

**Memorandum of Understanding
for the funding and management of the Third Call within the programme of
European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards
as agreed between the parties listed below:**

1. Parties to the Agreement

FWF (Austria); FWO (Belgium); Czech Science Foundation (Czech Republic); DRC (Denmark)¹; AF (Finland); CNRS and INSERM (France); DFG (Germany); NHRF (Greece); OTKA (Hungary); CNR and INFN (Italy); NWO (The Netherlands); RCN (Norway); FCT (Portugal); CSIC (Spain); VR (Sweden); SNF (Switzerland); and the European Science Foundation (ESF)

2. Preamble

The European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCs), wishing to contribute to the building of the European Research Area, have decided to co-ordinate some of their activities in creating the European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards. The EURYI scheme aims to stimulate the best up and coming postdoctoral researchers in the world to pursue careers in academia in Europe based on scientific excellence.

The principles set out in this MoU will apply to any further calls for EURYI proposals. The financial contribution to each call from each participating organisation will be agreed on an annual basis.

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree to commit themselves to pay the annual amount listed in Annex 1 and to provide funding for a Third Call for proposals in order to finance successful applications for a full five years period.

3. European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards: Aim

The aim of EURYI Awards is to encourage and enable outstanding young researchers from all over the world to work in a European environment for the benefit of the development of European science and the building up of the next generation of leading European researchers. The scheme especially encourages foreign researchers to come to Europe and European researchers who have been working outside of Europe to return. The funding available shall support research aimed at opening up new lines of groundbreaking research. The scheme shall promote scientific excellence, with wide international recognition, by supporting outstanding young researchers to develop and pursue an independent research career, including developing a research group where appropriate.

The distinguishing features of the scheme are its international competitive edge over national support programmes, and its common support by major public national research and research funding organisations in Europe, through an agreed joint procedure.

^{1 1} The formal commitment of the Danish Research Agency is preconditional to the approval in 2006 of the Danish funding authorities and subject to the approval of the power to allocate grants from the Danish Research Councils to ESF.

The main selection criteria to be used by the EURYI scheme will stress the research quality and potential of the applicant, the originality, groundbreaking nature and forward oriented character of the research proposal, its feasibility, and the potential of the applicant and the proposed research programme to improve the position of European research at world level. Detailed criteria will be included in the call for proposals.

The scheme is open to researchers from anywhere in the world for support in fields of research funded by participating organisations². While excellence of the candidates and the quality of their research will always be the overriding criteria, EURYI Awards shall be distributed across all fields of research.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED

4. Purpose of the Agreement

This Memorandum of Understanding and its Annexes (I and II) set out the framework agreed by the EURYI participating organisations (EURYI-POs) for the management and funding of the EURYI scheme.

5. Duration of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum shall come into force on the date of its signature by the parties. It shall cover the five years funding period for the Third Call for EURYI Awards.

6. Management Committee

The EURYI Management Committee is responsible for the detailed development of the scheme, such as the call for proposals, the application process, the scheme guidelines, and the availability of funding in cooperation with the European Science Foundation (ESF). All EURYI-POs and the ESF are entitled to a seat on the Management Committee.

7. Programme Committee

The EURYI Programme Committee is formed by the Heads of the POs or POs nominees and a representative from ESF. The Programme Committee will be responsible for upholding the key principles of the scheme, overseeing the entire process of evaluation and selection and, if satisfied, formally approving the applications selected for funding at the end of the international assessment stage.

8. Role of the ESF

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is responsible for the co-ordination of preparatory work, the international call for proposals, the international marketing strategy and the management of the international assessment stage of applications on behalf of the Programme Committee. It acts as a central clearing house for the scheme funds.

9. Funding and launch

² Participating organisation, EuroHORCs or ESF member organisations participating in the EURYI Awards Scheme.

The contributions by the participating organisations to the Third Call will again form a joint fund. The agreed contribution by each participating organisation and the number of proposals that this will entitle each organisation to submit to Stage Two assessment is shown in Annex I to this agreement (when finalised upon signature by all parties).

The Third Call for the EURYI scheme will be launched according to the schedule shown at the end of Annex II.

10. Proposal Requirements/Submission

Applications for EURYI Awards must be submitted through an organisation that is participating in the EURYI scheme. EURYI Awards may be held in any host institution³ accepted as eligible for funding by the participating organisation in the country where the applicant wishes to undertake the proposed research.

11. Assessment of Applications

The assessment of applications will be undertaken in two stages, Stage One (S-1) will be carried out at national level and Stage Two (S-2) will be carried out at European level.

12. Administration of EURYI Awards

EURYI Awards will be administered at national level by the participating organisation and the host institution through which the EURYI application was originally submitted for consideration.

13. Review of the Memorandum of Understanding

Following the evaluation of the Scheme in 2004, the principles set out in the 2005 MoU will apply to any further calls for EURYI proposals.

The corresponding addendum and financial annex to this Memorandum, signed by the Participating Organisations, will be drawn up as required.

Other eligible organisations will have the opportunity to join the scheme at each call.

³ Host institution, Research organisation capable of hosting an awardholder.

EURYI Awards – Memorandum of Understanding

By signing this agreement, parties commit themselves to pay the annual amount listed in Annex I and to provide funding for a full five year period of successful EURYI applications awarded through the initial call for applications.

Notice is hereby given that this Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on the date of 29 July 2005 by the following organizations

Organisation: FWF (Austria) Signature:	Organisation: CNR (Italy) Signature:
Organisation: FWO (Belgium) Signature:	Organisation: INFN (Italy) Signature:
Organisation: Czech Science Foundation (Czech Republic) Signature:	Organisation: NWO (The Netherlands) Signature:
Organisation: DRC (Denmark) * Signature:	Organisation: RCN (Norway) Signature:
Organisation: AF (Finland) Signature:	Organisation: FCT (Portugal) Signature:
Organisation: CNRS (France) Signature:	Organisation: CSIC (Spain) Signature:
Organisation: INSERM (France) Signature:	Organisation: VR (Sweden), acting also on behalf of FORMAS Signature:
Organisation: DFG (Germany) Signature:	Organisation: SNF (Switzerland) Signature:
Organisation: NHRF (Greece), acting also on behalf of FORTH Signature:	Organisation: European Science Foundation (ESF) Signature:
Organisation: OTKA (Hungary), acting also on behalf of MTA Signature:	

* The formal commitment of the Danish Research Agency is preconditional to the approval in 2006 of the Danish funding authorities and subject to the approval of the power to allocate grants from the Danish Research Councils to ESF.

Annex I

ANNUAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND VALUE OF CONTRIBUTION BY EACH PARTY FOR THE THIRD CALL

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Country	ORG	Contribution per year (k€)	# of proposals
AUSTRIA	FWF	160	4
BELGIUM	FWO	120	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION	40	2
DENMARK	DRC	320	8
FINLAND	AF	200	5
FRANCE	CNRS	240	6
	INSERM	200	5
GERMANY	DFG	1360	34
GREECE	NHRF (+ FORTH)	40	2
HUNGARY	OTKA (+ MTA)	40	2
NETHERLANDS	NWO	520	13
NORWAY	RCN	240	6
PORTUGAL	FCT	40	2
SPAIN	CSIC	520	13
SWITZERLAND	SNF	440	11
ITALY	INFN	40	2
	CNR	240	6
SWEDEN	VR (+ FORMAS)	200	5
		4960	129

ANNEX II

GUIDELINES ON EUROPEAN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR (EURYI) AWARDS FOR PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

1. Call for proposals will be announced worldwide by ESF and nationally by the participating organisations.

Eligibility

2. Applicants should hold a doctoral degree (at PhD or at a recognised equivalent level) and have between 2 and up to 8 years of postdoctoral experience at the closing date of the call, taking into account career breaks. Applicants should have an excellent track record with the potential to become world class leaders in the respective field of research.
3. Applications should be submitted through one of the participating organisations, with two letters of recommendation from recognised leading scientists. Applicants are permitted to submit only one application within the entire scheme per call.
4. By submitting an application, applicants are stating that they will start work, within 6 months of the 1st October after their award, in the facilities of an institution that has agreed to host their research. The proposed host must be an institution that is accepted as eligible for funding by the participating organisation.
5. Applicants should provide a complete proposal of research objectives and activities. The proposal could include temporary stays of the researcher or any member of the research group in institutions other than the host institution. Any proposal deemed by a PO or the ESF to have deliberately or accidentally omitted or misrepresented information relevant to its assessment will be automatically rejected.
6. The proposed host institution should confirm in writing that it will host the proposed applicant and guarantee the required access to its equipment, facilities and resources. It should also state that the proposed research complies with any ethical or legal regulation of its country.
7. Participating organisations will send a list of applicants (including name, PO, host institution and the field of research) to ESF immediately after the deadline of submission of applications to facilitate coordination of the scheme and management of the international assessment phase.

Duration and changes

8. Each Award will last for a 5 year period, subject to satisfactory progress. Award holders will be expected to dedicate their entire working time to the proposed research project during the period of the Award. Normally, extensions will be considered only in the event of parental leave or prolonged ill health.
9. Only in very exceptional circumstances, and within the first year of work, will an awardholder be allowed to change institution. Applications for change of institution will have to be submitted to the PO and will require the approval of the Programme Committee. An agreement should also be reached on IPR and other exploitable results among all the institutions that hosted the EURYI awardholder.

Assessment

10. The assessment of applications will consist of two phases: The national phase, Stage One (S-1) and the international phase, Stage Two (S-2). S-1 will be carried out by the participating organisations based on peer review procedures and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the EURYI Management Committee. On completion of S-1, each PO will send a list of selected non-prioritised proposals according to its financial contribution (Annex I) to the ESF.
11. ESF will manage the S-2 phase of assessment on behalf of the Programme Committee, following rules previously agreed with the Management Committee. The S-1 Participating Organisation will provide the requested number of copies (accompanied by an English translation where appropriate) of all peer review assessment material, which will be used to inform the S-2 assessment. Applications will be assessed by high level international scientific panels who will select those that best meet the criteria of the call and the aims and objectives of the EURYI scheme and recommend them to the Programme Committee for funding. The Programme Committee will have the final responsibility and authority to approve the funding of the selected applications.

Award Administration & Funding Arrangements

12. EURYI Awards will be administered at national level by the PO and awards will be subject to the terms and conditions of the sponsoring PO.
13. In the first instance, funding will come directly out of national contributions, with any deficit/credit covered by a central clearing-house arrangement operated by the ESF. Each agency's net contribution after clearing will always match its agreed contribution to the call, irrespective of the number of awards in their own country.
14. The amount to be awarded will normally be no less than 750 kEURO over 5 years and shall not exceed a maximum of 1250 kEURO. The funds requested by the applicant will be assessed by national peer review.
15. The funding for the selected researchers will generally include the salary of the awardholder and, where appropriate, financial support for personnel, minor equipment, material costs, travel, etc.
16. Salaries will be based on national salary scales for posts at a similar level in terms of age and experience in the host institution. The salary range will be determined by the individual participating organisation.

Exploitation of results

17. The IPR policy and the exploitation of any results obtained through the award will be regulated according to the established practice and policy of the national research funding organisation. In the absence of such a policy, it shall be in accordance with the established practice and policy of the host institution.

(Tentative) Time Schedule

Signature of MoU	29 July 2005
Launch (PR Activities of POs and ESF)	immediately after signing of MoU
Call for Proposals	1 st of September 2005
Deadline for Submission	30 November 2005
Stage 1	December 2005– March 2006
Stage 2	April – June 2006
Approval by Programme Committee	July 2006
First EURYI awardholders in post	October 2006