



## **D5.6 RUN-EU RDI Mobility Programme Annual Activity Report (1st Report)**

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## 1. RUN-EU International Research Development and Innovation Mobility Programme

The RDI internship mobility program will comprise of immersive placements within an infrastructure belonging to RUN-EU alliance members or relevant partners. The RUN-EU RDI mobility programme report details the international internship programme for the mobility of researchers within RUN-EU. The internship programme is designed for researchers to learn and train at partner institutions to promote the transfer of technical knowledge, best practises and the processes of peer learning within RDI activities in the RUN-EU alliance.

Research helps us to remain at the forefront of the research disciplines we study, develop, and innovate. Maintaining strong links with industry and other stakeholders facilitates the delivery of societally impactful research outcomes. The free movement of knowledge is a priority for Europe while investing in knowledge and innovation will lead to greater job opportunities and more rewarding careers for researchers, ultimately helping to deliver a 'borderless European Research Area'. 'New knowledge and technologies are not the result of an anonymous production process. They are rather the outcome of individual scientific and inventive personalities'<sup>1</sup>. International mobility facilitates the collaborative efforts of these innovative researchers. International research and innovation collaboration can involve bilateral and multilateral relationships and collaborations within and across disciplines which is a critical element of the ethos of RUN-EU. These mobility visits allow for the development of new networks and personal contacts facilitating knowledge transfer and the generation of novel innovative societally impactful ideas.

Within the scope of the proposed mobility projects, we will monitor for the acquisition of skills that should strongly enhance the applicant's prospects of reaching a position of professional maturity, diversity, and independence. Regarding scientific skills, the required acquisition of new knowledge, will clearly help the candidate researchers to diversify their current profile and provide them with an excellent background for further career developments in their chosen research fields. As part of the Ljubljana process<sup>2</sup> international cooperation in research and innovation was identified as one of the five areas of "partnership" initiatives (ERA Groups) to increase cooperation and with the specific objective of implementing the European strategy for international science and innovation cooperation. We anticipate these mobility projects will bring together the different skill sets of the participants to generate a coherent strategy for improving European excellence in the chosen research field within RUN-EU.

Within work package 5, the RUN-EU Discovery Programme, we have eight European future-looking RDI teams to address societal challenges in a multi-disciplinary approach thus delivering innovative solutions adaptable to different regions in Europe. In operationalising RDI activities, through strong collaboration among partners Regional

Innovation Clusters and our three European Innovation Hubs we aim to increase and embed sustainable Inter-regional research and innovation projects across the RUN-EU alliance during the three years of the project.

1. <https://www.oecd.org/sti/062%20-%20Schiller-Cordes-Researcher-Mobility-final.pdf>

2. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/partnership/process/liubljana\\_process\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/partnership/process/liubljana_process_en.html)

The aim is construction of a new shared interdisciplinary innovation ecosystem which will facilitate the creation of a research-driven inter-university RUN-EU campus, embedded in all the regions, and in collaboration will all the relevant stakeholders, incentivising high-quality researchers and innovators to work together to transform the innovation landscape.



**Figure 1** RUN-EU 8 future-looking joint RUN-EU RDI teams indicative research areas

As a University, RUN-EU has a shared vision to become a global innovation leader, to drive a strong, sustainable economy for society where research and innovation projects provide key enabling activities to achieve our goals. In this context and supporting our other tasks within this work package including joint RDI project preparation and submission and strengthening the RDI research teams, RUN-EU is committed to designing an international internship programme for the mobility of researchers. As part of researcher career development to directly impact our human capital resources we

see mobility as critical in strengthening the support systems available to our researcher clusters and innovators. This will also help in identifying mobility opportunities which will contribute to the personal career paths of researchers encouraging inter-sectoral and international mobility and knowledge exchange.

Our mobility programme will provide networking opportunities for researchers and innovators to strengthen the RUN-EU consortium research clusters to address scientific, technological, and societal challenges in promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research, and empowering independence of our young researchers and innovators. Early-stage researchers will be targeted as part of the internship programme to promote career development, research independence and consortium development.

The initial proposed RUN-EU international RDI internship mobility programme included three main types of activities:

- i) 4-week mobility for research staff – 24 grants available per year, with a predicted distribution of 3 grants per partner;
- ii) 12-week mobility for research staff - 8 grants per year, with a predicted distribution of 1 grant per year to each partner;
- iii) 4-week mobility for research and postgraduate students - 24 grants per year, with a predicted distribution of 3 grants awarded to each partner;

Financial Conditions:

Travel: 350€/person (all typologies)

Subsistence:

- i) Research missions for staff (4 weeks): 88€/day/staff for 25 days
- ii) Research missions for staff (12 weeks): 3.500€/staff
- iii) Research missions for students (4 weeks): 1.600€/student

The internship programme will promote, consolidate, and complement the transfer of technical knowledge and the processes of peer-learning within RDI activities in the RUN-EU alliance. These internships will allow for the placement of researchers within the consortium while also facilitating intra- and extra-consortium visits by all consortium members. Industry participation where appropriate will be encouraged in the internship programme to enhance the commercial exploitation and technology knowledge transfer to deliver the expected impacts of RUN-EU. The RDI internship mobility programme is intended to create immersive placements within an infrastructure belonging to the RUN-EU alliance members or relevant partners. Funding for these mobility activities will be granted based on an application and evaluation process managed by each partner,

which will consider the work plan and objectives of the mobility action, how it will strengthen the network, the relevance of the RDI area and the expected impacts on the social and economic development of the regions.

Participating students and researchers will have to report on their experience and activities to the research group/team as well as to the task coordination group. The mission reports will include information on current and future cooperation opportunities. The task leader will collate the information and prepare an annual activity report which will describe and evaluate implemented activities as well as present a summary of potential future cooperation opportunities. This report will be made available every year to all RUN-EU members and in particular the coordination team of WP2. In the first year, the annual report for this task (D5.6) will also include a detailed guide outlining the application process for the mobility grants and the implementation of the research missions.

## **2. RUN-EU International Research Development and Innovation Mobility Programme Evaluation Process**

Proposals will be evaluated by International experts chaired by WP5 leaders, on the basis of the award criteria '**excellence**', '**impact**' and '**quality and efficiency of the implementation**'. The application form template is detailed below.

### **1. Excellence** will be evaluated from 0-5 based on

- i.) quality and credibility of the research/innovation mobility project, level of novelty with appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects;
- ii.) quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host;
- iii.) quality of the supervision and/or of the integration in the team/institution.
- iv.) Description of the hosting arrangements

### **2. Impact** will be evaluated from 0-5 based on

- i) Expected impact of the planned research and training (i.e. the added value of the fellowship).

- ii) Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results.
- iii) Impact relevance to the RUN-EU research areas.

**3. Implementation** will be evaluated from 0-5 based on

- i) Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

Evaluation scores (see evaluation procedure) will be awarded for each of the criteria, and not their individual elements. Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5. The total score will be subject to a threshold of 80% subject to funding availability. If necessary, the panel will determine a priority order for proposals which have been awarded the same score within a ranked list.

**Proposals must respect the following minimum editing standards:**

- a minimum font size of 11 points, except for the Gantt chart and tables where the minimum font size is 8 points
- single line spacing
- A4 page size
- margins (top, bottom, left, right) of at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers)
- a clear readable font (e.g. Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman)

**Types of mobility activity can include:**

- Organisation of meetings for training and best practices for project submissions;
- Training-through-research by the means of an individual personalised project, under the guidance of the supervisor and other members of the research staff of the host organisation(s);
- Hands-on training activities for developing scientific skills (new techniques, instruments, research integrity, 'big data'/'open science') and transferable skills (entrepreneurship, proposal preparation, patent applications, management of IPR, project management, task coordination, supervising and monitoring, take up and exploitation of research results);
- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge (e.g. through secondments);
- Discussions of research Masters/PhD joint supervision projects;
- Organisation of scientific/training/dissemination events.

# APPLICATION FORM TEMPLATE

## 1. Excellence- (Maximum 2 pages)

### 1.1 Quality and credibility of the research/innovation mobility project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.

Provide an introduction, discuss the state-of-the-art, specific objectives and give an overview of the mobility action. Discuss the research methodology and approach, highlighting the type of research / innovation activities proposed. Explain the originality and innovative aspects of the planned research as well as the contribution of RUN-EU research and innovation. Describe any novel concepts, approaches or methods that will be implemented. Discuss the interdisciplinary aspects of the action (if relevant). Discuss the gender dimension in the research content (if relevant).

### 1.2 Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

Outline how a two-way transfer of knowledge will occur between the researcher and the host institution(s). Explain what new knowledge the researcher will gain during the fellowship at the RUN-EU hosting organisation(s) and how it will be acquired. Outline the previously acquired knowledge and skills that the researcher will transfer to the host organisation(s). Describe the training that will be offered.

### 1.3 Quality of the supervision and/or of the integration in the team/institution

Describe the expertise of the host institution research group/area. Provide information regarding the level of experience on the research topic proposed and their track record of work, including main international collaborations, as well as the level of experience in supervising/training. Information provided should include participation in projects, publications, patents and any other relevant results.

### 1.4 Describe the hosting arrangements

The application must show that the researcher will be well integrated within the team/institution so that all parties gain maximum knowledge and skills from the fellowship. The nature and the quality of the research group/environment as a whole should be outlined, together with the measures taken to integrate the researcher in the different areas of expertise, disciplines, and international networking opportunities that the host could offer. Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship. Researchers should demonstrate how their existing professional experience, talents and the proposed research will contribute to their development as independent/mature researchers during the fellowship. Explain the new competences and skills that will be acquired and how they relate to the researcher's existing professional experience.



## **2. Impact (Maximum 1 page)**

### **2.1 Explain the expected impact of the planned research and training (i.e. the added value of the fellowship)**

Outline clearly the career goals of the researcher and how the planned research and training are likely to contribute to their achievement. Focus on how the new competences and skills (as explained in section 1.4) can make the researcher more successful in their long-term career.

### **2.2 Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results**

Describe how the new knowledge generated by the mobility will be disseminated and exploited, and what the potential impact is expected to be. Discuss the strategy for targeting peers and key stakeholders (such as the scientific community, industry, professional organisations, policy makers, etc.). Also describe potential commercialisation (if applicable) and how intellectual property rights will be dealt with, where relevant.

## **3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation (Maximum 1 page)**

### **3.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**

Describe how the work planning (including deliverables and milestones) and the resources mobilised will ensure that the research and training objectives will be reached. Explain why the number of person-months planned and requested for the researcher (and corresponding to the project duration) is appropriate in relation to the proposed activities. Additionally, a Gantt chart must be included in the text listing the following: work package titles (there should be at least 1 WP), indication of major deliverables (if applicable), indication of major milestones (if applicable), planning for dissemination, exploitation and communication activities.

## **4. CV of the Researcher (Maximum 2 pages)**

The CV is intrinsic to the evaluation of the whole proposal and is assessed throughout the three evaluation criteria by the evaluators. At a minimum, the CV should contain:

- a)** the name of the researcher
- b)** professional experience (in reverse chronological order)
- c)** education (in reverse chronological order)

The CV should also include information on:

- 1.** Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields.
- 2.** Granted patent(s).
- 3.** Research expeditions led by the experienced researcher.
- 4.** Examples of participation in industrial innovation.
- 5.** Prizes and Awards.
- 6.** Funding received so far.
- 7.** Supervising and mentoring activities.

## EVALUATION PROCEDURE

| Excellence   | Impact  | Quality and efficiency  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Quality and credibility of the research/innovation mobility project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.</p> <p>Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host.</p> <p>Quality of the supervision and/or of the integration in the team/institution.</p> <p>Describe the hosting arrangements.</p> | <p>Expected impact of the planned research and training (i.e., the added value of the fellowship).</p> <p>Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results</p> | <p>Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</p> |
| <b>50%</b>   | <b>30%</b>  | <b>20%</b>  |
| Weighting  |   |   |
| <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>  |

### **3. Impact of COVID 19 on RUN-EU International Research Development and Innovation Mobility Programme**

The Covid-19, pandemic has had a critical negative impact on the RUN-EU International Research Development and Innovation Mobility Programme for all of 2020 and 2021 and continues to impact on our researchers – their physical mobility, the way they work, and how they interact and cooperate through our international RUN-EU research networks. Restrictions on travel and social interactions, have generally prohibited movement within and between countries within our consortium, preventing implementation of the program and our researchers from visiting our partner institutions or working and conducting research in them.

The program is specifically designed to promote interinstitutional research missions at all levels within the consortium. Now as the vaccination programs across Europe and the introduction of the Digital Covid-19 Vaccination Passport system we anticipate the movement of our researchers will become more and more feasible as the vaccination programs ramp up across the RUN-EU partner countries. With this in mind we now expect to implement the first round of research mobilities in the very near future following the launch of our first call for applications in Autumn 2021.

Given the Pandemic impact in 2020/2021 for the final two years of the project we will aim to increase the numbers of the three main types of activities detailed below in years two and three in order to achieve our original mobility targets.

- i) 4-week mobility for research staff – 48 grants available per year, with a predicted distribution of 6 grants per partner;
- ii) 12-week mobility for research staff - 16 grants per year, with a predicted distribution of 2 grant per year to each partner;
- iii) 4-week mobility for research and postgraduate students - 48 grants per year, with a predicted distribution of 6 grants awarded to each partner.



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