

Training and career prospects of young scientists in Europe - Results

These are the results from 2790 submissions

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Numbers in brackets represent the count for the given answer. More detailed results with an analysis of correlations between given answers are available on [this page](#).

If you have further comments on the survey or the topics that the survey is related to, you are welcome to post them at the MCFA public forum: <http://www.mariecurie.org/forum>. If you prefer to directly contact the survey authors, simply send an email to survey@mariecurie.org.

This survey is concluded.

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1. General Information	
1.1 Your age?	< 24 (92) 24 - 26 (608) 27 - 29 (760) 30 - 32 (613) 33 - 35 (373) > 35 (319) no statement (8)
1.2 Your gender?	Male (1563) Female (1194)
1.3 What is your current country of residence?	Austria (21) Belgium (126) Bosnia and Herzegovina (1) Bulgaria (30) Cyprus (1) Czech Republic (4) Denmark (121) Estonia (11) Finland (22) France (561) Germany (188) Greece (24) Hungary (107) Ireland (33)

Israel (**2**)
Italy (**163**)
Liechtenstein (**1**)
Lithuania (**8**)
Luxembourg (**1**)
Netherlands (**110**)
Norway (**28**)
Poland (**63**)
Portugal (**84**)
Romania (**109**)
Slovakia (**4**)
Slovenia (**165**)
Spain (**292**)
Sweden (**69**)
Switzerland (**40**)
Turkey (**7**)
United Kingdom (**257**)
Yugoslavia (**1**)
other (**117**)

1.4 What is your nationality?

Austrian (**22**)
Belgian (**85**)
British (**129**)
Bulgarian (**35**)
Croatian (**2**)
Cypriot (**3**)
Czech (**7**)
Danish (**98**)
Dutch (**62**)
Estonian (**16**)
Finnish (**20**)
French (**646**)
German (**154**)
Greek (**44**)
Hungarian (**105**)
Icelandic (**2**)
Irish (**35**)
Israeli (**2**)
Italian (**220**)
Latvian (**2**)
Lithuanian (**8**)
Luxembourgian (**4**)
Norwegian (**19**)
Polish (**83**)
Portuguese (**105**)
Romanian (**129**)
Slovakian (**16**)
Slovenian (**163**)
Spanish (**390**)

	Swedish (51) Swiss (7) Turkish (10) Yugoslavian (6) other (73)
1.5 When did you receive your PhD?	<3 years ago (836) 3 - 6 years ago (405) >6 years ago (226) not applicable (1272)
1.6 Your current position?	public research (2121) private research (192) public non-research (58) private non-research (58) actively seeking employment (135) other (193)
1.7 Where do you see yourself in 5 years?	public research (1722) private research (426) public non-research (112) private non-research (254) other (227)
2. Education and Training	
2.1 During your postgraduate or post-doctoral training, did you spend substantial periods of time abroad (at least three months in one go)?	yes, during my postgraduate training (729) yes, during my post- doctoral training (427) yes, both during my postgraduate and my post-doctoral training (395) no (1178)
2.2 Do you plan to do so?	yes (1637) no (341) did not decide yet (539)
2.3 If yes, when?	before (132) during (720) after your PhD (if applicable) (1248) not at all (129)
2.4 Do you want to stay in Europe for this	yes (1043)

placement?	no (107) not necessarily (1238)
2.5 In which field did you reach your highest degree?	Mathematics (62) Information Sciences (143) Physics (534) Chemistry (270) Life Sciences (811) Medicine (81) Earth Sciences (177) Engineering Sciences (294) Economic Sciences (131) Human and Social Sciences (253)
2.6 Which subject covers your current field of activity	Mathematics (57) Information Sciences (185) Physics (488) Chemistry (229) Life Sciences (826) Medicine (104) Earth Sciences (190) Engineering Sciences (270) Economic Sciences (128) Human and Social Sciences (265)
2.7 What is your native language?	Arabic (13) Basque (3) Bulgarian (34) Chinese (6) Catalan (61) Croatian (5) Czech (7) Danish (95) Dutch (124) English (173) Estonian (11) Finnish (22) French (679) Gaelic (3) Gallego (10) German (175) Greek (42) Hebrew (2)

Hungarian (**112**)
Japanese (**1**)
Icelandic (**2**)
Italian (**219**)
Latvian (**1**)
Lithuanian (**9**)
Luxembourgian (**1**)
Norwegian (**16**)
Polish (**86**)
Portuguese (**110**)
Romanian (**125**)
Russian (**10**)
Slovakian (**15**)
Slovenian (**156**)
Spanish (**325**)
Swedish (**45**)
Turkish (**13**)
other (**29**)

2.8 Your proficiency in English?

fluent (**1673**)
everyday competence
(**868**)
basic knowledge (**197**)
not present (**4**)

2.9 Do you speak (another) foreign language?

Arabic (**12**)
Basque (**3**)
Chinese (**4**)
Catalan (**14**)
Croatian (**20**)
Czech (**1**)
Danish (**18**)
Dutch (**78**)
Estonian (**1**)
Finnish (**2**)
French (**774**)
Gaelic (**5**)
Gallego (**4**)
German (**692**)
Greek (**4**)
Hebrew (**2**)
Hungarian (**4**)
Japanese (**15**)
Italian (**155**)
Norwegian (**16**)
Polish (**6**)

2.10

fluent (**678**)
everyday competence
(**683**)
basic knowledge (**975**)
not present (**294**)

Portuguese (41) Romanian (6) Russian (85) Slovakian (2) Slovenian (1) Spanish (309) Swedish (46) Turkish (5) other (21)	
2.11 Do you feel your university education has adequately prepared you for your professional life?	0 (143) 1 (128) 2 (285) 3 (723) 4 (1030) 5 (447)
2.12 How would you rate the scientific supervision of your PhD?	0 (151) 1 (206) 2 (291) 3 (482) 4 (860) 5 (727)
2.13 Did your supervisor counsel you on career development?	0 (640) 1 (314) 2 (333) 3 (493) 4 (522) 5 (411)
2.14 Did you do (or are you planning to do) an internship during your PhD training?	yes, this was/is part of the PhD training programme (437) yes, at my own initiative (451) no (1727)
2.15 If you answered no: Would you (have) like(d) to?	yes (842) no (226) no opinion (733)
2.16 Did you have the opportunity to follow courses in transferable skills (rhetorical skills, presentation techniques, conflict management, etc.)?	yes, at the university (966) yes, outside the university (425) not at all (1356)
2.17 If you answered no: Would you (have) like(d) to?	yes (1121) no (109)

	no opinion (235)
2.18 Did you follow language training during your PhD?	yes, at the university (465) yes, outside the university (691) not at all (1567)
2.19 Were your academic qualifications officially recognised in another European country?	no, too complicated (122) 1 (40) 2 (41) 3 (102) 4 (180) yes, easily (971) did not try (1274)
2.20 Do/Did you have the chance to establish contacts to foreign researchers/professors during your PhD training?	yes, at the university (1345) yes, outside the university (1034) no (354)
2.21 Are or were there international students at your faculty at university?	0 (212) 1 (366) 2 (403) 3 (491) 4 (509) 5 (760)
3. Questions on European Policies	
3.1 Do you know what the term "European Research Area" stands for?	yes, certainly (495) I'm not quite sure (1314) never heard of (945)
3.2 Do you have an idea what the Bologna Process implies?	yes, certainly (285) I'm not quite sure (520) never heard of (1944)
3.3 Have you been following the debate about the possible creation of a European Research Council?	yes, with great interest (175) marginally (1026) not at all (1553)
3.4 What is your opinion on this issue?	I'm in favour of the idea (385) I tend to be in favour but need more information (1327) no opinion (886)

	I tend to be against the idea but need more information (49) I'm against the idea (11)
3.5 Do you think that researchers are sufficiently recognized by the society?	0 (758) 1 (591) 2 (532) 3 (541) 4 (262) 5 (50)
3.6 In your current country of residence, does there exist the status of "researcher" as a profession?	no (464) yes (1845) don't know (435)
3.7 Should there be a special status of a "European researcher" (similar to diplomatic status)?	0 (463) 1 (160) 2 (192) 3 (449) 4 (536) 5 (931)
3.8 Should researchers get preferential treatment with respect to visas, work permits, etc.?	0 (256) 1 (89) 2 (123) 3 (322) 4 (581) 5 (1358)
3.9 What do you think of the idea to honour institutions that make a special effort to facilitate PhD student mobility, for example through a symbolic award?	0 (170) 1 (73) 2 (139) 3 (472) 4 (695) 5 (1186)
4. Professional Orientation	
4.1 Would you be prepared to accept a temporary placement for training or work (of a duration of at least 6 months) abroad?	globally (1286) North America (759) South America (212) Asia (161) Europe (1371)
4.2 Would you be prepared to accept a permanent position abroad?	globally (499) North America (513) South America (123) Asia (80) Europe (1858)

<p>4.3 Could you imagine a professional reorientation (e.g. change from university into business or from research into research management) within the next five years?</p>	<p>0 (341) 1 (200) 2 (238) 3 (364) 4 (631) 5 (976)</p>
<p>4.4 Could you imagine within the next five years a scientific reorientation (e.g. changing your subject from physics to philosophy or chemistry to biology)?</p>	<p>0 (750) 1 (379) 2 (406) 3 (378) 4 (396) 5 (440)</p>
<p>There is currently a movement within Europe to arrive at a common degree level system for undergraduates (Bachelor's degree) and postgraduates (Master's and doctoral degree) and also to establish a Europe wide system of "credits" (such as ECTS).</p>	
<p>4.5 How do you rate this initiative?</p>	<p>0 (73) 1 (69) 2 (112) 3 (348) 4 (721) 5 (1424)</p>
<p>4.6 Do you think this is a sensible way to increase the transnational mobility of the human potential?</p>	<p>0 (95) 1 (85) 2 (138) 3 (381) 4 (781) 5 (1264)</p>
<p>4.7 Do you perceive language as a severe mobility obstacle?</p>	<p>0 (538) 1 (372) 2 (340) 3 (506) 4 (586) 5 (400)</p>
<p>4.8 Did you ever feel that your gender had an influence on the way you were treated by your supervisor?</p>	<p>yes, mostly in a positive way (230) yes, mostly in a negative way (286) never (1648) no opinion (444) no reply (136)</p>
<p>4.9 Do you feel that your long term career prospectives are the same as for people from the opposite sex?</p>	<p>yes, absolutely (433) yes, more or less (970) no opinion (241)</p>

not really (**840**)
absolutely not (**261**)

How important is social security during mobility to you?

4.10 In general?

0 (**20**)
1 (**37**)
2 (**62**)
3 (**237**)
4 (**740**)
5 (**1652**)

4.11 With regard to health insurance?

0 (**17**)
1 (**29**)
2 (**37**)
3 (**146**)
4 (**567**)
5 (**1950**)

4.12 With regard to the accumulation of pension rights?

0 (**38**)
1 (**58**)
2 (**109**)
3 (**335**)
4 (**710**)
5 (**1493**)

4.13 With regard to unemployment insurance?

0 (**72**)
1 (**80**)
2 (**139**)
3 (**369**)
4 (**619**)
5 (**1463**)

4.14 With regard to family and housing benefits?

0 (**48**)
1 (**70**)
2 (**116**)
3 (**350**)
4 (**648**)
5 (**1494**)

4.15 To what extent are you prepared to accept cut backs of social security as compared to nationals of your host country?

0 (**574**)
1 (**462**)
2 (**422**)
3 (**681**)
4 (**379**)
5 (**187**)