



Implementing Arrangement
between
the European Commission
and
Japan Science and Technology Agency

In accordance with Article 4 of the 'Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Japan on cooperation in science and technology' signed on 30th November 2009¹ and entered into force on 29th March 2011, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide opportunities for collaboration between European and Japanese researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) (hereinafter referred to as the "Sides").

In the context of this Implementing Arrangement, both Sides intend to promote researchers' mobility between the European Union and Japan in accordance with the terms set out in the Agreement. They also intend to facilitate this through timely and efficient information exchanges and dissemination of funding opportunities announced by either Side.

This Implementing 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 for Japan-based researchers supported by active JST projects (hereinafter referred to as the "JST researchers")² to pursue research collaboration with European researchers already supported through active EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

It is expected that collaborations should occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/policy/japan_agreement.pdf

² http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/operations/operation_a.html
http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/operations/operation_b.html

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This collaboration is intended to enable JST researchers to carry out single and long-term (3-12 months) or multiple short-term research visits (e.g. for joint experiments) to the ERC-supported European teams.

The ERC grants already provide sufficient flexibility to allow, if necessary, reciprocating visits of the ERC supported Principal Investigator and/or members of his/her team to further enhance the cooperation with the Japanese researchers. The two Sides intend to continue to explore the possibility of attracting and encouraging European researchers to visit Japanese research teams.

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

The Sides intend to use the following set of operational steps:

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

The ERCEA would send to JST 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 JST and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.

JST would inform JST researchers of the collaborative opportunity through issuance of a Letter (or any other type of call for an expression of interest) that describes the goals of this Implementing Arrangement and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers and provides application procedures, eligibility considerations, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate.

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 participants to the meetings. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of JST 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 Implementing Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be stated in the meeting minutes.

The Sides should review the activities under this Implementing Arrangement during the technical working meetings. These are expected to take place at least once per year, and they should be held virtually or alternately at JST or at the ERCEA headquarters.

5. FUNDING

Activities under this Implementing 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) JST

The JST researchers should continue to receive research expenses during the period of the European visit according to their JST-supported projects' terms and conditions and the regulations of their organisation in Japan.

They may be allowed to use their JST-supported projects' fund for the purpose of collaborating with ERC-supported European teams, including the coverage of their travel expenses. However, in accordance with the rules that apply to JST-supported projects they will be required to obtain approval from JST before deciding on the aspects of the collaboration with their European counterparts.

(2) ERC

Visiting JST 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 grants 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 grants have to be eligible within the terms of the grant agreement and the maximum amount of the ERC grants may not be increased for this purpose. Eligible cost categories may include:

(i) 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, which may take into account the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

Alternatively and only if the salary of the JST researchers is suspended during the period of the visit, salary, stipend or other compensation of the visiting researcher 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 cost should be offered.

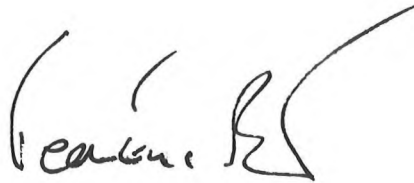
(ii) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of JST researchers that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

6. DURATION

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

Signed at Kyoto International Conference Center, Japan, on October 7th, 2018, in duplicate in the English language.

For the European Commission



Jean-Eric Paquet

Director-General for Research and
Innovation

For Japan Science and Technology
Agency



Michinari Hamaguchi

President