Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present to you the second 2015 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 “Spreading Excellence and Widening participation”. It also includes a special feature with an interview to Shreejata Gupta, finalist of the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 and Erasmus Mundus grantee.

You will find information on News related to research and innovation in Europe and India, a selection of over 50 Grants and Fellowships (e.g. India-Norway, Ikerbasque postdocs), of Job opportunities as well as of upcoming Events.

Under news, we have highlighted the recent Indo-French seminar on “Women in Science”. On the occasion of the coming International Women’s Day, the next issue of the newsletter will pay particular attention to this important topic. Contributions will be most welcome by 15th March.

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 meant to be a communication tool for its readers. Interacting with you is important to us.

Last, but not least, you still have until 15th March to help us improve our services completing our brief online satisfaction survey in three minutes.

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6.4 Join us on LinkedIn: linkedin.euraxess.org

6.5 India: Jobs at DevNetJobsIndia

7 Events
Under Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding programme, a strong packet of measures with up to EUR 800 million in funding will be available for widening participation of low-research performing Member States. Such actions include special awards like the ERA Chairs instrument, Teaming or Twinning. These three instruments will be introduced in this EU Insight.

Thirteen universities, technical institutes and private organisations in those parts of Europe that have not done as well as they could in research and innovation are to receive up to EUR 2.5 million each in EU funding to boost their research capacity through the appointment of "ERA Chairs", the European Commission announced on 13 February 2015.

Following the pilot call under FP7, this first Horizon 2020 call on ERA Chairs was launched on 11 December 2013 with a budget of EUR 33.6 million. The selected institutions have to award ERA Chairs to outstanding academics who have the capacity to raise standards and attract more high level staff as well as money from other sources, such as EU research funding or regional funds. The positions must be published and respect ERA guidelines (gender balance, fairness, transparency, etc.). ERA Chair holders can come from anywhere in the world.

List of projects to be funded under the first Horizon 2020 ERA Chairs Call

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<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>ERA Chair Institution</th>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>FIELDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>RUDER BOSKOVIC INSTITUTE</td>
<td>PaRaDeSEC</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Economy &amp; Social sciences</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>ICETA - Instituto de Ciências e Tecnologias</td>
<td>EnvMetaGen</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO</td>
<td>FoReCaST</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>INSTITUTUL DE CHIMIE MACROMOLECULARA PETRU PONI</td>
<td>SupraChem Lab</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Physics</td>
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On 30 January 2015, the EU announced new grants that will help bridge the research excellence gap between Member States and strengthen competitiveness and growth across Europe. The new Teaming instrument, under which these grants are awarded, will help improve research performance and increase investment in countries with lower research excellence rankings. With funding from Horizon 2020, 31 projects from such countries have now been selected to prepare operational plans for new Centres of Excellence by teaming up with high-calibre institutions from all over Europe.

Eligible Member states under Teaming include all those which joined the EU after 2004 plus Portugal and Luxembourg, as well as eight of the non-EU countries associated with Horizon 2020. Teaming will help them to start new collaborations, build new scientific networks and seize new market opportunities.

The first Teaming projects selected for funding will be led by research institutions or agencies as well as national or regional authorities. In phase 1 of this action, the projects will receive up to EUR 500,000 each (EUR 14.5 million in total) to prepare operational plans for new Centres of Excellence or for upgrading existing ones.

**Twinning** aims to significantly strengthen a defined field of research in a particular knowledge institution (a research-active university or a public research organisation or a private non-profit research organisation) by creating a link between this institution and at least two internationally-leading research institutions in other Member States. Twinning strategies can include short term staff exchanges; expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training; workshops; conference attendance; organisation of joint summer school type activities; dissemination and outreach activities. Twinning activities will provide no support to infrastructure and equipment and no support for hiring new permanent research staff. The call for applications is still open until 7 May 2015.

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1 This EU Insight is a compilation of the following two press releases from the European Commission:

- [Press Release ERA Chairs from February 13, 2015](#)
- [Press Release Teaming from January 30, 2015](#)

The information on the Twinning instrument was taken from the call text:

- [Twinning Call from the European Commission](#)
2 Feature – Shreejata Gupta finalist at EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 and Erasmus Mundus grantee

Interview to Shreejata Gupta, PhD student at National Institute of Advanced Studies (Bangalore) and one of the five finalists of ‘EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014’ with a slam on “Towards the Roots of Language: Development of communication systems in macaques leading to understanding of human language”. She has been to Europe with the Erasmus Mundus Programme.

Tell EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers about Shreejata:

I joined the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore in the year 2010 for doctoral studies on primate behavior. I graduated as a student of Zoology from the Presidency College, Kolkata, India, following which I pursued Masters in Forestry in the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India. I was then awarded a scholarship from the European Union for a Masters in European Forestry, which earned me double degrees from the University of Joensuu, Finland, and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria. I enjoy travelling and writing, photography is my window to the world while watching movies is my passion along with cooking and painting.

What is your research background and interests?

My current research focuses on gestural communication of a macaques species found in the wild in southern India. This research eventually aims at understanding the roots of human language in communication systems of other primates. In general, my academic interest revolves around the theory of evolution through natural selection, and particularly I am intrigued by the diversity of behavior in a range of individuals, groups, populations,
and finally, taxa. My key research interests include primate communication, play behaviour, gestural communication, intentional communication, primate behaviour, evolution of language, cognitive ethology, behavioural ecology, and evolutionary biology.

How would you describe spending long time away from the city? Has this had any impact on you?

My father’s job entailed travelling to lesser known areas of West Bengal, thus, my growing years were spent mostly in the outskirts of bigger cities sometimes in remote villages. I have always had a deep connection to the countryside, especially the warmth and simplicity of its people. I would not dare to say that I have been deprived of similar affection in the cities, but I am sure the quantity reduces with the din and bustle, if not the quality!

During my Master’s studies, in Dehradun, India, initially, and then in different countries in Europe, I spent most of my time in beautiful campuses, rather than in the midst of the cities. I gradually developed a liking for open spaces, where I could roam around at my own will, sit with a book to read wherever I fancied, and be engaged with deep ‘conversations’ with my inner self.

It was a rather different story in Europe. Although I lived mostly in the countryside, I did spend some time in bigger cities such as Barcelona, Helsinki, and a considerable time in Vienna. I realized, city-life in Europe is quite different from what we have in India. The pace is faster in the cities, nevertheless, there are open spaces and greenery with the city, people are more aware to find time for their luxuries, in spite of the hustle of every-day life. More importantly, everybody respected other’s personal space, and judging others were rare, at least not as vocal, as we find here.

Finally, recently, during my doctoral work, I lived in a remote village in the Indian state of Karnataka. I lived in a serene valley at the foothills of the Nilgiris mountain range in the south. It was a novel culture, with new language, food habits, social values and almost everything, than what I had lived with so far. Eventually, it turned out to be the most amazing experience of my life! I learned the language, gradually got incorporated into the local peoples’ lives and the environment. The morning sun painted the mountains and greeted me at the break of dawn, the wind blew to inform me whether it was going to rain that evening, and the forest spoke to me in the night, when I was bored at a desolate hut in the fringes of the jungle. After a span of two years, without my knowledge, the village became my home and the villagers my family. I realised for good that I am not born to live in the city.

Where did you hear about the 2nd EURAXESS Science Slam India competition? Why did you decide to participate?

The director of our institute, Dr Baldev Raj, had circulated the notification mail advertising the 2nd EURAXESS Slam India competition among the faculty members. My supervisor, Dr Anindya Sinha, had forwarded the mail to us. I found it a unique opportunity to participate, and quite a challenge worth taking onto.

You have already studied in Europe. Where was this and with which European Commission Programme did you go? While studying

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
abroad, it is common to meet challenges and surprises. Which were the three most challenging aspects of your experience? And the three smoothest ones?

I was awarded an Erasmus Mundus scholarship for Master’s in European Forestry 2006-2008. The course was conducted by the University of Joensuu, Finland, with the collaboration of six consortium universities from across countries such as Spain, Germany, The Netherlands, Austria and Sweden. For the final year masters dissertation, I selected the University of Bodenkultur (BOKU), Vienna.

Challenges and surprises were there all along the journey, most of the times, one turning into the other. It is difficult to list out three each, thus, I would try to provide some overlapping examples. Food and drinks, for instance, more often than none, presented the biggest challenges in several countries. Sometimes I have been very pleasantly surprised by tasting something that did not visually appeal much, but turned out to be an extraordinary gastronomic experience! The other way round happened pretty often as well, only making life more interesting!

Another challenging factor was language, more so as the course required a lot of travelling over a short duration of time. One particular incident was rather an eye-opener for me. In Barcelona, I was struggling to find someone named Jordi in one the municipality building. Soon, I realized that Jordi is every Tom Dick or Harry on the street, and since I did not have the family name of the one I intended to meet, it was an impossible task. I, exasperated with the anticipation of being lost as a newcomer to an unknown city, started cursing to the unknown, in my mother tongue. Within a span of a quarter of an hour, a person who was blowing dry leaves from the streets, approached me, took me by my hand and took me to the right Jordi that I was looking for. It still is a mystery how I understood what I was murmuring in Bengali, but I myself had a moment of epiphany realizing the unrecognized strength of mother-tongues!

The other most surprising, and enjoyable fact in Europe was to enjoy personal freedom, in almost every sphere of life, most of the times.

As a female researcher, do you think that it is the same for a woman to study in India or in Europe? Why?

I had hardly any problems as a female researcher in Europe. I had colleagues and friends from both sexes, where I have observed equal treatments. However, my European friends often said that there is subtle sexism underlying every profession in their society. I personally did not face it, perhaps because I was an outsider there. However, I feel the fieldwork experience is far smoother in Europe than what I faced in India, mainly because of being a female.

It was safer there, and people judged less when a female assumes the position of a field-worker, than they do here. Roaming around in the wee hours of night either in a city or outskirts is more socially acceptable in Europe than here, and more hassle free be it in terms of availability of public transport, or general safety.

On the science slam, why “Towards the Roots of Language: Development of communication systems in macaques leading to
In the field of research that I am currently in, a lot of work is been done on apes (chimpanzee, bonobos, gorilla, orangutan). However, we do not know the same story from the non-ape monkeys, which otherwise has immense potential to contribute in such investigations. One inspiration to work on macaques comes from this. Moreover, our research group has been working on this macaque species form over two decades, unveiling interesting facts about them. A huge amount of background information such as this already puts one in an advantageous position to carry out complex work as I am pursuing. Finally, being present in southern India, easy availability of the macaques as study subject also was a lucrative choice.

In the live presentation at EURAXESS that I made, I tried to convey the basic principle of my study, and how it should not be confused with the usual natural-history oriented programmes telecast on popular media. What I wanted to reach across is that there are many ways of doing science. What I do in the forests, following monkeys is to answer some crucial questions of evolutionary biology, which will try to explain ourselves.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation at Café Zoe in Mumbai?

Actually, neither! If I were to compare the two at all, I must say that the preparation of the video was slightly more challenging, since it was something novel that I was doing. Moreover, to concisely put a complex research idea into a 3-min video was rather daunting! But I enjoyed every part of it with the spirit of adventure. Presentation at Café Zoe was quite a smooth process, more so owing to the orientation on the previous day and the friendly atmosphere created by all of you, by the time we hit the stage.

How was your experience as finalist of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam in India?

Absolutely unprecedented and amazing, to say the least. I made fantastic friends, I met many interesting people, I experienced a competition which had the spirit of learning new things, than proving unnecessary ones.
Would you recommend the experience to other researchers? Why?

Yes, of course! For the sheer novelty of the experience, and the challenge to convey your ideas in a constrained stretch of time, in an innovative way. I think that was the most challenging task of all, and everybody should be equipped with the skill.

Any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

Have fun and be yourself!

Thank You Shreejata!

3 EURAXESS Events in India

3.1 EURAXESS Survey: share your view on EURAXESS Links

EURAXESS Links Network’s annual survey to keep improving our services in open. You have until 15th March 2015 to be heard.

It will only take 3 minutes of your precious time to answer the 7 questions of our online survey (click there).

Any feedback on our work is very much appreciated by the team running EURAXESS Links Network. Your view is fundamental to us in order to improve our service for you in the future!

Thank you to those of you who have already replied!

3.2 EURAXESS Events in 2015

EURAXESS Links India will be coming to Kolkata most likely in April for a EURAXESS Share event. More information will follow in the March newsletter.

In the second part of the year, the live finals of the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2015 will take place in a location yet to be decided. This will be the 3rd edition of this global event.

It will also be in the second semester that a EURAXESS Connect event will take place. EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers will be informed well in advance.

Follow the latest on EURAXESS Links India events here.

You can follow the EURAXESS Links India events on Facebook via the site of the Delegation of the European Union to India: Facebook EU in India.
3.3 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 European or Indian companies in the sub-continent.

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:

- Early March, Mumbai (possible to request a presentation)
- Early April, Bengaluru (possible to request a presentation)
- In May, at BITS-Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus in Zuarinagar (Goa)
- Other cities on the agenda with no date fixed yet: Chennai, Nagkor or Aurangabad

4 News & Developments

4.1 European Union, Member States and Associated Countries

4.1.1 Public consultation: have your say on the achievements of FP7

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the achievements of FP7, the EU’s 7th Framework Programme for research and innovation worth €53 billion of funding for the period 2007-2013. The results of the consultation will feed into the ex-post evaluation of FP7 carried out by an independent external High Level Expert Group.

The evaluation is an important instrument for assessing the achievements and wider impact of FP7. In addition the aim is to improve both the implementation of Horizon 2020, the current EU’s funding programme for research and innovation, and the design of future framework programmes. The consultation collects views on the overall management of FP7, the impact of the simplification measures, and the achievements of the supported activities. Individuals, groups or organisations who have had a direct experience with FP7 or just wish to give their opinion are invited to contribute until 22 May 2015.

The consultation as well as background information can be found on the Research & Innovation consultations site as well as the European Commission website Your voice in Europe. (Horizon Magazine)

4.1.2 Bringing research to the market: ERC funds 59 innovative projects

A simple blood test to diagnose breast cancer, a forensic device to trace the origin of tropical timber, and artificial veins inspired by marine sponges;
these are some of the inventions to be developed by 59 outstanding researchers selected in the latest round of ‘Proof of Concept’ Grants from the European Research Council (ERC).

Worth up to €150,000 per grant, ‘Proof of Concept’ funding helps ERC grant holders to bridge the gap between their existing frontier research and its commercial applications. This top-up funding will enable the scientists to cover costs of technical validation, create a startup to explore business opportunities, or establish intellectual property rights, for example. (ERC)

4.1.3 New Vice Presidents and members of the ERC Scientific Council

Professors Sierd Cloetingh and Mart Saarma have been appointed new Vice Presidents of the European Research Council. This news was coupled with the European Commission’s appointment today of three new members of the Scientific Council. Sierd Cloetingh, who also serves as a President of Academia Europaea, is a Dutch professor of Earth Sciences and Tectonics at the Utrecht University. He will be in charge of supervision of the ERC activities in the domain of Physical Science and Engineering. Mart Saarma, an Estonian national, is a professor and a director of the Centre of Excellence in Molecular and Integrated Neuroscience Research at the University of Helsinki. He will take over the Life Sciences domain. (ERC)

4.1.4 EU Research Highlight: Medication timing key in cancer treatment

An internal clock determines many of our bodily functions. The same is true for tumour cells, EU-funded research suggests. This discovery could point the way to a more efficient, personalised approach to cancer treatment. “During the last 30 years, the potential of using chronotherapy to improve the efficacy of anticancer therapy has been demonstrated,” says Maria Comas Soberats, the beneficiary of the EU-funded CANCERTIME research grant. “If we can understand how daily patterns of toxicity and sensitivity to cancer treatment vary throughout the day and how chronotherapy functions at the cellular level for each type of treatment, this should stimulate novel approaches for treating the disease,” explains Comas Soberats. (EU Research & Innovation)

4.1.5 EU Research Highlight: Tomatoes with a can do attitude

Every year Europe’s tomato industry produces around 200 thousand tons of waste consisting mainly of skins, pips and fibers. Researchers in a European project are trying to find out if this material can be used in an ecological and economically viable way. At a tomato processing plant near Parma, in Italy, around 2,200 tons of fresh tomatoes are processed and packaged every season.
Some 4 per cent of the raw material ends up as waste and is partially used to produce biogas. But managers at the Parma factory have more ambitious plans, as vice-president Aldo Rodolfi explained: “At the moment we are working with researchers on how to use this waste in different ways. We especially want to use it for the packaging of food products”. To that end, scientists from a European research project have become specialised cooks. (EU Research & Innovation)

4.2 India

4.2.1 Indian Science Congress (ISC) in Mumbai: Science and Technology for Human Development

The 102nd ISC was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Modi in Mumbai on 3rd January 2015. The ISC was organized by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) in association with the University of Mumbai. Nobel Laureates, eminent scientists, technology experts and research students from India and abroad were among the participants. Ancient sciences through Sanskrit, Ancient Indian aviation technology, biodiversity conservation, space application, clean energy systems and other topics were discussed. Science and Technology in SAARC Countries and issue of genetically modified (GM) crops in India were also discussed.

Besides, Children’s Science Congress, Women’s Science Congress and Science Exhibition were also organised.

Read more: Indian Science Congress

4.2.2 Policy on open access to DBT and DST funded research

The open access policy of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India was approved and released on December 12, 2014, with specific guidelines for researchers and institutions. Researchers and others will now have easier access to results of DBT and DST funded projects.

Read more: DST

4.2.3 Report: ‘Understanding Innovation: Indian National Innovation Survey’

This report by the Department of Science and Technology, first of its kind and with social focus on Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs), benchmarks innovation potentially of Indian firms in terms of innovation activities, sources of innovation, linkages, human resources, effects and factors affecting innovation activities.

The report is based on the analysis of sample survey of about 9000 firms, largely MSMEs, across various industrial sectors in the country. It highlights fundamental issues related to innovations in the context of developing economies and provides inputs for devising evidence based policy
prescriptions or recommendations for strengthening the innovation infrastructure and growth of MSMEs in the country.

Read report: CSIR-NISTADS

4.2.4 Constitution of a Council for Industry & Higher Education Collaboration (CIHEC)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a Council for Industry & Higher Education Collaboration (CIHEC) which will facilitate development of strategies and innovative instruments of collaboration between Industry and Academia and endeavour to mobilize additional resources to support these initiatives.

Read more: PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Planning Commission Government of India

4.3 India-Europe cooperation

4.3.1 EU-India cooperation on ICT

A new EU-India ICT Business Dialogue and Joint ICT Working Group took place in New Delhi on 14 and 15 January, including a session on cooperation on ICT research and innovation, where it was agreed to try to identify specific areas of cooperation on High Performance Computing, e-Infrastructures, language technologies and Internet of Things (as well as Cloud Computing, from a more economic/standardisation angle).

The European Commission invited India to attend the ICT Event 2015 in Lisbon from 20-22 October 2015, and to jointly organise an India-EU networking session there.

India (Department of Electronics and IT) agreed to exploring the possibility of supporting successful Indian participants in Horizon 2020 ICT projects.

Contact person at EU Delegation to India: Klaus Pendl <Klaus.PENDL@eeas.europa.eu>

4.3.2 European Fellowship and Opportunities with funding event in Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)

EURAXESS Links India participated at the one day event hosted by Stella-Mary's-College-of-Engineering, a 2 year old college near Kanyakumari in the most southern part of India a relatively remote and pleasant area in that part of the country. The event was organised by AIC (Alliance de International Cooperation).

EURAXESS Links India took care of the first half of the day covering studying or doing research in Europe, EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion, Horizon 2020 (especially MSCA and ERC Grants), Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus. The afternoon session included the testimony of a local researcher who explained his funds hunting and experience in Europe and the USA. To close the event, the organizer and funder of AIC Dr. Prakash
EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

Vincent and Marie Curie fellow gave hints in grants application and introduced opportunities by European countries, before an active Q&A session.

The event was very well organized by AIC, involving over 30 educational institutions and gathering over 500 students and researchers. It also managed a good gender balance among the audience (50/50 if not slightly higher number of women). The crowd was very motivated. The local press also followed the event.

More: Stella Mary’s College of Engineering Facebook

4.3.3 INNO INDIGO Cluster and Regions Workshop – What role can European and Indian clusters of Excellence play in the INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme (IPP)?

On 29 January, the INNO INDIGO partners EBN, GAIA and GITA organized a second workshop dedicated to European and Indian Cluster managers in Bilbao, Basque Country (Spain).

The event attracted more than 30 attendees from Europe and India: cluster managers and regional representatives were invited to discuss the role of clusters in the INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme (IPP). Particularly, the discussion focused on factors and strategies which can support building mutually beneficial cluster2cluster collaborations. The outcomes of INNO INDIGO’s cluster survey were also presented to the audience. EBTC was invited to present concrete examples of EU-India cluster collaboration initiatives already in place (i.e. cleantech sector).

The workshop showed several differences between Indian and European clusters, and particularly the different ways they are structured in their respective ecosystems. Despite differences, cluster representatives highlighted the importance of INNO INDIGO to bring together the respective stakeholders to trigger cooperation in different sectors, and – where possible - across sectors. At the moment clusters will play a key communication and dissemination role, informing their members about INNO INDIGO joint calls and supporting them in the application phase.

Moreover European and Indian cluster representatives suggested to take part in the next Platform for Funders meeting to bring the innovation dimension into the discussion and provide inputs on how to encourage and support SME participation in excellent research.
The workshop also aimed at discussing those factors that increase the attractiveness for regions to participate as a funding agency in the IPP: a short presentation was provided by Lombardia Region on their experience in CONCERT-Japan which highlighted the importance of ERA NETs to open up new cooperation opportunities for European regions. Also in this case, the European regions attending the workshop, drew the attention on the strategic role clusters have in the regional smart specialization strategies as innovation catalysts.

Read more: [INDIGO Projects](#)

4.3.4 Indo-French seminar on 'Women in Science'

A three day seminar on 'Women in Science' was held from 3rd to 5th February 2015 at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. The seminar highlighted the scientific contributions and achievements of women working on collaborative Indo-French projects. The seminar also provided an opportunity for young women researchers to interact among each other and with experienced researchers. Funded by the Indo French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), the event was jointly organised by the Science Department of the French Embassy in India, Indian Academy Panel for Women in Sciences, an initiative by the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Indian Institute of Science.

The Seminar had a multi-fold purpose:

(1) To showcase the excellent research done by women scientists in the framework of the projects funded by the Indo French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) over the past few decades;

(2) To have an Indo-French dialogue to arrive at best practices for increasing women's participation in science and making it more efficient and effective, by learning from each other's experiences;

(3) To provide a platform for young women scientists working in different areas of science to present their work, interact with the senior scientists participating in the seminar and with each other as well.

The seminar spanned two broad research areas: (1) Health and Life sciences and (2) Physical and Mathematical Sciences. It included plenary talks by eminent women scientists from India and France, scientific presentations by women researchers involved in joint Indo-French projects, and two poster sessions by more than 80 young researchers. There was also a panel discussion on "Issues on Women in Science: focus Indo French Collaboration". Some of the main recommendations of the panel session regarding Indo-French cooperation were: to include more women in Indo-French panels and committees, especially the CEFIPRA Scientific Council, and to make it compulsory in Indo-French conferences and seminars to involve at least one woman speaker. The importance of affirmative action to increase gender equality in research, and in particular with regard to Indo-French science, was agreed by all.

The seminar was attended by almost 250 participants, coming from France and from all over India.

Read more: [French Embassy in India](#)
4.3.5 Launch of Collège de France Lecture Series in India

France has officially launched this new initiative, in association with the Centre for Social Sciences & Humanities in Delhi and the Collège de France in presence of Professor Sansonetti (Chair of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at Collège de France). Every year, until 2017, three to four Professors from this prestigious French institution will come to India and deliver lectures in renowned universities and institutes all over the country. This initiative intends to spread scientific knowledge and culture, and to share views on activities from fundamental research to social sciences and humanities research in different fields of science. From 12th to 16th January 2015, Professor Sansonetti visited three Indian cities (Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore) to give lectures in institutes and meet colleagues to discuss the emergence of potential new collaborative projects.

Read more: French Embassy in India

4.3.6 Fresh impetus to Higher Education in India by establishing Mahindra École Centrale (MEC), College of Engineering, in Hyderabad

MEC is an international quality, technology school with assured career progression for engineering aspirants. This Indo-French synergy in higher education formed by a leading industrial house, the Mahindra Group and École Centrale Paris (now CentraleSupélec), a leading French University, signifies a historic Industry-Academia connect in higher education and research in India.

On 4th March, 2015, Tech Mahindra, CentraleSupélec and MEC are celebrating the establishment of Mahindra École Centrale in Paris in the presence of His Excellency Shri Arun K Singh, Indian Ambassador to France. The event would see leaders from Tech Mahindra, CentraleSupélec and MEC and Alumni of CentraleSupélec, networking over dinner and strengthening the ties between Industry and Academia, and also India and France.


4.3.7 German Environment Minister visits India for Indo-German Forum

German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks is visited India on January 28 and 29, aiming at strengthening the bilateral cooperation in the field of environment. She was accompanied by a high-ranking business delegation.

Minister Hendricks and her Indian counterpart Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the second Indo-German Environment Forum in New Delhi on January 28. The two-day event focused on identifying the necessary
framework, challenges and solutions for waste and water management, resource efficiency and sustainable urban development.

Read more: German Missions in India

4.3.8 ‘DWIH Horizon: Art Meets Science’ photo exhibition

“DWIH Horizon: Art Meets Science’ photo exhibition was held in Pondicherry in February 2015. The Exhibition organised by the German House for Research and Innovation (Deutsches Wissenschafts- und InnovationsHaus - DWIH New Delhi) was held in Delhi in October 2014 and will travel to various Indian cities in 2015.

Read more: DWIH

4.3.9 The SAHYOG project’s last Newsletter is on line

The very last newsletter of this project co-funded by the European Commission in the 7th Framework Programme (Project No. FP7-289615) and by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology is online. The project ended in 2014.

The newsletter covers: SAHYOG Activities and Main Results; Manifesto for Bio-based Development; SAHYOG Strategic Research Agenda (SRA); SAHYOG RTD Roadmap; Workshop on Biomass and Territory; last project meetings.

The main aim of the project SAHYOG was to bring together leading organisations in the field of biomass production and bio-waste conversion research carried out within EU research programmes and related programmes by Indian national institutions.

Read newsletter on SAHYOG project website

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.
5.2 Joint Indo-Norwegian researcher projects under Polar Research Programme (POLARPROG)

**Deadline: 15th April 2015**

Priorities to be supported under this call:

**Topic 1:** *Crustal deformation and related seismic hazards and risks in India and Norway*

**Topic 2:** *The climate system in Polar Regions including teleconnections*

This call aims at fostering research collaboration between researchers from Norway and India. Funding for joint Indo-Norwegian research projects with duration up to 4 years, including dissemination and network activities (e.g. workshops and conferences) is available. This call is obtained in collaboration between the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Earth System Science Organization Ministry of Earth Sciences (ESSO MoES). This call is in accordance with the Memorandum of understanding of October 14th, 2014 between the RCN and the ESSO MoES.

Up to NOK 60 million in total will be available from the RCN for joint projects, NOK 30 million for Topic 1 and NOK 30 million for Topic 2. Funding is provided in collaboration between the RCN research programmes: INDNOR, KLIMAFORSK and POLARPROG.

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate own and/or additional funding. Applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate sustainable commitments from own institutions or other sources during and/or beyond the project period.

Maximum available amount per application is NOK 6 million.

All details for this call: [The Research Council of Norway](http://www.sci.no)

5.3 Global: Call for Proposal: International Wheat Yield Partnership

The selection process will be two-stage whereby applicants must first submit a pre-proposal due by 15 March 2015.

The [International Wheat Yield Partnership](http://www.iwyp.org) (IWYP) is initiating its first competitive funding call by inviting creative, forward-looking proposals that seek to discover approaches to substantially increase the genetic yield potential of wheat, as defined by grain yield under the absence of stress. It is anticipated that wheat yield potential can be enhanced by:

- Increasing carbon capture before flowering
With this initiative IWYP is seeking breakthroughs in genetic yield potential beyond what is expected to occur in ongoing breeding programs. Therefore, new or different approaches and/or novel techniques are envisaged.

The International Wheat Yield Partnership (IWYP) is a major public/private initiative being supported by research funders, international agencies, national and international research organizations and industry partners. Its goal is to increase wheat yields globally in both developed and developing countries.

Research projects must be academic led, therefore any professional researcher or group associated with a university, government or public institute is welcomed to apply. You can access FAQs here.

Full details and instructions can be found at IWYP Competitive Call 1.

5.4 Germany: Anneliese Maier Research Award

Deadline for nominations: 30 April 2015

The Anneliese Maier Research Award is intended as a collaboration award to promote the internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences in Germany.

Nominations for the research award can be made for researchers from abroad from the fields of the humanities and social sciences whose scientific achievements have been internationally recognised in their research area and from whose research collaboration with specialist colleagues in Germany a sustainable contribution is expected towards the further internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences in Germany.

Award winners are expected to spend a period of up to five years cooperating on a long-term research project with the nominator and / or specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany.

The Humboldt Foundation grants up to eight Anneliese Maier Research Awards annually. An award is valued at 250,000 EUR.

Nominations may be submitted by established academics in Germany. Find more information: Humboldt Foundation

5.5 Italy: Call for 86 posts in PhD courses at the Scuola Normale Superiore

Applications registered by: 28 February 2015, for the spring session or 31 August 2015, for the autumn session
The Scuola Normale Superiore PhD School in Pisa, Italy offers fully-funded PhD programs to both Italian citizens and students from outside Italy. Fields: Philosophy, Modern Literature and Philology, Classics, History of Art, Modern and Contemporary History, Physics, Condensed Matter Physics, Mathematics, Financial Mathematics, Methods and Models for Molecular Sciences, Neurosciences, Biophysical Sciences, Renaissance Studies, and Political Science and Sociology.

All students admitted to the PhD program receive full financial support. This includes tuition, fees, and a cost-of-living stipend (14,187 euro per year, plus free meals).

For more information: PhD@SNS

5.6 Forthcoming calls

*Under HORIZON 2020:*


European Research Council (ERC)'s Work Programme 2015: [here](

**Excellent Science I Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) I Individual Fellowships (IF):** Planned opening date 12/03/2015 (Planned deadline: 10/09/2015) – Researchers of any nationality eligible

**Excellent Science I Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) I Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND):** Planned opening date 14/04/2015 (Planned deadline: 1/10/2015) - Indian entities cannot receive funding

5.7 Calls still open (over 50 opportunities!!)

*(see previous newsletters or click on the respective link for more details)*

**HORIZON 2020 – Calls for proposals:** access all calls under Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges pillars on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](

Deadline for submission: check under specific call

EURAXESS Links India pays particular attention to calls open to individual researchers under Excellent Science pillar (see below).

The following calls under HORIZON 2020 are highlighted here:

**Excellent Science - ERC Consolidator Grant (PhD + 7-10 years):**

Deadline for application: 12 March 2015

This action is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country.

**Excellent Science – ERC Proof of Concept Grant (ERC grantee):**

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

First deadline: 5 February 2015 at 17:00 (Brussels local time) - CLOSED

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

Excellent Science | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff (RISE) – Indian entities cannot receive funding
Deadline: 28 April 2015 | 17:00 (Brussels local time)

Societal Challenges | «Europe as a global actor»
Deadline for submissions: 12 May 2015
INT-01-2015 - targeting Australia, USA, Brazil, South Africa, Ukraine
INT-02-2015 - targeting Southern Mediterranean, Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership

Societal Challenges | INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE 2 (IMI2) 3rd Call (Note: Call 4 closed on 11 February 2015)
Deadline: 24 March 2015 – 17:00:00 Brussels time
Topics under IMI2 Call 3:
Topic 1: Remote assessment of disease and relapse - CNS
Topic 2: Towards a quantitative biological approach for neuropsychiatry
Topic 3: Assessing risk and progression of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes to enable disease modification
Topic 4: The consistency approach to quality control in vaccine manufacture
Topic 5: Pertussis vaccination research
Topic 6: Knowledge repository to enable patient focused medicine development

Industrial Leadership | Fast Track Innovation - Pilot (2015-2016)
Proposals can be submitted at any time as of January 9 2015, yet will be ranked following three cut-off dates in 2015: April 29, September 1 and December 1. The three cut-off dates for 2016 will be made public at a later time. FTI Pilot in Horizon Work Programme 2014-2015: here

Other European calls (Europe-India specific or where India involved):

Infect-ERA 3rd Call open | India is involved
Call enabling multinational, collaborative research projects that address a specific topic of human infectious diseases research.
Deadline for submission of pre-proposal: 18 March 2015

Austria-India: bilateral call on Natural Sciences
Deadline: 31 March 2015

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

India-Spain: Programme of Co-operation on Industrial R&D 2014
Deadline: 15 April 2015
Thematic areas:
1. Clean Technologies
2. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
3. Smart Cities

India–UK: Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme 2014
Deadline: 15 April 2015 (prior registration required)
Areas of focus are:
- Cleantech Energy
- Affordable healthcare
- Advanced Manufacturing
Use of Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) in any of the above focus areas.

Calls by European Research Area countries (not only for India):

AUSTRIA: Lise Meitner Programme for scientists from abroad
Deadline: accepted continuously, no application deadlines

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 applications.

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

SWITZERLAND: Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme call for proposals in the Social Sciences
Deadline for submissions: 16 March 2015

TURKEY: TÜBİTAK – 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! It includes fellowships such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie ones as well as vacancies advertised by AAAs, Naturejobs and Science.

Currently, there are 9060 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe but also in other countries such as in India (95 positions) and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

Most jobs are open to researchers of any nationality.

6.2 JRC Call for expressions: European Researchers (postdocs)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has just launched a call for expressions of interest to recruit on fixed-term contracts. As the European Commission’s in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre provides the science for EU policy making, providing a unique opportunity to make your work count. Successful candidates will work in one of the JRC sites, located in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

The selection is open to applicants from the EU Member States or from one of the countries associated with the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Eligible fields are: Biology, Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Biochemistry, Oceanography / Marine Sciences, Nanotechnology, Nanobiotechnology, Veterinary, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Sciences, Statistics, Material Sciences, Economics, Political Sciences, Social Sciences, Educational Sciences, Psychology, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Engineering, Meteorology, Ecology, Forestry, Geology, Hydrological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Pharmacy, Nutritional Sciences.

More info: Joint Research Centre
6.3  Ikerbasque Call: 15 positions for postdocs in the Basque Country (Spain)

**Deadline: 15 April 2015**

Ikerbasque-Basque Science Foundation offers **15 contract positions** for postdoctoral researchers, within any of the Basque Research Institution (Universities, BERC - Basque Excellence Research Centres, CIC - Cooperative Research Centres, Biomedical institutions and Technology Corporations, among others). Find also specific information about some Research Groups.

These Fellowships are directed to promising young researchers; they are intended to **offer a track towards a PI role and independent research**.

The **evaluation committee** will only consider strongest candidates with **excellent leadership capabilities** and an **outstanding research record**.

The applicants must have their **PhD completed between 1/1/2005 and 31/12/2012**.

Applications from **women are especially welcomed**. The eligibility period is extended under special circumstances such as maternity or long-term illness.

Call with the **support of the European Union** (FP7).

Full details: [Ikerbasque](#)

6.4  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:

**Andalucía 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).
6.5 India: Jobs at [DevNetJobsIndia](#)

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.

### Events

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<td>It includes the Information Days by the EC and Brokerage events</td>
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<td>Graphene 2015 by Phantoms Foundation</td>
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<td>TechnologyCooperationDays at the Hannover Fair</td>
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<td>Brain Conferences 2015: Bridging Neural Mechanisms and Cognition</td>
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<td>12th International Conference of Young Scientists on ENergy Issues (CYSENI 2015)</td>
<td>Kaunas, Lithuania</td>
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<td>27th European Union Contest for Young Scientists by the European Commission</td>
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<td>E-QUAL: Academic Conference “Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education”</td>
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<td>EURAXESS event following up local connections at EHEF 2014 India <em>(more news in the February edition of the newsletter)</em></td>
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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 trans-national 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).