

**Administrative Arrangement between the European Commission and the  
Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development,  
Research and Innovation (PMU-B), Thailand for PMU-B funded researchers to  
be hosted by European Research Council Grantees in Europe**

An Administrative Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as the "Arrangement") to provide research opportunities in Europe for Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) - funded researchers is established between the European Commission and the PMU-B (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides").

From the European Commission side, the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council (ERC) is intended to perform the tasks specified in this Arrangement. The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields on the basis of scientific excellence.

The Sides understand that the collaboration under this Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of their respective authorities, policies, and legal frameworks.

This Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law, and it has no financial implications.

**1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES**

The Sides intend to provide opportunities specifically for PMU-B - funded researchers to pursue research collaborations with European research teams already supported through the European Union (EU) -funded ERC grants (hereinafter referred to as 'ERC-supported European teams). It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit.

**2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES**

This collaboration is intended to enable PMU-B - funded researchers to carry out research visits with ERC-supported European teams.

The collaboration is intended to enable PMU-B - funded researchers to participate in the ERC-supported European teams through single and long-term (three to a maximum 12 months) visits, or multiple short-term visits (one to three months).

### **3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION**

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used:

- a. The ERCEA would solicit expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) benefitting from ERC grants in cooperating with PMU-B - funded researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.
- b. The ERCEA would send to PMU-B a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between PMU-B and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- c. PMU-B would inform PMU-B - funded researchers, of the collaborative opportunities available, describing the goals of the ERC programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers.
- d. PMU-B would select the PMU-B - funded researchers who would then be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-supported teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC- supported European teams which should be in line with the ERC grant agreement.

### **4. TECHNICAL WORKING MEETINGS**

The Sides intend to have regular technical working meetings with the participation of two representatives from each side. As necessary, each Side may designate additional representatives to the meetings. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the PMU-B and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Best practices consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to collaborate under this Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be stated in the meeting minutes.

During the technical working meetings, the Sides intend to review the activities, under this Arrangement and discuss any adjustment that would be necessary. These meetings are expected to take place at least once per year, and they should be held virtually or, if appropriate, at the PMU-B or the ERCEA premises.

### **5. FUNDING**

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

#### **(1) The PMU-B**

PMU-B would fund up to 10 researchers annually. Travel and living expenses related to the research visits by visiting researchers would be paid by PMU-B based on PMU-B

reimbursement guidelines. PMU-B - funded researchers would be required to obtain approval from the institution they belong to before commencing a collaborative project arrangement with the PI of the ERC funded project.

However, in accordance with the rules that apply to PMU-B grants, the PMU-B-funded researchers and their respective institutions are responsible to ensure that the PMU-B - funded researchers do not charge other expenses to PMU-B grants where these expenses are claimed and covered by the ERC grants of the ERC-supported European teams.

Eligible costs that may be provided by PMU-B include:

- a. Return economy airfare from Bangkok to the location of the ERC project
- b. Living and accommodation costs for the duration of the visit by the PMU-B - funded researcher based on PMU-B guidelines

The salary of the visiting researcher would continue to be paid by the PMU-B - funded researcher's respective institution.

For those ERC-supported European teams which host a PMU-B - funded researcher, PMU-B would also offer funding for the PI of the ERC funded project to visit the PMU-B - funded researcher's university or institute in Thailand for up to one week. PMU-B would cover return economy airfare, accommodation and living costs.

## (2) The ERC

Visiting PMU-B-funded researchers may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institutions of the ERC projects) for the duration of the research 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 ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms can be reimbursed and that the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. The involved PMU-B - funded researchers should be solely in charge of seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under the ERC grant without any involvement of the PMU-B. Subject to the compliance with all the eligibility criteria set out in the ERC grant agreement, eligible cost categories of the Host Institution may include:

- a. For researchers receiving funding from PMU-B, subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other pertinent modality of the Host Institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable to the Host Institution, which may take into account the level of experience of the individual visiting researchers.

- b. Any other eligible costs incurred by the Host Institution during the visit of the researcher that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

## 6. DURATION

Cooperation under this Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time.

Signed at Bangkok on 9 September 2022 in duplicate in the English language.

**For the European Commission**

**For the Program Management Unit for  
Human Resources & Institutional  
Development, Research and Innovation  
(PMU-B), Thailand**



**David Daly**  
Ambassador of the European Union to the  
Kingdom of Thailand



**Prof. Dr. Sompong Klaynongsruang**  
Director