

**Quarterly
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EURAXESS India Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS India, which provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers in India who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

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Please email to india@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

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EURAXESS INDIA

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EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries, of which we will profile one in our monthly EURAXESS India e-newsletter. Here we focus on Hungary.



Hungary is an OECD high-income mixed economy with very high human development index and skilled labour force with the 16th lowest income inequality in the world, Budapest is the financial and business capital of Hungary. Hungary's achievements in science and technology have been significant, and research and development efforts form an integral part of the country's economy.

1 Briefing | EURAXESS country: Hungary

1.1 Research & Innovation in Hungary

In the knowledge-based market economy, growth in prosperity, performance and employment is determined by the knowledge intensity and the dynamic development of high technology. Hungary considers R & D and innovation as a driving force and accelerating resource of its economy. The vision for the future in their strategy is as follows:

- the world class research institutes in emphasized disciplines
- R & D centres of global companies integrated into the national innovation system
- R & D intensive Hungarian medium-sized companies expanding on international markets
- RDI based small and medium-sized enterprises with fast growth potential
- innovative SME suppliers
- innovative start-ups
- international market integrated early-stage and venture capital investors
- public institutions performing R & D activities and utilising innovations

1.2 Hungarian Research & Innovation institutions

National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)

NKFIH is the major national strategic and funding agency for scientific research, development and innovation, the primary source of advice on RDI policy. It is in charge of managing the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (major domestic public source for funding RDI). The program portfolio includes calls for national and bilateral basic research for academic and other research institutes and universities. Competitive research grants are provided for young researchers, postdocs and experienced researchers. It supports bilateral mobility and project based cooperation with partner countries, enhances Hungarian participation in the RDI framework program (Horizon 2020) of the European Union, gives financing for the Hungarian winners of joint programs of EU and member states, EUREKA and ERA-NETs. It supports the development of innovative and competitive products, technologies and services by enterprises or through the collaboration of enterprises, research institutes and universities. The Office takes part in the planning of calls and organises expert evaluation of project applications with RDI focus financed from The European Union Structural Funds under the Economic



Development and Innovation Operation Programme (EDIOP) closely cooperating with the responsible Managing Authority, Ministry for National Economy. The calls focus on the improvement of corporate RDI activities, co-operation between the academic and the business sector, as well as the improvement of RDI infrastructures.

See more at <http://nkfih.gov.hu/english>



The **MTA Wigner** Research Centre for Physics has been founded in 2012 by the merging of two former research institutes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: the Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, and the Research Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics. The Research Centre has 40 research groups in 2 institutes (Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics and Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics). Their research fields cover diverse topics ranging from particle physics to space physics, and from theoretical physics to applied research.

See more at <https://www.wigner.mta.hu> or <https://www.facebook.com/MTAWignerFK/>



MTA SZTAKI is the Hungarian acronym of "Institute for Computer Science and Control, Hungarian Academy of Sciences". The Institute was founded in 1964. The fundamental task of the Institute is to perform basic and application-oriented research in an interdisciplinary setting in the fields of computer science, engineering, information technology, intelligent systems, process control, wide-area networking and multimedia. Contract-based target research, development, training and expert support for domestic and foreign industrial, governmental and other partners are important activities at the institute. The mission of MTA SZTAKI includes the transfer of up-to-date research results and state-of-the-art technology to university students. The Institute is very active in graduate and postgraduate education, co-operating with most technical universities in.

See more at <https://www.sztaki.hu/en> .



NAIK, the National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre was established to align research institutes responsible for providing the professional background of Hungarian agriculture. The research activities of NAIK cover all the important fields of agriculture including irrigation, crop breeding, animal breeding, food science, forestry and horticulture, dairy industry, seed breeding and fishery, viticulture and vine research. NAIK aims to enable its research institutes to work in cooperation as efficiently as possible.

NAIK places special emphasis on the arrival of new scientists in order to increase competitiveness. To this end, it operates a young researcher program. It also aims to keep talented young people at its institutes on the long term. NAIK's companies work to enable achieved results to appear faster and more competitively on the domestic and international market.

See more at <http://www.naik.hu/en>.



BAY-BIO: Bay Zoltán Non-profit Ltd. is Hungary's leading institution of applied research. Its Institute of Biotechnology (BAY-BIO) was established in 1993 as the first institute of the Ltd.'s legal predecessor.

The main objective of the Biotechnology Division is to fulfil its research and development tasks at the highest possible professional level. The institute aims to develop cutting-edge technological solutions which can contribute to the establishment and sustainment of a clean and liveable natural environment. In line with the key objectives of the Company, BAY-BIO's mission is to implement technology transfer, i.e. to realize the economic utilization of research-development achievements; to accomplish and publish adaptable research findings in the area of biotechnology. See more at <http://www.bayzoltan.hu/hu/rolunk/divizok-osztalyok/bay-bio-biotechnologiai-divizio/>



Innostudio, Inc. is one of the largest upstream technology networks in the CE region in Europe. The company is specialized in high risk – high potential technical innovation. Studios within the corporation are focused towards nanotechnology, bringing flow chemistry and other chemical technology to Space and supporting drug discovery through IT technology, among others. See more at <http://innostudio.org/>



ThalesNano, Inc. is the world leader in bench-top flow chemistry reactors. The company has the widest portfolio of bench-top continuous process instruments for the flavour and fragrance, pharmaceutical, biotech, fine chemical, petroleum/biofuel, and education markets. Its products are used in hundreds of laboratories globally. See more at <http://www.thalesnano.com/>



1.3 Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA)

HIPA is a national investment promotion organisation governed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It provides management consulting services to interested companies free of charge in an end-to-end, one-stop-shop service model, supporting them in selecting a business location, providing tailor made incentive offers and information on state aid issues, identifying investment possibilities and dealing with public authorities. See more at <https://hipa.hu/main>

1.4 Educational relations



Tempus Public Foundation

Tempus Public Foundation (TPF) is a non-profit organization established in 1996 in Hungary, managing international cooperation programmes, special projects in the field of education, training and EU-related issues:

- supports initiatives on modernization and quality improvement of education, training and human resources development,
- encourages international cooperation and mobility,



- strengthens the European dimension in these fields,
- coordinates a number of short and long-term scholarships for students and researchers

Hungarian scholarship opportunities for researchers and students from India: [Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme](#)

[Hungarian State Scholarships for researchers.](#)

Hungarian Rectors' Conference (HRC)

The Hungarian Rectors' Conference, as the unique representative body of the local universities, is proud to be one of the oldest and most prestigious organizations in Hungary responsible for the university sector, academic cooperation and internationalization of the higher education. Recently, a great emphasis has been put on fostering internationalization in Hungary, and the HRC is taking a major role in enhancing incoming and outgoing student mobility, promotion of Hungarian culture, innovations, academic life and research cooperation, and concluding various international projects and agreements.

Contact person: Ms. Júlia Morován, Secretary for International Affairs, E-mail: mrk@mrk.hu, See more at: <http://www.mrk.hu/en/current/>

Information for incoming researchers – EURAXESS Hungary

Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. was appointed to lead the EURAXESS project by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary. As the Bridgehead Organization, the Hungarian coordinator of [EURAXESS in Hungary](#), Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. focuses on mobility services for outgoing and incoming researchers to Hungary.

Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. provides incoming researchers with up-to-date advice on daily life and formalities when living in Hungary including visa and entry conditions to the EU, accommodation, banking, family-related issues, Hungarian language courses for foreigners and health insurance. The EURAXESS network in Hungary has 13 members throughout the country: Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Tempus Public Foundation, Szent István University, Eötvös Loránd University, Corvinus University of Budapest, Semmelweis University, Óbuda University, College of Nyíregyháza, University of Debrecen, University of Miskolc, University of Szeged, University of Pécs, Széchenyi István University.

*This briefing on Hungary has
been prepared by
EURAXESS Hungary and the
Embassy of Hungary to India.*



<https://www.euraxess.hu/>



The **MSCA IF 2018** call opened on 12 April, will close on 12 September, with an overall budget of EUR 248 million.

[call text and application guide for applicants](#)

2 Hot topic | MSCA Individual Fellowships: Opportunities for Indian researchers and Indian host institutions – New Call

Within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), a new call for 2018 Individual Fellowships will be launched in April, as every year. This call offers a wealth of opportunities for both Indian (or India-based) researchers and Indian research institutions.

Individual Fellowships are divided in two categories: **European Fellowships** and **Global Fellowships**, both characterised by the goal of promoting excellent science, career development, international and inter-sectoral mobility, transfer and exchange of knowledge, focus on research and innovation.

This particular Action of MSCA is appealing to Indian researchers and Indian research institutions, due to the fact that **its eligibility criteria allow Indian researchers to be active candidates**, entitled to receive EU funding, and in the same dimension, **Indian host institutions are eligible to host researchers from the European Union and Associated countries (EU/AC)**.

2.1 European Fellowships and Global Fellowships

A characteristic feature of the MSCA Individual Fellowships is that the programme is totally **bottom up**; therefore **open to all fields of knowledge**, offering a unique flexibility and variety of research topics for project proponents.

- In the case of a European Fellowship, the applicant researcher can move either within Europe or from a Third Country (including India) to any European Member States or Associated Countries.
- In the case of a Global Fellowship, the researcher moves from Europe to any Third Country, including India, and then goes back to his/her host institution in Europe.

For India, this means equal mobility opportunities with any of the 28 countries which are part of the European Union, and the 16 associated countries, giving a wide range of options and possibilities to implement such exchanges.

2.2 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for **individual researchers** (applicants):

- Applicants must be experienced researchers who, at the date of the call deadline, are in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Some definitions:



Member states (MS):

the 28 countries which are part of the European Union

Associated Countries (AC):

the [16 countries associated](#) to the EU framework programme for research and innovation, **Horizon 2020**

Third Countries:

any country that is not an EU Member State or Associated Country to H2020

Beneficiary:

the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has the complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action.

Proponent:

Individual researchers from anywhere in the world may submit the proposal, in coordination with a host institution based in a MS/AC.

In the case of global fellowship, all details of the Indian host institution or “Partner Organisation” must be included in the proposal and its “Letter of Commitment” must be annexed

- Applicants must follow the 'mobility rule', which states they cannot apply for a fellowship if their planned destination is a country where they have had research activities for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to the call (counted from the call deadline).

Eligibility criteria for **host institutions and partner organisations**:

- Beneficiaries of the fellowships are research organisations in MS or AC that host the researcher. In the case of Global Fellowships, organisations in Third Countries (India for example) that host the researcher during the compulsory initial outgoing period and provide additional training are partner organisations, but not beneficiaries.
- The partner organisations located in Third Countries must include in the proposal a letter of commitment to ensure their real and active participation in the proposed action. Their precise role should also be clearly described in the proposal.

Detailed eligibility conditions should be checked in the [guide for applicants](#), which details different specific cases.

2.3 Duration of the supported research stays

For European Fellowships, the overall duration ranges from 12 to 24 months. For Global Fellowships, 12 to 24 months must be spent at a partner organisation in a Third Country, followed by an obligatory return period of 12 months at the host institution (beneficiary) in the MS or AC.

The European Fellowships offer a wide range of options which reflect different needs and demands of researchers, and are aimed in particular to support experienced researchers to undertake international and inter-sector mobility (through the *Society and Enterprise Panel*); individuals who wish to resume their research career in Europe after a break such as a parental leave or positions outside of research (through the *Career Restart Panel*); or MS/AC nationals or long-term residents who wish to come back to an MS or AC after a long stay abroad (through the *Reintegration Panel*).

2.4 Financial aspects

The living allowance is the EU contribution to the gross salary costs of the researcher and amounts to EUR 4,650 per month, adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient for the cost of living in the country of the beneficiary. In addition to the living allowance, a monthly mobility allowance of EUR 600 will be paid to recruited researchers. A family allowance of EUR 500 per month will also be paid in case the researcher has family obligations.

In addition to these, so-called 'institutional costs' are also covered by the fellowship. Research, training and networking costs amounts to EUR 800 per month and is managed by the beneficiary to contribute to expenses related to, for example, the participation of researchers in training activities; or expenses related to research and networking costs. Management and indirect costs amounts to EUR 650 per month, to be used for the management and indirect costs of the action.

2.5 Individual Fellowships still underused in India

It can be observed that the majority of projects with Indian participation have been within the European Fellowships option, therefore with Indian researchers going to Europe and Associated countries, whereas the Global Fellowships have not been exploited adequately yet.

Such an opportunity could be widely promoted, so that Indian Research Institutions could take advantage of the upcoming IF call to attract excellent researchers from the EU/AC to their premises.

Indian institutions interested in hosting an MSCA Fellow can:

NCPs are also established in Third Countries. I

- Express their interest to host fellows on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#), or through the [Net4Mobility Expressions of Interest webpage](#) (contact the Net4Mobility team for details: net4mobility@euresearch.ch);
- Contact their European partners, institutions or individuals alike, to remind them that the European Commission can fund individual research stays in India for up to two years through the Global Fellowships.

Indian institutions interested in sending their researchers abroad as MSCA fellows can:

- Promote the call to their researchers using the [call text](#) and [guide for applicants](#);
- Provide redirections to requests for grant proposal drafting support, by using either their own networks, the network of [Horizon 2020 National Contact Points experts for MSCA](#);
- Suggest their researchers to subscribe for free, or participate in the activities proposed by [EURAXESS India](#).

2.6 Preparing a proposal

Some advice can be kept in mind in preparing a proposal:

- Proponents should start constructing the proposal as soon as possible, in order to focus the project on its conception and elaboration;
- Researchers should coordinate the proposal with the host Institution and with the supervisor, who agrees and whose details are included in the proposal;
- Proponents should previously study the guiding documents of the programme and the call, including the policy background, in particular on the European side;
- If the researcher has already submitted a proposal which has not been approved, the feedback received from evaluators can contain extremely useful orientations on how to improve the proposal, i.e. which elements need to be strengthened, in order to be successful for a future application;
- Proposals should be drafted keeping in mind the evaluation and award criteria, which orient the content of each section of the project. Each criterion has a different weight in evaluation, namely: Excellence 50%, Impact 30%, Implementation 20%. Further detail is necessary in each of the proposal parts, where elements have to be specifically addressed and highlighted, as specified in the guide for applicants;

The network of **National Contact Points** (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020.

The type and level of services offered may differ from country to country. In general, they provide personalised services such as: guidance on H2020; advice on administrative procedures; assistance on proposal writing; assistance in partner search.

NCPs are also established in some Third Countries. Indian researchers should contact NCPs in the potential host country of their choice.

Authors: Elisa Natola, MSCA National Contact Point for Brazil, Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) and Matthieu Py, EURAXESS Japan with contributions by EURAXESS India.

- Researchers can ask the NCP network or EURAXESS India for support and guidance on technical issues or for networking and matchmaking purposes.
- Follow the orientations for project elaboration detailed in the IF “Guide for Applicants” and see practical tips in the Net4Mobility “[Survivor’s Guide to MSCA-IF](#)”

Indian Researchers and Indian Institutions are strongly encouraged to apply to MSCA, as India is a key strategic partner for Europe in the domain of research and innovation, and mobility schemes participate in the reinforcement of the links between the two regions.

3 In Focus | Meet Ms Tania FRIEDERICHS, Research & Innovation Counsellor, EU Delegation to India



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In this edition of the EURAXESS India Newsletter, we have the opportunity to present to you Tania FRIEDERICHS and her work experience as the EU Research & Innovation (R&I) Counsellor in India.

Time is flying: already one and a half year in India as Head of Section for cooperation on research and innovation at the EU Delegation to India. Prior to this posting Tania had never been to India but she worked with many Indians during her post as Trade Counsellor at the EU Delegation in Geneva working on WTO negotiations on trade in services from 1985-1995. Through that experience, she met or rather negotiated all along with Indians who used to argue: *you see, we in India, we believe that and therefore, any decision should be more balanced and symmetrical.* So indirectly, she knew a bit about India and when she was offered the possibility to become the Counsellor on R&I at the EU Delegation in India, this was an offer she could not refuse, even if she was told that it was a challenge.

Q: What is the role of the R&I Section within the EU Delegation to India?



Tania F., EU R&I Counsellor to India at ERD2017-EURAXESS Event in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).

A: My role as Head of Section on Research and Innovation is manifold but the most important task is to promote cooperation between Europe and India in the EU's funding programme '[Horizon 2020](#)'. I also follow closely the policy dialogues that the EU is having with India, in particular on Climate Change, Clean Energy, Sustainable Urbanization and Digital Agenda, to name a few, aiming at creating synergies with the research and innovation agenda. I also represent the EU in many debates and panel discussions with external stakeholders and meet on a regular basis with my counterparts in the Ministry of Science (mostly DST and DBT) and with the S&T Counsellors in the embassies of the Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020. Last but not least, I liaise with the Headquarters, more particularly the Directorate-General on Research and Innovation, Directorate on International Cooperation on a regular basis and inform them what I see and learn here and that twenty five years after my

Geneva experience, also cooperation on research and innovation with India has, rightly so, to be balanced, fair and symmetrical This is what I try to achieve in my daily work here.

With the new Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 launched end October 2017, what does Horizon 2020 have to offer to Indian researchers & potential applicants? Who can apply for Horizon 2020 calls?

There are many, really many, interesting opportunities for cooperation in 'Horizon 2020' for the Indian scientific community and innovators, and engaging together in R&I would facilitate the many challenges India faces or the targets set by PM Narendra Modi's flagship initiatives including [Make in India](#), [Digital India](#), [Clean India](#), [Skill India](#), [100 Smart Cities](#) and [Startup India](#).

First of all, 'Horizon 2020' is "Open to the World", which means that in all the calls, Indian universities, research entities, SMEs, NGOs, scientists and innovators are eligible for participation. There is the well-known Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) programme, under which Indian scientists can get a grant to pursue PhD or Post doc research at an European university or an Indian research institute/ university can host a European MSCA fellow through a Global Fellowship scheme (see also 'Hot topic' under this newsletter). Another prestigious programme under 'Horizon 2020' concerns the grants allocated by the European Research Council (ERC), again offering the best researchers of any nationality at any research institute or university in Europe (Member State or country associated to Horizon 2020) to engage in frontier research. I will elaborate on this later. Since 2007, the ERC has awarded nearly €11 billion to more than 6,000 scientists and scholars from all over the world, both early-career and more senior scientists: of these, 47 are Indian researchers working in prestigious institutions across Europe.

In the 2018-2019 Work Programmes, there are many calls which are of mutual interest to India and Europe. A few examples: on diabetes; renewable energy (biofuels; offshore wind; smart grids) or on ICT and 5G and cybersecurity or on how to combat air pollution and linked to that greening the transport.

It is really a pity that the Indian scientific community is not taking advantage of these possibilities. This is why creating awareness and promotion is important.

For me the best opportunities are, however, offered under the 'Horizon 2020' pillar on societal challenges for collaborative projects. The EU and India share the same values and are both committed to contribute to address what we call global challenges whether on health, connectivity, waste management, clean energy, combating climate change or food security. In the 2018-2019 Work Programmes, there are many calls which are of mutual interest to India and Europe. A few examples: on diabetes; renewable energy (biofuels; offshore wind; smart grids) or on ICT and 5G and cybersecurity or on how to combat air pollution and linked to that greening the transport.

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Will the new phase of 'Horizon 2020' make it easier for Indian organisations to participate? How?

It is true that in 2014, it was decided that entities from India, just like the other emerging economies (BRIC), are no longer automatically eligible for funding in Horizon 2020 projects. For this reason, in 2016 we have agreed

with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) to set up a Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM) by which DST/DBT agreed to fund the successful Indian participants in a number of pre-identified calls for proposals.

Following the EU-India Summit held in Delhi on 6 October 2017, India agreed to upscale the CFM and even strengthening it which allowed having a joint call on Water (deadline was 27 February 2018!). In this call, EU and India agreed to both put €15 million to address the water stress India faces. This call is the closest form of cooperation ever organized between the EU and India (India has agreed to EU's peer review process) which shows that when the way to engage in R&I together is balanced and symmetrical, more can be done. Needless to say that I am happy that more such joint calls are in the pipeline.

In January 2018, we have also received the agreement from the Ministry of Earth Sciences to co-fund two calls on climate sciences and polar sciences.

So yes there is progress in the right direction and still two years of Horizon 2020 to implement the commitments made at the Summit in October 2017. Hopefully, DST and DBT will again agree to earmark calls for co-funding in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2019 (and 2020). For this the support of the Indian Scientific Community, to which EURAXESS India reaches out, is also important.

Anything new in ERC Grants and MSC Actions in the new Work Programme?

On the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), I would like to bring the opening date of 12 April 2018, for the call on Individual Fellowships (IF) to your attention (see also 'Hot topic' in this newsletter). MSCA are bottom-up. In the case of IF-European Fellowships (up to two years), an Indian researcher needs a host institute in Europe. In the case of an IF-Global Fellowship, an European researcher can be hosted up to 2 years in an Indian University/Institute and spend an additional year in his/her host institute in Europe. The support covers primarily the salary of the researcher. It is for experienced researchers that either hold a PhD degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Indian scientists have traditionally well scored in the MSCA-IF so I hope that many will prepare good applications by the deadline of 12 September 2018. MSCA also offers funding for PhD students to study across Europe. I recommend also checking out the funding possibility for PhD students offered within university partnerships called MSCA - Innovative Training Networks (these positions are published on [EURAXESS JOBS](#)).

The ERC grants offer top researchers from across the world to bid for a grant in one of the leading European universities or research institute. Also here, together with the ERC values very much international collaboration with India, I expect Indian scientists to be pro-active and prepare for proposals. ERC is bottom up and multidisciplinary. The call for Advanced Grants will open on 17 May 2018 and more opportunities will be included in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2019 to be published in July 2018.

Hopefully, DST and DBT will again agree to earmark calls for co-funding in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2019 (and 2020). For this the support of the Indian Scientific Community, to which EURAXESS India reaches out, is also important.

On the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), I would like to bring the opening date of 12 April 2018, for the call on Individual Fellowships (IF) to your attention (see also 'Hot topic' in this newsletter).

The European Commission and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) signed an agreement on 6 October 2017 which will enable SERB Fellows/Grantees to pursue collaborations with ERC grantees conducting frontier research across Europe. What is expected out of this agreement? Has its implementation already started?

The IA will allow SERB grantees to join ERC teams across Europe for a short period of time (three months to one year), which will help to push their research further and give them the opportunity to gain international experience.

Correct, this is another concrete deliverable of the EU-India Summit of October 2017 during which an Implementing Arrangement (IA) between the EC and SERB was signed. This is the tenth arrangement of this kind that the EC/ERC has with a third country, in other words the ERC is also fully on board in applying the principle of Horizon 2020 "Open to the World". The IA will allow SERB grantees to join ERC teams across Europe for a short period of time (three months to one year), which will help to push their research further and give them the opportunity to gain international experience. About 220 ERC Principal Investigators expressed interest in an Indian scientist to join his/her team for a short period. The SERB is now in the process of publishing calls allowing a number of SERB grantees to benefit from that offer.

EURAXESS India is playing a vital role in linking researchers in India with Europe – How do you see the work of EURAXESS India? When should a researcher contact EURAXESS India and when the Delegation of the EU to India?



Finnair representative (R to L); Vivek Dham- R&I Section, EU Delegation to India, Priyanka Dasgupta-EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017 1st prize winner and EURAXESS India Country Representative in Kolkata.

Let me take this opportunity to say what a great job [EURAXESS India](#) is doing. To begin with it has built a vast network of scientists, researchers and institutes to whom it reaches out on a regular basis and informs about R&I opportunities in Europe, in Horizon 2020 and with any other stakeholders including the cooperation opportunities with Member States and associated countries to 'Horizon 2020'. As I mentioned earlier, creating awareness and timely information is the first step for successful cooperation. But [EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion](#), of which EURAXESS India is part of, is more than that: it offers services to the scientists in case of mobility (visa, housing, rights and obligations while abroad, etc.). EURAXESS India also replies to the many questions potential applicants have. EURAXESS, as the name says i.e. "Access to Eur (ope)" is a tool created by the European Commission, with the support of 40 countries of the European Research Area, to facilitate the access of scientists to Europe and the World. EURAXESS is therefore mostly focusing on the 'Horizon 2020' mobility programmes (MCSA and ERC) but that does not mean that it cannot/ is not helping out on collaboration projects. After all, we all need to work for the good cause: providing timely, accurate and useful information in view of increasing the cooperation between Europe and India. EURAXESS India is instrumental in that.

That said the [Delegation of the EU to India](#) is the official voice of the European Commission in India on all matters including on Research and Innovation. All discussions between EU and India on research, policy and framework conditions are led by the Delegation.

Would you like to talk about the EURAXESS India Events – how it can be beneficial for the EURAXESS India Community Members?

Besides outreaching and passing on information on concrete R&I opportunities, EURAXESS India has in the period I have been here, organized a number of important events to promote R&I in general and 'Horizon 2020' programme specifically. I am thinking in particular of the successful Science Slams. This event is much appreciated as it creates awareness while engaging concretely in research and innovation and in addition, the winners of a science slam gain capacity leading to participate in 'Horizon 2020' scientific excellence. In the past, several events have been done together. The European Research Day in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) on 15 September 2017 was a real success on content and number of participants. At the same time, awareness raising and promotion of the mobility programmes require constant attention. For this, the idea to organize this year "European Research Day 2018 – Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India" event is very much welcomed. I am confident it will also help the EU's overall agenda on R&I and cooperation with India in particular.



Participants, ERD 2017-
EURAXESS Event in
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

Thank you very much for your precious time Tania!!

4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (January-March)

(click on the respective link for more details)

Selected News and still open Calls (in order of publication on EURAXESS India website):

News: [Talented Indian researchers to collaborate with ERC teams in Europe](#)

News: [SESEI's Newsletter Europe - January 2018 – quarterly](#)

News: [R&I Newsletters by European countries or EU funded projects in India](#) on EURAXESS India website.

Call : [Horizon 2020 – Polar Research with Co-funding– New call!](#)

News: [Updated India Country Page on the 'HORIZON 2020' Portal](#)

News: [Partnering tools for Horizon 2020 calls](#)

Call: [Swiss-Indian research/mobility programs](#)

News: [February selection of Funding Opportunities](#)

Calls: [5 DBT-European Commission H2020 calls on Health, Bio economy and Bio-energy still open – REMINDER!](#)

Call: [PhD student position at the University of Lille](#)

Call: [Horizon 2020 - Calls related to Copernicus Open](#)



Call: [Tech4Culture PhD Programme, Italy - First call open!](#)

Call: [National Scholarship Programme \(NSP\) of the Slovak Republic – Open!](#)

News: [Opportunities for PhD and post-doctoral studies at Symbiosis School of Economics, India](#)

Call: [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in Photonics – Deadline extended!](#)

Call: [Full support for researchers applying for ERC grant at UDC, Spain](#)

Call: [5th Joint Call Spain \(CDTI, EPE\) - India \(DST-GITA\) to finance bilateral R & D](#)

Call: [4th edition of Ignacy Łukasiewicz Scholarship open for Indian Nationals](#)

News: [Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange \(NAWA\) program for Polish researchers](#)

Call: [The German Chancellor Fellowship for tomorrow's leaders](#)

News: [ERC Newsletter, Spring issue 2018 – quarterly](#) - on climate change.

News: [More hosting offers in the specific “Hosting” Section on EURAXESS Portal](#) – For future MSCA-IF calls or other opportunities.

News: [EC Joint statement on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018](#)

News: [EU prize for women Innovators](#)

News: [€1 million Horizon prize to a solution that saves lives of mothers and their newborn](#)

News: [€10 million European Innovation Council \(EIC\) Horizon Prize for innovative batteries for electric vehicles](#)

News: [Report on R & I essential for EU's prosperity and social model](#)

4.2 Event Outlook

| Event (click on event title for more details) | Location | Date in 2018 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Europe/Outside India | | |
| ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) - the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe | Toulouse, France | 9-14 July |
| 2 India | | |
| EURAXESS India Events 2018 - Stay tuned! | | |
| Webinar hosted by Nuffic NESO India on European Union research funding - New MSCA-Individual Fellowships Call opening in April and EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion | On-line | 19 April |
| 6th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Pre-selection | On-line | July-September (tbc) |
| European Research Day 2018 Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India! - MSCA-Individual Fellowships Training & Discover MCAA India Chapter - to be decided if only in Delhi or in a second city too | New Delhi/ Bengaluru | Mid-September (tbc) |
| 4th Communicating Research Out of the Lab-EURAXESS Event | Chandigarh | 6 October (tbc) |
| 6th EURAXESS India Science Slam India – Live finals | India | November (tbc) |
| EURAXESS Info Sessions/Days accross India | On request | August-December |