

The European Marie Curie Programme

2007 – 2014

A major funding opportunity for Research
in the Humanities and Social Sciences



“You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.”

The European Marie Curie Programme has the objective of providing support for the career-development of researchers. The programme consists of a set of actions, geared at the development and transfer of research competencies, the consolidation and widening of researchers' career prospects and the promotion of excellence in European research, by:

- Training PhD Students
- Funding the Mobility of Post Doctoral Researchers
- Building Research Teams and Capability
- Funding Conferences and Training Events

Over the past 4 years, research income from the Marie Curie Programme amounts to an impressive €55m. Irish success is evident as the European average share of funding for this programme is 3.7% while for Ireland it is 19.2%.

The funding has benefited researchers across all disciplines in industry and academia. The impact of this programme in Ireland is significant. It has enabled research groups to attract high quality international PhD students and researchers to their teams.

From 2002-2006 Marie Curie income has supported universities and companies to attract over 250 high quality researchers from around the world to Ireland.

Over the next seven years €4.7bn will be available through the Marie Curie Programme to fund research in all areas of science and humanities.

Success for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Irish Humanities and Social Sciences researchers have participated in increasing numbers and with significant success in the Marie Curie Programme.

Funding from this programme is highly sought after by the best researchers in Europe and Irish HSS researchers have demonstrated their quality through their success.

Irish Researchers have not only succeeded in securing Marie Curie funding, they have also been selected by rigorous international peer review as being at the forefront of their field. For example, in 2006 the top proposals in Social Sciences and Economics were from Ireland.

Humanities and Social Sciences Researchers explain all.....

Professor Kathleen Lynch,
Equality Studies Centre, UCD School of Social Justice
Egalitarian World Initiative, UCD.
Contract Value: €952,190
"An Egalitarian and Socially Inclusive Europe (ESIE)"

The UCD Egalitarian World Initiative (EWI) Network successfully secured a Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge award in 2006. The proposal was ranked among the very best of all the social sciences applications in Europe. The aim of this four year programme is to develop the intellectual infrastructure for a more Egalitarian and Socially Inclusive Europe (ESIE) within University College Dublin (UCD). It is planned to make UCD a world leader in research, teaching and outreach on equality, social justice and human rights. The project will lead to the creation of a powerhouse for developing a strong intellectual infrastructure for a more social Europe.

The EWI offered an unusual and compelling vehicle for the Marie Curie programme. Hosted by the Equality Studies Centre in the School of Social Justice at UCD, and with a network of over 80 staff from UCD's five Colleges, the EWI is an inter-disciplinary, university-wide initiative. Through the EWI, the Marie Curie project will serve to enhance institutional capacity in egalitarian theory, practice and equality sensitive research methodologies. It will have a profound effect on the life of the university, on Irish society and ultimately on Europe.

Twelve world-class researchers will be recruited to UCD for periods varying from three months to one year and they will work with the EWI network and its thirteen research clusters. In addition, fifteen UCD staff will spend time at centres of excellence throughout Europe that are partners in the project. These include Oxford and Cambridge Universities as well as the Universities of Kent, Brighton, Leeds, Pisa and Trondheim.

Dr. Paul Ryan,
Centre for Innovation & Structural Change (CISC),
NUI Galway
Contract Value: €490,569
"LUCERNA: New light on innovation data for enhancing regional competitive advantage"

This Transfer of Knowledge project is foremostly located within the Centre for Innovation & Structural Change (CISC), at NUI Galway. CISC intends to build research capabilities through association with the University of Massachusetts at Lowell (UML), USA, and in particular through the secondment of Professor Mike Best, Director of the Center for Industrial Competitiveness at UML.

The project will generate and embed a research capacity to gather, analyse, and disseminate very finely detailed innovation data in emergent and fast-changing high-technology clusters in Ireland. While the centrality of innovation to a Region's future socio-economic development is widely acknowledged and routinely emphasised in national and regional policy strategy statements, this policy priority is not currently matched by an academic or policy research capacity in the Irish regions for data gathering and integration, or for rigorous interpretative exercises which could inform policy. In this multi- and cross-disciplinary programme the principal disciplines involved are evolutionary economics, economic geography, management sciences, information systems, computer science and innovation studies. Intense interest exists at the national and European level as to the potential for harmonizing the imperatives of economic growth and innovation. Building innovation capacity is nonetheless considered the key to the furtherance of the economic growth and job creation objectives for both Ireland and the European Union. Innovation is at the heart of the Commission's Framework Programme and in particular innovation networks and trans-regional cooperation. CISC at NUI

Galway is principally concerned with these issues. Furthermore, the transfer of knowledge proposed in LUCERNA is expected to enhance significantly Ireland's capacity for meeting this challenge of innovation enhancement, in particular in the less favoured Border, Midland, West (BMW) region in which CISC is located. The lower base level of development in these regions means that there is an opportunity for appropriate policy interventions to make a significant impact on economic performance.

Dr. Patricia O'Brien,
National Institute for Learning Disability,
Trinity College, Dublin
Contract Value IIF: €222,650 / Contract Value TOK: €884,762
"Doing Disability Research: No longer researching about us without us"

The National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID), Trinity College, Dublin, has three major aims that promote Education, Research and Advocacy relevant to the needs of children and adults with learning disability as well as family members. At the core of the work of the NIID is inclusive research practice and within this context two Marie Curie Actions have been awarded. The first has seen Dr. Kelley Johnson, RMIT University Melbourne, Australia appointed as an Incoming International Fellow (IIF) to lead the project, Nothing about Us Without us. As part of this project people with learning disability are involved in learning about research skills as well as becoming involved in a series of research projects across Ireland.

The aims of these projects are of importance to people with learning disability who previously have had research done to them rather than being part of the process. Research topics range from what it is like to be a student with a learning disability within a third level environment; to documenting how people with learning disabilities spend their free time; to evaluating community living within a group situation. Other people with learning disabilities are recording the details of their lives as part of learning about life history research. Another aspect of the project is to develop international links with other research groups who have members with learning disability as co-researchers.

To date, the value of having a Marie Curie Incoming International Fellow (IIF) has been to raise consciousness not only within Trinity College but across other parts of Ireland to the need for research to focus on what people with learning disability, as well as other marginalized groups, see as relevant to their lives. At the same time inclusive research means people with learning disability having some ownership over the process, such as, being on an advisory committee or engaged as a co-researcher.

Knowing that support was available from the IUA, the research group at the NIID was motivated to develop a Transfer of Knowledge (TOK) proposal which was aimed at building upon the work begun as part of Dr. Johnson's IIF.

The TOK application was successful which will lead over the next four years to a number of international inclusive researchers transferring their knowledge to the NIID research team as well as associate Trinity staff. These researchers will work with the NIID team, inclusive of people with learning disability and family members, as a means of furthering the development of the team's capacity to implement a series of national projects relevant to the expressed needs of people with the lived experience of disability. The TOK project aims to build a disability research culture where Doing Disability Research means No Longer Doing Research about Us without Us.

Dr. Dorren McMahon,
Geary Institute, University College Dublin
Contract Value: €1,282,879
*Factors influencing the educational
Inequality of young people : A European
and Comparative perspective*

The education of young people is one of the great challenges facing European governments. A considerable amount of comparative research has already been carried out on national differences in average levels of educational attainment. However, the substantive focus of this project is on variation around the average in a cross-national European context.

The reason for applying for this Marie Curie Excellence Grant is that it has allowed for the development of a trans-national project team to concentrate on the different discipline perspectives contributing to educational inequality. In recent years there has been the emergence of systematic cross-national data sets which permit much more rigorous cross-national research and provide one of the main sources for investigating our project. Explanations are divided into structural, cultural and policy types. This project has a series of outputs culminating in a major monograph. The outputs include a series of working papers on line, a dedicated website, the development of an information portal on educational inequality, seminars, conferences and peer-reviewed publications.

A major attraction of the Excellence Grant is that it has enormous potential for knowledge transfer in the best practices of European research. The IUA persuaded me of this potential and that it was every bit as applicable in the social sciences as life sciences. The support of the IUA has been of the utmost importance in establishing this project at the Geary Institute. The combination of the Excellence Grant and the host institution is bearing fruits in that there is now an emerging synergy between the quality academic research of the project and policy/societal needs.

Dr. Caitríona Ní Laoire,
Department of Geography, University College Cork.
Contract Value: €1,226,676
Marie Curie Excellence Grant - Migrant Children

The Marie Curie Excellence Grant has been a wonderful opportunity for a researcher in my position, as it is aimed at experienced researchers who wish to move or have recently moved institutions, and it provides the opportunity to manage a research contract and to lead a research team. I sought Marie Curie funding to set up a research team in Ireland to explore the immigration and integration experiences of children and young people in contemporary Irish society.

The period since the mid-1990s has seen an unprecedented increase in immigration to the Republic of Ireland. This means that while the migrant population of Ireland is constantly changing, it is now also increasingly becoming a multi-generational population, with an emerging younger generation attending schools across the country and participating in various ways in Irish society. Too often the perspectives of children and young people have been left out in studies of migration, and the aim of this research is to understand the migration experiences of children and youth in different communities from their own perspectives, by using child-centred research methods, focusing on Ireland as an interesting example of a rapidly changing European society.

The Marie Curie Excellence Grant has meant that we have been able to attract an interdisciplinary and international research team to UCC, with expertise in child migration, children's rights, asylum issues, racism and transnationalism. It means that the team has the time and resources with which to conduct in-depth multi-disciplinary research across a number of different migrant communities in Ireland. The research will contribute to the international literature in the area of childhood and migration and will be of high value to policy-makers, practitioners and researchers across Europe.

The assistance of the Marie Curie Office at the IUA has been vital in terms of providing advice at the proposal and negotiation stages and also for their assistance in interpreting funding guidelines.

The **Irish Marie Curie Office** at the IUA is the National Contact Point for the Human Resources and Mobility Programme in Ireland.

The office provides advice and support to researchers, research active organisations and companies in submitting their proposals and in managing their Marie Curie Projects.

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For further information on upcoming workshops log on to the IUA website: www.iua.ie/marie_curie/index.html

The **Researcher Mobility Network Ireland** at IUA is a dedicated support and advisory office for researchers, research active organisations and industry. Researchcareersireland.com offers practical advice and information on visas, work permits, job opportunities and much more.

Companies can advertise their R&D vacancies on this portal and identify suitable candidates according to their recruitment requirements.

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