



Italian National Agency for New Technologies,
Energy and Sustainable Economic Development



FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF
(Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career
Development)

Waste2bioHy

“Sustainable hydrogen production from waste via two-stage
bioconversion process:
an eco-biotechnological approach”

Antonella Marone, PhD
ENEA fellowship

Marie Curie Actions Road-Show, 11 April 2013, Rome

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Before you start writing, proposal planning, hints
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Example Evaluation Report
- After getting accepted
Contract procedure times
Problems with Italian Legislation for NON permanent staff

Before you start writing...

- ~ Define your scientific and career aims
- ~ Choose the right funding instruments
- ~ Search for any kind of information (funding philosophy and objective of the funding agency), :
 - Marie Curie Road-Show good place to start (for me it worked)
 - Contact your National Contact Point
 - EU – ENEA Liaison Office: Roberta Boniotti, Massimo Busuoli
- ~ EU priority actions and policy positions, targets, strategy and action plan
- ~ Use the experience of successful applicants

Funding Philosophy of the EU

Overall objective: supporting the further development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA) by making Europe more attractive for researchers

Aim of the Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships:

- *Support the career development, or restart of experienced researchers*
- *Support researchers in attaining and/or strengthening a leading independent position*

So you have to put equivalent time and effort into addressing issues of career development and how you will fulfil your potential to become an independent European research leader, as you put into describing the science!

Types of Desired Projects

- **Beyond the state-of-the art**
 - Cutting edge
 - Key contribution to European excellence
- **Collaborative**
 - Foster long-term research ties within EU
 - Contribute to education of younger researchers
- **Well-matched** to researcher's background and host's expertise
- **Facilitate career development**

Search for an excellent host institution/supervisor

- Excellent training environment:
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Inter-sectorial (public-private)
 - International
- Good experience in EU projects (Marie Curie experiences are desirable)
- Full equipment and competencies for the project
- Supervisor/s with excellent CV

Hints...

If you still want to proceed with IEF, start writing the proposal as soon as possible, bearing in mind that you should convince the reader that:

1. your project is very promising and top priority for FP7 funds
2. you are the best candidate for this project
3. the host where you want to do the project is the best host possible for that project.

When writing, remember that you are like a salesman...

Don't just give facts, write enthusiastically, with selfconfidence and be convincing!

Hints...

Educate the evaluator!

Remember that the evaluator is unlikely to be an expert in your exact field and won't know what you are going to research. They will have lots of applications to look at so yours needs to be really eye-catching.

Check your English, have someone else read /double check

Make the document not only clear to understand, but also attractive (not to bore the evaluators!)

Make others read your project, not only colleagues but also non-experts in your field

The case of Waste2bioHy

Waste2bioHy

“Sustainable hydrogen production from waste via two-stage bioconversion process: an eco-biotechnological approach”

*IEF Grantee: Antonella Marone, PhD
(ENEA – UTRINN-BIO fellowship)*

*Host: INRA (French National Institute For Agricultural Research)
Laboratory of Environmental Biotechnology (LBE)*



Project coordinator: Prof. Jean-Philippe Steyer

Scientist in Charge: Dr. Eric Trably



“Sustainable Hydrogen production via two-stage bioconversion process: an eco-biotechnological approach”

Technical aim:

the development of a sustainable, cascade two-step BioHydrogen production process from Organic Waste Streams, combining DARK FERMENTATION with MICROBIAL ELECTOLYSIS CELL , maximizing at the same time energy recovery and effluent depollution.

Scientific goals:

the acquisition of fundamental knowledge on microbial interactions in microbial ecosystems, that are at the basis of the conversion of organic matter to energy.

Approach:

the project adopt an interdisciplinary approach to deal with mixed cultures, from microbial engineering to microbial ecology and microbial physiology: this will establish new knowledge derived from microbial ecology, to the modern industrial and environmental biotechnologies.

Evaluation Criteria

5 Criteria:

- i. S&T Quality (weight 25%)
- ii. Training (weight 15%)
- iii. Researcher (weight 25%)
- iv. Implementation (weight 15%)
- v. Impact (weight 20%)

Scorings (range 0-5)

0- N.D.; 1- Poor; 2- Fair; 3- Good; 4- Very good; 5- Excellent

Threshold:

70 out of 100 overall, and each section > 3.0/5.0

Ethics:

Be sure to address any issues in proposal

Evaluation scores will be given for each of the five criteria, and not for the sub-criteria.

2.1 IEF-Funding Scheme 'Support for Training and Career Development of Researchers': Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development				
Criteria				
S&T Quality (award) Threshold: 3, Weighting:25%	Training (award) Threshold: 3, Weighting:15%	Researcher (award) Threshold: 4, Weighting:25%	Implementation (selection) Weighting:15%	Impact (award) Threshold: 3.5; Weighting:20%
Priority in case of ex aequo				
3	2	1	5	4
Research/technological quality, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal	Clarity and quality of the research training objectives for the researcher	Research experience **	Quality of infrastructure / facilities and International collaborations of host	Impact of competencies acquired during the fellowship on the future career prospects of the researcher, in particular through exposure to transferable skills training with special attention to exposure to the industry sector, where appropriate *
Appropriateness of research methodology and approach	Relevance and quality of additional research training as well as of transferable skills offered, with special attention to exposure to the industry sector, where appropriate *	Research results including patents, publications, teaching etc., taking into account the level of experience	Practical arrangements for the implementation and management of the research project *	Contribution to career development, or re-establishment where relevant *
Originality and innovative nature of the project, and relationship to the 'state of the art' of research in the field	Measures taken by the host for providing quantitative and qualitative mentoring/tutoring	Independent thinking and leadership qualities	Feasibility and credibility of the project, including work plan	Benefit of the mobility to the European Research Area
Timeliness and relevance of the project		Match between the fellow's profile and project	Practical and administrative arrangements, and support for the hosting of the fellow *	Development of lasting cooperation and collaborations with other countries
Host research expertise in the field		Potential for reaching or re-enforcing a position of professional maturity *		Contribution to European excellence and European competitiveness regarding the expected research results
Quality of the group/scientist in charge		Potential to acquire new knowledge		Impact of the proposed outreach activities *

Waste2bioHy Evaluation Report

1 Criterion: S&T Quality

Threshold/Max: 3.00/5.00

Weight: 0.25

Mark: 4.6

Strengths

- The scientific state-of-the-art is very well described in the proposal.
- The objectives and the methodologies which will be deployed are clearly listed.
- The methodological approach is very well detailed and justified, using also novel approach and two different approaches in parallel.
- The host is excellent.

Weakness

The choice of sampling site was not sufficiently explained and the importance of this for the quality of the samples is not fully justified.

2 Criterion: Training

Threshold/Max: 3.00/5.00

Weight: 0.15

Mark: 4.3

Strengths

- A high quality research training programme is presented.
- The proposal well demonstrates the relevance of the additional complimentary training offered to the applicant.
- Host's expertise in training is demonstrated.

Weakness

The proposal does not sufficiently describe the measures to provide high-quality mentoring.

Waste2bioHy Evaluation Report

3 Criterion: Researcher

Threshold/Max: 4.00/5.00

Weight: 0.25

Mark: 4.6

Strengths

- The CV of the applicant is complete and convincing, results have been well reported.
- The proposal demonstrates the match of the applicant expertise within the field of research .
- A very good level independent thinking is demonstrated.
- Very good potential to reach good professional position is present.
- The applicant has a very good level of practical experience from several laboratories.
- The applicant has demonstrated a very good level of leadership, in particular by successfully securing research funding at an early stage of the career.

Weakness

Even considering the stage of career, the applicant is an author of relatively few published peer-reviewed scientific papers.

4 Criterion: Implementation

Threshold/Max: 3.00/5.00

Weight: 0.15

Mark: 4.4

Strengths

- All tools and equipment need is in place at the host and the host is well prepared to handle all practical arrangements for the project to become successful.
- The administrative arrangements are very well suited for the purpose.

Weakness

The workplan for the proposed work is detailed in its description but the feasibility of the work proposed for the second year is not sufficiently well explained.

Waste2bioHy Evaluation Report

5 Criterion: Impact

Threshold/Max: 3.50/5.00

Weight: 0.20

Mark: 4.6

Strengths

- The competences acquired during the fellowship will be beneficial for the future career prospects of the researcher.
- There is good prospect for the development of lasting cooperation between two leading European laboratories which will contribute to European excellence and competitiveness.
- The proposal includes a description of outreach activities which is clear and adequate

Weakness

The impact of the exact methods and level of competence which will be gained is insufficiently described.

TOTAL SCORE

Threshold/Max: 70.0/100.0

90,5

Funded/Submitted: ~614/6000 (All disciplines)

Ethical Issues

no

After getting accepted

⇒ Information Letter Evaluation Report	26 November 2012
⇒ Invitation to Negotiation	3 December 2012
⇒ Negotiations has been finalized	16 January 2013
⇒ Grant Agreement has been signed	21 February 2013
⇒ Contract	????????????????

Starting date assumed to be 1st May 2013
the delay is due to the contract preparation from EU office

Probable starting date 1st of June???

You can start your project within 12 months after the grant is signed
but do not rely on an «early starting date»!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

After getting accepted

Problem with Italian Legislation for Non Permanent staff

ENEA fellowship could not be suspended
must be **stopped**

No formal relationship will remain with the ENEA when
the project will begin



ENEA

Italian National Agency for New Technologies,
Energy and Sustainable Economic Development



Good Luck!

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