

## Announcement for postdoctoral positions in Latvia

The government of Latvia will be opening a call with the aim of increase the scientific capacity of young scientists, ensure career possibilities for young scientists in scientific institutions and commercial businesses, improve general research competences, renew human resources and increase the number of qualified specialists. A summary (in English) of the general terms for the call is attached and the complete call (in Latvian) could be viewed at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/279803-darbibas-programmas-izaugsme-un-nodarbinatiba-1-1-1-specifiska-atbalsta-merka-palielinat-latvijas-zinatnisko-instituciju>

Accordingly, University of Latvia (Riga, Latvia) is looking for potential candidates interested in the call in order to create new postdoctoral positions. Currently, University of Latvia in collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (IARC-WHO) is running a population based multi-center study aimed at decreasing the mortality from stomach cancer (GISTAR, more information available at: [www.gistar.eu](http://www.gistar.eu)). The GISTAR study is a randomized clinical trial for evaluating the efficacy of *Helicobacter pylori* eradication combined with early detection of precancerous lesions in the prevention of stomach cancer incidence and associated mortality. At the moment the GISTAR trial is conducted in Latvia but it is expected to have an extension to other eastern European countries with high burden of stomach cancer such as Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia.

The postdoctoral researchers are expected to be involved in two major components of the GISTAR study:

- 1) The epidemiological components of the evaluation
- 2) The research on the effect of the intervention on the microbiome

For the **first topic**, competences in epidemiology and/or public health, study design and monitoring would be required. Knowledge of Russian language is desirable.

For the **second topic**, previous experience in molecular biology and microbiome would be required.

The principal requirements for the candidates include:

- 1) PhD qualification from a University registered in EU countries, obtained and dated after December 1, 2011
- 2) No previous EU funded postdoctoral position to be held
- 3) EU citizenship or permanent residence permit
- 4) High-ranked publications in peer-reviewed journals

What is expected from the person in the position:

- Ability to manage the study, including supervision of the field and laboratory work
- Design of the ancillary studies, protocol developments
- Statistical analysis
- Manuscript preparation
- Development and coordination of a research team

**The location:** Riga, Latvia

The candidates will be chosen based on 2-stage competition:

- 1) Evaluation of the candidates by IARC-WHO/University of Latvia representatives
- 2) Joint project application (selected candidates and University of Latvia) to the authorities in Latvia

**Timelines:**

Please submit your CVs by **September 15, 2016** to the following e-mail address:

[liliana.garkalne@gmail.com](mailto:liliana.garkalne@gmail.com)

The collaborative project application will be submitted in November, 2016 to the authorities in Latvia (preliminary)

Expected start of the position: February, 2017

## ERDF call for Postdoctoral research in Latvia

**Full title in Latvian:** *Darbības programma "Izaugsme un nodarbinātība" 1.1.1. specifiskā atbalsta mērķa "Palielināt Latvijas zinātnisko institūciju pētniecisko un inovatīvo kapacitāti un spēju piesaistīt ārējo finansējumu, ieguldot cilvēkresursos un infrastruktūrā" 1.1.1.2. pasākuma "Pēcdoktorantūras pētniecības atbalsts".*

**Link to the regulations (in Latvian):** <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/279803-darbibas-programmas-izaugsme-un-nodarbinatiba-1-1-1-specifiska-atbalsta-merka-palielinat-latvijas-zinatnisko-instituciju>

- The aim of the proposal is to develop skills and to increase the scientific capacity of young scientists, ensure career possibilities for young scientists in scientific institutions and in commercial businesses, to improve in general research competences, renewal of human resources and to increase the number of qualified specialists.
- The target group for the call is scientific institutions, scientists, higher education institutions, commercial businesses registered in Company register in Republic of Latvia.

Requirements for research proposal submitters:

- Research proposal is submitted by a scientific institution or a commercial business registered in Company register in Republic of Latvia, that establishes legal employment relationships with a postdoc for implementation of research defined in the research proposal. Research proposal can be realized either individually or by partnering with foreign or Latvian scientific institution, university or business, that takes in a postdoc and ensures necessary access to infrastructure and human resources (and not gaining economic benefits or intellectual property rights).
- If research proposal is implemented in partnership with a foreign or Latvian scientific institution, university or business, a letter from collaboration partner has to be added, which confirms the readiness to participate in implementation of research proposal. After receiving an approval for the research, partners conclude a collaboration agreement that specifies terms and conditions for collaboration in regards to contents, technical and financial aspects, as well as rights and obligations for both partners.
- The submitter of the research proposal has to prepare research proposal separately for each postdoc project within the set term, including description of the scientific section and CVs for postdocs.

- For implementation of the research project postdoc has to be involved full-time and records on time and work done (by also indicating the related research category) for the project has to be kept.
- **A postdoc is defined as Latvian or foreign scientist who has received a PhD not earlier than 5 years ago.** This period can be exceeded for up to two years if during this time the postdoc has been on:
  - Maternity leave
  - Long term sick-leave
- **The maximum term for implementation of the research proposal is 36 months. The provisional starting date for the project applications of the 1<sup>st</sup> call is February, 2017.**
- A postdoc within the research proposal can carry out the following activities:
  - Research that involves one of these categories:
    - Fundamental research
    - Industrial research
  - Transference of knowledge and technologies (i.e. publications, presenting research results in conferences etc.)
  - For the involved postdoc in research proposal:
    - Development of competences (studies)
    - International mobility and networking
- Within the call applicant can implement
  - Research proposal not involving economic activities (In this case maximum amount of EU funds is 85% of eligible budget, plus 10% from State financing)
  - Research proposal involving economic activities (The public financing depends on the type of applicant as well as type of research)
- The maximum eligible budget for a research proposal is 133 806 EUR.
- For projects not involving economic activities the following costs are eligible:
  - **Postdoc (personnel) costs up to 2 731 EUR/month (including taxes and social security) – *therefore maximum NETO salary for a postdoc is set at 1 540 EUR/month.***
  - **Unit costs that correspond to standard rate of 800 EUR/month and includes:**
    - **Research costs (including purchase of necessary materials etc):**
      - **Study costs**

- **Networking costs (including travels, participation in conferences etc.)**
  - Indirect costs for expenses related to administrative resources spent on implementation of the project
- Postdoc can't receive wage for work in other project or other workplace unless the time spent for academic work outside the research project doesn't exceed 0,2 Full-time-equivalent. In this case, an appropriate time records have to be kept.
- Projects are implemented not longer than till 30th November 2023.
- Projects are implemented within territory of Republic of Latvia.
- The submitter of research proposal ensures the durability of the achieved results at least 5 years after completion of the project.