EURAXESS
LINKS INDIA

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 41st issue of the EURAXESS Links India Newsletter.

I hope that you will find this issue interesting and useful. Feel free to circulate it, asking your correspondents to register with EURAXESS Links so that they can receive future editions directly.

This issue opens with our EU Insight focusing on “EURAXESS 2nd Global Conference in ASEAN”. It also includes a special feature with Dr. Santosh Bothe’s contribution “Giving back after a first research experience in Europe”.

You will also find information on News related to research and innovation in Europe and India, a selection of new Grants (e.g. ERC, India-Spain, India-UK) and Fellowships, of Job opportunities as well as of upcoming Events.

In November, we had the pleasure to watch the live performances of the five EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 finalists and welcome some of you at the same event as part of the audience in Mumbai. The finalist and winner of the 2nd edition of the science slam is Anand Kant Das. From Mumbai we went to Chennai to attend the 5th EU-India STI Cooperation Days by INDIGO projects, and to Greater Noida to attend the KnowledgExpo 2014. We stopped over in Delhi for the inauguration of EURAXESS Links Office hosted by PT-DLR. It has been a month with plenty of opportunities to interact with you.

If you have any comments or remarks on the newsletter or the website, or if you would like to include an event or news item, please let us know. The monthly Newsletter is also meant to be a communication tool for its readers. Interacting with you is important to us.

Enjoy the reading!
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Contents

1 EU Insight – EURAXESS 2nd Global Conference in ASEAN ............... 4

2 Feature - ‘Giving back after a first research experience in Europe’ by Santosh Bothe, Indian researcher ............... 6

3 EURAXESS Events in India ......................................................... 8

3.1 EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 ........................................ 8

3.2 Inauguration of EURAXESS Links Office ........................... 10

3.3 EURAXESS Links India at KnowledgExpo 2014 and 2nd GITA Platform ......................................................... 11

3.4 Other EURAXESS events in 2014 ........................................ 12

3.5 EURAXESS Links India on-site visits .................................. 12

4 News & Developments ........................................................... 13

4.1 European Union .................................................................. 13

4.1.1 Creating a single European Area for clinical research ........ 13

4.1.2 Horizon 2020: first impressions ...................................... 13

4.1.3 European Space Agency – Rosetta mission soft-lands its Philae probe on comet ..................................................... 14

4.1.4 High level advisory group to the European Commission on international collaboration recommends closer cooperation with EUREKA ................................................................. 14

4.1.5 Total recall - How scientists are rethinking memory ............ 14

4.1.6 The first pillar of Horizon 2020 is now open to Switzerland-based researchers ......................................................... 15

4.2 India ....................................................................................... 15

4.2.1 New Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences .... 15

4.2.2 KnowledgExpo 2014 in Greater Noida, 18-21 November ........ 16

4.2.3 IIT-Madras joins CERN experiment ................................. 16

4.2.4 India tight-lipped on the issue of hydrofluorocarbons ........ 17

4.2.5 India to launch American buoy in Bay of Bengal to study weather pattern ................................................................. 17

4.2.6 Leopards reside in human habitats: study ................................ 17

4.2.7 Expanding enrolments with little state funding ..................... 17

4.2.8 Employability of graduates is a big concern –says FICCI-EY report ................................................................. 18

4.2.9 India-Europe cooperation .................................................. 18
4.3.1 EU-India STI Cooperation Days 2014 in Chennai .................................................18
4.3.2 'Science and Technology Research Players in India' new publication by EBTC ..........................................................19
4.3.3 Industries get exposure to desalination technology in Madurai...........................19
4.3.4 India-EU Session at 2nd Global Innovation & Technology Alliance Platform – Innovation Summit ........................................20
4.3.5 Indian among Germany’s Green Talents 2014 winners .........................20
4.3.6 Indo-Spanish collaboration: “Efficient Planning and Scheduling for Bus Rapid Transportation” ..................................................21

5 Grants & Fellowships ..................................................................................21

5.1 National EURAXESS Portals ......................................................................21
5.2 European Research Council: Consolidator Grant ........................................22
5.3 European Research Council: Proof of Concept Grant .................................22
5.4 Forthcoming calls .....................................................................................22
5.4.1 Under Horizon 2020 ...........................................................................22
5.4.2 IMI2-Call 2 Indicative Topics Released .............................................23
5.5 India-Spain Programme of Co-operation on Industrial R&D 2014 ........23
5.6 India–UK Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme 2014 ......................24
5.7 Calls still open (see previous newsletters for more details) ........................25

6 Jobs ..........................................................................................................28

6.1 EURAXESS Portal and EURAXESS Jobs ...............................................28
6.2 Join us on LinkedIn: linkedin.euraxess.org .............................................29
6.3 India: Jobs at DevNetJobsIndia .................................................................29

7 Events .....................................................................................................30
In 2015, the European Research Area (ERA) within the EU boarders will be completed. Even with this goal in sight, there is still much to do in terms of homogenisation of laws and regulations within the EU and overall improvement of the ERA. In particular, the issue of individual researcher mobility and flexibility within the borders of the European Union, as well as between different research areas, still face some challenges.

In 2015, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), a single regional common market and production base within the ASEAN boarders, will be created. However, with the exception of Singapore, ASEAN still faces a number of challenges in the on-going development of ST&I in the region. Amongst others, ASEAN countries are in need of more flexibility and mobility not only within ASEAN’s own borders, but with other research areas as well.

In this respect, the EURAXESS 2nd Global Conference took place in Singapore and Bangkok, Thailand, on 11 and 13 November 2014, and dealt with linking the EU and ASEAN and promoting the ERA as a successful example of an integrated research area and attractive destination for international researchers.

The questions guiding the discussions were:

- How can science act as an engine for growth in a globalised world?
- How can we improve scientific collaboration and talent mobility between Europe and ASEAN?
- How can international networks such as EURAXESS contribute?

Thailand’s Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Pichet Durongkaveroj and the Head of Singapore’s A*STAR Graduate Academy, Professor Alfred Huan both delivered welcome addresses. The EU ambassadors to Singapore and Thailand, Dr Michael Pulch and Jesús Miguel Sanz, welcomed the conference participants and European guests. The ambassadors agreed on the fact that a closer link between the ERA and ASEAN would help both regions to grow. During the opening keynote, European Commission representative Dr Anna Karaoglu explained the efforts of the European Commission to eradicate barriers to researcher mobility with the pan-European “EURAXESS–researchers in motion” initiative. Specifically, she also emphasised that:

[Europe is] open to the world - and definitely open for business to extend the frontiers of scientific knowledge; to tackle challenges that affect us all and to make industries more competitive […] by opening up, Europe can generate more research excellence. (Karaoglu)

Several workshops led by European and Asian experts focused on delivering key skills essential for scientific career advancement. In Singapore, Dr Oliver Kuettel (EPHL) and Massimo Gaudino (European Commission) led the session on “How to write a successful proposal for EU funding programmes”. The presentation can be downloaded here.

Professor Rachid Yazami and Singapore-based Eugene Tan (XentiQ Partners) elaborated on “How to market your innovation successfully”, a topic closely linked to the question of scientific communication. Also in
Singapore, Dr Sanna Fowler (EPHL) provided insights on “Science Communication”.

It is important for researchers to be able to communicate not only with academia in their respective disciplines, but also with and amongst others, proposal evaluators, funding organisations and a broader public. To address this issue, Susanne Rentzow-Vasu (EURAXESS Links ASEAN) moderated the session “Science Communication: How to present your innovative ideas successfully”, in Thailand. And as a way of going one step further in helping researchers expand their research beyond the walls of academia, the EURAXESS Science Slam finals were held following the conference in Thailand. This event encourages young researchers to use creative methods to make their research accessible for non-academic audiences, thus showcasing an interesting and innovative example of science communication.

The discussion on “Meet European Industry: Career Opportunities for Young Researchers”, was dedicated to providing young researchers with the opportunity to learn about the requirements of industry in terms of research personnel, and how the research environment in the private sector differs from that of academia.

Moderator Chadamas Thuvasethakul from the National Science and Technology Development Agency addressed the question “How to Increase ASEAN-EU Researcher Mobility” in Thailand. In addition to the Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, the ASEAN Talent Mobility (ATM) Program and EURAXESS Links were discussed as opportunities to improve mobility between the two research areas.

Kitty Fehringer (European Commission) chaired the session on “Discover Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for ASEAN Researchers”. Grantees from the Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, European Research Council and members of EURAXESS discussed current and future funding opportunities available, as the number of researchers from ASEAN benefiting from European funding and mobility programs has room to increase. The unique services provided by EURAXESS cater to researchers’ needs at all stages of their career including jobs, funding and fellowship search, and offer a network of service centres to facilitate a move to Europe. After summarising the conference results, the organizers provided the possibility of networking during a reception.

For more information on the conference and the EURAXESS Links ASEAN Science Slam Finals, please visit: EURAXESS Links ASEAN website. The presentation on “How to wrote a successful proposal for EU funding programmes” has been published here.
EURAXESS Links India has invited Dr. Santosh Bothe, recipient of an Erasmus Mundus Fellowship to tell us about his experience as part of a European mobility programme. Santosh is currently working as a researcher at Daksh Foundation, Pune (Maharashtra). He is also making presentations on European opportunities for students and researchers. His presentations are a way for him to return to the European Commission what he has so far received from it.

As Erasmus Mundus student, I was hosted by the Professor Giovanni Saggio’s research group, Health Involved Technical Engineering Group (HITEG) at University of Rome Tor Vergata in Italy. It was a unique experience of my life working under the supervision of Professor Saggio, where learning by knowledge sharing was the key. I don’t remember a single incident when I wanted to explore my idea and my professor said no. It was barrier-free environment for research and knowledge gaining. In addition to my main research work, Professor Saggio provided me various opportunities like delivering talks on artificial intelligence under IEEE Student Branch (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), co-supervising some Master’s students, participating in conferences, obtaining the patent and support for hosting my wife at the university. I never felt the typical gap between student and supervisor. He was more like a colleague cum friend with me despite of his vast experience and depth of knowledge.

Life in Rome was really wonderful. My lab colleagues (especially Carlo Alberto Pinto, Marco Ferrari, Maurizio and Laura) always made me feel at home. They were there when I needed them.

This European fellowship was a turning point of my life as it made me realize my potential and numerous possibilities for my future research career. Besides this I earned good money. The experience helped me for my all round development.

After coming back to India in 2011, there was a very strong feeling that, I must return something to the European Commission. After giving sufficient though to it I felt like sharing my experience with researchers and students of rural areas as most of them were unaware of such wonderful opportunities for kicking off their research careers.

I purchased one LCD projector and started giving presentations for free. During my interaction I guided them through fellowships and funding opportunities available to students and researchers under EU programs, as tools offering them a rewarding research career, an opportunity to serve the society at large in terms of your research outcomes. I also introduce using online resources from searching to selection (of fellowship or call) in their own languages. I requested various social organizations, NGOs, Grampanchayat, schools and colleges to organize these free of cost interactions so that we can reach more and more students and researchers to make them aware about the opportunities available to them.
So far, I have conducted around 50 different info sessions in different locations since 2011, which have resulted in 39 Erasmus Mundus Fellowship selections at various academic levels. More concretely, my villagers and I are proud of having 4 Erasmus Mundus Fellows among us and look forward for more to follow. We are still continuing with this support activity and look forward to having Ainhizte Bizkarralegorra Bravo from EURAXESS Links India at the Info Day at Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune on 17th December 2014.

Below pictures of Info sessions at Grampanchyat Gogari (left) and SRTM University Nanded (right):

I am also thankful to EURAXESS Links India who gave me the opportunity to participate at the ‘Young Scientists Competition’ that recently took place in Chennai as part of the 5th EU-India STI Cooperation Days by INDIGO projects and that I won with my presentation on “Voice Sample Based Disease Diagnosis”. With this, I have received double than what I was trying to return to the European Commission.

In my opinion, collaborative research with European organisation is very much straight forward and focused on the needs of the society at large due to which it has high chances of resulting into useful applications to tackle societal challenges. European and Indian researchers have many complementary factors. If they get coupled, it will always result in good outcomes. The simplicity and flexibility of the funding and working norms of the European Commission help a lot; also the open minded approach of European researchers, supervisors and working potential. If we add to this the huge number of Indian researchers and students, the collaboration will definitively result in many good things for the society.

Now I have committed myself to work in all possible ways for making Indian students and researchers aware of various fellowships and funding programmes of the European Commission.

I highly encourage EURAXESS Links India Newsletter readers to explore possibilities waiting for them in Europe or with that part of the world, and go for it.
3 EURAXESS Events in India

3.1 EURAXESS Science Slam 2014

On 1st November, the five pre-selected finalists (slammers) and the audience attending the live finals of the 2nd EURAXESS Science Slam India gathered at Café Zoe – an old factory turned into a European style eatery – in Mumbai, the entertainment and financial hub of India. A very mixed crowd of over 70 people made of research scholars, professors, representatives of industry or banking, younger and older, men and women, Indian and Europeans came to see and choose the winner of this new edition. The Review Panel (see picture), who pre-selected the five finalists – and representatives of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) who was supporting the event this year, of the EU Delegation to India with the Research and Innovation Counsellor Denis Dambois and of the General Consulates of Sweden and the Netherlands in Mumbai were also present. The volunteers provided by TIFR and the moderator Ramya M. from 3xus Media Solutions helped to have a pleasant and smooth event.

The audience chose Anand Kant Das, PhD student at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), EURAXESS Science Slammer 2014 in India with his presentation about “A forgotten life…”. The other finalists were (in order of presentation) Saurabh Aggarwal, Sabeena M, Priti Gupta and Shreejata Gupta. It is to these five young researchers that EURAXESS Links India and the audience owe this year’s edition. In future editions of the EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers will have the chance to meet each of them.

The finalist and winner this year has won a free “Field trip to Europe”! During his trip Anand will be offered a science communication training (in Germany) and visit a research institute of his choice in one of the 40 countries of the European Research Area. He will also meet the other EURAXESS Science Slammers 2014 from the ASEAN, Brazil, China, Japan and North America.
The audience also had the chance to network while tasting European food (including EURAXESS cupcakes!). EURAXESS Science Slam T-shirts were distributed as souvenir of this memorable evening. The General Consulate of Sweden gave away two t-shirts, too.


EURAXESS Links India would like to congratulate again all the finalists for very creative and entertaining contributions!

With the new year around the corner, soon it will be time to get ready for the 3rd global EURAXESS Science Slam. Meanwhile EURAXESS Links India readers will have the chance to get a feeling of what the 2014 edition has been like visiting EURAXESSLinkd India | Science Slam. Pictures from Mumbai will be soon be there.
3.2 Inauguration of EURAXESS Links Office

On 3rd November 2014 the inauguration of EURAXESS Links Office hosted by PT-DLR (Project Management Agency – German Aerospace Center) took place in New Delhi. It was a joint event with two other German organisations, Forschungszentrum Jülich and University of Cologne. The three organisations will share a common office space at Nehru Place. Please enquire for appointments with the EURAXESS Links India Representative, preferably by email, before stopping by.

In the morning, EURAXESS Links India organised a workshop on "Impact of international staff on research institutions" addressed at European and Indian research institutions and research intermediaries.

At the inaugural event in the afternoon, EU Ambassador Dr. João Cravinho reminded the audience of the research co-operation between India and the EU that started decades ago. “To give you an idea of the intensity of such exchanges, more than 2500 Indian scholars were granted a ERASMUS MUNDUS scholarship (in 2004-13), and more than 1600 Indian researchers were allocated a MARIE CURIE fellowship under the last Framework Programme (FP7, 2007-13), allowing them to travel to Europe to do research for several months. And these figures do not include the many bilateral mobility programmes between specific EU member states and India.” said the EU Ambassador.

Other speakers at the festive inauguration included representatives from the Embassy of Germany, Director General of CSIR Dr. P.S. Ahuja and representatives from the other two organisations sharing the new meeting point Dr. Norbert König-Head of Project Management Agency at the German Aerospace Centre, and Dr. Gerold Heinrichs-Head of Division America, Asia, Oceania and Dr. Laura de la Cruz also participated at the event on the side of EURAXESS Links. PT-DLR is managing EURAXESS Links worldwide and hosting the EURAXESS Links Office in New Delhi.
More on the office inauguration in German: [Forschungszentrum Jülich](#)

Following the EURAXESS Links office in Delhi a second EURAXESS Links project office has been operational since August 2014 in Tokyo, Japan. Before the end of the year, a third office will be running in Washington DC for EURAXESS Links North America.

### 3.3 EURAXESS Links India at KnowledgExpo 2014 and 2nd GITA Platform

*(see news under section 4.2.2 and 4.3.4)*

EURAXESS Links India had a stall for four days at the international pavilion of the exhibition at KnowledgExpo 2014 at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida on 20-21 November. The occasion allowed the EURAXESS Links Country Representative to talk to more than 150 students, researchers, professors and industry representatives. On the last day, Ali Nasir (see picture) member of EURAXESS Links India community helped at the stall, while Aihhitze Bizkarralegorreta Bravo (Country Representative) attended the India-EU session at the 2nd Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) Platform.
At the India-EU session, the audience was informed on how ‘EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion’ can contribute to creating opportunities in research, innovation & business between both regions (e.g. with EURAXESS Jobs). The Country Representative also mentioned the complementarity with Enterprise Europe Network which was also presented at the session.

The 2nd GITA Platform was one of the six summits that for the first time took place under the umbrella of the KnowledgExpo 2014. The organisers, Confederation of Indian Industry and Department of Science & Technology-Government of India are planning to repeat the multi-summits event next. EURAXESS Links India will not miss it.

3.4 Other EURAXESS events in 2014

EURAXESS Links India will also be present at the following event:

- European Higher Education Fair India 2014: 5 December in Kolkata.

Follow the latest on EURAXESS Links India events here.

The European Union Delegation to India is also following EURAXESS Links India events on Facebook EU in India.

3.5 EURAXESS Links India on-site visits

The Country Representative can present the services offered by ‘EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion’ and cooperation and career opportunities with Europe on-site – at your university or your research institution, including at European or Indian companies in the sub-continent.

The planning of on-site presentations between May and December 2015 is under way. If you wish to host such a presentation in your organization, please contact us at india@euraxess.net.

You may also contact us if you are nearby any of the locations listed below and wish to host another ‘EURAXESS Info Day’ session around the same date:

- On 17th December 2014 at Bharati Vidyapeeth University in Pune
- On 31st January 2015 in Nagercoil - Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
- On 22-23 February 2015 at NISER, Bhubaneswar (Odhisa)
- In early March (tbc) at BITS-Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus in Zuarinagar (Goa)
4 News & Developments

4.1 European Union

4.1.1 Creating a single European Area for clinical research

Clinical trials - the tests of medicines, medical devices and treatments - are costly and complicated to carry out, especially when they involve groups in different countries.

The burden of recruiting and researching the patients and volunteers, managing the trials, and meeting the legal requirements to ensure they are safely conducted means that often only the best-resourced groups can afford them. But a more appropriate European framework is being developed for researchers thanks to a European project that aims to facilitate multinational clinical studies and trials by providing specialised services and infrastructure.

The European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN) is designed to bridge the patchy organisation of European clinical research and to develop an integrated European Union (EU)-wide clinical research infrastructure.

"ECRIN is part of the roadmap of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) for a pan-European infrastructure designed to support multinational clinical research," says Jacques Demotes-Mainard, the project coordinator. "The aim is to make Europe a single area for clinical studies, taking advantage of its population size to access patients, and unlocking latent scientific potential."

Read more: European Commission

4.1.2 Horizon 2020: first impressions

Academic and research institutes, industry and the European Commission shared their first impressions of Horizon 2020 at the recent Innovation Summit.

Horizon 2020, the EU’s biggest ever research and innovation programme, kicked off at the beginning of 2014. Worth EUR 80 billion and running over seven years, Horizon 2020 promised a simple structure that reduced red tape and time so participants could focus on what is really important. Has this been the experience of participants so far? Last week, representatives from academic and research institutes, industry and the European Commission gathered at last week’s Innovation Summit to share their take on year one of Horizon 2020.

Congratulations to the creators. This is not a case of “old wine in new bottles” but rather new wine in recycled bottles! It works, at least for my production area’: this was the powerful endorsement from Andreas Förster, Director of Dechema (Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology). Feedback generally followed an encouraging line like this, but speakers also drew attention to areas where there was room for improvement. Concerns were also voiced by all sides about what potential budget cuts that are currently under discussion between the European Parliament and the Council might mean for the programme.

Read more: European Commission
4.1.3 European Space Agency – Rosetta mission soft-lands its Philae probe on comet

ESA’s Rosetta mission has soft-landed its Philae probe on a comet, the first time in history that such an extraordinary feat has been achieved. After a tense wait during the seven-hour descent to the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko, the signal confirming the successful touchdown arrived on Earth at 16:03 GMT (17:03 CET). The confirmation was relayed via the Rosetta orbiter to Earth and picked up simultaneously by ESA’s ground station in Malargüe, Argentina and NASA’s station in Madrid, Spain. The signal was immediately confirmed at ESA’s Space Operations Centre, ESOC, in Darmstadt, and DLR’s Lander Control Centre in Cologne, both in Germany. The first data from the lander’s instruments were transmitted to the Philae Science, Operations and Navigation Centre at France’s CNES space agency in Toulouse. “Our ambitious Rosetta mission has secured a place in the history books: not only is it the first to rendezvous with and orbit a comet, but it is now also the first to deliver a lander to a comet’s surface,” noted Jean-Jacques Dordain, ESA’s Director General.

Read more: ESA

4.1.4 High level advisory group to the European Commission on international collaboration recommends closer cooperation with EUREKA

EUREKA steps up its activities related to international cooperation, with the aim to set up a gateway on each continent for innovative European companies. South Korea, Canada and South Africa are already benefiting from EUREKA’s Associated Country status.

The move also includes closer collaboration with the European Commission regarding internationalisation activities and particularly with the Horizon 2020 advisory group on international cooperation. The advisory group recently produced a report on short-term actions to foster international cooperation in Horizon 2020, which recommends closer cooperation with EUREKA “in order to strengthen SME involvement and focus on innovation.”

Source and further details: EUREKA

4.1.5 Total recall - How scientists are rethinking memory

Social networks and advances in genetics are helping scientists to better understand how memory works and how we could bend it to our will.

Erasing and enhancing memory has long been a familiar theme in Hollywood blockbusters, but could researchers now turn the science fiction into reality?

According to Professor Lars Olson, at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, research in genetics and omics – which studies how biological molecules of a certain type function together as a collective system – is helping to reveal the underlying mechanisms of memory in unprecedented detail.

Prof. Olson leads the MEMORYSTICK project, which is funded by the European Research Council (ERC). Researchers on the project hope to shed light on why people can forget names and telephone numbers in minutes, while some memories last for their entire lives.
‘The brain is not a computer,’ said Prof. Olson. ‘It cannot be hardwired.’ Even lasting memories are only recorded in the malleable connections between neurons in the brain and what defines their closeness is a matter of ongoing research.

Further insight into how memory functions may be provided by Dr Virginia Migues, a neurobiologist at the University of Edinburgh, UK, who has singled out proteins that help control communication between neurons. This year, the European Commission awarded her a grant for the MEMORY PERSISTENCE project, which will investigate whether these proteins affect the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying long-term memory persistence.

Read more: HORIZON magazine

4.1.6 The first pillar of Horizon 2020 is now open to Switzerland-based researchers

Switzerland and the EU have agreed on a partial association, which has provisionally been in effect since 15 September 2014 and which will initially run until the end of 2016.

This partial association allows researchers in Switzerland to again participate as associated and equally entitled partners in all activities under the first pillar of Horizon 2020, comprising ERC grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) and research infrastructures. Researchers in Switzerland will also be able to participate as associated partners in Euratom and in the programme section on Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation. As associated partners, researchers in Switzerland will again receive direct funding from the EU.

For all other Horizon 2020 calls (second and third pillar) Switzerland remains a third country entity. In these programme areas, Swiss partners can still join European collaborative projects, however they will not be entitled to any direct funding from the EU for their part. Nevertheless, the Federal Council decided on 25 June 2014 that researchers and institutions in Switzerland involved in Horizon 2020 collaborative projects approved by the European Commission would be funded directly by the Confederation.

Source: Europa.eu and State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

Research and Innovation SERI

4.2 India

4.2.1 New Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences

Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been appointed new Minister Science and Technology and Earth Sciences after Prime Minister Modi’s government reshuffle in early November. He is replacing Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Read more: Hindustan Times
4.2.2  KnowlegExpo 2014 in Greater Noida, 18-21 November

(see news under section 3.3 and 4.3.4)

India, a market of 1.2 billion people and 329 million households, is all set to convert its behemoth challenges across sectors into a US$ 5 trillion opportunity by 2020. The Knowledgexpo 2014 and the India US Technology Summit 2014 are a comprehensive convergence of all the key elements and actors of the knowledge & innovation ecosystem for forging many knowledge-business partnerships leading to better businesses and large scale social benefits.

The 12,000 square meter expo spread across 5 days, showcased the world’s best futuristic technologies in manufacturing technology, life sciences and biotechnology, renewable energy, sustainable urbanization, IT, robotics and animation and security technology and many more innovative products and services.

The 5 concurrent global summits - the technology summit, the IPR summit, higher education summit, Innovation summit and the design summit brought together some of the industry’s most knowledgeable, most influential and most thoughtful people to delve into many important topics, issues and trends.

This combined event “India-US Technology Summit & Knowledge Expo 2014” created a comprehensive convergence of all the key elements of knowledge ecosystem (creators / providers, facilitators and appliers / users) to forge knowledge-business and knowledge-solution partnerships fuelling trade and investment in India.

At the International Pavillion of the Exhibition area, several countries of the European Research Area (France, Israel, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, UK) as well as European Union funded projects under FP7 in addition to EURAXESS Links India participated with their own stall.

Read more: knowledgexpo

4.2.3  IIT-Madras joins CERN experiment

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment, which is part of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, is famous for its role in the discovery of the Higgs Boson a.k.a the god particle. It is expected to start collecting data once again around March 2015. But this time, it will include another member from our environs — IIT-Madras.

IIT-Madras has been accepted as a full member of the collaboration and is looking forward to make best use of the opportunity. Now, PhD students from the physics department will get to work in the collider; undergraduate students can do short summer projects at CMS; members of physics, computer science and electrical engineering departments at IIT-M can work on data analysis, grid computing and high-end detector building related to the experiment. “Being connected to CERN can give many more students a taste of the power of fundamental research,” says Prafulla Kumar Behera of the physics department of IIT-Madras, pointing out that this is the first IIT and, in fact, the first institute from the southern States to have become a full member of the CMS. It is to be noted that Tata Institute
of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have long been members, as also Delhi and Panjab Universities.

Read more: The Hindu

4.2.4  India tight-lipped on the issue of hydrofluorocarbons

India did not clearly spell out its position on the issue of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) during a key UN conference here as nations debated whether to set up a contact group for discussing the proposed amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down the harmful greenhouse gas.

As nations debated pro and cons of the issue, India neither supported nor opposed it and instead merely read out a joint-bilateral statement on HFCs signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Barack Obama during their White House summit on September 30.

Read more: The Hindu

4.2.5  India to launch American buoy in Bay of Bengal to study weather pattern

Scientists are set to sail from Chennai on November 24 towards a point in the Bay of Bengal, 300 km east of Kolkata, which receives the highest rainfall in the Indian Ocean. They will carry a state-of-the-art buoy which can measure salinity, temperature, currents, and nitrates and dissolved oxygen content at different levels in the sea up to a depth of 2 km.

Dr. M. Ravichandran, who heads the Modeling and Ocean Observation Group at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here said, "We want to study how the atmosphere and the ocean interact and exchange energy. This part of the bay receives the waters of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. It also receives the highest rainfall in the Indian Ocean. This large amount of freshwater heats up and cool down at a much faster rate than the rest of the Bay.

Read more: The Hindu

4.2.6  Leopards reside in human habitats: study

Outside their protected areas, leopards often reside in human habitats, but avoid encounters with people, a new study shows.

Some researchers radio—collared five leopards in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, for the first time in India, and recorded their movement patterns in human—dominated areas outside their protected habitat.

Read more: The Hindu

4.2.7  Expanding enrolments with little state funding

There have been two schools of thought in determining whether higher education should qualify as a public or a private good. It is not merely a question of intention, as evidence has long suggested that nations that have treated higher education as a public good have benefitted from increased productivity.

Rather, it is also about affordability, more so when over the last few decades enrolment numbers, relative to population as measured through

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Gross Enrolment Ratio or GER, or in absolute terms, have increased exponentially.

India has the biggest population of 18 to 24 year-olds in the world and they make up the bulk of tertiary education students, whose numbers are the world’s second highest. Moreover, that number, as per a British Council study, should be the biggest in the world by 2024 when it is expected to hit 48 million, up from close to 30 million now.

At the beginning of this century, enrolments were around 10 million. A pertinent question, then, is which model will drive this ongoing expansion. Since the 1980s and more aggressively since the beginning of this century, India has witnessed the rapid rise of the ‘private good’ model with thousands of private institutes coming on stream.

Any growth in enrolments may be achieved largely because of the contributions made by these private institutes. Out of more than 33,000 different higher education institutions, the vast majority are private and they cater for nearly 60% of enrolled students.

Read more: University World News

4.2.8 Employability of graduates is a big concern – says FICCI-EY report

While the Indian higher education system has made considerable progress in terms of capacity creation and enrolment in the last decade, it lags significantly in terms of global relevance and competitiveness, according to a study by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, or FICCI, and Ernst & Young, writes M Saraswathy for Business Standard.

The report released at the FICCI Higher Education Summit said that low employability of graduates is driven by factors like out-dated curricula, shortage of quality faculty, high student-teacher ratios, lack of institutional and industry linkages and lack of autonomy to introduce new and innovative courses.

Read more: Business Standard

4.3 India-Europe cooperation

4.3.1 EU-India STI Cooperation Days 2014 in Chennai

The 5th edition of the EU-India STI Cooperation Days took place on 12-13 November in Chennai. The event was jointly organized by the INDIGO POLICY and INNO INDIGO projects and supported by European Commission and the European Business and Technology Centre, EBTC. CSIR-SERC was the host for this occasion. Around 100 researchers, policy makers, industry representatives from India and Europe working on energy, the focus theme of this edition of the cooperation days, attended the event.

Participants discussed ongoing and future cooperation and set the scene for further fruitful initiatives in the field of STI. The event aims at supporting the policy dialogue by creating new research and business networks on priority issues for both regions, and to promote funding opportunities offered by the EU, India, bilateral programmes and by industry.
EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

EBTC presented the new and useful report “Science and Technology Research Players in India” (see 4.3.2 below).

EURAXESS Links India was there with Ainhitze Bizkarralegorreta Bravo (Country Representative) to present ‘EURAXESS: Your Gateway to European Research Area (ERA)’ at the opening session. Ainhitze also participated at the Networking Café where she had the opportunity to meet researchers and identify possible on-site presentations by EURAXESS in 2015. On 14th November, there was a training for Horizon 2020 Focal Points India Network where possible synergies between EURAXESS Links India and the Focal Points were identified.

Santosh Bothe, member of EURAXESS Links India community, won the competition for “Young scientists” at this edition of the STI Cooperation Days (see under section 2).

EURAXESS Links India also used the opportunity to visit the IIT Madras Research Park, as part of a number of visits to local research institutions arranged by the EU Delegation to India.

Download the full programme of the EU-India STI Days here. The presentations of the successful two-days event are available on INDIGO projects website (see below).

Read more: INDIGO projects

4.3.2 ‘Science and Technology Research Players in India’
new publication by EBTC

Poul Jensen, Director of EBTC, released this publication at the EU-India STI Cooperation Days in Chennai (see 4.3.1.).

This report on ‘Science and Technology Research Players in India’ is a rich compilation of key Indian research institutes and universities across eight different sectors.

The report maps and provides detailed profiles for 125 research organisations in the biotechnology, energy, environment, health, ICT, nano-technology, social sciences and humanities, and transport sectors.

Information for each organisation includes research focus areas, infrastructural facilities, human and financial capital, research activities, international collaborations, and more.

To download the report: here

4.3.3 Industries get exposure to desalination technology in Madurai

Industries from Madurai and other southern districts had an exposure to an innovative desalination technology developed by a German company at a workshop organised at Thiagarajar College of Engineering (TCE) here on Wednesday.
The workshop on “Renewable Energy based Water Desalination” organised by TCE and the European Technology Experience Centre (ETEC) saw representatives from more than 20 industries interacting with experts from WME Gmbh, the German company.

Ulrich Plantikow, founder and manager of WMEA Gmbh, elaborated on the technical conception and working of the wind-powered sea water desalination plant. He noted that the plant provided sustainable solution for drinking water problems prevalent in many regions.

Read more: The Hindu

4.3.4 India-EU Session at 2nd Global Innovation & Technology Alliance Platform Platform – Innovation Summit

(see also above under 3.3.)

The 2nd Global Alliance for Innovation & Technology Alliance Platform was one of the six summits organised under the Knowledge Expo 2014 celebrated in Greater Noida between 18-21 November.

On 21st November an India-EU session was organised with the participation of the EU Delegation to India, EURAXESS Links India and representatives from EU funded projects such as EBTC or INNO INDIGO and EU member states, among others.

The morning session, first dealt with “Research, Innovation & Business Cooperation Opportunities”, followed with Enterprise Europe Network And in the afternoon INNO INDIGO organised an “India-EU Cluster Workshop”.

Full programme of 2nd GITA Platform – Innovation Summit: here

All about Knowledge Expo 2014: here

4.3.5 Indian among Germany's Green Talents 2014 winners

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has honoured Femeena Pandara Valappil, a young Indian researcher, with this year's 'Green Talents' international sustainability award for her research in the field of water resource engineering.

A total of 25 young researchers, out of more than 800 applications from over 100 countries, with the most innovative ideas were selected by a high ranking jury of experts.

The Green Talent Award, which is given under the patronage of the Federal Minister of Education and Research Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, was awarded on the November 7 in Berlin. Their prize is one of the treasured tickets to the ‘Green Talents – International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development’.

Read more: German Missions in India
4.3.6 Indo-Spanish collaboration: “Efficient Planning and Scheduling for Bus Rapid Transportation”

An Indo-Spanish Joint Call for Proposals under the PoC on Industrial R&D, between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA), India and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), Spain was launched 12th November 2013, and kept opened until 15th March, 2014. A total of 8 joint R&D project proposals were validly submitted fulfilling all the criteria laid down in the same text of the Call for Proposals within the deadline.

Based on technology merit, national priority of both the countries and R&D strengths of the project coordinators, Department of Science and Technology (DST), India and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), Spain have jointly decided to support the following proposal:

IS-20140003
Acronym: EPS-BRTS
Title of Project: Efficient Planning and Scheduling for Bus Rapid Transportation
Indian Partner: NANOKERNEL, LTD. http://www.nanokernel.net/

The goal of the project is to develop a Bus Planning & Scheduling System which shall be used to automatically generate bus fleet schedules based on user provided feeds/inputs, specially catering at BRT requirements.

5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 National EURAXESS Portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the 40 member countries of the EURAXESS network can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, FYRoMacedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Access to all national EURAXESS Portals (overview): here

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.
5.2 European Research Council: **Consolidator Grant**

**Deadline for application: 12 March 2015**

ERC Consolidator Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. This action is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country.

The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities. The call 'ERC-2015-CoG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to each of the three main research domains:

- Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 – PE10),
- Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9),
- Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6).

Further information: [Participant Portal](#)

5.3 European Research Council: **Proof of Concept Grant**

There are 3 deadlines for submission to the ERC-2015-Proof of Concept:

- First deadline: 5 February 2015 at 17:00 (Brussels local time)
- Intermediate deadline: 28 May 2015 at 17:00 (Brussels local time)
- Final deadline: 1 October 2015 at 17:00 (Brussels local time)

Applications can be submitted at any time from the opening date of the call until the final deadline and will be evaluated and selected in three rounds, based on three specific deadlines. A Principal Investigator may submit only one Eligible application per call.

Further Information: [Participant Portal](#)

5.4 Forthcoming calls

5.4.1 Under Horizon 2020

**Revised Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015** has been adopted on 22 July 2014. [Read more](#) (check for documents ending with "v.2" under H2020/Work Programmes/2014-15/Main WP).

**European Research Council (ERC)'s Work Programme 2015** has been published. [Read more](#).

**Horizon 2020: Industrial Leadership** 2 new calls to be published on 18th December 2014.
Further information: [Participant Portal](#)

**Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges** about 20 new calls to be published on 10th December 2014.
Further information: [Participant Portal](#)
5.4.2 IMI2-Call 2 Indicative Topics Released

Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is Europe’s largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. The following topics are under consideration for inclusion in future calls for proposals to be launched under IMI 2 in December 2014.

- RADAR: Remote assessment of disease and relapse
- Assessing risk and progression of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes to enable disease modification
- Towards a quantitative biological approach for neuropsychiatry
- The consistency approach to quality control in vaccine manufacture
- Patient knowledge repository to enable patient focused medicine development

5.5 India-Spain Programme of Co-operation on Industrial R&D 2014

Deadline for submission: 15 April 2015

A Bilateral Framework providing financial support for collaborative R&D ventures between Indian and Spanish Industry and Academia.

Scope: Present RFP is open to joint industrial R&D projects between Indian and Spanish partners in any of the following thematic areas:

1. Clean Technologies
2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
3. Smart Cities

Subsectors of interest within the referred thematic areas are:

1. Clean Technologies: Economically competitive production processes and products that uses less or substitutes harmful or critical materials and/or energy, reduce, replace and reuse resources*:
   - Clean Energy
   - Energy Storage
   - Energy Efficiency
   - Transportation
   - Air & Environment
   - Clean Industry
   - Water and Agriculture

2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
   - Future Internet Technologies (novel services and architectures, cloud computing, trustworthy ICT, internet of things, etc.)
   - Advanced Computing
   - Content Technologies and Information Management
- Mobile technologies and services
- Robotics
- Micro/nano technologies

3. Smart Cities
- Smart energy systems
- Building and space sustainability
- Intelligent transport and mobility
- Societal challenges: inclusion, education, health, safety, tourism, etc.
- Electronic, open and participatory government

Calendar:
Official Launch of Request for Proposals: November 20, 2014
Submission Date for Full Application Form / Proposal: April 15, 2015
Release of Request for Proposals Results: September 2015 [Tentative]

Read more

5.6 India–UK Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme 2014

Deadline: 15 April 2015 (prior registration required)

The India-UK Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme aims to support business-led collaborative R&D projects between Indian and UK companies, working with academic organisations from both countries where appropriate. The program is jointly delivered by the Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA), on behalf of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) -Government of India and by Innovate UK in the UK. The programme will provide grant funding to help participants to build sustainable research partnerships and increase bilateral R&D collaboration with the aim of generating new Intellectual Property (IP) and developing technology prototypes/processes leading to economic growth and societal benefit.

Applications invited for: Collaborative industrial R&D projects up to 2 years in duration -with the aim of future commercialisation.

Areas of proposals to be funded:
The India-UK Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme is open to R&D proposals aimed at tackling grand societal challenges with a route to future commercial success for the partners involved. For this RFP/Competition the areas of focus are:
- Cleantech Energy
- Affordable healthcare
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) in any of the above focus areas.

Indicative dates:
Opening of the Request for Proposals/Competition November 21, 2014
EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

Closing of registration (applicants need to have registered their intention to submit an application) April 8, 2015
Closing of the Request for Proposals/Competition April 15, 2015
Release date of Request For Proposal/Competition results August 2015

Read more

5.7 Calls still open (see previous newsletters for more details)

Access all open calls on the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.
Deadline for submission: check under specific call.

The following calls under Horizon 2020 are highlighted here:

Excellent Science - European Research Council: Call for proposals to promote the output of ERC-funded research amongst a wider audience
Deadline for application: 16 December 2014

European Research Council: Call for proposals for ERC Starting Grants
Deadline for application: 3 February 2015

Excellent Science - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
Deadline for application: 13 January 2015
The Innovative Training Networks is an action under the Horizon 2020 activity, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. This scheme will extend the traditional academic research training setting and will provide researchers with a combination of research-related and transferable competences. It will offer enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sector mobility, combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Excellent Science: three calls for proposals open to support Research Infrastructure
Deadline for application: 14 January 2015

Six calls under Industrial Leadership:
Deadline for submission: between 17 December 2014 and 14 October 2015 (next year). Verify exact date under each call.

Topics covered:
- ICT 2014 - INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
- HORIZON 2020 DEDICATED SME INSTRUMENT
- CALL FOR SPIRE - SUSTAINABLE PROCESS INDUSTRIES
- CALL FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS
- CALL FOR FACTORIES OF THE FUTURE
EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

- CAPITALISING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF ON-LINE COLLABORATION

Eleven calls under Societal Challenges:
Deadline for submission: between 1 December 2014 and 11 June 2015
Verify exact date under each call.
Topics covered:
- DIABETES
- INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BIOECONOMY
- SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY
- BLUE GROWTH: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SEAS AND OCEANS
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY - PPP EEB AND SPIRE TOPICS
- HEALTH CO-ORDINATION ACTIVITIES
- PERSONALISING HEALTH AND CARE

Spreading excellence and widening participation - Call for Twinning (H2020-TWINN-2015)
Deadline: 12 December 2014

Other calls:
CHIST-ERA Call 2014 - Two New Topics
Deadline: 13 January 2015
The "CHIST-ERA" ERA-Net is looking for transformative and highly multidisciplinary research projects in Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST). There are two topics addressed in the 2014 Call - Resilient Trustworthy Cyber-Physical Systems (RTCPS) and Human Language Understanding: Grounding Language Learning (HLU).

India specific calls:

Indo-Dutch: Cooperation between The Netherlands and India on X-ray Astronomy and Technology
Deadline: no deadline applicable.

India-Israel Initiative for Industrial R&D (i4RD) Programme
Dates applicable to Indian & Israeli applicants:
Submission Date of i4RD Joint Application Form: December 19, 2014
Release of Request for Proposal Results: June 2015 (tentative)
Additional dates for Israeli applicants:
Notification of Approval for Phase II Application (Israeli Companies only): January 15, 2015
Phase II Application Submission Deadline (Israeli Companies only): February 15, 2015
Calls by European Research Area countries:

**AUSTRIA:** [Lise Meitner Programme for scientists from abroad](#)  
Deadline: accepted continuously, no application deadlines

**BELGIUM:** [“MOVE-IN Louvain“ Incoming post-doc Fellowships](#)  
Deadline for 1st call for proposals: 1 January 2015

“MOVE-IN Louvain” Incoming post-doc Fellowships is a new transnational fellowship programme developed by the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) in partnership with the Université de Namur (UNamur) and the Université Saint-Louis (ULS-B) with the support of the European Commission (Marie Curie actions).

The programme will last 5 years, issuing 3 calls for proposals. Depending on the duration of the stay of the candidates retained for funding, about 53 fellowships will be granted per call.

**CROATIA:** [The New International Fellowship Mobility Programme for Experienced Researchers in Croatia – NEWFELPRO](#)  
Deadline: 31 December 2014

**GERMANY:** [Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES) - Top opportunities for researchers from developing countries](#)  
Deadline: There is no closing date for submitting applications.

**GERMANY:** [Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers](#)  
Deadline: There is no closing date for submitting application

**LUXEMBOURG:** [ATTRACT Call 2015](#)  
Deadline: 12 January 2015

**POLAND:** [Foundation for Polish Science – Ideas for Poland](#)  
Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis  
Eligible applicants: Winners of the “ERC Starting Grants” competition who intend to pursue scientific research in Poland.

**PORTUGAL:** [New Media and Pervasive Systems PhD Programme by COPELABS and University Lusofona](#)  
Deadline for application: different deadlines

**SWEDEN:** [Second call within the program Forest raw materials and biomass: Sustainable primary production](#) by Formas  
Deadline: 11 February 2015

**SWEDEN:** [Targeted call - Sustainable building and planning](#) by Formas  
Deadline: 19 February 2015
TURKEY: TÜBITAK – Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers
Applications will be accepted twice a year. Application deadlines for 2014 were:
II. Period : 10 October 2014 - 12 November 2014

UK: Wellcome Trust- Investigator Awards
Applications are considered three times a year (February, July, November). Next full application closing date: February 2015 (tbc)

Horizon 2020: Call of expression of interest for experts
Additional details can be found in the Participant Portal. We encourage you to check it and register as an expert. The call for expression of interest will remain open for the lifetime of Horizon 2020.

6 Jobs

6.1 EURAXESS Portal and EURAXESS Jobs
The EURAXESS Portal provides links to information on career and grant opportunities in science and technology mainly in European countries. For research careers in Europe and the world, visit the EURAXESS Jobs website!

Currently, there are 7030 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe but also in other countries such as in India and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

Example of latest positions open for Indian participants:
Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore): Director, Centre for Brain Research
Deadline: 31 December 2014
IIS seeks a distinguished neuroscientist to serve as Director of the newly established Centre for Brain Research (an autonomous centre of the Indian Institute of Science).

The Centre for Brain Research is dedicated to finding early diagnosis and rational therapies for neurodegenerative diseases through better understanding of brain function. In order to achieve these goals, the centre will carry out clinical and basic research in human populations and model systems. The centre will have around 15 research groups.
6.2 Join us on LinkedIn: [linkedin.euraxess.org](http://linkedin.euraxess.org)

The EURAXESS Links group on LinkedIn is for **internationally mobile researchers** to share their experiences and learn of jobs and career opportunities around the world.

It is part of the EURAXESS initiative, the European Commission's programme to support researchers, of which EURAXESS Links is its external window (i.e. for outside Europe).

The global EURAXESS LinkedIn group is complementary to the country based EURAXESS Links India community.

Example of recent employment or fellowship opportunity published on EURAXESS Links-Internationally Mobile Researchers is provided below. For further information click on the position:

**Andalucia Talent Hub Fellowship for experienced researchers**

**Deadline: 14 March 2015 (open)**

The programme offers two-year fixed term contracts to 50 experienced researchers, in excellent conditions, in prestigious research institutions and connected to the powerful network of the Campuses of International Excellence based in Andalusia (Spain).

**Call for South African-European mobility scholarships**

**Deadline: 28 February 2015**

*For non-degree seeking mobilities for the MADM at Ruhr University Bochum the application deadline is already 31 January 2015 as the mobility starts in April 2015.*

South African Master and PhD applicants as well as academic and administrative staff have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship for spending a study/training/research periods at one of the 8 European partner universities of the project. European PhD Students have the opportunity to spend a research period at one of the 6 South African partner universities.

6.3 India: Jobs at [DevNetJobsIndia](http://devnetjobsindia.com)

At the time of writing this issue, DevNetJobsIndia offers positions in research and innovation. Best is to check it up in the beginning of the month when new positions are advertised.
7 Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event (click for more details)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7.1 Europe</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Events announced under Horizon 2020 website</td>
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<td>It includes the Information Days by the EC and Brokerage events</td>
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<td><strong>EC Conference Transport Safety: Societal Challenges, Research Solutions.</strong></td>
<td>Genoa (Italy)</td>
<td>4-5 December 2014</td>
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<td><strong>7.2 India</strong></td>
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<td>European Higher Education Fair India 2014 (EHEF)</td>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
<td>3 December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Higher Education Fair India 2014 (EHEF) (EURAXESS Links India will be there)</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>5 December 2014</td>
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<td>Energy Storage India 2014 (ESI 2014) by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA). EBTC is key partner to ESI 2014 Theme: ‘Re-Imagining India’s Energy Infrastructure’</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>4-5 December 2014 (3/12 Pre-conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EURAXESS Information Session at Bharati Vidyapeeth University</td>
<td>Pune</td>
<td>17 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Ventures Visit to India by India Platform</td>
<td>Delhi and Bangalore</td>
<td>13-21 December 2014</td>
</tr>
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**EURAXESS Links India** is a networking tool for European researchers active in India and Indian ones wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a research career in Europe. EURAXESS Links India provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-India and international collaboration and for transnational mobility. Membership is free.

Visit us at [india.euraxess.org](http://india.euraxess.org) and click on **Login Community / Join the EURAXESS Links India community** on the right-hand side of the page.

EURAXESS Links is a European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation initiative. It has thus far been launched in the ASEAN (encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Brazil, China, India, Japan, and North America (USA & Canada).