



Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Erasmus Mundus and External Cooperation

**UNIVERSITE PAUL CEZANNE - AIX-
MARSEILLE III**
M. Marc PENA
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France

Brussels, 15/07/2009
EACEA/P4/JF/cg/ D(2009) 303765
2009/EM Selection

Subject: Erasmus Mundus Action 1 – Joint Doctorate programme
Title: Doctorate Program in Photonics Engineering, Nanophotonics and Biophotonics
Reference: 159224-1-2009-1-FR-ERA MUNDUS-EMJD
(Please quote this number in all correspondence)

Dear M. Marc PENA,

You have submitted a proposal in the framework of the 2009 Erasmus Mundus Call for Proposals (EAC/04/09) for the Action mentioned above.

I am pleased to inform you that your above-mentioned proposal has been selected.

The corresponding framework partnership agreement and other relevant information will be sent to you by separate mail.

All proposals were assessed with the assistance of independent academic experts. Enclosed you will find for your information a summary of the experts' assessments of your proposal.

We will publish a description of your Joint Doctorate Programme on the Erasmus Mundus website. For this purpose you will shortly receive an e-mail including an electronic template for your consortium to complete.

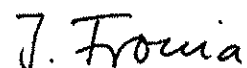
For the preparation of the five-year Framework Partnership Agreement, you will need to complete a "Legal Entity" form (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm) and a "Financial Identification" (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm) form that you will find in the above-mentioned web pages. The original copy of these documents, duly signed by your institution's legal representative, should be returned to the Agency by 15 September.

Finally, we are pleased to inform you that we will shortly be organizing our annual Erasmus Mundus Conference that will bring together all the Erasmus Mundus coordinators and a number of their partners. This will take place in Brussels on 21 (afternoon), 22 and 23 October. We invite you to block these dates in your diary and we will provide you with further information during the summer.

EACEA – "Education, Audiovisual and Culture" Executive Agency
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(G:\UNIT P4\Management & Admin. EM & EC\Internal Management\EM II management\Selection EMA1 Avr09\Notification letters\final versions)

Should you require any further information, please contact Dimitris Kokkalis, Programme Manager: Tel: +32/2/296.86.77 - dimitris.kokkalis@ec.europa.eu or José Gutierrez, Deputy Head of Unit, Tel: +32/2/296.78.09 - jose.gutierrez@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,



Joachim Fronia
Head of Unit

Annexes: - Comments and recommendations from the two independent experts who have assessed your proposal.

Proposal number:	159224-EM-1-2009-1-FR-ERA MUNDUS-EMJD
Proposal title:	Doctorate Program in Photonics Engineering, Nanophotonics and Biophotonics
Coordinator:	Ms Sophie BRASSELET
Applicant organisation:	UNIVERSITE PAUL CEZANNE - AIX-MARSEILLE III

Award Criteria

B.1 Academic and research quality (20% of the max. score)

The needs for an international education and training programme in the field of photonics engineering, nanophotonics and biophotonics are well described. It highlights the increasing importance of photonics as a major scientific field and the new applications. The objectives of the project reveal the multidisciplinary character of the proposal. Practically all optics scientific domains and applications, including emerging ones, are covered. The added value brought by the consortium compared with other programmes should have been described. The partners are deeply involved in European optical organizations from which the students can benefit, but the contribution which the programme could bring to the European research community and industry is not identified.

The structure of the doctoral course given is described in detail. The research programme (topics) envisaged for the doctoral candidates is clearly described. Possible mobility schemes are presented, defined according the specialization to be obtained. However, the methodology proposed for these schemes is not clear. It is stated that "the student can follow consistent weeks of training every three months". It is not clear whether the students have to attend a module each three months in a different institution or if only one of the three months period has to be carried-out in a second institution. In the examples provided in the annex, mobility is broken down in seven periods which could be disruptive for regular research work, particularly in the final stages of the programme. The topics covered in the modules provide a good education but there is no mention of how many credits are awarded per module.

Sustainability issues need further elaboration. The originality and innovation aspects of the education and training programme, as well as the research aspects are well presented.

The employability of doctoral candidates in relation to the skills and competences acquired is effectively described.

B.2 Partnership experience and composition (20% of the max. score)

The proposed partnership has the technological expertise and capacity to accomplish the objectives of the project, since it consists of well known institutions in the field of photonics engineering. Partners have long-standing joint cooperation with an international orientation in educational and scientific research. All the institutions have regular research and teaching activity at the PhD level, supported by well equipped facilities. This activity has been regularly published in international journals and conferences. The administrative staff are able to support the main aspects related to the welcoming, accommodation, and daily life of the students. A coherent and well structured strategy is presented to integrate all aspects related to maintaining the programme.

All partners have been involved in other international projects, in the same or in different consortia, and are collaborating in other joint activities. However, no data is presented for joint PhD supervisions or joint publications. All partners show an appropriate level of internationalization in the student population, visiting scholars and researchers. Contacts exist with universities and research centres

around the world. The staff publications show that they have published in international conferences and journals. The involvement of the partners in the organization of international conferences or standardization committees is not mentioned.

Proposed activities for each partner are well defined. The proposed EMJD is characterized by a high degree of complementarity in education, training and research.

Description of the agreements covering issues such as co-funding (funding strategy), co-supervision, intellectual property rights, publishing possibilities, quality assurance, , are detailed.

B.3. European integration and functioning of the programme (20% of the max. score)

The organisation of the joint programme in a structured and integrated way is sufficiently presented. Timing and form of supervision are not clearly described.

A programme of studies is presented which clearly shows the possible mobility tracks, the duration of different visits, and the modules to be covered in each visit. The Quality Charter of the Doctorate Program Europhotonics regulates the joint involvement of all partners in the consortium including the quality of teaching, learning, and research support, joint tutorship and co-supervision, joined-up practice and integration, leadership across institutions, facilities, logistics, and finances. However, no accreditation mechanisms are being used. No ECTS credits are allocated to modules . The work of the students is not quantified in terms of the different activity hours.

The possible mobility periods are identified according to the different modules to be taken by the students. The minimum of six months spent in a second institution is ensured, but the mobility examples show that these periods are fragmented forcing the student to stay in a single place for no more than one semester, which can be disruptive in the critical phases of the programme when concentration and continuity are required. It is not clear whether these different mobility periods will lead to a cumulative period longer than 6 months which may not be covered by the EMJD fellowship. The selection procedure is well described, taking into the account gender aspects.

Joint assessment procedures are well described and justified. Corrective mechanisms to identify and avoid problems with specific candidates need further elaboration.

The common standards and mechanisms developed by the consortium for application, selection, admission and examination are thoroughly addressed. The final examination procedure is transparent and will involve internal and external examiners, including members from third-countries or other European countries.

A multiple degree will be awarded. The possibility of a joint degree will be discussed. The multiple degree should be complemented by a Diploma Supplement stating that the degree was awarded in the framework of this EMJD.

B.4 Provisions for EMJD candidates and fellowship holders (20% of the max. score)

The information and promotion strategy is sufficiently described. A detailed description of the promotion routes that they will exploit to reach potential candidates has been proposed by the applicants. All partner institutions show a good record in the number of students attracted from European and non-European countries. Cooperation links have been established with countries around the world. Different dissemination means are foreseen.

Consortium members have established mechanisms to assist potential candidates with their living requirements. The proposed language policy is well described and courses in English and in the local languages are offered by the consortium members.

Administrative arrangements to address candidates' rights are foreseen. The consortium has decided to apply employment contracts for the appointment of the candidates. The details of issuing of an employment contract are not provided. The application addresses in this field the support that will be ensured to the students in terms of insurance and access to health services.

The financial management of the fellowships is thoroughly described. Partners will share equally the funding granted to the consortium. The transfer of students' fellowships to the respective bank accounts in due time is foreseen. How this will be done during the mobility period is not mentioned,

but current inter-banking schemes allow easy access to bank accounts within Europe.

The Doctoral Candidate Agreement defining the obligations and responsibilities for the two parties: academic, research, administrative and financial is specific and functional. A career exploratory support work package has been created. Other initiatives are foreseen to raise student awareness of prospective placements and careers. The contribution of the associated partner is mentioned but not in details. The creation of an alumni association is foreseen. Monitoring of the candidate's career development once graduated is addressed. Consortium agreement with the doctoral candidates respecting the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Good Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers is well presented and justified.

B.5 Programme Management and Quality Assurance (20% of the max. score)

The existence of the management scheme (management committee, scientific committee, internal and external quality committee and examination committee) to run the proposed EMJD is adequately described. The role of each partner in the project management is defined and justified. Figures for the human as well, as the financial resources allocated for the management are given. The programme is correctly classified as mainly laboratory based. The fees to be charged, 600/month, are the same for European and non-European students. The services and facilities covered by these fees are identified.

The internal evaluation and external quality assessment as presented in the proposed quality charter is clear and convincing. A clear and effective quality assessment strategy is foreseen. A quality charter has been issued which will be adopted by all partners. External evaluation will involve members from industry and from countries different from those in the consortium. The programme will be evaluated by the national quality evaluation systems. The periodic Doctorate Days meetings will provide internal evaluation.

The proposed consortium development and sustainability plan to ensure the continuity of the joint programme is promising. The role of the associated member PopSud is well described. Measures for complementary funding for any potential difference between the fixed programme contribution and the participation costs of the candidates are foreseen. There is a commitment to ensure complementary funding but no details are presented to identify how many grants will be supported each year or whether these will be available in all partners.

The commitment to balanced gender participation, access for disadvantaged and/or disabled people are part of the proposed quality charter.

