

A NETWORK OF MOBILE RESEARCHERS

The **Marie Curie Fellows Association** (MCFA) is an international and multidisciplinary network of mobile researchers. It was founded in 1996 in order to promote the Marie Curie Actions programme of the European Commission and to **provide a networking structure to Marie Curie Fellows**. Today, the Association reaches more than 3000 current and former Marie Curie grant holders from Europe and beyond.

Our members are outstanding and highly qualified researchers from all major scientific disciplines who had carried out research in a country other than their own; they have acquired new skills and they have achieved international recognition in their field. The online database allows members to look for other mobile researchers in the neighbourhood and can be used to engage in networking activities.

The diversity in disciplines and geographic locations represents our main strength, and it makes the MCFA a pan-European cross-cultural organisation, with global links and which is well placed to address the needs of the scientific community.



VOICE OF MOBILE RESEARCHERS

MCFA members contribute to debates on science policy within the European Research Area. The Association helps to convey views, opinions, critical arguments and proposals of mobile researchers; it has become the **European voice of mobile researchers**. In recent initiatives, the Association has for example provided feedback on the planned changes of the Marie Curie Action programme under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7); actively supported the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC); assisted in the creation of the European Platform for Women Scientists (EPWS); promoted the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

The Association is **one of the main stakeholders in science policy** and as such, it is regularly invited to take part in working groups, scientific committees, evaluation panels and steering boards for national and European projects, initiatives and programmes. Members are given opportunity to participate in these initiatives on behalf of the Association, and by doing so, learn about science policy, gain valuable practical experience and establish new contacts. The MCFA publishes articles about science policy in its own publications as well as in scientific and general public journals.

The MCFA Letter to Members provides information about events and initiatives in and around the MCFA.

ASSISTANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Association actively helps researchers with a number of issues related to the integration in the host country and project administration. The MCFA mailing lists foster the sharing of experiences and information relevant to researchers' career and professional development as well as more practical problems such as application for residence permits, social security benefits and taxation of mobility and other allowances.

The Association helps **tackling obstacles to geographic mobility**, and by doing so, it is making an active contribution to the creation of a European Research Area (ERA), fostering scientific excellence and transfer of knowledge.

The Association includes working groups on specific topics, as well as national groups. National groups are the backbone of the Association and are vital for organising meetings of mobile researchers with government officials to raise issues and giving advice on contract problems. Local group meetings are usually informal gatherings of fellows working in large institutions or within one region. They are useful as social get-togethers, and for helping solve individual problems (housing, residence permits, schools, banks etc.).

The Association provides members with a number of other benefits, including special rates to MCFA members by companies, and courses in project administration and how to write scientific papers and proposals.

WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

Researchers who were awarded with Marie Curie Fellowship or other specific European Community mobility research training grant are welcome to join the Association.

WHY TO BECOME A MEMBER?

- Get your voice heard at European level
- Get in contact with other mobile scientists and be part of one of the largest scientific communities.
- Get involved in projects, scientific committees, evaluation panels and steering boards on behalf of the Association.
- Get informed about important projects, initiatives and founding opportunities in the European Research Area.
- Get access to a range of membership benefits and IT services such as online member database and discussion forum.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

You can find an online application form on the MCFA server: <http://www.mcfa.eu/>.

MCFA WEBSITE

The MCFA website <http://mcfa.eu/> includes information about the association, links to the mailing-lists and internal discussion forum, meeting announcements, the MCFA publications, and services reserved to members.

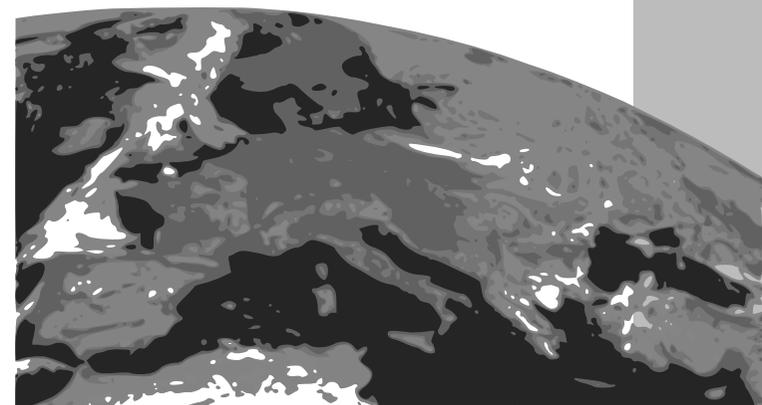


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