

**Marie Curie Action (FP7) – Initial Training Networks (ITN)  
Innovative doctoral programme (IDP)**

*Application deadline: January 12, 2012*

**“Scientific discovery games”**

**Innovative doctoral training network:**

<b>Proposal coordinator:</b>	<b>Associated partners:</b>
<i>University Paris Descartes</i>	<i>private sector, research labs in Europe</i>
implementation of the joint training (recruiting, employing and supervising, research training and placement opportunities)	training in research and transferrable skills, placement opportunities
	must include an up-to-date letter of commitment to ensure their real and active participation in the network
all partners participate in dedicated network activities and in the supervisory board	

**Aims of the research and training program:**

- train the new generation of experts in innovative education and research approaches
- change the way science and research is perceived by the general public and make science more accessible to everyone
- co-construction of knowledge by both the researchers and general public
- integration of modern technologies for the benefit of all – new educational and research tools

**Research highlights:**

- innovative approaches to science education and conducting research through crowdsourcing and games
- creation and development of new scientific discovery games for a variety of platforms (social networks, mobile devices, consoles, PC)
- construction of a platform for rapid prototyping of novel games
- all ideas disseminated under the Creative Commons Licenses
- main research areas and topics: innovative crowdsourcing research for:  
1. Aging 2. Robotics and microfluidics 3. Synthetic and Systems Biology  
and other discovery games in the interface of life sciences, social sciences and other disciplines  
*(detailed research topics to be defined by all partners and PhD candidates)*

**Training highlights:**

***International***

- international candidates and international network of partners
- training abroad (courses, workshops, symposia)
- research visit abroad (up to 6 months in associated labs)

***Interdisciplinary***

- courses and clubs in the CRI (interdisciplinary life sciences courses and transferrable skills workshops)
- interdisciplinary individual research projects (interface of natural sciences + teaching/learning)
- yearly interdisciplinary workshop organized by the PhD students

***Intersectoral***

- experts from private sector to **deliver courses** on entrepreneurship, exploitation of research results, ethics, patenting etc.
- **co-mentoring** of PhD student (mentors from both academia and private sector, depending on the research project) yearly interdisciplinary workshop organized by the PhD students
- private sector **internship opportunities** (several weeks or months) to PhD students to develop their research project at the premises of a possible future employer
- **networking opportunities**

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<p><b>Specific aspects where you could get involved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ performing research</li> <li>○ providing training</li> <li>○ hosting PhD students</li> <li>○ enlarging dissemination</li> <li>○ overall project management</li> </ul>	<p><b>Benefits for the associated partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ internal research improvement</li> <li>○ innovative crowdsourcing input</li> <li>○ top level international PhD students</li> <li>○ international networking</li> <li>○ EU funded project</li> </ul>
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**All expenses of PhD student training and hosting will be covered by the grant.**

**EU Funding:**

maximum of 500 research months equal to **13 PhD students for 3 years** (covering the salary of the students during the whole training, living allowance, mobility allowance and students’ training expenses by the network partners).

**Scientific research areas of the project**

- Aging
- Robotics and microfluidics
- Synthetic and Systems Biology

*(detailed research topics to be defined by all partners and PhD candidates)*

**Calendar of the research and training program :**

- expected 1st wave of PhD students (6-7 students) – October 2012 (graduation in September 2015)
- expected 2nd wave of PhD students (6-7 students) – October 2013 (graduation in September 2016)

**EU general context of the project**

<p><b>Enhanced industry-academia cooperation through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research training</li> <li>○ career development</li> <li>○ knowledge-sharing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key initiatives of the Innovation Union:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ promoting excellence in education and skills development</li> <li>○ Europe's creative potential and spreading the benefits of innovation across EU</li> <li>○ increasing social benefits</li> <li>○ reforming research and innovation systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>General evaluation criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ quality of research training</li> <li>○ gender balance in research careers (at least 40% participation by women)</li> <li>○ attractive employment conditions</li> <li>○ knowledge sharing, dissemination and open access</li> <li>○ international cooperation and involvement of industry, including SMEs</li> </ul>
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