

Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea for Korean Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe

In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement on the Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of Korea, signed on 22 November 2006¹, as renewed, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Korean researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) (hereinafter referred to as the "Sides").

Research opportunities will be provided in accordance with the terms set out in the Agreement. This Arrangement is not intended to create binding obligations under international law.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides will provide opportunities for the MSIP-supported Career Researchers² and Young Researchers³ to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues already supported through the EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

The two Sides will facilitate the use of the ERC-funded projects to host Korean researchers, initially those already selected for the MSIP's Career Researchers and Young Researchers grants. It is expected that collaborations will occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This collaboration is intended to enable Korean researchers supported by the MSIP Career Researchers grants or recipients of Young Researchers grants to undertake research visits with the ERC-supported European teams.

- (a) MSIP Career Researchers: Single and long-term (e.g., 6~12 months) or multiple short-term visits (e.g., for joint experiments). Research visits should begin at least 12 months prior to the termination date of the MSIP-funded projects. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to jointly determined minimum (e.g., 6 months).
- (b) Young Researchers: Single and long-term research visits (e.g., 6~12 months).

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

The following set of operational steps will be used:

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) solicits expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting Korea-based researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods

The ERCEA sends to the MSIP a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects.

¹ OJ L 106, 24.4.2007, p.44

² Focused on researchers funded by the MSIP Career Researchers grants (Mid-career Researcher Program, Leading Researcher Program)

³ Focused on researchers funded by the MSIP Young Researchers grants

The MSIP informs Career Researchers and Young Researchers of the collaborative opportunity through issuance of a ‘Dear Colleague Letter’ (expression of interest) that describes the goals of the programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers and provides application procedures, eligibility considerations, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate.

The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)⁴ may take on the role as the implementing agency regarding the programmes for the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning.

4. STEERING GROUP

The two Sides set up a Steering Group consisting of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate a limited number of additional participants to the meetings. It will be co-chaired by a representative of the MSIP and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Operational guidance and management plans consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to implement this Arrangement will be adopted by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group will review the activities under this Implementation Arrangement and decide if any adjustment will be necessary on a periodic basis. The Steering Group will meet at least once per year, and its meetings will be held virtually or alternately at the MSIP and the ERCEA headquarters.

5. FUNDING

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side, and to the terms in this Implementing Arrangement.

(a) The MSIP

(1) The MSIP Career Researchers continue to receive visiting-research expenses during the period of the European visit, and their salaries can continue to be covered by the Korean Side, according to their MSIP-supported projects’ terms and conditions or the regulations of their organisation in Korea. Through this collaboration, the MSIP also supports the travel expenses. In case of a long-term visit (6 months or longer), the travel expenses of the accompanying family members can also be covered according to the regulations of his/her organisation in Korea.

(2) The MSIP covers the travel expenses of the Young Researchers. Considering the duration of the visit, the travel expenses of his/her accompanying family members can also be covered, according to the regulations of his/her organisation in Korea.

(b) The ERC

Visiting Korean researchers may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grants, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The costs which can be reimbursed under the ERC

⁴ Specialised agency for management of a variety of MSIP R&D programmes

grant must be eligible within the terms of the grant agreement⁵ and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. Eligible cost categories include:

- (1) For Career Researchers subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host Institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution, commensurate to the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.
- (2) The salary of the visiting Young Researchers, including any applicable social/health coverage expenses, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution.
- (3) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Korean researchers that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

6. DURATION

Cooperation further to this Arrangement is intended to commence from signature and to continue for the remaining duration of the Agreement, unless otherwise terminated by either side upon ninety days written notice to the other side, or sooner by mutual written agreement.

Signed at Brussels on 8 November 2013 in four originals, two in the English language and two in the Korean language.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, ICT
AND FUTURE PLANNING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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⁵ Essentially, this means the costs must be (a) incurred for the sole purpose of meeting the grant's objectives, (b) be incurred during the duration of the project and (c) correspond to the usual management and accounting practices of the host institution of the Principal Investigator.