

Ministry of Education,
University and Research -
M.I.U.R.

***“FUTURO IN RICERCA”
PROGRAMME***

Villa La Fonte- Fiesole 11 February 2009

What is “Futuro in Ricerca”?

- It is one of the **financial instruments** used by the Ministry to fund research projects.
- The **call is part of the activities** financed from the Investment Fund of Basic Research (called FIRB).
- The FIRB – “Futuro in Ricerca” budget amounts to **50MEuro**.
- The **cost for each project** can be from € 300.000,00 to € 2.000.000,00.
- It is possible to submit projects in different areas of research provided within the basic research.
- The call provides for **two lines of action**: Line 1 - Line 2. In both of the lines and for each project the number of research units is calculated from 1 to 3 (there is no limit to the number of participants in each research unit)

OBJECTIVES OF “FUTURO IN RICERCA” PROGRAMME

PURPOSES:

- To encourage the replacement of researchers' generations.
- To give strong support to emerging scientific excellence within the universities and public research institutes which are linked to the Ministry.
- To favour “brain gain” and “reverse brain drain”.
- To improve career opportunities and independence – especially for young researchers.
- To increase competition, recognition and international visibility for excellent young researchers.

WHO CAN APPLY?

LINE OF ACTION N. 1

(Max age 32)

Line is open to Italian and EU PhD
(Principal Investigators)

Requirements:

Age: Under 33 years (P.I. must not be 33 years old on 19 December 2008 – release date of call);

PhD: The PhD qualification must be obtained by 27 February 2009;

Employment status: The PhD should not be employed by any Italian university (public or private) or public research institutes (PRI) linked to the Ministry.

LINE OF ACTION N. 1

(Max age 32)

CONTRACTS:

- The PhD must be hosted by, for the whole period of the research, by the Italian public university or PRI linked to the Ministry. The P.I. is free to decide the Italian host institution.
- It is necessary (for admission to the funding) that Universities (or PRI) stipulate contracts lasting at least three years with the PhD. The types of contracts will be determined by the observance of laws and university in force.
- The commitment of the legal representative of the institution, and the work assignment to the Principal Investigator, must be enclosed to the proposal (No formats are available).

LINE OF ACTION N. 1

(Max age 32)

CONTRACTS

- The contract includes a PhD's **full time** commitment on the project. This means that PhD cannot simultaneously have other commitments.
- The cost of contract must be at least equal to 10% of total cost of project.

The full cost of the contract (three years or more) of the PhD is covered by the FIRB – Futuro in Ricerca – Funding.

WHO CAN APPLY?

LINE OF ACTION N. 2

(Max age 38)

This line is open to junior researchers and university teachers (**Principal Investigators**)

Requirements:

Age: Under 39 years (P.I. must not be 39 years old on 19 December 2008 – release date of call);

Qualification: junior researchers and university teachers;

Employment status: the PI must be employed by Italian Public University or public research institutes (PRI) linked to the Ministry. Their contracts with Institutions must be permanent.

LINE OF ACTION N. 2

(Max age 38)

The P.I. **must stipulate** (for admission to the funding) contracts lasting at least **three years** with the junior researchers.

Contracts can be of two types:

- Coordinated and permanent collaboration contracts.
- Project-based contracts.

With the exception of possible extensions to other types of contract, according to the laws and regulations that are in force when the agreement is signed.

LINE OF ACTION N. 2 (Max age 38)

CONTRACTS:

Contracts must be stipulated with:

- Graduates aged under 32 years;
- Graduates with at least three-year documented experience in the scientific and technological field;
- Recognized international researchers. The contracts must provide for a period of not less than six months.

General aspects of submitted projects

- Every research project can provide for a number of research units between 1 and 3;
- Each coordinator of research units must have requirements of line 1 or line 2 (age, qualification, etc.);
- Mixed projects are allowed (for example P.I. can belong to Line 1 and research unit – 2 and 3 - can belong to Line 2 and vice versa);
- Participating in more than one proposal is not allowed;
- Personnel belonging to different institutions may participate as staff in the research unit (foreign researchers, employees of private institutions, etc).

HOW IS FUNDING STRUCTURED INTO?

- Ministry covers **70% of the full cost**, already less junior researchers contracts (Line 1-2) recognized 100% of submitted cost.
- Remaining **30%** of the total project **can** be covered through the salary of employed staff - that represents the commitment person-months charged by host institution (Line 1) or by proposer institution (Line 2) – or cash.

The costs presented by P.I. in the reporting costs phase will be subject to administrative control by the Miur.

PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

- Each line provides for separate evaluation
- To evaluate projects an experts' committee is provided (peer review evaluation)

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- **Relevance and/or originality** of the expected results, and **innovation degree** of the proposed methodologies.
- **Scientific qualification** of researchers, university teachers, Phd.
- **Coherence** with proposed research project.

MIUR has provided for interviews with applicants. The procedures for admission to the interviews will be defined as soon as possible by FIRB committee. Subsequently Miur will make procedures available on its website.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- Proposal must be submitted **before 27 February 2009** at 5 p.m. (Rome local time), electronically via the website: ***http://sitofirb.cineca.it***.
- Proposal must be **printed, signed and sent** within next 7 days to:

***MIUR – Direzione Generale della Ricerca – Ufficio
IV – Piazza Kennedy, 20 00144 ROMA***

(by registered mail).

RELEVANT LINKS

- “Futuro in Ricerca Programme”: Home page
<http://futuroinricerca.miur.it/>
- Electronic Proposal Submission Service
<https://loginmiur.cineca.it/front.php/registrazione.html>
- Administrative information
futuroinricerca@miur.it
- Technical information on the projects' submission
futuroinricerca@cineca.it