

**Quarterly  
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EURAXESS India Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter. It provides information for conducting research in Europe or with European partners, and gives insights for Indian and European researchers who are interested in the European research landscape.

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Country Representative,  
EURAXESS India.

# EURAXESS INDIA

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# 1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: LITHUANIA

## Lithuania, The Quick Facts

**Country Size:**

65.300 sq.km

**Population**

2,848 (2017)

-0.72 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2009 est.)

**Language**

Lithuanian

**Capital**

Vilnius

**Median Age**

43.7

**Currency**

Euro

**Economy**

GDP Per Capita

16.680 USD/person (2017)

Unemployment Rate

8.3% (2018)

To learn more about our unique country visit [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries/lithuania\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries/lithuania_en)

## 1.1 Introduction

From the world’s most powerful laser through to the extra-resistant glass used in over 4.5 billion smartphones, Lithuanian innovation is impacting research and product development globally. So, it’s not surprising that the 2018 Bloomberg Innovation Index ranked Lithuania 8th globally for “tertiary efficiency”, a category which includes enrolment in higher education and the number of graduates in key innovation sectors. Companies are currently assembling international-quality research teams in Lithuania at highly competitive costs, and there is strong and committed governmental support for R&D.

## 1.2 Research, Development & Innovation in Lithuania

The [Ministry of Economy](#) and the [Ministry of Education and Science](#) are the main institutions responsible for the formation and implementation of innovation policy in Lithuania. The other institutions involved in coordinating and implementing R&D and innovation policy in Lithuania are:

- The [Research Council of Lithuania](#), which consists of a Research Fund and a number of expert committees. The council’s role is to be an expert institution, implementing R&D policy and providing competitive funding.
- The [Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology \(MITA\)](#), which is the national organization for the implementation of innovation policy.
- The [Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre \(MOSTA\), which operates as](#) an advisory institution. It monitors and evaluates research, higher education and innovation, and other related activities, and provides evidence-based information and guidance.



Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of North-Eastern Europe (source: Wikipedia).



[Lithuania.travel](http://Lithuania.travel) - your official tourism gateway to Lithuania

Lithuania is a member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Eurozone, the Schengen Agreement, NATO and the OECD.



<http://euraxess.lt>

The fundamental strategic documents that set the guidelines for innovation policy in Lithuania are:

- The Science and Innovation Policy Reform guidelines that were issued by the President's Office and adopted by the Parliament in 2016. This important policy reform initiative was launched to provide significant impetus to the country's innovation performance.
- [The Innovation Development Programme 2014–2020](#). This programme was drafted with a view to mobilizing state resources for two purposes: firstly, the improvement of Lithuania's innovativeness, and secondly, the continued development of a competitive economy that is based on high-level knowledge, advanced technologies, skilled and well-qualified human resources and smart specialization. The strategic goal of the programme is to enhance the competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy through the development of an effective system that promotes economic innovation.
- The [Smart Specialization Strategy, which is](#) the main programme of state support for R&D in Lithuania. The following R&D and innovation priority areas are defined in the Smart Specialization Strategy: energy and environmental sustainability; agro-innovation and food technologies; health technologies and bio technologies; forming an inclusive and creative society; new production processes; materials and technologies; transport and logistics; ICT.

In order to fully exploit Lithuania's scientific potential, [Open R&D Lithuania](#), a new platform that brings together the main actors in this field, was launched. This network consists of 14 Lithuanian universities, 13 research institutes, and 7 science and technology parks. These institutions have united their high-level R&D intellectual potential, infrastructure and resources in order to provide science-based solutions to problems in business and society. This concentration of resources facilitates the creation of new technologies and products, the provision of R&D services, and the growth of the competitiveness of all the partners involved.

Support for R&D and innovative technology sectors has been made a national priority. As a result, between 2006-2013, Lithuania invested €411 million to develop its R&D infrastructure and science valleys. Another €679 million will be put into the further enhancement of Lithuania's R&D capacity over the period 2014-2020.

### 1.3 Research Excellence in Lithuania

Lithuania has been planting seeds which are now bearing fruit, thanks to its longstanding focus on two areas: developing talents and professionals in scientific institutions, and investing into modern R&D equipment (more than €300 million has been invested in the last 7-8 years).

The most significant achievements of Lithuanian researchers to date have been in the fields of biotechnology, life sciences and lasers.

The most important factor in the success of the Lithuanian [laser industry](#) has been the continuous and diverse collaboration between researchers from scientific institutions and engineers from the private sector. This collaborative approach has become the foundation for constantly growing expertise in cutting-edge laser technologies. The products manufactured by the Lithuanian laser sector are extremely diverse. They include every kind of laser, along with optics, electronics, mechanical laser components, assemblies, elements and more. Lithuania accounts for more than half of the global market of pico-second laser spectrometers. These are widely exported to European countries, the USA, Australia, and Asia.

The laser manufacturing sector in Lithuania has recorded 15–20% year on year growth. Lithuanian laser products are exported to over 100 countries around the world - the largest clients are laboratories and research centres in the EU, the USA and Japan.

Lithuania is known for its world class researchers. For example, [Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys](#) from Vilnius University, working with Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna, is credited as one of the inventors of [CRISPR-Cas9](#), a precise nano-tool for editing DNA. These so-called DNA scissors allow scientists to correct disease-causing mutations and use gene therapy to cure serious diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, sickle-cell anemia, and some forms of blindness and cancer.

Another example is [Prof. Arminas Ragauskas](#), a scientist at Kaunas Technology University who has invented two devices for measuring intracranial pressure and blood flow. His inventions enable the fast and safe diagnosis of traumatic brain injuries, strokes, glaucoma and brain tumours. Ragauskas' innovative measuring devices are important tools for treating intracranial injuries, which are among the world's deadliest killers.



Research Council of Lithuania

The [Research Council of Lithuania](#) – an expert institution for scientific development at a national level



The [Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology \(MITA\)](#) – a national innovation agency

## 1.4 Recruitment Opportunities

Lithuanian universities and research institutions offer study and employment opportunities to foreign researchers at all levels of their career, from doctoral students through to high level researchers. The Research Council of Lithuania provides a wide range of funding tools for research competence and skills development. It also works to promote international cooperation and activities to internationalize research. Foreign researchers are encouraged to work in Lithuania and, together with Lithuanian researchers, to participate in projects funded by the Research Council of Lithuania and other initiatives.

The [Center for Physical Sciences and Technology](#) (FTMC), the largest non-university research institution in the Baltic States, offers PhD studies in physical and technological sciences. These study programmes are open to international students, and talents from all over the world are very welcome to apply. Joint project collaboration is also promoted, and the FTMC looks forward to arranging exchanges not only of students, but also of scientists and engineers who have already graduated.



[Enterprise Lithuania](#) – an agency that promotes entrepreneurship and business development



[Invest Lithuania](#) – an investment development agency that provides free advice to global companies interested in doing business in Lithuania

1st in CEE for university-business collaboration in R&D

Over 25% of students in Lithuania are enrolled in innovation related studies – Science, Mathematics, Computing and engineering-related fields

As most research is performed in public universities and research institutes, these are also where most research jobs are available. Many of the positions available are published on the [EURAXESS webpage](#).

## 1.5 Funding Opportunities

Research in Lithuania is primarily financed on the basis of quality competition. Financing comes from the state budget, foreign funds (mostly EU), and several institutions.

The Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) is the principal national institution providing competitive R&D funding in Lithuania. Every year, the RCL publishes more than 30 calls for proposals. [Click here for more information](#).

Lithuania also offers a wide range of direct and indirect public support for business R&D and technological innovation, aimed primarily at boosting private investment in R&D. State support includes grants and subsidies, financial engineering schemes, public innovation support services, and R&D tax incentives on corporate income tax. In Lithuania, business R&D and innovation support schemes focus on funding R&D, procuring R&D services, and providing (mainly soft) support for innovation. Funding for innovation is mostly focused on startup and equity instruments. [Click here for more information](#).

## 1.6 Important information for incoming researchers

The Research Council of Lithuania is the EURAXESS Bridgehead Organization in Lithuania. The EURAXESS network in Lithuania has 5 members: Kaunas University of Technology, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius University, and Vytautas Magnus University. EURAXESS provides incoming researchers with up-to-date information related to mobility services.

In 2018, Lithuania launched a new programme aimed at attracting internationally-recognised foreign researchers to carry out research in smart specialisation areas and encouraging them to establish themselves in research and higher education institutions. These researchers are given a range of opportunities through this programme, including: implementing high-budget research projects; putting together and leading a research team; transferring knowledge and experience; and introducing advanced research methods and new practices. The programme is coordinated by the Research Council of Lithuania.

For employment opportunities, and to participate in projects coordinated by the Research Council of Lithuania, foreign researchers should apply directly to their chosen university or research institute.

## 1.7 Research Collaboration with India

Research and Innovation is one of the areas where Lithuania-India cooperation is expanding significantly. It takes mostly from the student, universities and research institutes exchange. Big part of initiatives are not

### International recognition

Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys – A Lithuanian biochemist who has received numerous international awards, including the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize, the Novozymes Prize and the shared Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, for his work on the invention of CRISPR-Cas9, a precise nanotool for editing DNA which has sparked a revolution in biology, agriculture, and medicine.

The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in Bengaluru supported the EURAXESS India - [European Research Day 2018](#) in Bengaluru

solely Lithuania based, but benefit from EU-India partnership in R&I and its programs. Short and long-term mobility of researches both ways plays a big part in the Lithuania-India collaboration in research. Currently almost 1000 students from India study in the universities in Lithuania, most of them choosing science, engineering, medical and IT studies.

Cooperation in R&I may also be found in business sector. Lithuanian scientific lasers reach Indian market as the country is one of the largest exporters of scientific lasers in the world. The second ever Lithuanian satellite was launched to space on a rocket from India, and the producing company NanoAvionics now is establishing its office in South India to expand collaboration in this sector. Lithuania's know-how and expertise in cyber security, e-governance is put on the agenda in number of cooperation projects and initiatives.

Partnership in Innovation is enhanced promoting exchange between Lithuanian and Indian start-up ecosystems, organizing joint events, hackathons and establishing platforms for networking.

## 2 Hot topic “How to post a job offer in the EURAXESS portal”

The EURAXESS Jobs portal is a great tool to find research positions in European Member States and Associated Countries. It has an average of **60,000 jobs published annually by almost 15,000 registered organisations**, most of them located in European countries.

EURAXESS has over **2 million visitors annually and 1.2 million page views per month**, the most popular pages being the ones comprising the jobs database. Nevertheless, this tool can also be used by members outside of Europe in order to attract EU based researchers to their country or institution.

**EURAXESS welcomes any type of employers**, public, private, academia, industry, business players, etc. All of these only to help researchers and institutions identify the best fit with their interest and needs.

**Jobs publication on EURAXESS is free of charge.** EURAXESS only facilitates the publication of offers and does not intervene in the relationship between the applicants and their potential employers. The responsibility for the advertisements published lies entirely with the publishing institution/employer, who is also fully responsible for the recruitment and selection processes.

This is a **step-by-step guide** explaining how to post job offers on EURAXESS - one of the largest networks supporting researcher mobility in Europe and beyond.

### **STEP 1**

**Create a new user individual account or login into in the EURAXESS portal:**  
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/user>.

You can create a new user account using an e-mail address and following the instructions sent to you via e-mail. Make sure you have access to the institutional e-mail account you will be using.

Any organisation who wishes to post a job offer has to be registered in our portal and only a registered member can create or join an organisation to post offers.

Check out the full step-by-step guide on how to post job offers on EURAXESS portal [here!](#)

The grid contains six screenshots from the EURAXESS portal, arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each screenshot shows a different step in the process of posting a job offer. The top row shows the 'How to post a job offer in the EURAXESS portal' page, the 'Create a new user profile' page, and the 'Create Offer Posting' page. The bottom row shows the 'Create Offer Posting' page from a different angle, the 'Create Offer Posting' page with a red arrow pointing to a specific field, and the 'Create Offer Posting' page with a red arrow pointing to another field. The screenshots are labeled with 'EURAXESS Brazil & LAC' and 'Page 1 of 3', 'Page 2 of 3', and 'Page 3 of 3'.

### EURAXESS helps you succeed - Tutorials

Find this and other tutorials we produce to help you get the most out of the EURAXESS portal and European funding opportunities on EURAXESS India website ([india.euraxess.org](http://india.euraxess.org)). Some examples:

- [How to post hosting offers on EURAXESS portal?](#)
- [How to become a Horizon 2020 Evaluator?](#)
- [How to submit a MSCA Individual Fellowship proposal.](#)





Dr. Praveen Kumar is Assistant Professor at the School of Materials Sciences, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Kolkata, and Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Indian Chapter. He has a PhD in Physics from the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. He is the recipient of several recognized awards and fellowships, including BRICS Young Scientist Award, Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, INSPIRE Faculty Award, and Gold Medal in M. Sc. (Physics). Dr. Kumar's research contributions cover a broad spectrum of topics in optoelectronic materials and devices, including III-V semiconductors, LED emitters, Tandem & Intermediate bandgap solar cells, Photoelectrodes for hydrogen fuel, Broadband Photodetectors, and Next-generation sensors.

### 3 In Focus | Interview with Dr. Praveen Kumar, Chair Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Indian Chapter

#### **How did you get to know about the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCA-IF) and what motivated you to apply?**

**Praveen Kumar:** MSCA Individual Fellowship is one of the most well-known and most-prestigious fellowships, especially for Indian Ph.D. students, who are looking to go to Europe for their postdoctoral studies. Though there were a lot of platforms to get information about the MSCA fellowship, I found EURAXESS as one of the most informative. After submission of my PhD thesis at the Department of Physics, at Indian Institute of Technology, Prof. R. Noetzel from ISOM, UPM Madrid, Spain, accepted me for the Institutional fellowship, and suggested me to apply for the Marie Curie Fellowship. I took his suggestion very seriously, as I knew MSCA is a very prestigious fellowship, a lifetime achievement for a young researcher like me, and, therefore, was also aware of the very tough competition. After a lot of discussions and iterations, we finalized our proposal and completed the rest of the formalities within due-time for the submission of the application.

#### **What have been the benefits of your MSCA Individual Fellowship?**

As I said, being a Marie Curie Fellow is a lifetime achievement, which further gives lifetime benefits of being a Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Member. MSCA is not only one of the highest paid fellowships, but also gives other advance funds for travel and research, which one can use it according to his/her desire in research. Provided with extraordinary opportunities for networking and collaborations around the globe, I was able to raise my profile enormously. I feel that this wide enjoyable exposure and independent supervision of the research problem, made me a much more mature and efficient scientist and positioned me much better to flourish in science.

#### **What would you say the biggest challenge in the application process was? How did you overcome it?**

Frankly speaking, I was a first-timer, thus had no prior guidance or experience in applying for such a big fellowship. Apart from the proposal, there were several non-scientific information that also needed to be given, which was a very tough part for me. Prof. Noetzel helped me to overcome all these points and his suggestions helped me to complete them in a very professional way.

#### **From your experiences, how does the research environment in Europe differ from that in India?**

The most effective difference what I felt, was the global perspective on all the issues, as my group was having students from around the globe. I enjoyed a lot of discussions during the office hours and also on weekends at the corridors of the department. The department had all the advanced

facility under one roof, so it was easy to plan experiments with timelines. One more important thing, which I liked is the user facility of the characterization systems. In my department most of the characterization facilities were operated by students themselves, however, to become a user of the facility there was a well-defined guideline. I was using most of the facilities on my own, therefore, it was a great learning process for me on this side as well. Further, being in Europe, it gave me the freedom to do more networking with other researches from other EU countries.

*“[...] being a Marie Curie Fellow is a lifetime achievement, which further gives lifetime benefits of being a Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Member. MSCA is not only one of the highest paid fellowships, but also gives other advance funds for travel and research, which one can use according to his/her desire in research.”*

**How do you think EURAXESS India can further promote research collaborations between Europe and India?**

EURAXESS India is doing a great job and playing a vital role in promoting all the opportunities available for Indian researches in Europe. As Chair of the MCAA Indian Chapter, I have developed a close relationship with the EURAXESS India team, and the chapter is also actively participating in some of EURAXESS' events here in India. Furthermore, I feel the EURAXESS Jobs portal is one of the most useful tools for searching job opportunities in Europe. EURAXESS India is not only disseminating the information but also providing the platform for scientific networking for Indian researchers.

**You were the main person to establish the MCA Alumni Chapter here in India and are also currently its chairperson. What are the main objectives of the chapter and why should other MSCA fellows from India join?**

I joined MCAA during my MCA tenure at ISOM, UPM Madrid and became a member of the Spain and Portugal Chapter. After coming back to India, I found no activities from the Indian Chapter, and we only had 28 members. I had a long discussion with the MCAA support team and the board members. I took charge of the Chapter in May 2017 and within less than 1 and half years, we have nearly 300 MCAA chapter members, and are going to be one of the largest MCAA chapters. The MCAA Indian chapter is fully active and most of the members are participating in the proposed activities continuously, by keeping the following objectives:

- Encouraging local networking and establishing mutually-beneficial relationships between the MCAA and its alumni within a defined geographic zone.
- Initiating activities that add value to the Alumni network and input to the general body.
- Recruiting, attracting, supporting and facilitating connections between MC fellows and alumni.
- Sponsoring and supporting activities that will enhance the image of MCAA.

Further, MCAA provides lifetime benefits to all the Marie Curie Fellows in terms of professional development, networking, and cooperation, information on employment opportunities. MCAA also financially supports individual members by offering micro-grants (travel, media, one-world) for their networking, collaborations, and career development purposes.

**MCAA Indian chapter**

MCAA Indian chapter has been a partner of the EURAXESS India ERD 2018 events in Delhi and Bengaluru and the 4<sup>th</sup> Communicating Research out of the lab in Chandigarh.

*“I thoroughly enjoyed my stay as Marie Curie fellow with great scientific success. I did a lot of networking, travelled around Europe, attended several very good international conferences as a speaker [...].”*

**What were the most important experiences that you draw from your time to Europe? And why would you recommend Europe as a research and study destination?**

I thoroughly enjoyed my stay as Marie Curie fellow with great scientific success. I did a lot of networking, travelled around Europe, attended several very good international conferences as a speaker, enjoyed the moments of discussions with all my international friends on various scientific as well as non-scientific issues, and lastly got a more global perspective on research. In Europe one will have a very advanced lab to do research, distinguished faculties to resolve the problems, international friends to keep the world around you exciting, different culture and heritage places in every EU country to discover, and lot more. Therefore, I highly recommend to all the Indian young minds to visit Europe as MSCA fellow.

**Could you kindly share some tip to future applicants to the MSCA IF?**

My suggestions are as follows:

First you should have a very sound and innovative scientific research idea that you would like to pursue.

Make your proposal scientifically clear and strong under the guidance of the professor with whom you are planning to work together. Every point should be addressed as per the application guidelines.

Including partners from the industry is also one advantage.

Last but not least “BELIEVE IN YOURSELF”. Utilize the present to make a better future.



## 4 In case you missed it...

### 4.1 From our Flashnotes (October - December)

*(click on the respective link for more details)*

**Selected News and still open Calls (in order of publication on EURAXESS India website):**

Call: [International Climate Protection Fellowship for young climate experts from developing countries](#)

Call: [EuroTechPostdoc Programme – Call for Applications](#)

News: [2018 Erasmus+ Call and Programme Guide published](#)

Call: [ERC Consolidator Grants Call 2019 Open!](#)

Call: [UK: 11 PhD Positions in Neurodegenerative and Chronic Pain](#)

Call: [The Branco Weiss Postdoc Fellowships - Society in Science](#)

News: [Do you know GERiT? Get to know 25,000 research institutions in Germany](#)

Call: [European Research Council \(ERC\) Proof of Concept Grant](#)

Call: [Innovative training networks \(ITN/MSCA\)](#)

News: [European Innovation Council Pilot](#)

Call: [Cooperation on Research & Innovation between DBT and the EU: 15 new calls open!](#)

Call: [Austria: 3 Month Young Scientists Summer Programme](#)

Call: [NOK 30 millions to joint Indian-Norwegian researcher projects on nanotechnology, microtechnology and advanced materials](#)

Call: [MSCA-RISE Call 2019 now open!](#)

News: [EC's new Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal to replace Participant Portal](#)

News: [MSCA Call Schedule 2019 - 2020](#)

Call: [Are you keen to conduct fundamental research in catalysis? 10 PhD Positions in MSCA funded PARACAT project](#)

Call: [Denmark: 15 AIAS-COFUND Fellowships available](#)

Call: [15 PhD Positions in the MSCA Funded Tesla Project to Develop Space Technologies](#)

Call: [14 PhD Positions at European Universities to Develop New Tools for Biomedical Research](#)

News: [Are You an Entrepreneur Interested in Connecting with the Berlin Start Up Scene?](#)

Call: [Spain: 19 Pre-doctoral fellowships in health, agro food, and nutrition](#)

**Call: [Training the Next Generation of Chromatin Researchers and Science Communicators - 13 PhD Positions Available](#)**

**Call: [MathInParis - PhD Fellowships for a doctoral training programme in Mathematics](#)**

**Call: [Call for Participants, Summer Programs 2019: Training, Conference & 3 Month Research, Basel, Switzerland](#)**

**News: [How to Post a Job on the EURAXESS Portal - Tutorial Now Available](#)**

**News: [MSCA Hosting Offers - Post your offers on the EURAXESS Portal](#)**

**Call: [Towards a next generation influenza vaccine to protect citizens worldwide – an EU-India collaboration](#)**

## 4.2 Event Outlook

Event (click on event title for more details)	Location	Date in 2018/9
<b>1 Europe/Outside India</b>		
<a href="#">50th IFF Spring School Scattering! Soft, Functional and Quantum Materials</a>	Jülich, Germany	11-22 March
<a href="#">ICAS 11 Call for proposals</a>	Leiden, Netherlands	16-19 July
<b>2 India</b>		
<a href="#">International Conference on Advances in Materials Science &amp; Applied Biology (AMSAB)</a>	Mumbai	8-10 January
<a href="#">India m2m + iot Forum</a>	New Delhi	14-15 January
<a href="#">Research Leadership Course organized by Wellcome Trust, DBT India Alliance &amp; EMBO</a>	New Delhi, Hyderabad	18-20 22 March 25-28 March

### About us

**EURAXESS India** is a networking tool for European researchers active in India and for Indian and international researchers wishing to collaborate with and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS 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 Join the EURAXESS India community.

EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist you: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, Korea, and North America (USA and Canada). Additionally, a EURAXESS information website for Australia and New Zealand went online in June 2018.