



Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) for Indian Researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe

In line with Article 7 (c) of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India¹ signed on 23 November 2001 and entered into force on 14 October 2002², as renewed³, hereinafter referred to as the 'Agreement', an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Indian researchers and stimulate co-knowledge through co-learning and mentoring, is hereby established between the European Commission and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), hereinafter referred to as the 'Sides'.

Research opportunities are intended to be facilitated in accordance with the terms set out in this Implementing Arrangement.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to facilitate opportunities for Indian researchers receiving competitive funding by the SERB and falling under one of the following categories: the Early Career Researchers, National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates to be supervised by Principal Investigators, for those Indian researcher to pursue research collaboration with researchers already supported through the EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants. It is expected that collaborations will occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This Implementing Arrangement is intended to enable Indian researchers referred to in point 1 above to undertake research visits with the ERC-supported teams in the EU and in the associated countries for developing linkages between researchers as follows for each category of Indian researchers:

- (a) Early 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 Early Career Researchers-funded projects. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to jointly determined minimum (e.g. 6 months).

¹ OJ L 213, 09 08 2002, p.30

² OJ L 32, 07.02.2003, p.12

³ OJ L 171, 01.07.2009 p. 17 and OJ L 260, 07.10.2015, p.18

- (b) National Post-doctoral Fellows: single and long-term research visits (e.g. 6~12 months). The time spent in Europe will be in addition to (rather than in lieu of) their SERB-funded postdoctoral fellowship (usually 2 years in duration).
- (c) Doctoral candidates to be supervised by Principal Investigators: single and long-term research visits (e.g. 6~12 months). Research visits should begin at least 12 months prior to the award of the doctoral title by the Indian University or other academic institution.

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

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

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) would solicit expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting Indian researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.

The ERCEA would send to the SERB a list of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects.

The SERB would inform Early Career Researchers, Mentors of both National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates of the collaborative opportunity through issuance of a '*Dear Colleague Letter*' (or any other type of call for an expression of interest) that describes the goals of the programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the Principal Investigators supported by the ERC and provides application procedures, eligibility considerations, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate. The SERB would also invite Early Career Researchers and Mentors of National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates to communicate directly with the ERC-supported teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC-supported teams.

4. STEERING GROUP

The two Sides intend to 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 should be co-chaired by a nominee of the SERB's Secretary, and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA.

The Steering Group should review the activities under this Implementing Arrangement and indicate if any adjustment by the Sides would be necessary. The Steering Group should meet at least once per year, and its meetings should be held virtually or alternately at the SERB and the ERCEA headquarters.

5. FINANCIAL MODALITIES

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement should be subject to the availability of appropriate funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side. The Sides intend to share costs as follows:

- (a) The SERB:
 - (1) Early Career Researchers will continue to receive SERB funding during the period of the European visit, and their salaries will be covered according to the Early Career

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Researchers award terms and conditions. Through this collaboration, the SERB will also provide support for travel expenses;

- (2) will cover the travel expenses of the National Post-doctoral Fellows;
- (3) will cover the travel expenses of the doctoral candidates.

(b) The ERC:

Visiting Early Career Researchers, National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates can 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. Their costs will be reimbursed from the existing resources of the ERC grant in accordance with the terms of the ERC grant agreement. Subject to the compliance with all the eligibility criteria set out in the ERC grant agreement, eligible costs can include:

(1) For Early Career Researchers, National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates 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) If the stipend of the visiting National Post-doctoral Fellows and/or doctoral candidates is suspended during the period of the visit, a stipend or other compensation of the visiting fellow, 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. In this case no additional subsistence costs, as indicated by point (1) above will be offered to the visiting National Post-doctoral Fellows and/or doctoral candidates.

(3) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Early Career Researchers, National Post-doctoral Fellows and doctoral candidates that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

6. DURATION

Cooperation further to this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides and to continue for the remaining duration of the Agreement unless discontinued by either Side.

Signed in duplicate, in New Delhi on October 2017, in English.

For the European Commission



Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski
Head of the EU Delegation to the
Republic of India

**For the Science and Engineering
Research Board**



Dr Rajiv Sharma
Secretary