EURAXESS Links India Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links India, which provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers in India who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

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Please email to india@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

Editor: Ainhitze Bizkarraalegorria Bravo, EURAXESS Links India, Country Representative.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess

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Many of the world’s important inventions originate in Sweden, and the rapid pace of innovation shows no sign of slowing down. The Swedish government continues to invest more than ever in research and innovation. Sweden’s history of recognising and rewarding achievement in research, excellence and innovation is reflected in its status as the home of the Nobel Prize: Sweden itself has produced twenty-nine Nobel Laureates since establishing the prize in 1895.

Swedish science infrastructure is world-class and the synergies generated by the close connection between Swedish universities, research institutes and the private sector further leverage the R&D output. Not only is Sweden home to the largest number of multinational companies per capita, but it also serves as a base for tomorrow’s emerging industries. The Global Innovation Index 2016 (GII) ranks Sweden as the 2nd most innovative country in the world.

- The historic tradition of inventors, a commitment to gender equality, and a strong belief in the individual are key factors for Sweden maintaining its place as one of the world leaders in research and innovation
- Close collaboration between research institutes and the private and public sectors provides a foundation for global Swedish companies and investing in the companies of tomorrow
- Swedish R&D expenditure totals about 3.3% of GDP on average, keeping Sweden topped ranked among the OECD countries. Medicine and bioscience, technology, and climate are examples of areas where Sweden has made strategic investments to build up the cutting edge research of today
- Sweden offers over fifty universities and university-colleges

7 Reasons to choose Sweden for your research experience

1. An innovative and competitive economy
2. Sweden has a long and proud history of academic excellence, with outstanding universities dating back to the 15th century
3. Excellent research infrastructure with continuous investments in cutting edge facilities, including Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab) and the MAX IV Laboratory. Furthermore the European Spallation Source (ESS) and European Incoherent Scatter Radar (EISCAT_3D) are under construction.
4. Higher education and research quality is among the best in the world
5. Open and international climate where influences and competences come together, creating new ideas and solutions
6. Swedish society is known for its inclusiveness and egalitarianism
7. Close cooperation between industry and academia facilitates innovation, a home of trendsetters and early adopters, encouraging new ideas and critical thinking

Research-funding in Sweden

Central government is the largest financier of research at higher education institutions. The most important central government financiers outside the direct government contributions for research and postgraduate education to higher education institutions are the research councils, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems and other research-funding agencies. Funding for research also comes from research foundations, the EU, municipalities and county councils.

Industry invests more than three times as much as central government in research and development. However, almost all of the R&D investment that comes from industry remains within the business sector.

1.1 Research-funding agencies

There are four major research-funding agencies. The largest is the Swedish Research Council, which in 2015 granted about SEK 5.6 billion for basic research in natural sciences, technology, medicine, the humanities and social sciences.

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) supports basic and needs-driven research in the fields of environment, land-based industries and spatial planning. In 2015 Formas distributed about SEK 1.11 billion.

The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) supports and initiates basic and needs-driven research in the fields of health and health care, labour, and welfare including the social services and social relations. In 2016 Forte distributed SEK 600 million.

The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA) distributed about SEK 2.6 billion in 2015, primarily to needs-driven research in the fields of technology, transport, communications, health and working life.
In addition to the agencies mentioned above, several other agencies fund research in various areas. In these cases it is common that a lesser amount of the agency's appropriation goes to research funding.

1.2 Research foundations

A number of foundations that fund research were established in the mid-1990s using capital from the former wage earner investment funds. These foundations are the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF), the Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA), the Knowledge Foundation (KK), the Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

Support from public research foundations is an important addition to central government investments in research. It is estimated that these foundations will have invested almost SEK 1.3 billion in research in 2015.

The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (RJ) is yet another foundation which was created with public funding and which supports research in Humanities and Social Sciences.

1.3 Private research funders

Many private financiers also give significant amounts to research. These include the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, which in 2015 distributed SEK 1.7 billion. Over the last five years, almost SEK 4 billion has been awarded to scientific research and education at higher education institutions and academies. In addition, the Swedish Cancer Society distributed SEK 385 million in 2016 for research in its field.

1.4 Income received by higher education institutions for research and development

The revenue received by higher education institutions for research and development totalled SEK 36.6 billion in 2015. This is an increase of around SEK 1.6 billion, or 4.5 per cent, in fixed prices compared with Statistics Sweden's analysis of the revenues of 2013. Both direct government appropriations and higher education institution revenues from external financiers have increased. Public funding accounted for over 80 per cent of these revenues.

Just under half of the total funds come from direct appropriations for research and postgraduate studies at higher education institutions. Remaining funds come from external financiers, both public and private, usually through competitive calls for proposals come from external financiers, both public and private.

For more information and enquiries

EURAXESS Sweden: www.euraxess.se/
The Swedish Research Council: www.vr.se/en
Vinnova: www.vinnova.se/en
Research and Innovation Cooperation with India

The nodal agencies for research and innovation collaboration under the MoU on Science & Technology between Sweden and India are VINNOVA and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). In addition, several other funding agencies from the two countries have engaged in joint calls for proposal.

VINNOVA and DST have had two calls for joint research projects in the field of embedded systems in 2010 and 2015.

VINNOVA and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) had a call for joint research projects in e-Health in 2008 and in this programme two 3-year projects were selected for funding between 2009 and 2012. The Swedish Research Council signed an agreement with DST in January 2013 for a joint research programme. The programme covered all disciplines within medicine, natural sciences, and engineering sciences. A second call was made in the areas of “e-Science for life science” and “Antimicrobial resistance in a one Health perspective”. Out of 35 applications 12 were selected for funding from 2017.

The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and Earth System Science Organisation (Government of India) signed a Letter of Intent for mutual collaboration in polar and ocean research in 2015.

Under the Renewable Energy MoU the Swedish Energy Agency has funded researchers to work on micro grids, where the geographical focus is on the Andaman Islands. The aim is to replace diesel generators by environmental friendly solar power distributed in micro grids. The work is done in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Government of India).
2 Hot topic l Launch of the EURAXESS Portal l Interview with Mr Notis Pikros Technical Responsible - New Portal

Notis, you and your team have been working very hard to design the new EURAXESS portal that has recently been launched. In a nutshell, which are the most important features of this new portal?

Job opportunities, funding as well as personalised services and training are known to be fundamental to a successful research career. At EURAXESS we have adapted to the ever-growing needs of the research landscape by redesigning the EURAXESS portal, a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses to interact with each other.

On the new EURAXESS portal, researchers, research institutions and companies will be pleased to find a consistent palette of new and improved functionalities designed especially for them. To mention a few, we have a responsive design: the EURAXESS platform will adapt to any type of device from mobile to tablet and desktop. The portal will also address to two new target groups: entrepreneurs and businesses.

Another very important aspect of the revamped portal will be a new type of offer. Aside from job opportunities, visitors to the portal will be able to search for funding, hosting, internship and training offers! Moreover, the new EURAXESS dashboard/private area has been especially designed to match registered users with the best collaboration, job and hosting opportunities. The search functionality has been improved to allow for both free text and pre-defined search, all this in order to guarantee a better search experience.

Last but not least, the brand new collaboration tool called “Partnering” will help people and organisations connect, while the Science4Refugees Research Buddy Programme will support refugee scientists in finding European researchers to discuss problems, find solutions and study together, by matching their research field, scientific studies and interests.

In a nutshell, it has been quite a ride! We've surely enjoyed the process, we've gained a lot of experience along the way and we are now extremely proud to have launched this portal.

As a researcher how can the portal help me find a research position? Or a research funding opportunity?
If you are a researcher looking for a job or funding opportunity in Europe, EURAXESS is the best place to start your search! At EURAXESS, researchers will be able to browse through a collection of thousands of research related job vacancies as well as funding opportunities. The search for offers does not necessarily require registration, meaning that researchers will be able to search for opportunities in a free and easy way without having to create a profile. Both the job and the funding offers are accessible via the pre-defined search functionality (at the top of the EURAXESS homepage), the JOBS & FUNDING section, or the free text search functionality (at the top right hand side of the homepage menu). Once the researcher has found the offer suiting him/her the most, he/she can apply by following the instructions under the "Apply" button.

It is important to note that the institutions publishing on EURAXESS will provide the necessary details for application (e.g. e-mail address, website etc.) but the application itself will always happen outside the EURAXESS portal.

Apart from searching for offers, we also invite researchers to edit/upload their CV at EURAXESS, thus making it available to the thousands of potential recruiters registered in our database.

Last but not least, another very important aspect of the EURAXESS initiative, that I would like to stress is that once the researcher has found his/her dream job, he/she can beneficiate from the free, personalised assistance of the EURAXESS Centres, a network of more than 500 units spread across Europe that assist researchers relocate to a foreign country for their new assignment. Researchers can also access the EURAXESS Career Development Centres which are ready to support them with regards to their career development.

Can I use the portal to find international research collaborators for my research project? How so?
Absolutely! We are extremely proud to introduce the PARTNERING section as part of the new portal. This is a tool specially designed to help our visitors - whether they are researchers, entrepreneurs, research institutions/universities or businesses – connect and collaborate. PARTNERING will allow all registered users to search for both individuals and research organisations/businesses, as well as look for CVs.

Is the portal open to universities and research institutes? What about companies?
Yes, all that and more! The new EURAXESS portal addresses four target groups – out of which two are new. They are researchers, entrepreneurs (new), universities/research institutes, and businesses (new). Universities/research institutes and businesses will be able to post job, funding and hosting opportunities, find the best talent by browsing through the collection of CVs, as well as search for funding opportunities and collaborators.

How can companies use the portal to recruit research talent?
Businesses that have created a profile on EURAXESS will be able to post their research vacancies and will have access to the collection of CVs in the EURAXESS database. Moreover, adverts published on EURAXESS will also be
displayed on one of the 40 national EURAXESS web sites and on Science AAAS, AlumniPortal.de and Career edu, with whom we mutually exchange job vacancies on a daily basis.

**Please tell us more about the section of the portal focused on entrepreneurs.**

Indeed, entrepreneurs are one of EURAXESS' new target groups. The new EURAXESS portal offers entrepreneurs with great ideas the possibility of finding partners in business and academia to help them get started, to develop their project, as well as access to the EURAXESS funding database and information about EU funded programs.

**Does it cost me to join the portal?**

No, registration is free. EURAXESS is a pan-European initiative and all available services are free of charge.

**How do I join the portal and the EURAXESS community?**

In order to join the EURAXESS community and benefit from the extensive and ever-growing range of free services EURAXESS has to offer, you will need to register an account via the LOGIN/REGISTER section. Once you have registered you will be welcomed to your own EURAXESS private area which is where you manage your profile, offers, CV data, and much more. Registration is quick and simple and we warmly invite you to register now, and you will have your own EURAXESS account in no time!

In early 2017 you will receive an email from us with instructions on how to make sure that your membership is not discontinued in the new EURAXESS Portal.
3 In Focus I Meet Martine Reicherts, Director-General DG Education and Culture, European Commission I On Erasmus+ and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Martine Reicherts began her career as a lawyer in Luxembourg. She joined the European institutions in 1984 and has worked in a wide range of senior positions, mainly within the European Commission – the executive branch of the EU.

In September 2015, Martine was appointed Director-General at EAC, overseeing the Commission’s policies in education, culture, youth, languages, and sport. She is responsible for strategic management of various flagship European programmes, including Erasmus+, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and Creative Europe, which together have a total annual budget of some €3.5 billion.

Directorate-General Education and Culture (EAC) plays a key role in putting European Union (EU) policy into practice, contributing in particular to developing a knowledge-based Europe and reconciling a competitive economy with an inclusive society. EAC uses EU flagship programmes, particularly Erasmus+ and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), to foster equity and excellence in education, cross-border cooperation and cross-fertilisation between education, research and innovation. Mobility of individuals is a key component.

Q: What does the Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC) of the European Commission have to offer researchers and HEIs outside Europe?

A: Erasmus+ has four main actions offering opportunities for students, researchers and university staff. They are fully funded by the EU and provide good conditions for those selected.

‘International credit mobility’ allows higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop partnerships for mobility of students, researchers and staff between ‘Programme’ and ‘Partner’ countries. The Programme countries are the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; all other countries are Partner countries. The mobility project is on the basis of bilateral agreements setting out the mobility flows between the HEIs involved.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) are high-quality and highly integrated international Master degree programmes, with EU-funded scholarships attracting the brightest students worldwide. Three Programme country HEIs must be involved but there are also opportunities for HEIs from any country to join consortia offering EMJMDs.

Cooperation projects allow for capacity-building in higher education, meaning EU-funded support to modernise and reform higher education institutions and systems in eligible Partner countries. High income and industrialised countries (such as Japan, Singapore, the USA or Canada) are not eligible for this action.

Jean Monnet activities develop excellence in teaching and research in EU or European integration studies worldwide. This may be of particular interest to
EURAXESS Links readers as a special budget is earmarked this year for applicants from a small number of countries including India and Japan.

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)* focus on research excellence, starting with doctoral training but including individual projects for experienced researchers. The programme supports research projects which implement the triple "I" dimension (International, Inter-sectorial and Inter-disciplinary). It covers all disciplines and is also open to non-academic partners, such as industry, libraries, hospitals, etc. Within Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), MSCA will support 65,000 researchers including 25,000 doctoral candidates.

Ms Martine Reicherts, what brought you to India in November 2016? What actions does DG EAC have to promote EU education and research programmes outside Europe?

What brought me to India was the FICCI higher education summit and exhibition. India used to be the biggest single beneficiary of our worldwide cooperation and mobility programme but numbers seem to have been falling since we consolidated our different programmes. I wanted to come to find out why and the opportunity offered at the FICCI summit to speak with the AIU, UGC and the vice chancellors of all the major Indian universities under one roof seemed ideal. What I discovered was that India as a whole is not fully aware of what Europe is offering and how HEIs can get involved. What I plan to do is to continue our information campaign through high-level conferences and individual workshops and seminars in cities across the country. We know we need to get outside the capital and spread the benefits in such a diverse and vibrant country. When we cannot be there in person, we are using webinars and social media to inform people about our programmes, as well as mainstream publications. EURAXESS Links is another important link in that chain.

How does DG EAC promote European integration studies and research abroad?

DG EAC promotes European integration studies and research worldwide through *Jean Monnet activities,* part of the Erasmus+ programme. Jean Monnet activities also foster dialogue between the academic world and policymakers. Professors in subject areas related to the European integration process (typically law, economics, social sciences, international relations, or history, but also less traditional areas such as medicine or hard sciences) can apply for a Jean Monnet grant to support specific activities.

As I said before, the EU relies on webinars, mass and social media, conferences, workshops and fairs to reach out to target audiences but word of mouth is equally important. A researcher or academic explaining to colleagues and peers how to apply, what the scope for activities is and what benefits these can bring in terms both of funding and visibility, can be a great ambassador for us.

Our message should be this: ‘Jean Monnet’ can help develop Indian expertise in areas which improve understanding, enhance cooperation and indirectly boost trade with the EU. Moreover, there is a Jean Monnet project just beginning on cultural analysis and European identity. With this, India moves with the EU into

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**Calendar of open actions:**

1. **Erasmus+**
   - *International Credit Mobility*
     - Closes: 2 February 2017 at 12:00 Brussels time (for projects starting on 1 June 2017)
   - *Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees*
     - Closes: 16 February 2017 at 12:00 Brussels time (for projects starting between August and October 2017)
   - *Capacity Building in Higher Education*
     - Closes: 9 February 2017 at 12:00 Brussels time (for projects starting in October 2017)
   - *Jean Monnet activities*
     - Closes: 23 February 2017 at 12:00 Brussels time (for projects starting on 1 September 2017)
the realms of global citizenship and social integration which are so vital everywhere in today’s world as we all face up to migrant and refugee challenges and the rise in extremist ideologies and acts of terrorism.

Under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), organisations from so-called developed or emerging economies countries outside of Europe are not eligible for direct funding (as in other programmes of Horizon 2020). This includes countries like US, China but also India. Yet, MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), the most popular MSCA funding scheme in many of the EURAXESS Links (renamed EURAXESS Worldwide with the new portal)countries, allows some funding to go to the Japanese institutions (not directly, but through the agreement they have with the project leader institution in Europe). Could you tell us how Indian institutions could benefit from MSCA programmes, i.e. RISE action?

Indeed, some countries do not receive direct funding under Horizon 2020 because of their advanced economic development allowing them to financially support their own organisations. However, there are exceptions and programmes like MSCA offer much more than just financing: enabling access to networks of European institutions collaborating at the highest level of research excellence. This can give a new dimension to research, not only at academic institutions but also in industry.

In Japan, HEIs cannot (legally speaking) setup courses or programmes with more than one other HEI (even within Japan). Therefore JMDs are quite difficult to setup since they require two or more European HEIs at least. But there is an alternative to that through the use of the bilateral action International Credit Mobility under Erasmus+. Could you tell us more about how it works, and what are its main specificities?

We are very aware that different countries have different approaches and different traditions but what we want to see overall is an ever-closer recognition of diplomas and credits for periods of study spent abroad. In the case of the Erasmus Mundus joint degrees, our basic rules are based on the higher degree of academic cooperation existing in Europe, where we have close links between HEIs and a ‘European Higher Education Area’ which provides comparable learning outcomes and academic certificates. If the legal structure in a non-European Partner Country does not allow its HEIs to join EMJMD consortia, it is possible to use the ‘international credit mobility’ route to establish cooperation and mobility flows with the Erasmus+ Programme Countries. For students, this can mean periods of study of 3-12 months in Europe which must be recognised as part of their home degree programmes – we are talking about any level of study here, undergraduate, graduate or even doctoral, and there are opportunities for staff including postdocs to spend 1 week to 2 months in a partner HEI. The arrangements are made between the HEIs but there is almost limitless scope.

Participation of women in Erasmus+ and MSCA actions: Which percentage of the total Erasmus Mundus grantees and Marie Curie Actions (2007-2013)
are female? What is DG EAC doing to attract promising female students and researchers?

We do not set quotas but we do encourage consortia selecting students for scholarships to take gender and geographical balance into consideration and Erasmus+ also makes special provision for certain disadvantaged groups so that access reaches beyond the privileged few. Just to give one indication, last year there were 1347 Master students selected from over 24,250 applications. 673 of these were men, 674 were women, although there were actually more than 14,250 male applicants and only 10,000 female. In MSCA, the share of female researchers is just under 40%, which is relatively good, taking into account that women account for just 33% of the research population in Europe.

Before we close this interview, do you have any tips for potential Higher Education Institutions in EURAXESS Worldwide (EURAXESS Links before the new portal) countries wanting to apply for an Erasmus+, Jean Monnet or a Marie Skłodowska-Curie call? Where can they look for European partners?

Yes. I would say that there is real competition for Erasmus+ funding because it achieves what it sets out to do: develop innovative approaches and support modernisation and internationalisation of higher education, and support the best students, researchers and staff worldwide. But the EURAXESS Links countries are the ones with highly developed HEIs and highly qualified researchers, meaning both Europe and our Partner Countries can benefit from the contacts. Putting together a good proposal takes time and effort but success is not only its own reward, it is a well-funded step ahead in this inter-connected and fast-changing world. European partners are also looking for opportunities to develop cooperation and close partnerships, whether through personal contacts made at seminars or conferences or previous joint activities, including via EURAXESS and the Participant Portal. These days, higher education and research are serious businesses: they are our future and that of all our young people and creative minds. And so, supported by our EU programmes, they deserve all the time and effort we can make together.

Thank You Director-General Martine Reicherts and

Congratulations for Marie Curie’s – now renamed Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions’ (MSCA) 20th Anniversary!
4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (October-December)
(click on the respective link for more details)

Still open:

Open Call - “MOVE-IN Louvain” Incoming post-doc Fellowships 2017 – BELGIUM

iPODI I Call coming for outstanding female researchers! – GERMANY

MSCA-ITN: MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORKS

MSCA-RISE-2017: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

DBT-EU: 10 new Calls for Proposals under Horizon 2020

Indo-Swedish Call for proposals in the field of Ageing and Health (ICMR-FORTE)

DBT-VINNOVA, Sweden Joint call for proposals in the field of Health

PRoF Award for innovative projects in healthcare applications - Call for candidates 2017

Global Health Summer Program in Israel - Scholarships Available!

ERC Consolidator Grants

India-UK Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme - Joint Request For Proposals (RFP) 2016

Indo-German Science & Technology Centre Call for Proposal 2016

Funding Opportunities issue November & December 2016

4.2 Event Outlook (October-December)

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<th>Event (click on event title for more details)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date (2017)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6.1 Europe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Events announced under Horizon 2020 website</td>
<td>Check link</td>
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<td>The website includes information on the Information Days by the European Commission and Brokerage events</td>
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<td><strong>6.2 India</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The new calendar will be published in a Flashnote in early 2017</td>
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