

Una Scuola Internazionale per lo sviluppo dell'imballaggio cellulosico innovativo e sostenibile

Marie Curie Actions - Initial Training Networks (ITN)

7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme *People* Programme

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Early Stage Researcher

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#### Framework Programmes for Research:

- strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry;
- •encourage its international competitiveness, while promoting research that supports EU policies.



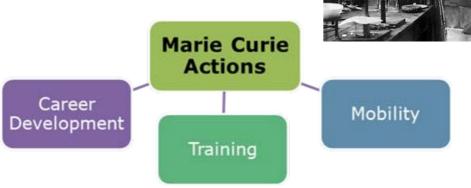
# People program

support for researcher mobility and career development

Marie Curie Actions: providing fellowships and other measures to help researchers build their skills and competences throughout their careers.



- Involvement of industry, including SMEs
- Knowledge sharing, dissemination and open access
- International cooperation
- Attractive employment conditions
- Quality of doctoral training



Marie Curie Fellowships - European research grants available to researchers of all ages and level of experience regardless of their nationality and field of research.

#### Two categories of researchers

- Early Stage Researcher (ESR): less than 4 years of research experience
- Experienced Researcher (ER): with a doctoral degree or at least 4 years of research experience







# How to apply?

Calls can be found and proposals submitted through the <u>Participant portal</u>.



http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/index\_en.htm



#### MCA for Industry/SME

IAPP - Industry Academia Partnerships and Pathways

- •Exchange of know-how and experience between private sector and academia through secondments of research staff of the participants;
- •<u>Recruitment of experienced staff</u> from outside the partnership, for facilitating the <u>transfer of knowledge</u> and/or the training of staff;
- Networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences, involving the participants' own research staff and external researchers;
- •Research equipment funding for SMEs with up to 10% of the EU contribution for each SME participant.

#### **ITN** - Initial Training Networks

- •Recruitment of researchers (in the first 5 years of their careers) for initial training;
- •<u>Recruitment of experienced researchers</u> of outstanding stature in international training and collaborative research to <u>strengthen transfer of knowledge</u>;
- Networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences, involving the participants' own research staff and external researchers.



## MCA for Industry/SME

<u>Transferring cutting-edge Science and Technology</u> from creative Academic groups to SMEs is a <u>key element of successful business</u>.



IAPP and ITN are <u>promoting Business-Academia collaborations</u> focusing on giving researchers the adequate skills and opportunities to contribute to SME and other business growth.

# **ITN - Initial Training Networks**

offer early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects

## •Who can apply?

#### **Multi-partner ITNs**

ITNs are <u>typically</u> set up as Multi-partner ITNs, with at least <u>three</u> <u>participants</u> established in at least three different Member States or associated countries.

<u>Associated partners</u> can also complement the training programme.

#### •Which research topics can be funded?

Any research field in the <u>humanities or science</u> may qualify – provided that there is an element of mobility across national borders.



# **ITN - Initial Training Networks**

#### •How does it work?

Networks will be <u>selected competitively</u> following an evaluation process.

Proposals are <u>evaluated by external independent experts</u> against a series of predetermined criteria and selected for <u>funding for up to 4 years</u>.

#### •What does the funding cover?

Recruitment of researchers for initial training.

<u>Networking activities</u>, outreach activities, <u>workshops or conferences</u> that involve <u>research staff</u> from the participating research establishments and <u>external researchers</u>.



## New Generation of Functional Cellulose Fibre Based Packaging Materials for Sustainability

The NEWGENPAK ITN is an interdisciplinary research training network.



## **Primary aim**

Create a European <u>network on sustainable packaging</u> meanwhile improving the career prospects of its young researchers.

# **Objectives**

- conduct top-level research and training and devise innovative solutions for specific EU needs in the area of <u>sustainable packaging</u>;
- advance the state-of-the-art in wood cellulose based sustainable packaging in three specific areas:
  - next generation packaging composites;
  - cellulose-fibre based active packaging;
  - environmental, economic and society aspects of packaging production.
- educate the next generation of researchers inside a broad European research training network;
- create an integrated, long-term <u>sustainable packaging research</u> and <u>training</u> base in the EU.



## Scientific and technological objectives

To take wood cellulose based packaging materials a significant step forward by <u>replacing petroleum-based additives</u> used in paper and board packaging materials in order to <u>achieve</u> the barrier and other <u>crucial properties</u> needed <u>for competitive</u>, <u>low carbon footprint</u>, <u>packaging materials</u>.

This must be achieved <u>using sustainable production methods</u> whilst producing a cohort of <u>excellently trained ERs\ESRs</u>.

The scientific work programme is divided into 3 workpackages:

- WP1 Next Generation Packaging Composites (barrier coatings);
- WP2 Next generation cellulose-fibre based active packaging (active coatings);
- WP3 Sustainable production of packaging (sustainability of the resulting product).



#### WP1 - Next Generation Packaging Composites

## **Objectives**

- •biopolymer-based coating systems to provide barrier properties;
- •nanocomposite films for advanced packaging applications;
- •identify the key interactions between biopolymer, plasticizer and clay that give rise to the excellent barrier properties of dispersion coatings and self-supporting films;
- •deliver the desired mass transport properties of industrially produced nanocomposite coatings.

#### Leader



Technical University of Denmark

#### **Industrial Partners**











#### WP2 - Next generation cellulose-fibre based active packaging

## **Objectives**

- •provide functional properties such as antioxidant and antimicrobial;
- •develop grafting techniques to introduce functional groups onto microfibrillated cellulose and cellulose whiskers;
- develop stable multiphase dispersions for active delivery.

#### Leader



Innovazione e ricerca

#### **Industrial Partners**







## WP3 - Sustainable production of packaging

analyse and optimise the packaging process and the delivery of coatings so that they are as sustainable as possible.

## **Objectives**

- assess package production and its effect on product losses;
- define suitable indicators for assessing the sustainability of the new active packaging solutions;
- assess the sustainability including recycling, energy recovery and biodegradability/composting.

#### Leader



#### **Industrial Partners**











# Individual Research Project – ESR6

Developing active packaging solutions through incorporation of organic/inorganic active components in renewable materials

#### **Host Institution**





#### **Project Supervisory team**

Dr. Graziano Elegir

Dr. Patrizia Sadocco

Innovazione e ricerca

#### **PhD**

Scienze Chimiche



#### **Thesis Supervisor**

Dr. Massimo Mella

#### **Secondments**

1. Chemical functionalization of nanoparticles



2. Investigate the impact of different modification routes on Life Cycle Analysis and Carbon Footprint.



# Individual Research Project - ESR6

This research project will be carried out between WP2 and WP3:

WP2 - use of several methods to incorporate active functionalities (antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-ripening and barrier) to increase product shelf life

- 1. coating applications based on active inorganic nanoparticles;
- 2. bio-chemical approaches based on essential oils.

**WP3** - packaging End-of-Life options

- 1. impact on recyclability in the paper recycling stream;
- 2. organic recovery:
  - aerobic compostability
  - anaerobic biogas production
- 3. impact of different modification routes on Life Cycle Analysis and Carbon Footprint.



# Grazie a tutti per l'attenzione

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