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## EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present to you the first 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 "Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU". It also includes a **special feature** with an interview to Saurabh Aggarwal, finalist of the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014.

You will find information on **News** related to research and innovation in Europe and India, a selection of new **Grants and Fellowships**, of **Job opportunities** as well as of upcoming **Events**.

I would like to draw the attention to our readers that the European Union has just started the [European Year for Development 2015](#) with 'our world, our dignity, our future' as the motto. The campaign aims to put development at the top of the agenda in the EU, inspiring debate and engaging citizens. How much have you contributed with research and innovation - and can still contribute - to the achievement of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) in India, Europe or wherever you are?

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, we would like to kindly ask you to spend a few minutes [completing our brief online satisfaction survey](#). We are looking forward to your feedback on our services, as there is always room for improvement!

I wish you a new year full of new links and opportunities with Europe!

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# Contents

1	EU Insight – Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU .....	4
2	Feature – Saurabh Aggarwal finalist at EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 .....	6
3	EURAXESS Events in India.....	9
3.1	EURAXESS Survey: share your view on EURAXESS Links .....	9
3.2	EURAXESS events in 2015 .....	9
3.3	EURAXESS Links India on-site visits.....	9
4	News & Developments .....	10
4.1	<b>European Union, Member States and Associated Countries</b> ....	10
4.1.1	Europe’s Framework Programmes – a key element of research policy in Europe .....	10
4.1.2	Framework Programmes have shown the vanity of borders .....	11
4.1.3	The researchers who crossed borders for science.....	12
4.1.4	Final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme.....	13
4.1.5	European Research Area Progress Report 2014.....	14
4.2	<b>India</b> .....	14
4.2.1	Groups, individuals work on smart moves to make smart cities.....	14
4.2.2	With India builds solar plants atop canals to save land, water .....	15
4.2.3	India Govt decides to rope in private players for NOFN project .....	15
4.2.4	Vigorous promotion needed to lure foreign students.....	16
4.2.5	Sweeping funding cuts will hit elite institutes .....	16
4.3	<b>India-Europe cooperation</b> .....	16
4.3.1	EU-funded 'Saph Pani' project addressed salinization of groundwater in coastal areas – a worrisome and growing problem .....	16
4.3.2	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Welcome EU Heads of Mission .....	17
4.3.3	EPO and India enhance Co-operation on Patents .....	17
4.3.4	Facilitating Offshore Wind in India: Field Visit and Study Tour .....	18
4.3.5	INDIGO POLICY studies/briefs: on patenting and joint publications .....	18
4.3.6	SESEI latest Newsletters-EUROPE (Issue 07) and INDIA (Issue 06) on-line .....	18
4.3.7	EU-India R&I cooperation opportunities: new tool.....	19

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

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to India.

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

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4.3.8	TechnologyCooperationDays at the Hannover Fair (Germany), 14-15 April 2015   India Guest Country .....	19
<b>5</b>	<b>Grants &amp; Fellowships .....</b>	<b>20</b>
5.1	National EURAXESS Portals .....	20
5.2	Horizon 2020   Excellent Science   MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAFF EXCHANGE (RISE).....	20
5.3	Horizon 2020   Industrial Leadership   Fast Track Innovation - Pilot (2015-2016).....	21
5.4	Infect-ERA call 3 open   India is involved.....	21
5.5	Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme call for proposals in the Social Sciences .....	22
5.6	EUPHRATES Programme – Call for India (Erasmus Mundus).....	23
5.7	E-QUAL: Academic Conference: Call for Papers .....	23
5.8	LE STUDIUM® - SMART LOIRE VALLEY programmes (fellowships) .....	24
5.9	Forthcoming calls .....	24
5.10	Calls still open .....	24
<b>6</b>	<b>Jobs .....</b>	<b>27</b>
6.1	EURAXESS Portal and EURAXESS Jobs .....	27
6.2	Join us on LinkedIn: linkedin.euraxess.org .....	27
6.3	Vacancies at DSM in Europe .....	28
6.4	India: Jobs at DevNetJobsIndia .....	28
<b>7</b>	<b>Events in 2015.....</b>	<b>29</b>



# 1 EU Insight – Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU

As one of the central objectives outlined by the European Union, innovation plays a major role in assuring the Union's continued growth and well-being. This fact is underscored by its prominent inclusion in Horizon 2020, the current framework programme for research and innovation in Europe (2014-2020), as well as through the numerous actions and initiatives designed to ensure its fostering and support. The recent introduction of two new measures aimed at bolstering innovation—the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) initiative and the release of additional grants under the SME Instrument—demonstrate the depth of this commitment.

## Accelerating the Pace

On 9 January 2015, the European Commission, operating under the premise of speeding up the time it takes to bring original and unique ideas to market, launched its new [Fast Track to Innovation \(FTI\) pilot initiative](#). European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas outlined the initiative as focused on “help[ing] highly innovative businesses in Europe reach the finish line faster, [by] attracting more private investors to European research and innovation...”.<sup>1,2</sup> As a component of Horizon 2020, and while firmly rooted in the Societal Challenges priority area of the framework programme, FTI supports a broad spectrum of innovative actors (especially those stemming from industry) to come together, regardless of topic, with the aim of bringing mature, innovative concepts to market as quickly as possible. Scheduled to run over two years (2015-2016), FTI is supported by a budget of EUR 200 million, with continuation of the initiative after this period contingent upon evaluation of initial outcomes.

Similar to other Horizon 2020 initiatives, the pilot will be implemented via a single, continuous open call with three cut-off dates occurring over the course of the initiative.<sup>3</sup> Projects eligible for funding must be “business driven” and those comprised of “mature innovative concepts that have been tested in an operational environment”,<sup>4</sup> notably those concerning “systems validation in real working conditions, testing, piloting, business

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<sup>1</sup> Ready, set, innovate: Commission steps up support to innovative companies [Press release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements/ready-set-innovate-commission-steps-support-innovative-companies\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements/ready-set-innovate-commission-steps-support-innovative-companies_en)

<sup>2</sup> Building a new innovation fast track to bring ideas to market quicker [Press Release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115>

<sup>3</sup> The three announced cut-off dates for proposal submissions are: **29 April 2015, 1 September 2015, and 1 December 2015.**

<sup>4</sup> Building a new innovation fast track to bring ideas to market quicker [Press Release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115>



model validation as well as standard setting and pre-normative research”<sup>5</sup> are particularly welcome.

Along with the FTI initiative, innovation within the Union will be supported by an additional EUR 117 million in new grants<sup>6</sup> under the preexisting SME Instrument programme.<sup>7</sup> Just as with the FTI initiative, money offered through this programme is specifically allocated for the operation of businesses, small and medium-sized in nature to help “finance innovation activities..., the development of their business plans or feasibility studies” associated with their projects. In total, 275 SMEs, identified for their high growth potential have been selected to benefit from this grant money following the end of the second phase.<sup>8</sup>

Through the SME Instrument, the European Union wants to finance the most innovative small companies with the potential for high growth. The Instrument itself is worth approximately EUR 3 billion over seven years. Furthermore, investment-ready concepts can benefit from business development advice and other services.

Application for grants available under the SME Instrument programme is easy, but only the very best projects will receive funding. Eligible topics are listed under the [Horizon 2020 Work Programme on ‘Innovation in SMEs’](#). SMEs stemming from EU Member States or Associated Countries (ACs) are eligible to apply. More than 1,300 projects are expected to be funded over two years, beginning in 2014 and ending in 2015.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Commission supports innovative SMEs with €117 million in new grants [Press release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115-2>

<sup>7</sup> To date, the full amount of funding allocated to the SME Instrument launched under Horizon 2020 is €3 billion. With the addition of the most recent grants, the total amount of funding specifically destined for “innovative” companies is €125 million, a cumulative total based on the first two stages of the programme.

<sup>8</sup> The SME Instrument programme went into effect on 1 January 2014.



## 2 Feature – Saurabh Aggarwal finalist at EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014

*Interview to Saurabh Aggarwal, PhD student at Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore) and one of the five finalists of 'EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014' with a slam on "Bringing Science to Villages".*

### **Tell EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers about Saurabh:**

I completed my B.Tech in Electronics and Communication from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Punjab, India. Subsequently, I joined the Ph.D program at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India under Prof. Joy Kuri in Networks Research Lab. Currently, I am awaiting my Ph.D thesis defense and working in Zero Energy Building project at Robert Bosch Center for Cyber Physical Systems (RBCCPS), IISc, Bangalore, India.

### **What is your research background and interests?**

During my Ph.D, I have designed algorithms for content distribution in social groups. Currently, my research focuses on designing distributed algorithms for smart buildings having minimum dependence on power grids. I use a variety of mathematical modeling tools and concepts in my research.

As a passion, I love to teach science and mathematics to school kids.

### **Where did you hear about the 2<sup>nd</sup> EURAXESS Science Slam India competition? Why did you decide to participate?**

I came to know about 2<sup>nd</sup> EURAXESS Science Slam India from a forwarded mail.

I wanted to translate my research problems in a manner so that others can easily understand the same. EURAXESS Science Slam was an opportunity for me to learn, and present my research in a non-scientific and entertaining way to others and obtain an alternate view of the problem.

### **Why "Bringing Science to Villages"? Tell EURAXESS Links India Newsletter readers (in few words) about the live presentation that you made. What was the message that you wanted to reach out the non-expert audience attending the live finals in Mumbai last November?**

The idea originated from a real scenario when I went to teach science in a rural school near Bangalore. I had limited educational material which I distributed to the kids, at the end of my talk. A few minutes later, I could see the kids interacting and teaching each other. This was a take away message for me, "*When people cooperate, the learning experience of everyone involved is enhanced*". I presented the same with minute modifications.





As a part of my research, I have shown that it is in interest of the whole community for individuals to cooperate amongst each other.

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

I felt the live presentation at Café Zoe was more challenging.



Ms and Mr Aggarwal supporting their son Saurabh in Mumbai

**How was your experience as finalist of the 2<sup>nd</sup> global EURAXESS Science Slam in India?**

I was really excited about presenting my research at EURAXESS Science Slam. I took it as a challenge to present my research to a non-scientific group.

The event was well organized. My trip to Mumbai was very enjoyable. I also got an opportunity to interact with various guests during the networking session. Course of slam sessions along with café's ambience and interaction with other presenters made my day.

**Would you recommend the experience to other researchers? Why?**

I will surely recommend the experience to other researchers. I think every researcher should present their work to public, who fund our research and let them know of quality and possible impact of the work done by the research community.



The EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 Review Panel enjoying Saurabh's Q&A minutes

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

The most difficult part of science communication for a researcher is to explain their research to a non-scientific audience. Be empathetic, think of yourself as a member of audience, and present your work so that even a lay person can understand and appreciate your efforts.



**Thank You Saurabh for sharing some of your science slam experience and time with EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers!**



## 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.

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

As there is always room for improvement, we would like to ask you to spend a few minutes completing our brief satisfaction survey.

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!

You have until 15th March 2015 to be heard.

### 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 February 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 in Nagercoil - **Kanyakumari** (Tamil Nadu)





- On 22-23 February 2015 at NISER, **Bhubaneswar** (Odisha)
- In early March (tbc) at BITS-Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus in **Zuarinagar** (Goa)
- Other cities on the agenda with no date fixed yet: Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai.

## 4 News & Developments

### 4.1 European Union, Member States and Associated Countries

#### 4.1.1 Europe's Framework Programmes – a key element of research policy in Europe

The First Framework Programme for research funding started in 1984.



Research has a long history in Europe, but the emergence of what is now **the European Union has created a novel concept of European research**. Over recent decades, it has gradually acquired the sense of **deliberate collaboration between European countries** linking first their research activities, then their policies in this field.

This wasn't always the case. In the 1950s, early EU research funding was limited to a few industrial sectors: coal, steel and atomic energy. In the decades that followed, separate research programmes were launched in energy, environment and molecular biology.

When Étienne Davignon became the European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and Energy in 1981, he decided to rationalise these initiatives by putting them together in a single coherent framework. **From its debut in 1984, the Framework Programme has expanded in scope and scale** – matching the evolution of the EU itself. Its legal basis was strengthened and its objectives were refined and extended. **In 1986, the Single European Act included for the first time a specific chapter on research**.

As the **EU enlarged, candidate countries had the chance to participate in research collaborations** through the Framework Programmes, sometimes years before they became members. That process culminated in the **opening of all EU research programmes** to the participation of



**teams from non-EU countries.** In recent years, the Framework Programmes have also pioneered the creation of large joint undertakings that bring public and private actors together in subject-specific partnerships. Schemes for collaboration between public national research organisations and programmes have also been set up.

As they have evolved, the **Framework Programmes have enabled better coordination of research between the European Commission and national governments.** Member States have gradually increased the level of research coordination and the growing scale and scope of the Framework Programmes has been instrumental in this. A key step in this respect was, **in early 2000, the launch of the European Research Area (ERA) initiative.**

The **impact of the Framework Programmes** is clearly visible in 30 years of cross-border collaborations between Europe's scientists, in the **rise in research activity across Europe** – particularly in the newer Member States – and in the emergence of an **increased reflex for cooperation among researchers** and heads of research organisations in Europe.

After 30 years of development, the **EU's Framework Programmes have become a key element of research policy in Europe.**

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)

#### 4.1.2 Framework Programmes have shown the vanity of borders

Etienne Davignon,  
European  
Commissioner for  
Industrial Affairs and  
Energy 1981-1985 and  
Vice-President of the  
Commission, played a  
key role in setting up  
the Framework  
Programmes.



The **Framework Programmes have given Europe a leading role in science**, showing that more things can be achieved by countries working together than alone, according to **Étienne Davignon, European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and Energy 1981-1985 and a former vice-president of the Commission, who introduced the First Framework Programme in 1984.**

*- When you look back over the last three decades, what were the crucial turning points in the development of the Framework Programmes?*



'The crucial points came in the early years. The first is the acceptance by the scientific community of the utility of a European programme, and I think this is important because if you don't have the support of those who are active, then you don't have the legitimacy of your ambition. The second is overcoming the reluctance of Member States to understand why European programmes are useful for them.'

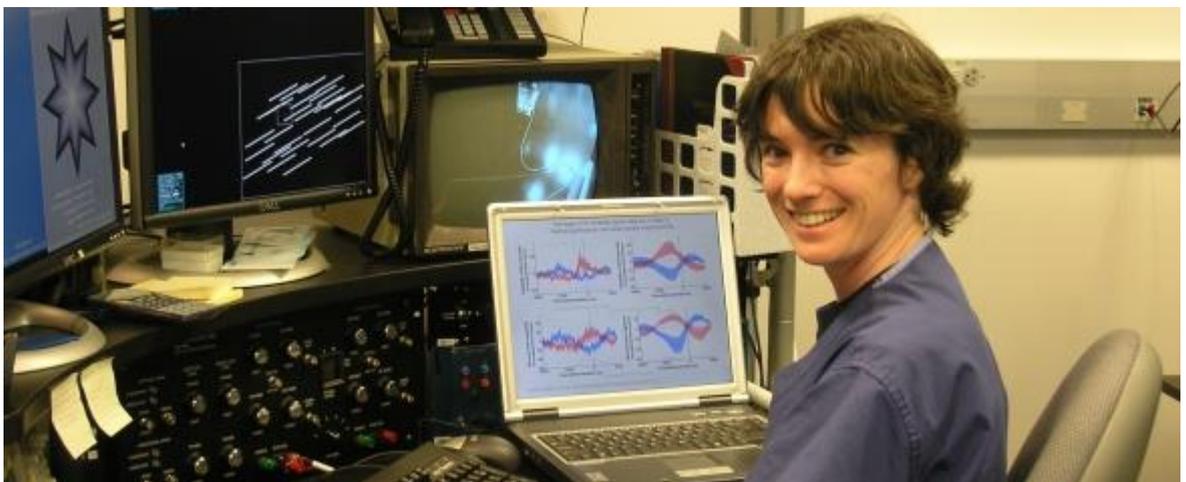
- *When you look at Europe today, what part of it has been shaped by the Framework Programmes?*

'**The Framework Programmes are still a small percentage of the totality of research funding** which is being spent, so you can't say that they have been a fundamental shaping factor. But, on the other side, **they have clearly demonstrated the vanity of national borders** and, in that sense, they have not shaped but simply confirmed that you can do things better together than alone, and I think it was an important statement to re-make. It is also an element which gives **credibility to the fact that scientifically Europe is strong**. With globalisation there is a lot of feeling that Europe is on the losing side. The Framework Programmes have shown that a lot of important things can be done.'

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)

#### 4.1.3 The researchers who crossed borders for science

Dr Xoana Troncoso has worked in Spain, the UK and the US in her field, neuroscience. Image ©Marie Curie Actions.



In **recent decades researchers have travelled abroad in greater and greater numbers**, and it's helped a generation of scientists learn from each other.

'**In terms of research it is quite important that you are exposed to different ways of working**, different people and different cultures, because in the end research is highly collaborative and interdisciplinary,' said Spanish neuroscientist Dr Xoana Troncoso. '**If you stay in the same place throughout your career you are going to miss things that you didn't even know existed.**'

**Dr Troncoso first travelled from Galicia in Spain to the UK to complete her PhD studies**, and then **went to the United States** where she took two postdoctoral research positions. In 2012, **she received a**



**Marie Curie award to come back to Europe** to study how the human brain uses vision to interpret motion at France's national science centre CNRS. Her research forms part of the EU's Future Emerging Technologies project BrainScaleS.

The EU has been helping researchers like Dr Troncoso since the early days of the Framework Programmes. **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions** have been designed to **promote excellence in research by giving grants to scientists** who needed to **move country to further their careers**.

This programme **allows researchers at any stage of their career** – irrespective of their age or nationality or field of work – to **gain experience** in laboratories, universities, and non-academic settings provided that they are **internationally mobile**. **Mobility is a crucial requirement for scientists** given the hugely collaborative nature of science itself. Working in a research institution in another country can enrich a researcher's career although it is not always easy in a continent of such varying languages and cultures.

Still, along with its predecessor, **the MSCA programme has helped so far some 80 000 researchers** overcome these barriers. During the Seventh Framework Programme alone **it funded 10 000 PhDs**, being now a benchmark of excellence.

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)

#### 4.1.4 Final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme

[Eurostars](#) is a programme that **supports research-performing small and medium enterprises**. Eurostars does this by **providing funding for transnational innovation projects**; the products of which are then rapidly commercialized. The Eurostars programme is publicly financed with a **total budget of 1.14 billion euro** and is supported by 34 EUREKA countries and the European Union

The **final evaluation** of the Eurostars Joint Programme for the period 2008-2013 is showing that R&D-performing SMEs benefitted in the funding and support offered to them in many ways:

- For such companies, the **employment growth rate was twice as high** as that of similar non-funded companies. This resulted in the creation of approximately 8000 jobs;
- Participating SMEs shown **significantly increased innovative outputs**, as measured by patent filings - 42% higher;
- Almost 80% of awardees indicated that the Eurostars grant had a high importance with respect to **increased recognition or reputation of their firm**.

A total of **783 funded projects stemmed from 11,733 applicants in the programme's 10 calls** - an unexpected and blasting success for one of the first experiments in joint programming between the EU and national governments.





The success of the programme was such that **the European Commission together with 34 EUREKA countries participating in the Eurostars programme committed to €1.14 billion for the funding and operations of the Eurostars-2 SME programme under Horizon 2020**. A budget about **three times higher than the original financial plan** outlined for Eurostars under the Framework Programme Seven.

The two first calls of Eurostars-2 have already taken place in 2014 and the currently running call will end on 5 March 2015, allowing European R&D SMEs to continue reaping the benefits of one of the best innovation support tools currently available to them.

Read the full evaluation report [here](#).

Source: [EUREKA Network](#)

#### 4.1.5 European Research Area Progress Report 2014

The conclusions of the **European Research Area (ERA) Progress Report 2014** stress the **remaining efforts to be made towards the completion of the ERA**, which remains a gradual process. The EU Council urges Member States and research stakeholders to implement the necessary reforms to make ERA fully operational.

An **ERA Roadmap at European level is due to be developed by mid-2015**. The document will outline a shared understanding of the ERA principles and concrete measures to implement them. It will define a set of tools and best practices in order to support Member States in implementing the ERA.

The Council also calls for the **synchronisation of future ERA reforms with other underlying changes in European research**: its **internationalisation** and the development of **joint programming**. Eurostars, one of the first and most successful joint programmes, is a good example of how joint efforts between the EU and the governments can improve the coordination of national research.

The Council **encouraged the strengthening of the internationalisation of research activities outside of Europe**, calling for a strategic redefinition of internationalisation as 'a specific priority of the ERA.'

Read the full report [here](#)

Source: [EUREKA Network](#)

## 4.2 India

### 4.2.1 Groups, individuals work on smart moves to make smart cities

The 'Smart City' initiative of the Narendra Modi government has so far been a centralised effort: identifying large players, marking boundaries within cities to build out a working model. Parallel to this, groups and



individuals are working towards the same goal of making the city smart, but with a markedly different approach.

Some of these people are trying to crowd source information about matters such as weather, pollution and noise — data atop which technologists can build visualisations or applications. This can then be used by people to make everyday decisions such as whether to take the umbrella while leaving for office, or renting a house in an area where pollution is less. For authorities, the data would be useful to set standards and regulations.

Thejesh GN, an independent technologist, developer and data enthusiast, is aiming to address the above issues through his contributions to the 'Sense Your City' initiative, an international online open data.

Read more at: [The Economic Times](#)

#### 4.2.2 With India builds solar plants atop canals to save land, water

As India moves to ramp up investment in solar power, it is exploring innovative places to install solar plants, including across the top of canals.

In early January 2015, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated a new "canal-top" solar energy plant in Vadodara district in India's western state of Gujarat.

"I saw more than glittering panels – I saw the future of India and the future of our world," said Ban. "I saw India's bright creativity, ingenuity and cutting-edge technology."

Experts identify two major advantages in building solar plants atop canals: efficient and cheap land use, and reduced water evaporation from the channels underneath.

Read more: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

#### 4.2.3 India Govt decides to rope in private players for NOFN project

The government has decided to rope in private sector players to expedite its National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, which has seen a cost overrun of 75 per cent because of delays.

The project, which was approved by the Cabinet in October 2011, was expected to be completed within two years. Then, the project cost was estimated to be Rs 20,000 crore, which has now escalated to Rs 35,000 crore, said a senior official in the department of telecommunications.

The target is to provide connectivity to all the 250,000 gram panchayats across India by December 2016, by using the existing optical fibre and extending it to the all the gram panchayats.

Read more: [Business Standard](#)



#### 4.2.4 Vigorous promotion needed to lure foreign students

In the new millennium, Indian higher education has shown significant growth with the number of universities increasing from 266 in 2000-01 to 700 in 2013-14 and student numbers going up from 8.4 million to about 20 million.

In the same time, the international student population has increased globally from 2.1 million in 2001 to 4.3 million in 2013. Growth in the number of international students in India, from about 7,000 in 2000-01 to a little over 20,000 in 2012-13, is, in comparison, anaemic, and not commensurate with either the expansion of the Indian higher education system or the global increase in international student mobility.

Read more: [University World News](#)

#### 4.2.5 Sweeping funding cuts will hit elite institutes

The cash-strapped Indian government has announced massive cuts in the education sector, especially higher education allocations, for the year 2014-15.

According to officials at the Ministry of Human Resource Development, or HRD, the changes will primarily hit the eight new Indian Institutes of Technology, IITs, which were supposed to move to their permanent campuses this year.

Central universities such as the Jawaharlal Nehru University, or JNU, will be similarly affected. JNU was envisaged to be along the lines of the IITs but, as a centre of excellence for liberal arts, the university has found itself facing declining standards of research and a deteriorating quality of teachers over the past decade.

Read more: [University World News](#)

### 4.3 India-Europe cooperation

#### 4.3.1 EU-funded 'Saph Pani' project addressed salinization of groundwater in coastal areas – a worrisome and growing problem

Saph Pani – “Enhancement of natural water systems and treatment methods for safe and sustainable water supply in India” – is a FP7 EU-funded collaborative research project which started in October 2011, with a duration of three years (ended in 2014). This project addressed the water challenges of the 21st century. Saph Pani built on already existing Indian projects for natural treatment and storage of water, identifying potential for their improvement by applying hi-tech measurement equipment and conducting field trials.

The work has been carried out through pilot studies, to investigate in detail the effect of pilot percolation ponds in enhancing the aquifer recharge and in managing seawater intrusion in the north of Chennai.

This project, Saph Pani, has not only showcased innovative, affordable water and sanitation technology, but also the role of interactive research in sustainably developing natural resources like groundwater.



The recommendations of the pilot study will be submitted to the Central and State governments.

Read more: [SAPHPANI](#) and [EU Delegation to India](#)

#### 4.3.2 Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Welcome EU Heads of Mission

Led by the Ambassador of the European Union to India, Dr. João Cravinho, a delegation including the Heads of Mission of the Czech Republic, Portugal, Estonia, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Luxemburg, and Latvia visited Tamil Nadu and Puducherry from 7 to 10 December 2014. The visit is part of the EU's outreach activities to India's States, with the objective of exploring ways to enhance trade, investment and other forms of cooperation, including in the fields of renewable energy and urban development, education and culture.

Among other visits carried out, the EU Ambassadors visited the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), whose longstanding research work in fields as diverse as ecology, social sciences and preservation as well as its documentation of the cultural inheritance of South India is well-known. IFP contributes to Chance2sustain, an EU Framework Programme (FP7) sponsored project, which has studied urban growth sustainability and governance – a major priority for India - in 10 cities of India, Brazil, Peru and South Africa, including Chennai, Delhi and Kalyan (near Mumbai). Another EU financed project, implemented by IFP with other partners and pertaining to the identification of weeds in the West Indian Ocean region (WIKWIO) was also presented. The project aims at improving food security for communities in this region through the improvement of cash cropping systems and weed control.

Read more: [EU Delegation to India](#)

#### 4.3.3 EPO and India enhance Co-operation on Patents

The European Patent Office (EPO) and the Intellectual Property Office of India (IPO India) have agreed to renew their co-operation on patents in an effort to support innovation in both regions.

In November 2014 the EPO and the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral co-operation establishing a framework for structured work relations between the EPO and the Intellectual Property Office of India (IPO India) for at least four years. The overriding objective is to support the development of the patent system in terms of service delivery and efficiency, particularly by means of technical co-operation and exchange of best practices in areas such as patent examination, administration and information. On this occasion, the EPO and the Indian IPO also signed the first biennial work plan under the MoU.

Read more: [EU Delegation to India](#)



#### 4.3.4 Facilitating Offshore Wind in India: Field Visit and Study Tour

An EU-supported €4 mn. 51-month project to Facilitate Offshore Wind Energy in India (called [FOWIND](#)) is being implemented in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

Its objective is to promote offshore wind power development to facilitate India's transition towards a low carbon energy future. It will do this by creating an enabling environment through resource mapping, policy guidance and capacity building measures to unlock the offshore wind energy potential in India; utilise EU offshore experience to reduce technical barriers and financial risks; undertake techno-commercial studies to showcase the potential of offshore wind projects; and create strategic partnerships, to enhance access to and awareness of offshore wind technology in India.

Read more: [EU Delegation to India](#)

#### 4.3.5 INDIGO POLICY studies/briefs: on patenting and joint publications

##### On patenting:

New documents on co-patenting in India have been published by the EU-funded [INDIGO POLICY](#) project (with specific chapters on health, water and energy):

[Policy brief: Patenting in India](#)

The international dimension of patenting in India with special regard to the European Union

Summary of the publication above: [poster with graphics](#)

##### On joint scientific publications:

INDIGO POLICY has also made a comprehensive poster with data on "EU-India co-publications 2003-2012": [poster with graphics](#)

#### 4.3.6 SESEI latest Newsletters-EUROPE (Issue 07) and INDIA (Issue 06) on-line

The [SESEI](#) (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) Project newsletters are released quarterly and at the same time except for the first issue which explains that the newsletters don't have the same number. Content of both newsletters are different:

- *EUROPE Newsletter* has all the NEWS updates from India: [see Issue 07](#)
- *INDIA Newsletter* has all the NEWS updates from Europe: [see Issue 06](#)

The newsletters provide latest news and updates on the priority sectors of the SESEI Project. We hope that you will find them useful. They include news of relevance to research and innovation.

January 2015 | Issue 43 | Page 18 of 30





SESEI's mission is to enhance the visibility of European standardization activities, increase the cooperation between Indian and European standardization bodies and support European companies facing standardization related issues hampering market access to India. The project also supports India in standardization related aspects of its integration in the WTO trading system, by identifying all potential opportunities for enhanced international cooperation and global harmonization of standards. Ultimately, the SESEI project aims at reducing the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) both between EU and India and globally, thus supporting European and Indian industries by facilitating international trade.

#### 4.3.7 EU-India R&I cooperation opportunities: new tool

The European Union Delegation to India welcomes 2015 launching a new tool that *summarises a number of European calls for proposals* relevant for Indian research organisations and researchers on its website: [click here](#)

It includes calls under the European R&I Framework Programme Horizon 2020 as well as bilateral calls between EU Member States or Associated Countries and India. This new public file will be regularly updated.

It is complementary to keeping an eye on forthcoming and new calls on Horizon 2020 [Participant Portal](#) or referring to the [Overview of EU and member states R&I cooperation with India](#) (January 2014). The latter includes detailed information on funding opportunities offered by the EU and its Member States and is also prepared by the Research & Innovation Section of the EU Delegation to India.

#### 4.3.8 TechnologyCooperationDays at the Hannover Fair (Germany), 14-15 April 2015 | India Guest Country

This international brokerage event is the place to be for innovative SMEs, research institutions and universities to find partners for technology and research cooperations or business partnerships in pre-organised one-to-one meetings in Hall 2 on [HANNOVER MESSE 2015](#).

SMART Factory solutions and innovative manufacturing technologies as well as measurement technologies - Gain new opportunities and competitive advantages through R&D and technological cooperations.

Attending this B2B event organised within Enterprise Europe Network project will give you easy access to scientists and enterprises in the field of SMART Factory solutions and innovative manufacturing technologies.

Read more: [TechnologyCooperationDays at the Hannover Fair](#)



## 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 Horizon 2020 | Excellent Science | MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STAFF EXCHANGE (RISE)



Marie Curie  
Actions

**Line:** 28 April 2015 | 17:00 (Brussels local time)

*Objective:*

The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science and the development of innovation.

The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

*Scope:*

RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries).

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of joint research and innovation activities between the participants. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as inter-sectoral mobility, based on two-way secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

More on this call: [Participant Portal](#)



### 5.3 Horizon 2020 | Industrial Leadership | Fast Track Innovation - Pilot (2015-2016)



(ref. EU Insight page 4)

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot provides funding for bottom-up proposals for close-to-market innovation activities in any area of technology or application. This thematic openness - combined with the possibility for all kinds of innovation actors to work together and deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society - should nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation.

The aim is to:

- reduce time from idea to market,
- stimulate the participation of first-time applicants to EU research funding, and
- increase private sector investment in research and innovation.

The FTI Pilot will be implemented in 2015 and 2016 with a total budget of €200 million (€100 million per year) across the Horizon 2020 priority "Societal Challenges" and the specific objective "Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEITs)", without further topical restrictions.

FTI Pilot in Horizon Work Programme 2014-2015: [here](#)

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.

All details on the 2015 call: [Participant Portal](#)

### 5.4 Infect-ERA call 3 open | India is involved

**Deadline for submission of pre-proposal: 18 March 2015**



The following themes are covered (equal in relevance) in this call:

- The host-pathogen interaction in regards to clinically relevant strains and the assessment of factors influencing this interplay.
- Diagnostics based on components of host-pathogen interaction, including development of markers for a clinical and personalized setting and detection of high risk clones in various diseases.

The following countries are involved: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, **India**, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

More information on the submission: [Infect-ERA](#)



## 5.5 Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme call for proposals in the Social Sciences

**Deadline for submissions: 16 March 2015**

The Indian partner for the call is the ICSSR. Broad area of the call is well being.

The [Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme in the Social Sciences](#) is jointly organised by the Indian Council for Social Science Research ([ICSSR](#)) and by the University of Lausanne as Associate Leading House of the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme ([ISJRP](#)) financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation ([SERI](#)).

The Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme in the Social Sciences is designed to encourage and initiate research collaborations between Swiss and Indian social scientists on topics of mutual interests with the aim to intensify interaction between scholars and research institutions of the two countries as to promote sustainable bilateral collaboration.

The Seed Money Grants (SMG) are designed to fund travel and research expenses of researchers in the social sciences between Switzerland and India.

The theme of the call for projects is related to **well-being** along at least one of the following four major axes listed below:

1. The study of *concepts of well-being as a multidimensional* conception and its (potential) application in India and/or Switzerland, as an extension or alternative to the concept of (income) poverty and as related to notions of vulnerability, precariousness, etc. Search for quantifiable indicators and measurements.
2. Research on *factors and processes determining wellbeing*, including individual and group-based inequalities, non-inclusive development, social exclusion and discrimination of particular groups of society, political institutions such as federalism and participatory/direct democracy, economic instability and unemployment, health, urbanization, environmental risks and degradation.
3. *Analysis of public policy and its effects on well-being* in India and/or Switzerland, including social protection and security policies and schemes, provisions of the welfare state. Studies may include the social histories of public policies, their current modifications and challenges.
4. *Projects on flows and linkages between India and Switzerland*, for example, migration, tourism, capital, commodity and resource flows, and their implications for wellbeing of different social groups in the two countries

Read more: [Univesité de Lausanne](#)



## 5.6 EUPHRATES Programme – Call for India (Erasmus Mundus)

**Deadline: EXTENDED to 8 February 2015**



The **Erasmus Mundus EUPHRATES Programme**, coordinated by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain), includes mobilities **from India to Europe** for students/researchers for the following academic levels: Bachelor, Master, **Doctorate (PHD)**, **Postdoctorate (PD)** and Administrative-Teaching Staff.

Mobilities are distributed among the following kinds:

- **Target Group 1:** Students and Academic Staff registered in one of the partner **universities belonging to the consortium**. Undergraduate students must have successfully completed at least one year of studies in their home institution;
- **Target Group 2:** Students need either to be registered in or to have obtained a university degree or equivalent from a HEI in India (**not included in the partnership**);
- **Target Group 3:** Nationals of India in a particularly **vulnerable** situation due to social or political reasons as specified by the EMA21 Call.

In this cohort, EUPHRATES is trying to get more candidates from target groups 2 and specially target group 3.

*All the information, such as the duration of mobilities and how to apply, is available on the official web-page: <http://www.usc.es/euphrates>*

For queries concerning this call contact: [erasmus.mundus@usc.es](mailto:erasmus.mundus@usc.es)

## 5.7 E-QUAL: Academic Conference: Call for Papers

**Deadline: 6 February 2015**

**E-QUAL** is the European Commission funded project being implemented by a consortium of partners for “Enhancing quality, access and governance of undergraduate education in India”. British Council is the lead partner for the project and through the project activities consortium is trying to facilitate the exchange of best practice, experience and knowledge in undergraduate teaching and learning using technology enhanced approaches relevant to India’s context.

In pursuit of exchange of best practice, experience and knowledge in teaching and learning the first **academic [conference on “Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education”](#)** under the E-QUAL project is scheduled on **26 – 27 March, 2015 at Noida**.

**Call for papers for the conference are invited from the researchers, academicians and thought leaders.** Details for the call for papers: [here](#). For any further clarifications/query write to [Parul.gupta@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Parul.gupta@britishcouncil.org)



## 5.8 LE STUDIUM® - SMART LOIRE VALLEY programmes (fellowships)

LE STUDIUM® Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies finances several programmes to welcome foreign researchers in the "Region Centre" (France) for a one-year residency. Meanwhile, in order to get the full benefit of these recruitments, LE STUDIUM® leads a scientific animation that allows cross-disciplinary exchanges and the creation of lasting relationships with international research teams.

The call for applications, open from November to February each year, enables LE STUDIUM® independent Scientific Council to select ambitious research projects.

One of our programmes is open to foreign researchers who would like to propose a research project and come in the region Centre of France to lead this research project in a high level host laboratory.

A new call has been launched in November and will **close on the 16th February 2015**. You, or someone from your network, might be interested by this programme called "[LE STUDIUM® RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP External Application](#)".

Other [LE STUDIUM® programmes](#) (RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP, RESEARCH CHAIR, RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP LABORATORY, RESEARCH CONSORTIUM, RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP RECRUITMENT)

## 5.9 Forthcoming calls

*Under HORIZON 2020:*

**Revised HORIZON 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015:** [here](#) (check for documents ending with "v.2" under H2020/Work Programmes/2014-15/Main WP).

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

**Horizon 2020 I Excellent Science- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) I Individual Fellowships (IF):** Planned opening date 12/03/2015 (Planned deadline: 10/09/2015)

**Horizon 2020 I Excellent Science- 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)

## 5.10 Calls still open

*(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 Starting Grant](#) (PhD + 2 years)**

Deadline for application: **3 February 2015**

**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)

Intermediate deadline: **28 May 2015** at 17:00 (Brussels local time)

Final deadline: **1 October 2015** at 17:00 (Brussels local time)

**HORIZON 2020 I «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

**INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE (IMI 2) | 2 Calls for proposals**

Topics under **IMI 2: [Call 3](#)**

Deadline: **24 March 2015** – 17:00:00 Brussels time

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

Topic under **IMI 2: [Call 4](#)**

Deadline: **11 February 2015** – 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic 1: Enabling Platform on Medicines Adaptive Pathways to Patients

*Other calls (Europe-India specific):*

**Austria-India: [bilateral call on Natural Sciences](#)**



Deadline: 31 March 2015

**Indo-French:** [Call for pre- Proposals for High Impact Scientific Research Network Programme](#) by CEFIPRA

Deadline: 15 February 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:** [Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences \(BIGSSS\)](#)

Application deadline: February 15, 2015

**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

**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:** [TÜBİTAK – Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers](#)

Applications will be accepted **twice a year**. Application deadlines for 2014 were:

I. Period : 17 March 2014 - 21 April 2014

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 6276 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.

Most jobs are open to researchers of any nationality.

### 6.2 Join us on LinkedIn: [linkedin.euraxess.org](https://www.linkedin.com/company/euraxess)

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).

**[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 Vacancies at DSM in Europe

Royal DSM is a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials (headquarters in the Netherlands).

By connecting its unique competences in Life Sciences and Materials Sciences DSM is driving economic prosperity, environmental progress and social advances to create sustainable value for all stakeholders simultaneously.

Six (6) are for Ph.D holders to work in France, Germany or the Netherlands. DSM also operates in Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands.

[Vacancies](#) this month: Process Development Engineer Engineering Plastics, Research Scientist Physical Chemistry of Polymers, CAE Scientist, Research Scientist Mechanical Properties, Quality Assurance Engineer, Chemist.

## 6.4 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.



## 7 Events in 2015

Event (click for more details)	Location	Date
<b>7.1 Europe</b>		
<a href="#">Events announced under Horizon 2020 website</a> It includes the Information Days by the EC and Brokerage events	<i>Check link</i>	<i>Check link</i>
Indo-French seminar on " <a href="#">Organic Semiconductor Gas Sensors</a> " by CEFIPRA	Reims, France	10-12 February
<a href="#">TechnologyCooperationDays</a> at the Hannover Fair <i>with India as Guest Country</i>	Hannover, Germany	14-15 April
Brain Conferences 2015: <a href="#">Bridging Neural Mechanisms and Cognition</a>	Copenhagen, Denmark	19-22 April
<a href="#">12th International Conference of Young Scientists on ENergy Issues (CYSENI 2015)</a>	Kaunas, Lithuania	27-28 May
<b>7.2 India</b>		
<a href="#">European Fellowships and Opportunities with funding</a> by AIC <i>EURAXESS Links India will be there</i>	Nagercoil Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)	31 January
<a href="#">Campus France in India I Admission Tour 2015</a>	Delhi Chandigarh Kolkata Mumbai	31 January 3 February 5 February 7 February
<i>Indo-French Workshop on</i> <a href="#">Sustainable water purification technologies</a>	Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu	11-13 February
<a href="#">International workshop on applications of systems and mathematical biology in public health (IWASMBPH)</a> by NISER <i>EURAXESS Links India will be there</i>	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	22-23 February
E-QUAL: Academic Conference " <a href="#">Enabling Pedagogies in Higher Education</a> "	Noida	26-27 March
EURAXESS event following up local connections at EHEF 2014 India <i>(more news in the February edition of the newsletter)</i>	Kolkata, West Bengal	April (tbc)

**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).

