

EU R&I funding programme 'Horizon 2020'

At EU level, funding of research and innovation is organised under Framework programmes established together with the EU Member States. The Horizon 2020 programme has been designed to deliver results that make a difference to people's lives. It funds many types of activities from frontier science, close-to-market innovation, and from lab to the market.

The current funding programme for research and innovation is called '[Horizon 2020](#)' and was adopted in 2014 for a period of seven years (2014-2020) with a budget of nearly €80 billion. It is structured around three pillars: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges.

It is the biggest publically funded multinational research programme in the world and "Open to the World." This means that researchers, universities, companies and institutes from all over the world are welcome to participate in calls for proposals. India can thus also participate in Horizon 2020 calls and be part of consortia together with European and international partners. Entities from India are, however, not automatically funded by the EU.

The funding opportunities for Indian participants are as follows:

Co-Funding mechanism

In 2016, the European Commission negotiated with the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) a Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM) by which DST and DBT have agreed to fund the successful Indian participants in joint collaboration projects with European partners, subject to certain conditions and in a number of pre-identified calls from the Horizon 2020 Work programmes.

In January 2018, a similar agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

For the modalities and calls in which the **CFM by DBT and MoES** applies, see their respective websites or visit the India Country Page:

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/38741/india-country-page_en

The list of calls to be co-funded by **DST** is also under consideration and should be made available soon.

Joint Calls

In addition to the CFM, in certain areas of mutual interest, the Indian government has also agreed to set up **joint calls**. This is currently the case on Water (call deadline on 27 February 2018). More information on this call is available on

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/sc5-12-2018.html>

Other joint calls may be set up in the course of 2018.

Own funding

For remaining calls of Horizon2020, Indian applicants need to secure their own funding from their Institute, University or Company or any other source (Foundations etc.). Contributions in kind can also be made.

Mobility of scientists

Individual Indian researchers, who are selected for a mobility grant with a European university, will be funded by the EU. This is the case for:

(1) Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions have provided grants to train excellent researchers at all stages of their careers - be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers – while encouraging transnational, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. To date, more than 100,000 researchers have participated in the programme with many more benefiting from it – among them nine Nobel laureates and an Oscar winner. In the last decade, more than 2000 Indians have received a MSCA award.

The MSCA follows a "bottom-up" approach, i.e. individuals and organisations working in any area of research can apply for funding. All research areas can be funded. Fellowships are selected through an open competition and transparent, independent evaluation, using a series of pre-determined criteria in reply to a call for proposal. The different schemes are listed below.

Innovative Training Networks (ITN) (Eligible for EC Funding)	Support for doctoral and early-stage training Training Networks, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates. Details can be found on EURAXESS Jobs
Individual Fellowships (IF) (Eligible for EC Funding)	Support for experienced researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility: European Fellowships and Global Fellowships Dedicated support for career restart and reintegration => <i>next call</i> April 2018 (Participant Portal)
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff => Open now till 21 March 2018 (Participant Portal)
Co-funding of programmes (CO-FUND)	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: => EURAXESS Jobs : doctoral programmes, fellowship programmes

(2) ERC (European Research Council) grants

The ERC grants are an integral part of Horizon 2020 (pillar 1) aimed at funding frontier research.

Indian applicants/Principal Investigators, wherever they reside (already in Europe or in India or abroad), are eligible for an ERC grant provided the research is done in any of the European Institutes: in an EU Member State or [Associated Country](#). Excellence is the sole criterion for selection.

The ERC funds the following type of grants:

- **Starting Grants:** for researchers with 2-7 years of experience since PhD; maximum 1.5 M€ funding.
- **Consolidator Grants:** for researchers with 7-12 years of experience; maximum 2 M€.
- **Advanced Grants:** for leading researchers of any age; maximum 2.5 M€.

More details on different calls opening and closing date can be found on: <https://erc.europa.eu/>

For More Information

The R&I section in the EU Delegation to India continues to regularly update the information available on its homepage and announcing new funding opportunities.

For further enquiries or clarification on EU-India R&I partnership, kindly send an email to the mailbox of the R&I Section in the EU Delegation to India: DELEGATION-INDIA-RI@eeas.europa.eu

EURAXESS India

EURAXESS is a portal by the European Commission to facilitate mobility of researchers. It offers a variety of services like information on the latest funding opportunities, researcher's jobs, and relocation support.

To receive EURAXESS newsletter with latest opportunities on offer from EU and its Member States and Associated Countries, kindly visit <https://cdn3.euraxess.org/worldwide/india>