH RESULTS

The results of the project, understood as intellectual property rights and potential for financial exploitation, shall belong to FBK, with the exception of the researcher's right to be recognized as the author.