

# Intersex: New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA)

A short introduction by Professor Surya Monro and Clare Desplats (University of Huddersfield)

INIA website: [www.intersex.co.uk](http://www.intersex.co.uk)

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- Professor Surya Monro
  - Sociologist/Social Policy academic, expertise regarding sex/gender, citizenship and EDI
- Clare Desplats
  - MC project management since 2006 (FP6, FP7 and H2020)
  - Majority of projects in biological and geochemical sciences. INIA is first social science project.

- Duration 01/03/2020 - 31/08/2024 (6 month extension requested)
- Total funding: EUR 2.7 million
- 10 Early Career Researchers, 6 Hosts, 21 partner organisations
- Topic: Research to support the wellbeing and human rights of intersex people (those whose physical sex characteristics differ from the typical traits)
- Participatory Action research with strong stakeholder involvement



- **INIA Research Objectives:**
- **RO1:** Generate knowledge that supports the wellbeing and social/economic contributions of intersex people and those affected by intersex.
- **RO2:** Use innovative interdisciplinary academic resources to push forward understandings of intersex and inform academic fields.
- **RO3:** Produce excellent research and evidence to help address societal challenges associated with intersex.
  
- **INIA Training Objectives:**
- **TO1:** Train a cohort of experts in the area of intersex and develop original sector-specific and intersectoral competencies.
- **TO2:** Develop researcher capacities in research methods with intersex people and their families (who are hard to reach) and with stakeholders (including generating action learning).
- **TO3:** Establish a collaborative network of highly skilled researchers and national/international stakeholders.

# 10 individual INIA projects, e.g.

- ESR 1(University of Huddersfield, UK) Older intersex people: A pan-European intersectional approach.
- ESR3 (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) Unpacking the conditions of emergence of intersex activism in Europe.
- ESR4 (Dublin City University, Ireland) Framing legislative and policy reform to improve the lived experience of intersex in Ireland and Malta.
- ESR7 (University of Zurich) Role, dissemination and impact of clinical ethics in multidisciplinary teams on intersex in Europe.



- Previous Individual MCF project (EUCIT) highlighted research gaps
- Need identified for research and capacity-building
- Reaching out to potential partners
- Work with MODUS – a broker organisation



# Top tips for application

- Start early (January) - will hear around July following year
- Use any existing contacts but be prepared to energetically search
- Knowledge of process is crucial
- Sort out your Consortium Agreement before you finalise the bid
- At least one in-person meeting is recommended
- Be prepared for a lot of work

## Synergies for scientific research on intersex issues

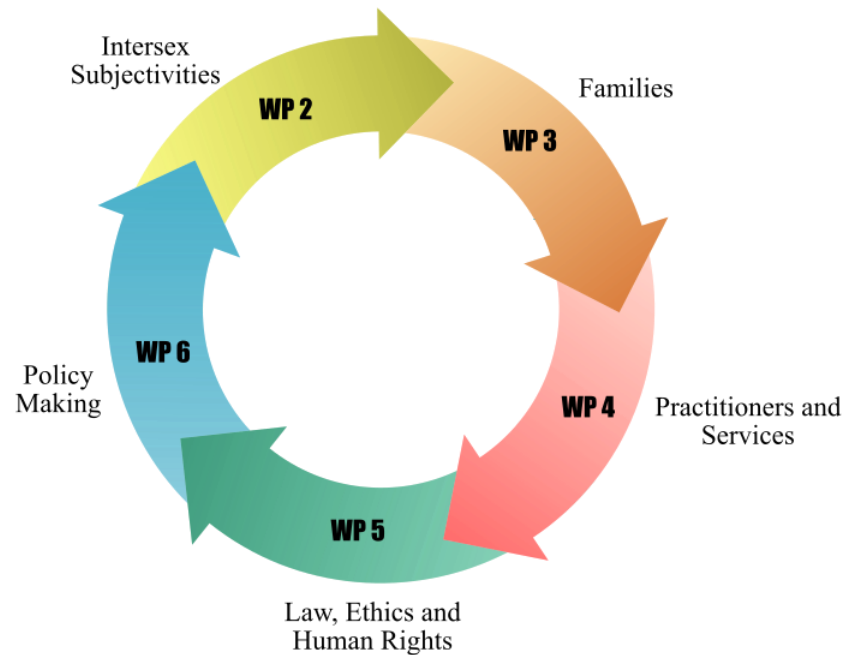


Figure 1

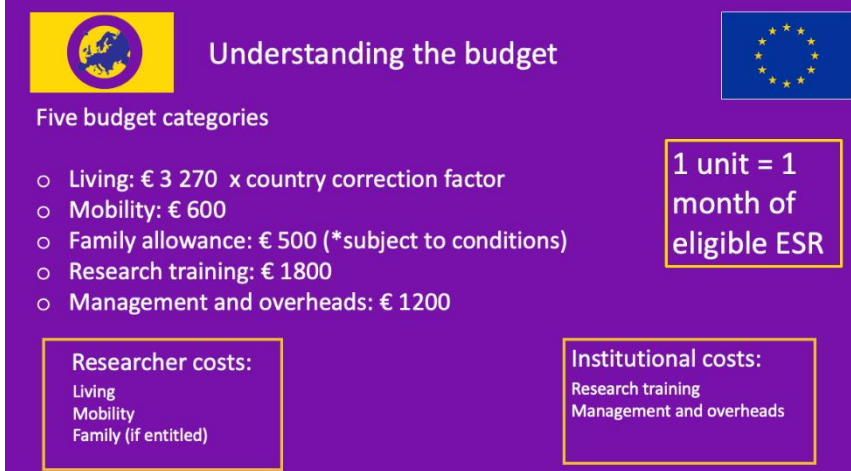


- Important to work with experienced PM
- Have clear calendar of milestones, deliverables, reports
- Document all deviations



*The INIA group at University of Malta in September 2022*

- Begin recruitment  
VERY early &  
document process
- Hold 1<sup>st</sup> mgmt.  
meeting early on with  
all beneficiaries
- Ensure all teams  
understand project  
finances



**Understanding the budget**

Five budget categories

- Living: € 3 270 x country correction factor
- Mobility: € 600
- Family allowance: € 500 (\*subject to conditions)
- Research training: € 1800
- Management and overheads: € 1200

1 unit = 1 month of eligible ESR

**Researcher costs:**

- Living
- Mobility
- Family (if entitled)

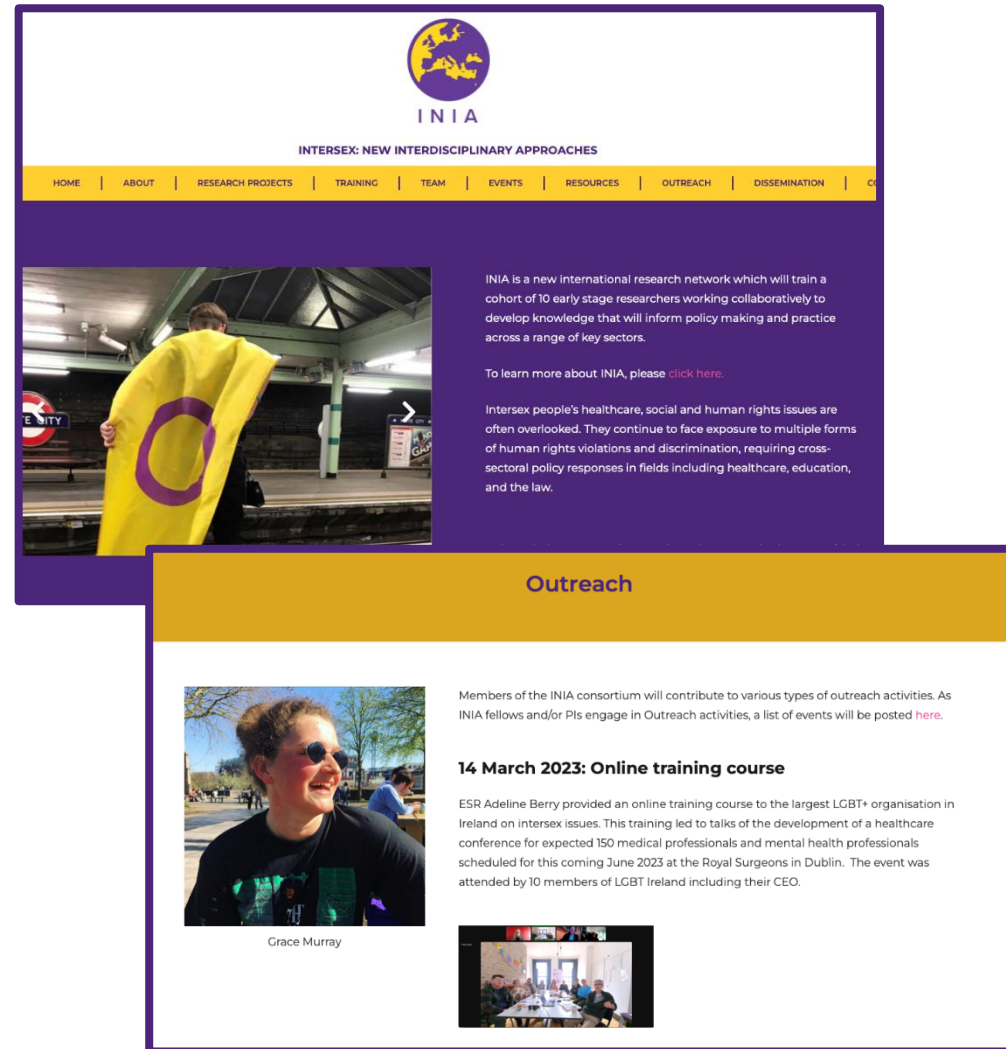
**Institutional costs:**

- Research training
- Management and overheads



OTM-R  
Open,  
Transparent,  
Merit-based  
Recruitment

- Establish project website from month 1
- Ensure that ESRs / DCs understand their rights and obligations
- Emphasize importance of public outreach (over 80 INIA outreach events within 1st 3 years!)
- Do not underestimate importance of pastoral care of ESRs



# Challenges and resolving them

- Brexit
- Covid
- Ukraine war
- Cultural and national issues
- Getting the deliverables done

## ESR Training Opportunities

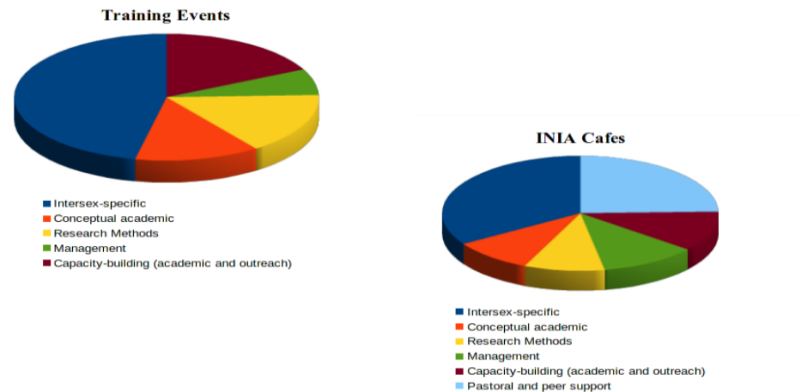


Figure 2

- Be careful about research design – one weakness was some duplication of previous work
- Ensure partner buy-in
- Be careful with recruitment
- Be realistic about what can be achieved
- Tight management required
- Be prepared for the unexpected!

# Thank you for listening!

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## Any questions?