

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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Editors: Ainhitze Bizkarralegorra Bravo, EURAXESS Links India, Country Representative and Santosh Bothe, EURAXESS Links India Support Officer

EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

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1 Briefing I EURAXESS members in focus: Spain

1.1 Spain and its RDI system in figures¹

The Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation encompasses internationally recognised institutions where scientists and entrepreneurs are able to enjoy a variety of funding opportunities. The “Spanish strategy on science, technology and innovation (2013-2020)”² promotes the capacities of the system and enables collaboration between all the stakeholders of the system while increasing the social and economic returns from investment in R&D&I.

In 2014, Spanish institutions published 77,013 publications (including articles, conference proceedings and reviews), ranking 10th in the world (3.19% of the total world production). In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications (top 10%), energy and veterinary medicine were the top research areas in Spain. Also, the international collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: up to 44.69 % of all Spanish documents in 2014 were co-authored with a foreign institution. Finally, the total number of European patents with a Spanish origin in 2014 was 467.

1.2 Research Excellence in Spain

The “[Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence](#)” programme for independent research centres and the “Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence” programme for smaller unit recognises institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at world standards. The awarded centers and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all foreign highly respected researchers, including Nobel laureates.

In Spain can be found a number of so-called “[Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures infrastructures \(ICTS\)](#)” composed of facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics or engineering, distributed throughout the Spanish territory and areas and devoted to cutting edge research and the highest quality technological development.

1.3 Recruitment Opportunities

1.3.1 HORIZON 2020: MSCA and ERC

Spain hosts more than 300 [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) grants in more than 50 host institutions and is also very attractive for [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) fellows. At present, through 2014 and 2015 MSCA calls, more than 220 experienced researchers are carrying out their research in Spanish institutions, which ranks Spain amongst the top four EU countries.

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by over 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS Links India e-newsletters. In this edition, we will zoom in on Spain

Spain is a very active participant in European research projects. At the moment, around 9% of Horizon 2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions. Some of the areas that can be highlighted as especially important for Spanish participation are: Energy, NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing) and the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) instrument.

Click [here](#) for detailed report “EURAXESS Members in Focus: SPAIN” It compiles information on the Spanish R&D system, focusing on recruitment opportunities for researchers.

¹ Source: INE(www.ine.es) and ICONO (www.icono.fecyt.es)

²http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Investigacion/FICHEROS/Spanish_Strategy_Science_Technology.pdf



1.3.2 SPANISH STATE RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

RAMÓN Y CAJAL CONTRACTS

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research (ramonycajal@mineco.es)

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers with an outstanding research career, either coming or returning to Spain.

Description: The 5 year duration grants co-fund the recruitment of doctors at public and private research centres. The aim is to promote the incorporation of national and foreign researchers with outstanding careers as well as their stabilisation in Spain. The grants (EUR 33,720 per year), are allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Applicants will receive an additional allocation of EUR 40,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses. Lastly, institutions which at the end of the "Ramón y Cajal" contract period incorporate the beneficiaries on a permanent basis, will receive a grant totalling EUR100,000.

JUAN DE LA CIERVA – INCORPORATION

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research (cierva.formacion@mineco.es)

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers

Description: The two-year grant addresses young PhDs who have completed their post-doctoral education and meet the scientific criteria requested and have proven scientific leadership. Within this grant, EUR 29,000 per year is allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Entities will receive an additional allocation of EUR 6,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses.

JUAN DE LA CIERVA - TRAINING

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research (cierva.formacion@mineco.es)

Recipients: Foreign and national early stage researchers who wish to gain post-doctoral training in a university or research centre different from the one where their PhD was obtained.

Description: The grants, in the amount of EUR 25,000 per year, are allocated to co-fund the salary and employer's contributions to social security.

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research (predoctoral@mineco.es)

Recipients: These grants co-fund the contracts of national and foreign pre-doctoral researchers that aim to develop their PhD in industry.

Description: Company beneficiaries of this grant need to co-fund the contract of the pre-doctoral researcher. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to co-funding salaries and social security contributions will be EUR 21,800. The grant includes EUR 2,400/researcher and is aimed at stays in other institutions, together with EUR 1.500 to fund the expenses associated with the doctorate programmes.

PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS-TRAINING DOCTORS

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research (predoctoral@mineco.es)

Recipients: National and foreign bachelor degree holders admitted or enrolled in a doctorate programme at the moment of signing the grant.

Description: Grants devoted to the training of pre-docs in universities, research centres, etc., in any discipline. The grants, in the amount of EUR 20,600 per



year, are allocated to co-fund the salary and employer's contributions to social security.

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Training and Mobility of Professors and Teaching Innovation.
(solicitantes.fpu@mece.es)

PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS. TRAINING OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

Recipients: Bachelors aiming to earn getting their PhD admitted or enrolled in a doctoral programme during 2015 or enrolled in a programme that allows them to access a doctoral programme in 2016.

Description: This grant is aimed at fostering the training of pre-docs in high quality doctorate programmes. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to co-fund salaries and social security contributions will be EU17,768.16 for the two first years of the grant and EUR 20,333.76 for year three and four.

TORRES QUEVEDO CONTRACTS

Recipients: Doctors who wish to be employed by companies that perform R&D&I to develop experimental and innovative research projects.

Description: Grants for permanent contracts for doctors in the private sector. The amount of the grants will be determined in accordance with the eligible budget and the type of project and company. However, the annual eligible budget will only cover gross annual remuneration equal to or over EUR 18,000, and may not exceed EUR 55,000. The grants must co-fund the salary and the employer's contribution to social security for the researchers recruited.

1.3.3 REGIONAL RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IKERBASQUE

Recipients: The Basque Science Foundation (IKERBASQUE) holds annual calls for applications to attract high level researchers to research institutions in the Basque Country.

Description: Ikerbasque offers two types of grants: **Research fellows grants:** contract positions for postdoctoral researchers, within any of the Basque Research institutions. These fellowships are intended to offer young promising researchers a track towards a PI role and independent research; **Research professors contracts:** offers permanent contracts for experienced researchers in any Basque Research institutions. Only high level researchers with a solid track record in research and international research experience will be considered.

ICREA

Recipients: ICREA, through a selection process based on scientific talent, recruits researchers from all over the world.

Description: ICREA holds different calls: **ICREA Senior Call:** The selected researchers are given a permanent position, ICREA Research Professorship (equivalent to tenure) and become ICREA employees. ICREA researchers go through an evaluation process (promotion) at regular intervals throughout their entire career.

ARAID

Recipients: The call for applications is open to researchers of any nationality, who fit the requirements of academic and research background. It aims at recruiting outstanding candidates with excellent research records and leadership capabilities.

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research
(torresquevedo@mineco.es)

Contact:
<http://www.ikerbasque.net/>

Contact:
<https://www.icrea.cat/Web/SectionViewer.aspx?section=260>

Contact:
<http://www.araid.es/en/content/international-call-recruitment-researchers-2015>



Description: The positions may be developed at public/private research centres and companies in the region of Aragon. It is generally expected that successful candidates will become permanent staff of ARAID. The scientific performance of researchers is periodically subjected to external evaluation. ARAID will assist foreign researchers with their visa and work permit procedures.

Contact:

<http://gain.xunta.es/artigos/456/oportunius>
(xestion.gain@xunta.es)

OPORTUNIUUS

Recipients: The Innovation Agency of Galicia (GAIN) intends to reinforce the recruitment of first class researchers in the region.

Description: It offers ERC Grant holders a permanent contract with the Galician Innovation Agency (GAIN), who subject to evaluations every five years by an external committee. It also provides specific support for young scientists with potential for obtain a prestigious ERC grants.

FUNDACIÓN SÉNECA

Recipients: The Science and Technology Agency of the Region of Murcia (FUNDACIÓN SÉNECA) holds annual calls for applications to attract junior and senior researchers to research institutions in the Region of Murcia.

Description: Research internships will be funded for researchers with proven experience associated with prestigious external research centres. Séneca holds two different calls: **Senior researcher:** researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least ten years and **Junior researcher:** researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least five years.

Contact:

<https://www.fseneca.es/>

1.3.4 PRIVATE SECTOR RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

OBRA SOCIAL LA CAIXA INTERNSHIPS

Recipients: Predoctoral scholarships in Spanish universities and research centres

Description: The aim of the programme is to support the mobility of 20 young researchers and to support their incorporation in the best research groups in Spain. Also, these scholarships aim at training researchers with the necessary skills to widen their opportunities to develop a researcher career in academia, industry and entrepreneurship. Scholarships are for three years (with possibility of extension).

The total amount of the grant will be EUR 115,500, distributed over three years and with a EUR 7,500 award if the thesis is defended within the six months after which the grant is over.

Contact:

http://obrasocial.lacaixa.es/ambitos/becas/presentacion_es.html

1.4 Important information for incoming researchers

Spain belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support country (in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.) to researchers and their families when arriving to the. The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national coordinator of the Spanish network and there are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. Additional information can be found at www.euraxess.es/eng

Every two years publishes FECYT exhaustive, up-to-date information about the labour situation, everyday life, and the specific characteristics of Spain, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in our country: <http://www.euraxess.es/eng/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain>

Contact E-mail:

euraxess-spain@fecyt.es



1.5 Bilateral funding mechanism for industry-led R&D collaborative projects: India & Spain Innovating Programme (ISIP)

Click [here](#) for detailed report
“Fostering Innovation-driven
R&D Cooperation between
India and Spain”

Currently CDTI (Spain) manages three programmes/initiatives with several public R&D funding agencies from India with the main objective of promoting and funding innovation-driven research and technology development collaborative projects between Spanish companies and Indian entities. Eligible projects should be market-oriented, basically consisting of the development of new products, processes or services, or substantial improvement of the same. To date, 23 joint technology co-operation projects have been certified under the ISIP Programme, representing a total budget of EUR 23.3 million in sectors such as chemistry, smart textiles, machine-tools, low voltage technologies, ICT, hot-melt technologies, agribiotechnology, nutraceuticals, biosensors, bio plastics and renewable energy technologies and applications (wind, photovoltaic and CSP), urban mobility, e-health and flexible electronics, amongst others.

Details of the programmes:

1. Sector focused initiative in BIOTECHNOLOGY: Indo-Spanish Joint Programme (PoC) for Technological Co-operation in the field of Biotechnology implemented by DBT (India) and CDTI (Spain);
2. Sector focused initiative in RENEWABLE ENERGY: Indo-Spanish Joint Programme (PoC) for Technological Co-operation in the field of Renewable Energy implemented by MNRE (India) and CDTI (Spain);
3. MULTI SECTOR INITIATIVE: Programme of Co-operation on Industrial R&D between Spain and India implemented by DST-GITA (India) and CDTI (Spain);

Under these programmes, calls for proposals are regularly launched and supporting activities such as assistance in matchmaking, partner identification, coordination of inbound/outbound delegations, bilateral workshops and seminars co-organised by the implementing agencies are undertaken.

These programmes work on a decentralised financing basis, meaning that CDTI will provide financing to Spanish counterparts in awarded projects as per internal conditions and regulations, and the Indian implementing agencies (DBT, MNRE, DST-GITA) fund the Indian counterparts in the consortia as well, as per internal conditions and regulations.

Contact:

Adrián Gutiérrez

**Science and Technology
Counselor**

**Embassy of Spain in New
Delhi, India**

**Chief Representative of
CDTI India and Southeast
Asia**

12, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi
- 110 011, Delhi, India

Phone: +91 11 4129 3000 | E-
mail: india@cdti.es



2 Hot topics | EMBO expands its global reach

We have been promoting international interactions beyond Europe, and India is one of our prime partners. I am extremely pleased that India is now an Associate Member and I look forward to India being able to access EMBO activities.

Maria Leptin, EMBO Director
(see picture below)

EMBC, EMBO and Government of India's Department of Biotechnology sign cooperation agreement

Under the new agreement, India, as an associate member state, financially contributes to EMBC. In return, researchers working in India will be eligible for the full range of EMBO's programmes supporting talented researchers and stimulating scientific exchange. The eligibility of these researchers will be evaluated against the same criteria as those from other states (countries), allowing international exchange. This cooperation is the latest accomplishment of EMBO's Global Activities strategy, which works to foster collaboration with scientists in non-European countries that show emerging strength in life science research.

"We have been promoting international interactions beyond Europe, and India is one of our prime partners. I am extremely pleased that India now is an Associate Member and I look forward to India being able to access EMBO activities. Many European researchers already have established scientific connections in India. No doubt these will be strengthened further once more tools and formal opportunities for interactions are available", commented Maria Leptin, Director of EMBO.



by Prasenjeet Yadav

India can only succeed if we partner with the best everywhere to bring the best here.

VijayRaghavan, State
Secretary, Government of
India (see picture above)

An official launch ceremony for the Agreement took place in Delhi on 4 February 2016, and the Nobel Laureates and EMBO Members Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard and Ada E. Yonath joined a high-profile panel discussion (second and fourth on second picture). An EMBO-led delegation of ten researchers is visiting various institutes across the country and meeting with Indian scientists and government representatives. The visit started in Mumbai on 1 February and finished in Mohali on 8 February.

Life sciences in India are developing fast, supported by governmental and academic initiatives to attract bright young people to science from inside and outside India. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology for the Government of India, who signed the agreement, said at the launch ceremony: "India is rapidly growing into a position where we are making extraordinary demands on ourselves. India can only succeed if we partner with the best everywhere to bring the best here."



The newly forged cooperation will build upon already existing links between Indian and European scientists. In 2015, 10 Indian postdoctoral researchers received an EMBO Long-Term Fellowship to work in Europe, and eight India-based scientists received the EMBO Short-Term Fellowship. A satellite symposium focusing on research in India has been a part of the annual conference, The EMBO Meeting.



by Prasenjeet Yadav

Though the EMBC was founded by its member states as an intergovernmental organisation to support cooperation amongst European States in life science research, EMBO as EMBC's execution body, may expand its engagement with further states outside Europe. After Singapore, which signed a similar agreement in July 2015, India is the second country to acquire the status of EMBC Associate Member State. Four young scientists from Singapore have already joined the Young Investigator Programme. "In addition, EMBO has cooperation agreements with South Africa and with the Taiwanese Ministry of Science and Technology. Discussions are underway with other potential partner countries, particularly elsewhere in Asia and in South America", said Anne-Marie Glynn, Manager in charge of EMBO's Global Activities.

Further reading:

[Official India-EMBO Partnership Symposium webpage](#)

[Website of the Department of Biotechnology / Government of India](#) (including recordings of the scientific presentations and talks)

[Personal impressions and thoughts from EMBO Member James Briscoe](#)

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3 In Focus | Meet Anne-Marie Glynn, EMBO, Head of Global Activities

EMBO is an organisation of more than 1,700 leading researchers that promotes excellence in the life sciences. The major goals of the organisation are to support talented researchers at all stages of their careers, stimulate the exchange of scientific information, and help build a research environment in Europe and beyond where scientists can achieve their best work.

EMBO helps young scientists to advance their research, promote their international reputations and ensure their mobility. Courses, workshops, conferences and scientific journals disseminate the latest research and offer training in techniques to maintain high standards of excellence in research practice. EMBO helps to shape science and research policy by seeking input and feedback from our community and by following closely the trends in science. For more information: www.embo.org.

The European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 27 Member States and two Associate Member States, India and Singapore. EMBC promotes a strong transnational approach to the life sciences. Within the EMBC, Member States pool their resources to improve the quality of research at a national level and to contribute to the advancement of basic research in Europe.

Q: What does EMBO have to offer researchers outside of Europe, namely in Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, China, India, the United States and Canada, all countries where EURAXESS Links is active?

A: EMBO has a variety of activities to encourage collaboration between life scientists worldwide: some of these activities are open to researchers regardless of where they are based, while others are restricted to EMBC Member States.

EMBO has several programmes that aim to increase interactions with researchers in EMBC Member States. Although EMBO Courses & Workshops are primarily held in EMBC Member States, scientists from all over the world attend EMBO Courses & Workshops and anyone can invite EMBO Members and EMBO Young Investigators to present their research at an international conference. Irrespective of the country where the researcher is working, there is the possibility for researchers to apply to EMBO for a postdoctoral fellowship to continue their research career in an EMBC Member State, and researchers from EMBC Member States can continue their postdoctoral research in a laboratory situated anywhere in the world, provided that it is in a different country than where they did their PhD. Equally, researchers of any nationality within 10 years of having received their PhD are welcome to apply for an EMBO Short-term Fellowship to strengthen exchange with an EMBC Member State laboratory.

Life science researchers working in Singapore, Taiwan and in India also have the possibility to join the EMBO Young Investigator Programme and to host EMBO Courses & Workshops locally. Similar to applicants from EMBC Member States, researchers from other countries will need to succeed in a competitive selection process, which looks at the quality of the application as the sole selection criterion.

So far EMBO has signed partnership agreements with Singapore and India. What does this mean to researchers in Singapore and India? Does the nationality matter or is it where the researcher is based at the time of applying to one of your programmes that counts?

EMBO selects on competitive excellence, without consideration of nationality. Singapore and India have entered into associate membership agreements with EMBC and EMBO, laying the foundation for life scientists in the two countries to join the community of EMBO activities and networks. EMBO is delighted with this expansion of the global reach of our activities, and we are looking forward to fostering the careers of life scientists working in India and Singapore, and to increase the bi-directional exchange and collaboration between researchers working in the EMBC Member States and these new EMBC Associate Member States.



Anne-Marie Glynn, EMBO Head of
Global Activities

And what if a researcher is not a member of EMBO? Do you offer different funding opportunities to EMBO members and non-members? How does one become a member?

EMBO Members are nominated and elected by the community of 1,700 eminent life science researchers who comprise the EMBO membership. EMBO Membership is a recognition of research excellence and the outstanding achievements made by a life scientist. Annual nominations and elections ensure that the membership remains at the forefront of life science research. EMBO Membership is not required to apply for EMBO programmes and activities, most of which are designed to support younger scientists on their way towards becoming experienced researchers.

India has recently become an EMBC Associate Member State. What does this mean for the research community in India?

Life science researchers working in India have access to the full range of EMBO programmes and activities aimed at supporting talented researchers and stimulating scientific exchange between European and Indian laboratories. For example, scientists working in India (irrespective of their nationality) are eligible to apply for the EMBO Long- and Short-term Fellowships, to apply to host EMBO Courses and Workshops in India, and to join the EMBO Young Investigator Programme. It is also possible to invite EMBO Members and EMBO Young Investigators to present their research either in local institutes or at international conferences. Similar to applicants from EMBC Member States, researchers from India will need to succeed in a competitive selection process, which looks at the quality of the application as the sole selection criterion.

It is not so long since we celebrated International Women's Day (8th March). Are there any specific EMBO actions/programmes to increase the participation of women in life sciences? Which ones?

EMBO is committed to gender balance in our activities. All of our committees and the EMBO Council have a good gender balance; the same applies to the invited speakers and participants at the scientific meetings that EMBO funds. EMBO has implemented a number of family friendly criteria (e.g. parental leave, crèche support and family allowances) for our fellowships as well as eligibility extensions for scientists who have children and have taken parental leave. Childcare is available at a subset of the EMBO funded meetings. EMBO also runs leadership courses for researchers, including a course focused on Female Leaders in Science.

EMBO has recently published a white paper exploring the use of quotas to increase the number of females in senior positions in academia. Previously, EMBO has investigated whether gender bias impacted the success rate of applicants to the EMBO Fellowships Programme.

*Together with FEBS, EMBO acknowledges outstanding life science research performed by women through the **Women in Science Award**, which this year was awarded to Fiona Watt, Director of the Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine at King's College London, UK.*

Thank you Anne-Marie Glynn!

Full interview with Q&A beyond India: [EURAXESS Links India](#)





4 In case you missed it...

4.1 Event Outlook

Event (click on event title for more details)	Location	Date
6.1 Europe		
Events announced under Horizon 2020 website The website includes information on the Information Days by the European Commission and Brokerage events	<i>Check link</i>	<i>Check link</i>
IWORDD2016 – International Workshop on Reading and Developmental Dyslexia	Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain.	05-07 May 2016
Food-Microbiome Interaction: implications for health and disease conference	The Royal Society, London	10-12 May 2016
ESOF 2016	Manchester, UK	22-27 July 2016
6.2 India		
International Conference on Innovations in Sustainable Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems (ISWATS)	Pune (Maharashtra)	21-23 April 2016
Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Indian Researchers Joint event EURAXESS Links India and EU Delegation to India	Chandigarh (Punjab and Haryana)	29 April 2016
2016 Global Research Council (GRC) Annual Meeting	New Delhi	May 2016
Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2016	Bangalore, India	30-31 July 2016

4.2 Quick Reviews

8 March | [Meet Varsha Varakantham, PhD candidate and EURAXESS Science Slam finalist 2015](#)

8 March | ['Women of ISRO' by Condé Nast in 'Make In India 2016'](#)

8 March | [EU Insight | Creating Gender Equality in Science and Research](#)

[New India-EMBO excellence in life sciences Cooperation](#)

[Innovations in Sustainable Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems \(ISWATS\) Conference, Pune, 21-23 April 2016](#)