

Promoting the participation of young researchers in *ICT FET Open*

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Science
beyond
Fiction

Introducing „on-the-fly“ session for YR

Follow up of the ICT 2008 Lyon workshop, **planned EU project** to investigate present and new access opportunities of young researchers in FET Open collaborative research

▶ **The young researcher's environment**

- between scientific dependence, “quasi-independence”, and “early independence”
- traditional academic pathways, settings, and discipline segmentation
- the “Collaborative research dilemma”

▶ **The young researcher's challenge**

- overcoming access barriers to project funding
- fostering the dynamism and creativity of YR

▶ **The young researcher between “conventional” and “innovative” opportunities**

- new FET Open instruments vs. soft incentives in FET Open
- early scientific independence vs. senior researcher schooling
- staying in Europe (or: repatriating) vs. going overseas

Intro I: The bottom line of the issue

- ▶ Political research agenda:
 - aim is to **train, attract, and keep (win) the best young researchers** for science
 - **early independence** as concept is acquired.

- ▶ But: how can this be achieved with 'FET Open', and why is it necessary to '*open up*' 'FET Open' to this crucial issue?

- ▶ How is the European funding architecture organized? How do the programmes view the young scientists? What **is already covered, and what still remains open? And where precisely is a chance for 'FET Open' to join in?**

- ▶ Which are the "**windows of opportunities**" during the life cycle of young scientists? I.e. at which moment should an adequate offer be extended, and what exactly should it look like? What would be the **expectations of 'FET Open' vis-à-vis YR?** And, in turn, which would be the **YRs' expectations?**

International funding opportunities for young researchers at a glance

Intro II: Defining the 'young researcher' phase

No age restriction

Post-Doc years

PhD phase

Post-Doc phase

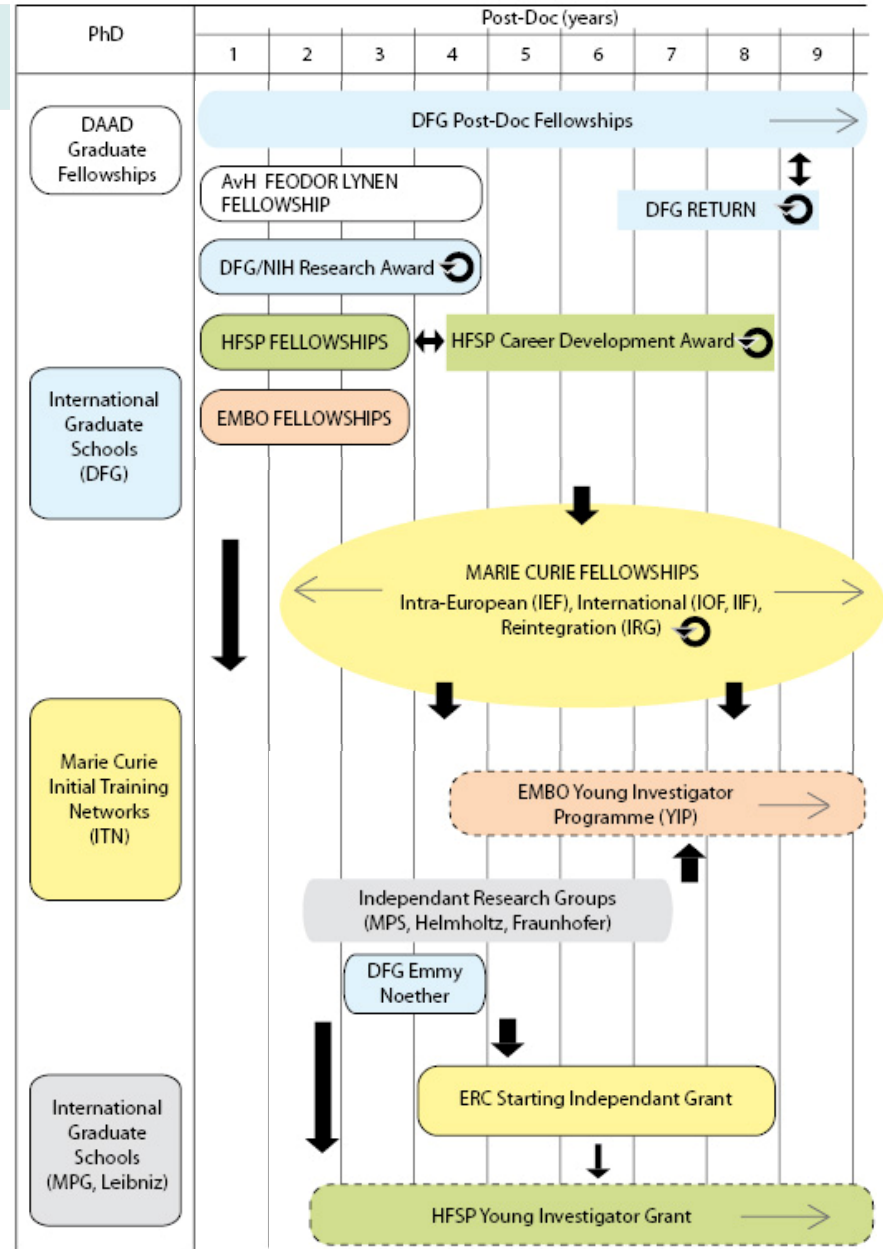
Young Post-Doc (0 - ~ 3 y)

Senior young Post-Doc (< 10 y)

Marie Curie 'young researcher' definition

International profile building

Early independence



Intro III: Opportunities and pitfalls

- ▶ Avoiding duplication of instruments for YR that are already available in the funding landscape on national and international level.
- ▶ Pursuing ‘FET Open’ (purpose driven): “Exploring new horizons”, “ICT relevant, visionary (...), long-term research of fundamental nature”, “bright new ideas of high risk”, “breakthrough”, “paradigm shift”, “non-incremental”.
Or: bringing such ideas to the “maturity level” (ICT WP 2007, p56).
- ▶ Aiming at instruments where both quality of research projects and training features go hand in hand (research projects are no training field in the first place).
- ▶ Taking into account tight limitation of programme budgets that imply suggestions limited to simple budget reallocation w.r.t. to ICT and People/Marie Curie
- ▶ Following set of suggestions aims at different levels of YR involvement and builds on different cost/budget intensities (discussion basis); 2 and 3 are long term oriented (FP8?), 1 and 4 may perhaps be implemented more quickly

0. Overview

- I. FET Junior Research Grant
- II. FET-HFSP Young Investigator
- III. Long term Fellowship (1-2 years)
- IV. Improving participation in CP & CSA (“soft incentives”)

I. FET Junior Research Grant

Basic idea: looking out for a dynamic and light project driven opportunity -

- small Collaborative project (CP)
- three partners (incl. industry)
- 'small budget' projects, low administrative / management efforts
- allowing for highly innovative YR to combine efforts on a European level
- 'purpose' driven, bottom-up
- 'two-stages' application (ERC model: 15 pages for full proposal)

I. FET Junior Research Grant

- Pros:

Via combining **dynamic** research and training, this instrument offers YR the opportunity to get involved in FET on their **own responsibility** ('early independence'). This makes the instrument an explicit 'window of opportunity' for YR. The grants would support the visibility of YR and **foster early networking with other labs and industry**.

- Cons:

YR are already involved in regular CP (but on which level?). In addition, there are similar team and project orientated funding programmes for innovative YR (ERC, HFSP, DFG). This would be a **highly cost-intensive** YR action.

II. FET-HFSP Young Investigator

Basic idea: “EMBO” model - young investigators to collaborate and network

- 5 years' fixed amount contribution for international networking activities (15,000 € p.a.)
- junior independent group leaders with FET relevant projects
- 'purpose' driven, bottom-up
- instrument: CSA (Coordination and Support Action)
- open for participation of ERC Grantees working in ICT FET Open related fields

II. FET-HFSP Young Investigator

- Pros:

Dynamic instrument to **cross-link the best YR** that already transit to 'independence' and which work in various FET Open relevant fields, interdisciplinary.

- Cons:

Avoiding overlaps with existing funding programmes (EMBO YIP).

III. Long term Fellowships (1-2 years)

Basic idea: (re-)introducing the individual component with 'FET Open' orientation

- 'long term vision' (FP8)
- postdoctoral level (alternatively min. 4 years postgraduate experience)
- 'purpose' driven, bottom-up
- co-organised with Marie Curie, joint FET Open Marie Curie label

III. Long term Fellowships (1-2 years)

- Pros:

Adding to Marie Curie a scientifically and technically more efficient **FET suited feature** and would foster a **long term involvement of individual YR in the FET-Scheme**.

- Cons:

Instrument would possibly mean a reduction of the Marie Curie funding for 'bottom up' research. Furthermore, it might be seen as a **FP5 reminiscence**.

IV. Improving programme participation

Basic idea: better usage of existing instruments and lines, introduction of new features

- Part B of **small CP**: include section 'Integration of young researchers' (1 page)
- Evaluation criteria: including 'Quality of involvement of YR' into implementation section
- **Large scale CP**: strengthen involvement or YR training modules, curriculum co-operation with universities w.r.t. innovative courses or study programmes
- **CSA**: slot for training conferences (with Marie Curie label) or conference modules with training aspects

... and finally, the *Research Training Networks*' blues.

IV. Improving participation in CP & CSA

- Pros:

The implementation of these ideas is easy and mostly cost neutral.

- Cons:

Collaborative Research Projects are not 'training programmes'.

Thank you for your attention!



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