EURAXESS Links India

Newsletter is a quarterly 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.

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

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http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess

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1 Briefing I EURAXESS country: Czech Republic – Land of extraordinary possibilities

- In the Czech Republic, we are building on the outstanding accomplishments of great Czech scientists while striving toward the next ground-breaking discoveries.
- The Czech Republic is home to some of Europe’s oldest and largest universities.
- Czech R&D is not driven only by the country’s history of excellent science, but also by extensive state support. Financial aid comes from national and European resources and is administered by a number of mostly national institutions (Czech Science Foundation, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Czech ministries; with the exception of Horizon 2020).
1.1 R&D Funding in the Czech Republic

- Czech Science Foundation (https://gacr.cz/en)

1.2 Research Excellence in the Czech Republic

New European Centres of Excellence focus mainly on international collaboration and contribution to applied results.

The Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC) is a multidisciplinary science centre focused on life sciences as well as advanced materials and technologies whose aim is to establish itself as a recognised centre for basic as well as applied research (www.ceitec.cz).

Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) is part of a new generation of large European research facilities with the main goal of creating laser equipment with unique parameters (www.eli-beams.eu).

CzechGlobe - Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences is a public research institution and European Centre of Excellence investigating the ongoing global climate change and its impact on the atmosphere, biosphere and human society through the use of the latest techniques and instrumentation (www.czechglobe.cz).

The IT4Innovations national supercomputing center conducts research and provides state-of-the-art technologies and services in the fields of high performance computing and embedded systems (http://www.it4i.cz).

1.3 Where to find more

Government Office for Science, Research and Innovation

The main objectives of the Section are as follows: science policy unification; setting up of the rules for transparent funding of institutions engaged in science, research and innovations; identification and support of excellence in science and the expansion of international scientific cooperation. http://www.vyzkum.cz/

The Czech Academy of Sciences

The Czech Academy of Sciences (the CAS) is set up as a complex of 54 public research institutions. The Academy employs over 8,000 employees, more than a half of whom are researchers with university degrees. http://www.avcr.cz/en/
Czechinvest

The main objective of The Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest, is to advise and support existing and new entrepreneurs and foreign investors in the Czech Republic. [http://www.czechinvest.org/en](http://www.czechinvest.org/en)

EURAXESS Czech Republic

EURAXESS Czech Republic provides information and assistance to researchers who are coming to work in the Czech Republic. EURAXESS help researchers and their families to plan and organize their move to a foreign country, providing assistance in all matters related to mobility. [www.euraxess.cz](http://www.euraxess.cz)

1.4 Student & researcher mobility schemes open to Indians

**Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport Scholarships for Study/Research**

Stays in the Czech Republic – 10-month scholarships for university students or graduates and Ph.D. candidates (exceptionally also for university researchers/teachers) who wish to accomplish a study/research visit to a Czech public university (3 scholarships per year).

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2 Hot topic | 10-year of European Research Council (ERC)

In 2017, the European Research Council will mark its 10th anniversary, an important milestone in making Europe a global centre of excellence in research.

Set up in 2007 by the European Union, the European Research Council is the first European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe. It selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age to run five-year projects in a public or private research organisation based in the countries of the European Research Area (ERA) that includes EU Member States and Associated Countries.

It is time for celebrations in Brussels and all across Europe and beyond for reflection on the past decade and on the future.

There have been over 140 events in Europe and around the world, and more than 35 countries joining the anniversary! The event in New Delhi was one of the events organised in Asia.

We bring to you in this edition information about the Conference ‘10 Years ERC event’ in India and also a quick recap of what ERC offers researchers outside Europe. You will also find Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon’s, European Research Council (ERC) President’s relevant messages recorded when he spoke to EURAXESS India during his visit to India in May 2016.

The EU Delegation to India, in association with Embassies of the EU Member States, Associated Countries and EURAXESS India hold the Conference ‘10 Years European Research Council (ERC)’ on 29 March 2017. In addition to detailed information about ERC grants, the event provided a welcoming environment for people to speak directly to organizers of European R&I funding programmes and support services such as EURAXESS India. It also enabled participants to meet ERC laureates and hear their experiences and scientific achievements, bringing together present and potential ERC applicants. The dynamic networking lunch allowed Member States/Associated Countries discuss with participants about research opportunities in their countries. EURAXESS India was also there to interact and let researchers and research organisations attending the event know about the gateway to the European Research Area, i.e. EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion!

The conference in New Delhi was a great occasion to remind all of us that the ERC funds ground-breaking frontier research projects across all fields of science (including social sciences and economics). Support is given to individual outstanding Principal Investigators (and their teams) on the basis of scientific excellence.
Indian scientists and innovators are eligible to participate and get funding from ERC. This is the reason why we are celebrating and promoting the ERC in India.

Let’s see what the ERC can offer to researchers outside Europe:

**ERC Open to the World**

The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded some 7,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers and 30,000 young researchers have been employed in ERC teams.

ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality who may reside in any country in the world at the time of application. Currently, there are 515 principal investigators of non-ERA nationality (nationals of countries other than the EU and the countries associated to the Framework Programme Horizon 2020) among the 7000 ERC-funded researchers, representing 8% of all grantees (390 Starting and Consolidator Grants and 124 Advanced Grants). These grant holders are mainly nationals of the USA (212), Canada (61), Russia (40), Australia (35), India (35), and Japan (24).

On average, ERC grantees employ around six team members during their ERC project. An estimate shows that some 18% of these team members are nationals from countries outside Europe.

The different ERC funding schemes are shown in the Figure below:

**Twelve tips on how to prepare an ERC grant proposal:**

Hear it from the expert (left) - Prof Andreas Zeller, a professor for Software Engineering at Saarland University in Germany, received an ERC Advanced Grant in 2011 for work on specification mining and test case generation.

To close the “Hot topic” of this edition, let’s refresh what the highest representative of the European Research Council told our readers last June.
Since its creation in 2007, the European Research Council (ERC) has awarded research grants worth nearly €11 billion (INR 82,500 cr) to more than 6,000 scientists and scholars from all over the world, both early-career and senior, carrying out their ambitious research projects in all scientific disciplines. Of these, 33 are Indian researchers working in prestigious institutions across Europe. The ERC encourages more top Indian researchers to join the ranks of ERC grant holders.

Prof. Bourguignon’s visit to India was a part of the awareness raising campaign, “ERC - Open to the World”, to promote the ERC to the global scientific community. This had two sides. Firstly, it was to foster relations with the country’s research funding bodies, and he therefore met with officials from Indian Ministries such as the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and Department of Biotechnology of the Ministry of S&T (DBT) to discuss ways to promote greater scientific exchange between ERC grantees and Indian researchers. Secondly, it was a chance to increase the number of applications to ERC calls from researchers based around the World.

Prof. Bourguignon is always very eager to visit universities and research institutions, and talk to researchers about the science they do, but also to inform them directly about the ERC grants. That is why he visited the Indian Institute of Science, the National Centre for Biological Sciences and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research during his visit to India.

He also attended a EURAXESS India event in Delhi. Finally, he participated in the meeting of the Global Research Council, a global discussion forum for heads of research funding agencies where we share best practice and learn from each other. At this year’s meeting, the two topics chosen as focal point were “Interdisciplinarity”, and “Equality and Status of Women in Research”.

Prof. Bourguignon’s interview apart from bringing out what ERC has to offer researchers outside Europe and how important it is to engage researchers working outside Europe in its funding schemes, he also covered information on young researchers and participation of women as ERC grantees.

Read Prof. Bourguignon’s full interview on the EURAXESS India Portal
In Focus | Meet Amaia Landaburu and Darius Köster – European researchers in India

In this edition of the EURAXESS India Newsletter, we have the opportunity to present two European researchers who are in India to you. They are Amaia L., a female researcher in social sciences in New Delhi and Darius K., a male researcher in life sciences based in Bengaluru.

Amaia Landaburu (left) is a PhD student in Social Communication at the Faculty of Communication Science in the University of Málaga in Spain. Amaia selected Jamia Millia Islamia University (New Delhi) to pursue her studies at its Centre for Culture Media and Governance. EURAXESS India has met Amaia to share her experience of being in India as a researcher with our readers.

As a PhD student in Social Communication at the Faculty of Communication Science in the University of Málaga in Spain, Amaia’s interests include media diversity and pluralism, participatory communication and communication rights. The study aims to understand how the third-tier media and other participatory communication initiatives are contributing to the cultural diversity and the communicative empowerment of people. It also tries to highlight the potential of participatory media to create dialogue and involve people in the communication process. Especially, it focuses on the rural areas and those realities that are rarely taken into account by the mass media and are being excluded from the social imaginary.

What made you to select India and Jamia Millia Islamia University in particular as your destination?

Due to its multiculturality, multilingualism and strong cultural roots, this country not only has a great intellectual tradition and countless indigenous knowledges to learn from but also reveals many interesting points for the study of cultural diversity. I believe this is a very special place and I can only be grateful for this opportunity that is allowing me to acquire such an extensive cultural experience.

Tell EURAXESS India newsletter readers about your experience as an international student at Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi.
The experience has been great and this affiliation has allowed me to learn about media and communication studies in India, also to attend and participate in ongoing seminar activities, academic presentations and conference series organised by the Centre for Culture Media and Governance along the year long course work. In addition, it has also offered me an insight into the academic system of India and it has given me the opportunity to create new networks with students and academics of the same field of studies as well as from other disciplines.

What message would you like to share with students and researchers in India and Europe?

This is quite a broad question, so it is difficult to answer concretely. Yet I would like to highlight that the efforts towards encouraging academic relations between India and Europe are mutually beneficial for students and researchers of both places, as they can benefit from exchange programmes and research mobility programmes. Furthermore, the international collaborative projects can provide great challenging and interesting opportunities to work on meaningful contributions to any field of science.

Were you already a mobile researchers before you came to India?

Fortunately, there are many opportunities for having mobility experiences in Europe during the university studies. My first experience abroad was in Ireland, where I worked as an intern in a communication department. Since then, I have focused my career internationally. While I look forward to continuing building my academic career with further mobility experiences, I think EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion is a great initiative that allows researchers to expand their prospects.

Thank you very much Amaia!
Darius Köster has completed his PhD at the Institute Curie in Paris, France. Darius chooses India over USA for his post doctoral studies at the National Center for Biological Sciences, Bangalore. He shares his thoughts on choosing India as a destination for higher studies.

Tell us about your research interest

I am intrigued about the physical principles that underlie Biology with a special interest in the dynamics of the smallest elements that build up a cell. Every time, that I look through the eye pieces of a microscope, I am fascinated by the complexity and richness of behaviour that a tiny cell of a few micro meters displays. In following a watchmaker’s approach, I take apart the cell and build up simplified systems out of its components to understand the role and function of each of them. As a physicist, the fun part starts when these simplified systems consume energy, become active and exhibit interesting dynamic behaviours.

What made you to select the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, India as your destination?

After my PhD at the Institute Curie in Paris, France, I was not keen on going to the USA for a postdoc and preferred a more unusual destination. I knew NCBS as a fantastic research institute, because my colleague in Paris did her PhD there and several PIs had visited the place. In addition, India was a very interesting country with its diverse culture and fast developing industry and science sectors. The perspective to be part of a growing institute and to build up connections with the new science centers here would be beneficial for my future.

How is like working at NCBS Bangalore?

I had a extremely positive start in Bangalore with colleagues and friends directly integrating me into their plans, e.g. to go out to a bar or to travel. The NCBS administration tried their best to make my work smooth (e.g. helping with the paper work at the Foreign Registration Office), but one should get used to some delays when it comes to ordering material from outside India.

In total, NCBS provides a great work environment with top instrumentation and a vividly interacting community of curious scientists working on all kinds of interesting questions, and that is something very hard to find in the world.
What message would you like to share students and researcher in India and Europe?

Be open and curious to engage with people from different backgrounds. For the students, see whether your University is part of an exchange program. And for the scientists, have a look about opportunities in Europe or India, it doesn’t have to be the US always.

The mobility of researcher/student is mostly from India to Europe what is your opinion about Europe to India mobility of researchers

Based on my experiences only in the life sciences, I think that the mobility of researchers from Europe to India is improving, but is still very low. Relatively new postdoc fellowships have allowed some institutes to attract a few scientists from Europe. And starting from here, I am sure that more people will follow as the option of going to India, to do science, will become more and more known.

In addition, organisations like EMBO help bringing European scientists to India e.g. by the support of conferences with the participation of a number of European scientists. Several European countries have installed research funds particular for collaborations with India. And I am sure that this will lead to an increase in mobility over the next few years.

Did you have any mobility experience within Europe before coming to India? Where? Was EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion part of that experience?

Yes, after my studies in Leipzig, Germany, I moved to Paris, France, for my PhD and to learnt French.

At that time, 2006, EURAXESS did not exist as it does today. But as part of Eurodoc, a European young scientists organisation, I followed closely the development of EURAXESS and made many of my colleagues aware of it and its services.

Thank you very much Darius!
4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (January-March)
(click on the respective link for more details)

Still open calls and selected News:

Funding Opportunities 2017 March & April Issue

Scholarships (PhD studies) for Indian nationals in Slovenia

News: Switzerland fully associated to Horizon 2020 now

News: ERC funds 133 innovations arising from frontier research

Still open 1 call in Health under Horizon 2020 with co-funding by DBT (India)

News: Latest SESEI Newsletters Online

News: 2nd newsletter of the 'EU Technical Cooperation for Environment in India' Project

News: "Bridging the Communication Gap in Science and Technology" (book)

News: Asi@Connect project launched to bridge digital divide in Asia-Pacific

8 March I International Women's Day 2017 - Gender equality initiatives in the MSCA programmes

8 March I Meet two Indian Marie Curie grantees: Bhavna Rani, PhD who is back to India and Arathi Kizhedath, PhD candidate still in Europe

8 March I Meet Louise, Isabelle and Eri, three MSC fellows connected to Japan and Europe to celebrate this International Women's Day

8 March I Meet Marie Curie grantee from Malaysia

8 March I Voices of Women Researchers Based in China

8 March I EURAXESS Brazil interviewed two MSCA grantees too: Ana Paula Bortoleto, former MSCA fellow and Marcela Uliano da Silva, TED fellow and MSCA grantee

News: EqUIP - EU-India partnership strengthens research in social sciences and humanities

EU-India cooperation on ICT standardisation - webinars, workshop, hackathon

News: EURAXESS India's contribution to the 'ERC Week' (13-19 March)

Scholarships for masters of science by research at the University of Malta on climate-change
## Call for 10 PhD candidates - Anti-Cancer Immuno-Therapy Improvement by modification of CAR and TCR Interactions and Nanoscale Geometry

**Mobility Grants from Europe to India by TECO**

### 4.2 Event Outlook (March-December)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event (click on event title for more details)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date (2017)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6.1 Europe</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Events announced under Horizon 2020 website</strong></td>
<td>Check link</td>
<td>Check link</td>
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<tr>
<td>The website includes information on the Information Days by the European Commission and Brokerage events</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14th Annual Conference on Theory and Applications of Models of Computation - TAMC 2017</strong></td>
<td>Bern, Switzerland</td>
<td>20-22 April</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>InnoFrugal - A conference on Frugal Innovation</strong></td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
<td>23-25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RemTechExpo 2017 - India targeted</strong></td>
<td>Ferrara, Italy</td>
<td>19-22 September</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.2 India</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Conference on Biotechnology and Environment (NCOBE-2017)</strong></td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>10-12 April</td>
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<td><strong>5th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Pre-selection (Stage 1)</strong></td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>July-September (tbc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay tuned on EURAXESS India</td>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Early September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>European Research Day 2017 - Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Indian Researchers</strong></td>
<td>Stay tuned on EURAXESS India</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3rd Communicating Science Out of the Lab – EURAXESS Event</strong></td>
<td>Stay tuned on EURAXESS India</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Live Finals (Stage 2)</strong></td>
<td>Stay tuned on EURAXESS India</td>
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