



## European Research Council to visit India to discuss funding opportunities for Indian scientists

New Delhi, 20 May 2016

From 23 to 27 May, the President of European Research Council (ERC), Jean-Pierre Bourguignon will visit India to raise awareness amongst Indian top scientists about funding opportunities in Europe. The ERC supports leading researchers from anywhere in the world by backing their most creative scientific ideas. The [European Research Council](#), set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research.

ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented: *"I am very pleased to visit India again - an extraordinary country with a wealth of highly educated talent and great ambitions in research – this time in my role as ERC President. For the ERC it is key to successfully encourage more scientific exchange between Indian and European top researchers, with the purpose of spurring new ideas and sharing expertise that ultimately will open the way to ground-breaking discoveries."*

Since 2007, the ERC has awarded nearly €11 billion (around INR 82,500 cr) to more over 6,000 scientists and scholars from all over the world, both early-career and senior. Of these, 34 are Indian researchers working in prestigious institutions across Europe. The ERC wishes to see this number increase.

Whilst in India, the ERC will visit several prestigious universities and research institutes in Bangalore and New Delhi (such as the Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research) to present its attractive funding (up to €2.5 million/around INR 18.75 cr per grant) to both researchers and university representatives.

The visit will also be an occasion to foster relations with Indian research funding bodies. The ERC delegation will meet with officials from Indian Ministries such as Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and Department of Biotechnology of the Ministry of S&T (DBT) to discuss ways to promote greater scientific exchange between ERC grantees and Indian researchers.

The ERC President will also participate in the [Global Research Council](#) (GRC) meeting on 26 to 27 May, for the first time held in New Delhi and co-hosted by Indian and British research funding agencies. The GRC is a discussion forum for heads of research funding agencies from around the world to share best practice and learn from each other. The topics of this meeting are interdisciplinarity, and equality and status of women in research.

The visit to India is part of the awareness raising campaign - ERC Open to the World - to promote the ERC to the global scientific community.

## Background

The [European Research Council](#), set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top scientists from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded over 6,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers. On average, each ERC grant holder employs around six team members. An estimate shows that around 17%, or some 6,500 of these team members are nationals of countries outside Europe, of which nearly 1,000 are Indians engaged in ERC projects.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and the ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for years 2014 to 2020 and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas is responsible.

With its new "ERC - Open to the World" slogan, the ERC wants to attract further attention to its funding opportunities in Europe for the brightest minds worldwide, which resonates with the ERC's mission. To encourage global scientific exchange, the ERC has already agreements in place with a number of renowned research funding agencies from outside Europe to provide opportunities in Europe for early-career scientists to temporarily join research teams run by ERC grant holders. [More information](#)

The ERC has three core grant schemes: 'ERC Starting Grants', targeted at early-career emerging research leaders; 'ERC Consolidator Grants', aimed at already independent excellent researchers; and 'ERC Advanced Grants', supporting top senior researchers.

Follow "ERC – Open to the World" twitter campaign: **#ERCworld**

## Links

[ERC website](#) | [ERC funding schemes](#) | Prof. J-P Bourguignon's [biography](#):

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