



Spanish contribution to the PEOPLE WP 2011

The Spanish delegation would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment in further detail on the initiatives presented during the 14th PC meeting on the simplification of the WP 2011, as well as on the note distributed on that matter on 12th February.

Simplification of allowance categories

1. Merging Categories A, B and C (WP 2010) into a new Monthly Living and Household Allowance.

ES would welcome the merging of the *mobility, travel and career exploratory allowances* into a single category. This will be perceived by MC beneficiaries as a real simplification.

However, we would like to raise attention to the fact that this new monthly allowance will be included in the researcher's payslip. Therefore the allowance will be affected in ES not only by taxation, but also by the contributions of both the employer and employee towards the researcher's social coverage. Bearing this in mind we would support an increase of the amount proposed by the EC to 1.200 €/month.

We would favour keeping the name of *monthly mobility allowance* instead of including new nomenclature.

The replacement of the former Mobility allowance (500 or 800 EUR) by a single flat rate not taking into account the researchers' family situation will be undoubtedly perceived as less family friendly. A compromise between simplification and family friendliness would be needed on this issue.

2. Categories D –E

ES agrees with the merging of D and E categories in the ITN action and also supports a single rate of 800 € for category D in the IxF actions.

EC contribution towards management and overhead in host driven actions

ES welcomes the EC proposal of increasing the EC support for management and overheads in the ITN and IAPP schemes. However, for the sake of harmonisation with the rest of the Framework Programme ES would prefer the overhead contribution to be 20% of the direct cost of the action.

Merging of ERG and IRG schemes

ES would agree on the merging of the ERG and the IRG actions under the following conditions:

- Eligible researchers will be of any nationality
- Eligible researchers should fulfill the general rule of mobility
- Mobile researchers within the ERA should be considered eligible
- Eligible researchers should be in the process of obtaining either a permanent position or such as a tenure-track position
- The financial contribution is increased to 40.000 € a year

This last condition will improve the attractiveness of the action and will allow to reduce its success rate (currently at around 60%) to a level similar to other Marie Curie Actions.

Non-academic participation in Initial Training Networks

ES will oppose any regulation setting a minimum duration for the ESRs exposure to non-academic environments. ES supports the aim of upgrading the researcher skills to offer complementary skills that will help them to enhance their employability. However we believe that this kind of measure will be perceived by non-academic partners, in particular by the industry, as an additional obstacle to their participation in ITN proposals.

ES is also against limiting the recruitment of Experienced Researchers to the non-academic partners. Non-academic partners already have the possibility of hiring ERs in ITN consortia. We will however favour the increase of the share of ER researcher months to 30% for those consortia where non-academic partners hire ER

IRSES

ES is against increasing the IRSES budget. The success rate of this action is already too high (over 60%). By increasing the budget there might arise a situation similar to the 2008 call where only 50% of the budget was used and the success rate was around 80%.

Instead of increasing the IRSES budget, ES will favour an increase on the IIF's budget. Following the 2009 change in eligibility rules the success rate of this action (14,8%) is well below that of the IEF (24%) and IOF (20%). This measure will level the success rate of these three schemes.



ES will also favour the increase of the EC financial contribution for IRSES beneficiaries up to 3.000 € per researcher month. This will be in accordance with the expenses currently incurred by institutions which send their staff to another country, and also help to reduce the high success rate of this action.

COFUND

In principle ES would not oppose the implementation of new measures to make the COFUND action more attractive. However, we consider that an in depth analysis is needed in order to identify the most appropriate changes for achieving this common aim. Therefore we would prefer to wait until the COFUND Impact Assessment Study is finalised before suggesting or supporting any modification to the current scheme. Regarding the Impact Assessment Study, ES would highly appreciate that if opinion of the PC members was taken into account when defining its terms of reference