

SoMoPro Incoming grants in a nutshell

WHAT IS SOMOPRO?

SoMoPro is a regional grant programme, which aim is to attract researchers from abroad to work and undertake research training in a research institution in the South Moravian Region for the period of 1 to 3 years. SoMoPro is co-financed by Marie Curie actions (COFUND) in the period 2009 to 2013 and represents a regional analogy to Marie Curie incoming and reintegration fellowships (IIF, IEF a IRG).

SoMoPro is a pilot programme and is planned for 4 years (2009 – 2013). The four year long regional programme has the overall budget of 3 887 158 EUR, 60% of which will be financed by regional public sources (Region of South Moravia) and remaining 40% is subject to EC support.

The programme will be administrated by the South Moravian Centre for International Mobility, which will carry out all the application and evaluation procedures. The final distribution of grants (signature of grant agreements) will be, however, fully in competence of The South Moravian Region, which is the Programme Coordinator.

SoMoPro will support two types of mobility:

- a) **Incoming** for non-nationals/non-residents of the Czech Republic;
- b) **Re-integration** for Czech nationals having carried out research in a third country for at least 3 years.

This document refers only to the SoMoPro Incoming grants; for details about reintegration grants please see „SoMoPro Reintegration grants - in a nutshell“

Long-term fellowships for a period of minimum 1 year will be supported only. All fellowships must be finished by March 31st 2013 (extension of this period is currently under negotiation with European Commission – in case the negotiation is successful maximum length of a project is 3 years).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible researcher

1. Professional requirements:

Researchers must be, at the date of the deadline, in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience after obtaining the degree allowing them to embark on a doctorate.

2. Nationality and mobility requirements:

- **Researchers be nationals of any country excluding the Czech Republic** and must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the Czech Republic for more than 3 years in the last 4 years prior to the deadline for proposal submission. Short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.
- If a researcher has **more than one nationality from which one of them is Czech nationality**, such researcher will be eligible to carry out a period of mobility in the Czech Republic if she/he has not resided in this country during the previous 5 years. Short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

Eligible hosting organizations

Eligible hosting organizations are public research institutions located in the South Moravian Region (e.g. public universities and region-based departments of the Czech Academy of Science).

WHICH RESEARCH TOPICS ARE SUPPORTED?

Research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. There is however a limitation in domains of research which are eligible for funding. SoMoPro supports research in natural and technical scientific fields only, final list of eligible disciplines will be released at latest at the opening date of each call for proposals.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Following the publication of the open Call for proposals, the individual proposals are submitted by researchers who meet the eligibility criteria in liaison with the host organization that signs the grant agreement, within specified deadlines.

Researchers applying to this action need to identify and develop a research training project that will provide the means to significantly advance in their career. A fundamental concept underlying this action is that of advanced training and life-long learning. In essence, the fellowship should enable the researcher to progress in the development of his/her career and should not represent a temporary solution. The fellowship is expected to be a part of a structured, long-term professional development plan that is coherent with past achievements and clearly defines the future aims of the researcher.

SoMoPro will, under its first phase (2009-2013), open at least two calls for proposals of which one will be open in summer 2009 and the second one in spring 2010. Throughout the first phase of the fellowship programme, transnational fellowships in the region should be awarded to around 14 fellows, with the approximate average duration of 2,5 years of each grant.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDING COVER?

The financial contribution will take form of grants covering 100% of the eligible expenses. The contribution will be received by the host institution which will use it according to the rules set in the grant agreement between the host and the South Moravian Region (and the approved proposal, which will form one part of the grant agreement). Funding is provided to cover expenses related to the fellow and his/her research project:

1. A salary for the fellow:

Salary for the fellow will not represent a fixed amount. The amount requested for the incoming fellow will be set in the proposal and will have to be properly justified. Below are provided reference numbers:

- 4-10 years of experience – around €30 000 – 55 000/year
- 10 and more years of experience – around €40 000 – 75 000/year

2. Mobility allowance (fixed amounts):

- €400/month – for a researcher without family obligations
- €700/month – for a researcher with family obligations

3. Travel allowance: fixed amount depending on the distance of the place of origin of the fellow

4. Contribution to the research related costs (fixed amounts):

- €400/month – non-laboratory research projects
- €800/month – laboratory based research projects

5. Overheads: 10% of the overall costs

HOW TO APPLY?

The application is to be submitted online. The application will consist of the following parts:

1. Information on incoming Researcher
2. Research work plan for the whole period of the fellowship
3. Impact on career development of the incoming Researcher
4. Information on the hosting research institution
5. Impact of the fellowship on the South Moravian Region and ERA

The application will also include a part for the requested financial contribution.

After the deadline, the individual proposals are checked against predefined eligibility criteria by the programme administrator. The ones passing the eligibility check are then evaluated by external independent experts against a series of predetermined criteria. The final decision on awarding a grant is taken by the Programme Coordinator (South Moravian Region) based on the ranked list of evaluated proposals approved by the Steering Committee of the SoMoPro programme.

English language is the work language of the programme. All application and evaluation procedures of SoMoPro will be done only in English.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

May 2010	2 nd Call for Applicants opens
August 2010	2 nd Call Application deadline
August 2010 – January 2011	Evaluation of proposals submitted within the 2 nd Call for proposals
January 2011	Results released, beginning of eligible expenses

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CONTACT

The SoMoPro Programme is administered by the South Moravian Centre for International Mobility (JCMM)

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