"METU Research Highlights" is designed with the aim of publicizing the research events and highlighting the research funding opportunities for researchers.

In order to provide up-to-date information about the research opportunities, METU Research Highlights comprises the announcements of both national and international Calls for Proposals. Calls under 7th Framework Programme, TÜBİTAK and Other are to be updated monthly to inform the researchers about the recently published Open Calls and their deadlines. Under the heading of Events, research events organised both by METU and other related organisations will also be published. Did you know... section targets to convey information about on-going research-related activities in METU and opportunities for researchers.

To bring news from a wider selection of sources and improve METU Research Highlights, Send Feedback page will serve as a medium for your comments on the quality and quantity of the information provided.

FAQ part provides the required information about national and international projects’ application forms and facts and figures on METU projects.
In CALLS page, you can find open calls for proposals under three headings: TÜBİTAK, EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7) and Other.

Under the TÜBİTAK Calls, you can find the funding opportunities of TÜBİTAK for Academic Research and Development Activities (ARDEB).

Under FP7, there are four funding schemes. These are the specific programmes called: People, Ideas, Capacities and Cooperation.

- **People Specific Programme** supports for mobility and career development of researchers.
- **Ideas Specific Programme** promotes the frontier research without restriction in terms of thematic areas.
- **Capacities Specific Programme** is especially developed for convergence regions to enhance the research and innovation capacities.
- **Cooperation Specific Programme** is the main tool for integrating the European Research Area by promoting collaboration between research centres, universities and industry from different countries in key technology areas.

EURATOM and Joint Research Centres are other tools for research funding opportunities provided directly by the European Commission under FP7.

- **EURATOM** is a funding opportunity of Atomic Energy Community to contribute to the further consolidation of the European Research Area in the nuclear energy sector by promoting civil nuclear research and training activities.
- **Joint Research Centres** is a reference centre for science and technology issues by providing required infrastructure for researchers in non-nuclear research activities.

Under Other calls, you can find open calls for proposals of several national and international funding opportunities.

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**CALLS**

**LINKS**

TÜBİTAK Homepage: http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/

FP7 CORDIS Homepage: http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html

TÜBİTAK FP7 Homepage: http://www.fp7.org.tr/

METU Office of European Union Affairs: www.euoffice.metu.edu.tr

METU Research: http://research.metu.edu.tr

METU Research Coordination Office: http://research.po.metu.edu.tr
ICTurkey 2011: International Partnering and Collaboration Event in ICT

Date: 27 September 2011

Place: Ceylan InterContinental Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey

If you are a researcher in the ICT sector, you can present ideas for projects and discuss them with potential partners, give feedback and support and supplement each other’s ideas during the event. As well as networking opportunities, researchers can hear presentations by the European Commission Officials and FP7 experts on forthcoming proposals. Researchers from across Europe will be presenting their concepts for future proposals and experienced FP7 applicants will be sharing tips on how to develop successful proposals.

You can reach the event programme from here: http://icturkey.meeting-mojo.com/page/programme

Visit of AXA Research Fund Team to METU

Representatives of AXA Research Fund Team visited Turkey in order to introduce funding opportunities provided by AXA dedicated for research in the area of “risk”.

In this respect, Dr.Godefroy Beauvallet, the Head of the AXA Research Fund, made a presentation on May 11, 2011 at METU Cultural and Convention Centre, with the participation of related administrative and academic staff from METU.

For more information please visit: http://research-highlights.metu.edu.tr/node/19#6
Two Young Researchers from METU have been awarded with the 2011 Marie Curie Career Integration Grant

Marie Curie Career Integration Grant (CIG) provides financial assistance to researchers who wish to return and find a position in Europe after they have worked in the field of research in a third country. According to the finalised results of the 2011 CIG applications, 2 young researchers from METU have been awarded with the grant.

The researchers and their projects are:

- Assist. Prof. Dr. Serdar Göktepe, Department of Civil Engineering
  Project: VHeart-Virtual Heart Models: Multi-Physics Approaches to Computational Cardiology

- Assist. Prof. Dr. Ömer Kağan Parmaksız, Department of Economics
  Project: FISCUSST-Fiscal Sustainability in Europe

The new 2012 FP7 calls have been announced with a budget of 7 billion €

The new 2012 FP7 calls have been announced with a 7 billion € total budget. The latest information and other details about the calls for tenders and proposals within FP7 can be found in CORDIS News and TUBITAK FP 7 Home Page.

Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN)

This action aims to improve career perspectives of early-stage researchers in both public and private sectors, thereby making research careers more attractive to young people.

ITN will be implemented by supporting competitively selected networks of organisations from different countries engaged in research training. The networks will be built on a joint research training programme, responding to well identified training needs in defined scientific or technological areas, with appropriate references to interdisciplinary and newly emerging supra-disciplinary fields.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

17. Can I get support about the personnel employment and related costs and payments in EU and TÜBİTAK projects?
Since this is an important issue in EU and TÜBİTAK projects, researchers are expected to get in touch with the related office beforehand. For personnel related issues, TÜBİTAK and EU Projects Office, Project Personnel Management Unit (210 35 95) can be contacted.

18. What is the ratio of overhead in FP 7 projects?
METU as a public body within the framework of research projects benefits from the transitional flat rate of 60% of the total project budget under FP7. In Ideas and People Programmes, the project budget covers all direct and indirect costs. However, in Coordination and Support Actions, the overhead is limited to 7% (standard flat rate) of the project budget.

19. What percentage of the requested budget does EU funding cover?
In research and technology projects, 75% of the project budget is funded by EU. In Coordination and Support Actions, as well as the projects under Ideas and People Programmes, all direct and indirect costs are funded by the Commission.

20. Who is the Authorised Representative in METU?
Prof. Dr. M. Volkan Atalay - Vice President
Project forms need to be signed by the authorised representative.

21. Who is the LEAR (Legal Entity Appointed Representative) in METU?
Assoc. Prof. Dr. İrem Dikmen Toker - Assistant to the President is the contact point of the organisation with respect to legal information on the organisation.

22. What is the PIC (Participant Identification Code)?
All organisations participating in FP7 has been assigned a PIC to be used in all proposals submissions and negotiations. METU’s PIC number is 999 643 492.

23. What is the VAT (Value Added Tax) number?
The VAT number of METU is TR6320050974.

DID YOU KNOW...

This action addresses joint research training programmes in the form of either multi-ITNs, European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP).

1. Multi-partner ITN (ITN): At least three participants established in at least three different Member States or associated countries.

2. European Industrial Doctorates (EID): Two participants, one academic institution and one participant from the private sector, established in two different Member States or associated countries. The academic participant can be:
   - an institution entitled to deliver doctoral degrees and recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country concerned.
   - a research institution called full partner (e.g. universities, public or private non-commercial research centres, large enterprises, SMEs, non-profit or charitable organisations, etc.) associated with a university called associated partner that will deliver the degree.

Each researcher must:
- be enrolled in a doctoral programme of the academic partner,
- be employed by either both full participants, or employed by one of them and seconded to the other for the share of the time foreseen under this actions,
- spend at least 50% of his/her time in the participant from the private sector,
- be jointly supervised by at least two supervisors, one from each participant.

3. Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP): A sole participant with a network of associated partners. The sole participant shall be established in a Member State or in an associated country. Also, collaborations with a wider set of associated partners, including from the private sector, as well as innovative elements of the proposed training addressing the needs of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, will be taken into account during the evaluations.

This action supports the initial training of the researchers. Support for early-stage researchers will be for periods of 3 to 36 months.
Within multi-partner ITNs, the initial training can also, to a limited extent, be directed to experienced researchers as long as they have less than five years of full-time equivalent research experience at the time of recruitment by the host organisation. They are encouraged to be recruited and trained in the private sector, with special attention being given to SMEs, in order to develop their management and entrepreneurial skills (organisation of the planning of secondments, setting-up collaboration with other institutions, coaching of ESRs, etc...).

The support for experienced researchers will be limited to 24 months maximum within a network.

The deadline for the application is January 12, 2012.

You can reach the information package of the call from here. You can contact the Marie Curie Actions National Contact Points from TUBITAK:

Mrs. Tuğba Arslan Kantarcioglu (National Contact Point)
Tel: 0 312 468 53 00 / 1408
E-mail: ncpmobility@tubitak.gov.tr

Ms. Selcen Gulsun Aslan
Tel: 0312 468 53 00/1067
E-mail: ncpmobility@tubitak.gov.tr

ERC Starting Independent Researchers Grant

The European Research Council (ERC) complements existing funding schemes at the national and European levels. Applications can be made in any field of research with particular emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering. In particular, proposals of an interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions are encouraged.

14. What does Office of Sponsored Projects do?
Office of Sponsored Projects can provide the researchers with the information about all administrative issues during the project proposal writing and submission processes.

15. What kinds of info or forms are provided by the Office of Sponsored Projects?
Office of Sponsored Projects can supply info to the project proposal writers about the; PIC number, VAT number, LEAR and the Signing Authority.

The Office can also provide the following forms:
• Sample Grant Agreement Preparation Forms (A2.1-A2.5 Forms)
• Public Entities Form (required also for other international/national projects)
• Financial Identification Form
• Law on the Establishment of METU
• Commitment of the Host Institution
• Support Letter
• Sworn Statements
• Financial and Personnel Information

16. Can I get support about the financial issues regarding FP7 projects?
You can get information about the financial issues from the EU and TÜBİTAK Projects Office (Phone: 210 38 60) both prior to and following project proposal submission. Support is also given during the lifetime of the project concerning the accounting issue.

Before submitting your proposal, please make sure that you read the documents in detail providing information about financial issues in detail. This document is available at http://www.sgdb.metu.edu.tr/muhasebe.php
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

8. What kind of agreement is concluded in Marie Curie Actions between METU and those researchers having PhDs, but not employed at METU? The aim in personnel employment under Marie Curie Actions is to employ the researcher by incorporating him/her into the social security system (SSK). Therefore, a service contract is concluded between METU as the host institution and the researcher.

9. Can researchers who continue with their education receive scholarships within the framework of Marie Curie Actions? Scholarship payments to these researchers can only be made with the approval of the coordinator. However, the researcher is responsible for his/her own individual health insurance.

10. How is the stipend of the personnel calculated? When the stipend of the project personnel is calculated,
   - If they are not employed by a public organisation, it is calculated after deducting the social security contribution, income tax and stamp tax from their gross payment.
   - If they are employed by a public organisation or as academic personnel in a public university, the stipend calculation is made after deducting the income and stamp taxes only.

**PROJECT APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN METU**

11. How many international research projects are going on/ completed in METU? Researchers can find the updated list of completed and ongoing international research projects from the research@metu webpage.

12. How many projects are funded by TÜBİTAK in METU? The list of TÜBİTAK-funded projects is available at [here](http://research.metu.edu.tr/node/36).

13. Can I get support to fill in Part A during the project proposal submission process? Part A is about the Administrative Information. In this part, general information about METU is to be filled in. This information can be provided by the Office of Sponsored Projects.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

The ERC grants are open to researchers from both public and private institutions. Moreover, independent researchers of any age can apply. The only requirements are that for ERC Starting Grants researchers should normally be between 2 and 12 years after PhD award and being active researchers with a track-record of significant research achievements.

Scientific excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC grants are awarded.

**ERC Starting Grant in brief:**
- For early-career top researchers of any nationality and age, with 2-12 years of experience after PhD
- Funding: up to €2 million per grant for up to 5 years.

Please note that the call 'ERC-2012-STG' consists of three sub-calls and different deadlines:
- Physical Sciences & Engineering with deadline on October 12, 2011, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time),
- Life Sciences with deadline on November 09, 2011, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time),
- Social Sciences & Humanities with deadline on November 24, 2011, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).

If you are planning to apply to the grant, you can reach the full information package and project proposal format from [here](http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm).


You can also contact the ERC National Contact Point from TÜBİTAK:
Ms. Aslı Vural
Tel: 0 312 468 53 00 / 2468
E-mail: ncpideas@tubitak.gov.tr
The Research Executive Agency's the Marie Curie Programme, the Career Integration Grants and Monitoring of the Projects Events in Istanbul

The Research Executive Agency (REA) will organise conferences regarding the People Programme, the Career Integration Grants and Monitoring of the Projects on 22/09/2011, Thursday and 23/09/2011, Friday in Istanbul, in collaboration with the Koç University and the Istanbul Technical University.

In the conferences, researchers conducting CIG projects will be informed about the monitoring of their projects: how to report after each project period, how to fill in the financial report and how to ask for an amendment. Also, information on the do's and don'ts when writing a proposal will be given.

If you are planning to participate the event, please contact:
Ms. Sevgi Ural, Istanbul Technical University : uralsev@itu.edu.tr
Ms. Gizem Oztimur Toprak, Koç University : gtoprak@ku.edu.tr

A New Name for the Future EU Funding Programme for Research and Innovation: HORIZON 2020

The name of the future EU-funding programme for research and innovation is now called "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation".

According to Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Horizon 2020 is not just a new name for the same Framework Programme. It is the name for the new, integrated funding system that will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme (FP) for Research and Technical Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). These different types of funding will be brought together in a coherent and flexible manner. He also states that "This will be a smarter way to support researchers and innovators in Europe – so as to further boost excellence and to help ensure that good ideas reach the market and generate sustainable economic growth and new jobs.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

4. TÜBİTAK projelerinde yabancı uyruklu öğretim üyesi çalışabilir mi? Yabancı uyruklu öğretim üyeleri, AB projelerinde ücret alarak çalışamazlar. TÜBİTAK projelerinde ise, başvurulacak projedeki başvuru dökümanlarından “Türkiye’de İkamet Eden Yabancı Uyrukluara PTİ Ödenebileceğine Dair Onay Belgesi” doldurulup rektör yardımcısının imzasına sunulur, bu sayede yabancı uyruklu araştırmacı TÜBİTAK projesinde ücret alarak çalışabilir.

5. TÜBİTAK projelerinde yabancı uyruklu öğrenci çalışabilir mi? TÜBİTAK projelerinde yabancı uyruklu öğrenciler ücret alarak çalışacak. Ancak, yüksek lisans, doktora ve doktora sonrası eğitime devam edenlere burs ödemesi yapılabilir.

   - Kurum içinde veya başka bir kurum adına çalışan personel, 2547 sayılı Yüksek Öğretim Kanunu’na tabi araştırmacı olarak çalıştırılabilir.
   - Hiçbir yerde çalışan destek personeli ya da araştırmacı sosyal güvenliği sağlanarak SSK’lı olarak çalışabilir.

**FP7 PROJECT PERSONNEL**

7. How are the invited foreign researchers employed in Marie Curie Actions?
The institution that invites foreign researchers acquires Employment Permit and Certificate for the researcher from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The researcher is employed as having the social security insurance (SSK)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who are the METU Contact Points for project application and management process?

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS

International Projects
Aslı Yılmaz  Phone: 210 4138  E-mail: yasli(at)metu.edu.tr
Şölen Serap Uçak  Phone: 210 7131  E-mail: ksoalen(at)metu.edu.tr
Dr. Sara Banu Akkaş  Phone: 210 7136  E-mail: bakkas(at)metu.edu.tr

National Projects
Çağlar Dölek  Phone: 210 3404  E-mail: dcaglar(at)metu.edu.tr
Tuğba Gürçel  Phone: 210 4122  E-mail: gurcel(at)metu.edu.tr

EU & TÜBİTAK PROJECTS OFFICE

Financial Issues
Soner Çubukçu  Phone: 210 7152  E-mail: scubukcu(at)metu.edu.tr
Lütfü Çeken  Phone: 210 3860  E-mail: lceken(at)metu.edu.tr

Personnel Issues
Fatma Kılıç  Phone: 210 3595  E-mail: fatmak(at)metu.edu.tr
Dursun Dişbudak  Phone: 210 7134  E-mail: ddursun(at)metu.edu.tr

TÜBİTAK PROJE PERSONELİ

2. TÜBİTAK projelerinde kimler araştırmacı olabilir?

Proje yürütücüsü tarafından önerilen ve TÜBİTAK tarafından onaylanan kişiler, TÜBİTAK projelerinde araştırmacı olarak yer alabilirler. Bu kişilerin;
- Kurum içinde veya dışından olmaları TÜBİTAK projelerinde yer almaları konusunda bir engel teşkil etmemektedir.
- 2547 Sayılı kanuna tabi olmaları veya hiçbir yerde çalışmıyor olmaları gerekmektedir.

3. TÜBİTAK projelerinde kimler bursiyer olarak çalışabilir?

TÜBİTAK projelerinde, yüksek lisans ve doktora öğrencileriyle, doktora sonrası araştırmacılar bursiyer olarak görev alabilirler. Bu şartları sağlayan öğrenciler ve araştırmacılar);
- Herhangi bir yerde çalışıp çalışmamaları, bursiyer olmaları konusunda engel teşkil etmemektedir.
- Eğitimlerine/araştırmalara projenin yürütüldüğü üniversitede devam etmeleri şartı yoktur.

DID YOU KNOW...

Research and innovation funding will focus more clearly on addressing global challenges. Needless red tape will be cut out and participation made simpler.”

Full statement is available at this webpage.

The European Union Women Innovators Prize

The EU Prize for Women Innovators will be awarded to three women entrepreneurs, who were at some point during their careers beneficiaries of funding for projects under the RTD Framework Programme (FP) or the Competitive and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

1st prize: € 100 000
2nd prize: € 50 000
3rd prize: € 25 000

The application process is designed to be as simple as possible. Should you need further clarification, please call the help line directly: 0032 483 506 825 or send an e-mail to: rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu.

The deadline for submission of applications is September 20, 2011 at 17.00 (Brussels local time). The award ceremony will take place on December 05, 2011 at the Innovation Convention organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

You can read the contest rules and reach the application form from here.