

## Information Sheet

**FP7 - Marie Curie Actions 2012****IRSES: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme**

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Author: Véronique Sordet, Euresearch Head Office  
NCP Mobility: Dr. Juliane Sauer – [juliane.sauer@euresearch.ch](mailto:juliane.sauer@euresearch.ch) - Phone: + 41 31 380 60 21 – [www.euresearch.ch/people](http://www.euresearch.ch/people)

*“No nation has a monopoly of knowledge, it has become the common heritage of civilised man, but its fruits are available to us only through cooperation.” Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit*

**What is IRSES?**

IRSES, International Research Staff Exchange Scheme aims to **strengthen research partnerships between European research organizations and research organizations from countries with which the EC has an S&T agreement** (see below), through staff exchange and networking activities. **Participants** are non profit public or private research organisations which receive support from the EC to establish or reinforce long-term cooperation with *third country* research organizations. An **IRSES partnership** shall be composed of at least two independent participants based in two different EU-27/AC, and one or more organizations based in a third country.

**What are the eligible countries?**

*Third country* research organizations must be based in a country with which the EC has an S&T agreement or a country covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy :  
Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Egypt, Georgia, India, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian-administrated areas, New Zealand, Rep. of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and USA.

**How does IRSES work?**

An IRSES participant is a research organization that will be member of a **partnership**, built on a joint research programme. Know how and competences will be increased through **short exchanges of staff** (mainly researchers, but technicians and managers are also eligible). **The duration of exchanges for each researcher/technician/manager will be of max. 12 months.** Staff to be exchanged should be “seconded”, i.e. they remain employees of their institution of origin, with full salary and the right to return.

**When is the IRSES Call 2012?**

The next IRSES Call is published since July 20, 2011 with a deadline for submission on January 18, 2012. Its indicative budget is about € 30 mio.

**What is funded in IRSES?**

Staff to be exchanged are “seconded”, i.e. they remain employed by their institution of origin which receives from the EC a fixed contribution of **€ 1900 per exchanged staff member per month** (“top-up”). For countries located a long distance from Europe, an additional allowance of €200/month is paid ([Work Programme 2012 p.74](#)).

**What is the duration of IRSES?**

Financial support will be provided for a period of 24 to 48 months.

**What are the four evaluation criteria?**

- **Quality of Exchange programme (25%):** Objective and relevance of the joint exchange programme; Scientific quality of partners; Synergies between partners.
- **Transfer of Knowledge (30%):** Quality and mutual benefit of the ToK; Adequacy and role of staff exchange with respect to ToK.
- **Implementation (15%):** Capacities (HR; infrastructures; facilities); Appropriateness of the plans for the overall management of the exchange programme.
- **Impact (30%):** Relevance of the partnership for the ERA; Potential to develop long term collaboration.

**For further help, please contact:**

Dr. Juliane Sauer, National Contact Point Mobility  
Phone: + 41 31 380 60 21  
[juliane.sauer@euresearch.ch](mailto:juliane.sauer@euresearch.ch)

Véronique Sordet, Scientific collaborator  
Phone: + 41 31 380 60 23  
[veronique.sordet@euresearch.ch](mailto:veronique.sordet@euresearch.ch)

Website: [www.euresearch.ch/people](http://www.euresearch.ch/people)



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