

**Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 2
2018**

EURAXESS India Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS 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.

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EURAXESS INDIA

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Iceland, The Quick Facts

Country Size:
103,000 sq.km

Population
338,000 (2017)
10.6% are foreign-born

Language
Icelandic
English is widely-spoken

Capital
Reykjavik

Median Age
36.3

Currency
Icelandic Króna (ISK)

Economy
GDP Per Capita
73,092 USD/person (2017)
Unemployment Rate
2.9% (2017)

To learn more about our unique little island visit <http://iceland.is> .

1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: ICELAND

Located in the North-Atlantic Ocean close by the Arctic Circle, Iceland is very much a bridge between continents. It takes approximately five hours to fly from New York to Reykjavík, and three hours from London.

Iceland is a progressive, modern society that continuously ranks at the top of measurements for quality of life, such as the United Nations Human Development Index. Its economy is one of the most productive economies in the world, per-capita, and it is annually considered to be one of greenest countries on the planet, due in large parts to its vast renewable energy resources.

The Icelandic system of research and development is a multilevel system with a dispersed decision-making structure. It has a number of fully-fledged research institutions, essential funds and a strong force of well-trained scientists, and covers all major fields in science and technology. Icelandic scientists face a challenging task of maintaining the quality and range of research activities. Concentration of research in key areas is important in order to optimize resources.

1.1 Icelandic S&T Policy and Strategy

The Science and Technology Policy Council is responsible for setting public policy in matters of science and technology in Iceland. Its role is to support scientific research, science education and technological development in Iceland so as to strengthen the foundations of the Icelandic culture and increase the competitiveness of the economy. The Science and Technology Policy Council operates pursuant to Act No 2/2003. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and its members include the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister of Education, Science and Culture, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation as well as 16 representatives nominated by different ministries and higher education institutions and by the social partners. In addition, the chair may appoint up to four other ministers to the Council. The Council sets the official science and technology policy for a three-year period.



The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS) supports research, research studies, technical development and innovation in Iceland. RANNIS operates under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and cooperates closely with the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council providing professional assistance regarding the preparation and implementation of science and technology policy in Iceland. RANNIS administers competitive funds and strategic research programmes, coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in collaborative international projects in science and technology and promotes public awareness of research and innovation in Iceland.

SNAPSHOT



Finding New Enzymes in Sea Cucumbers

Varsha A. Kale (India)

Dr Kale finished her PhD in Medicine from the University of Iceland in 2014. During her studies she won a special grant for a project that aims at isolating carbohydrates in Sea Cucumbers as well as developing sea bacteria that help with that process. She successfully found several of these type of sugars and enzymes and showed that they have biological functions including immunomodulation. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute Matis [\[source\]](#).



Funding

THE ICELANDIC RESEARCH FUND (IRF) is an open competitive research fund that supports scholarly research and postgraduate research education in Iceland. To this end, the IRF supports clearly defined research projects of individuals, research groups, universities, research institutes and private enterprises. IRF shall award grants in accordance with the general emphases of the Science and Technology Policy Council and based on an expert assessment of the quality of research projects, the capability of the individuals carrying out the proposed research and their ability to devote time and effort to the project.

The Technology Development Fund is a public, competitive fund that supports innovation and technology development projects. The role of the fund is to support research and development activities, which aim towards innovation in Icelandic industry and increased competitiveness of the Icelandic economy. The fund supports projects along the R&D&I value chain from applied research projects, development of start-up companies, to the first steps into marketing. The fund operates according to the policy of The Science and Technology Policy Council, which role is to promote scientific research and research training in the sciences and encourage technological progress in Iceland.

1.2 Icelandic Research and Innovation institutions

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies was established in 2006 with the merger of several Icelandic institutes in the field. The



RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

[University of Iceland](#)

The University of Iceland is a research university and places great emphasis on quality in research. The university operates dozens of research institutions and centre.

[Reykjavik University](#)

Reykjavik University has a clear and progressive research strategy,

[University of Akureyri](#)

Research is one of the fundamental aspects of the University of Akureyri.

[Bifrost University](#)

[The Agricultural University of Iceland](#)

[Iceland Academy of the Arts](#)

[Holar University College](#)

institute is located in Reykjavík and has the role of preserving and studying medieval Icelandic manuscripts and disseminating knowledge to the scientific community and public at large about the its research in Icelandic studies, history, langue and literature as well as preserve and augment the collections within its care.

Matis Ltd. is an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute founded in 2007. For years, Matis has been considered a valuable partner in multiple, miscellaneous projects and has played a leading role in large international projects with some of the largest food and ingredient companies in the world. Matis employs around 100 staff in offices, laboratories or Food Innovation Centres located in cities or towns around Iceland. Matis' turnover in 2014 was around \$11.3 million USD, of which approximately 35% comes from international cooperation.



Iceland GeoSurvey is a self-financing, state-owned, non-profit institution established in 2003. It is based on seven decades of continuous experience in the field of geothermal and hydropower research and development. During this period Iceland GeoSurvey has provided consulting, training, and scientific services to the Icelandic power industry and the Icelandic government, and to numerous foreign companies and governments all over the world. Although the focus is on geothermal exploration, development, and utilization, Iceland GeoSurvey's experience covers many other geoscience-related fields as well, including groundwater studies, marine geology, and environmental monitoring.



The Icelandic Meteorological Office IMO is a governmental institution under the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. The research focus of IMO is on weather and climate, atmospheric processes, glacier and avalanche studies, hydrological systems, earthquake and volcanic processes and geohazards. IMO also focuses on research in multi-parameter geophysical monitoring to develop more accurate forecasts of hazardous events. IMO has participated in several European and Nordic funded research projects, having the role of lead partner in many of them.



Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) is a government institute under the auspices of the Ministry of Industries and Innovation. The institute employs around 190 staff, operates 2 research vessels and 10 branches around the country, including an aquaculture experimental station. MFRI is leading in marine and freshwater research in Icelandic territories and the arctic, providing advice on sustainable use and protection of the environment. The main research priorities are research on marine and freshwater ecosystems, sustainable exploitation of main stocks, ecosystem approach to fisheries management, research on fishing technology and seafloor and habitat mapping. MFRI is highly regarded in the scientific community and is therefore a valuable research partner, active at an international level with a strong infrastructure and high quality equipment. MFRI is an appealing work place with progressive human resources policy



OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTES

SORRY I cannot add a comment here... please check all links. some do not work. all links checked and renewed if necessary ☺

[Landspítali - University Hospital](#)

[Icelandic Institute of Natural History](#)

[Innovation Center Iceland](#)

[National Energy Authority of Iceland](#)

[Nordvulk - The Nordic Volcanological Centre](#)

[The Science Institute - University of Iceland](#)

[Institute for Experimental](#)

to strengthen the institute's competitiveness and an effective gender equality policy.

1.3 Study in Iceland

Study in Iceland is a service housed within the Icelandic Center for Research. The new website, <http://study.iceland.is>, was launched in 2017 brings together information and resources for international students interested at studying at one of Iceland's seven universities. The website is run in collaboration with Íslandsstofa (Promote Iceland) and provides information on university education, Icelandic as a foreign language, summer schools, life in Iceland, and a practical guide for applicants and foreign students. Study in Iceland also provides advice and signposting to services through e-mail or phone for interested parties.

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries, of which we will profile one in our monthly EURAXESS India e-newsletter. Here we focus on Hungary.



1.4 Important information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Iceland



The Icelandic Centre for Research is the coordinator of EURAXESS in Iceland and the EURAXESS Bridgehead organization. RANNIS coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in international cooperation in science, education and culture and interacts with corresponding agencies and research councils in other countries and provides assistance to incoming researchers with advice on daily life and formalities of moving to Iceland. The EURAXESS network in Iceland is quite small as it consists of three members in the country: in addition to RANNIS the University of Iceland and the University of Reykjavík are established as EURAXESS contact points.

The country briefing on Iceland has been prepared by EURAXESS Iceland and EURAXESS China.

Section based on an interview made by EURAXESS ASEAN.

2 Hot topic | How to find European Partners for Horizon 2020 Research Consortia by Dr. Corina Abraham-Barna, MSCA National Contact Point

Dr Corina Abraham-Barna who elucidates how to find European Partners for Horizon 2020 (H2020) Research Consortia, will be conducting two training sessions on MSCA-Individual Fellowships at the European Research Day (ERD) 2018-Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India! event (see more under 4.2. Event Outlook)

How can a lab or a research group in India become involved in an H2020 research consortium?

*The best way to build a project consortium is to **use one's professional and personal connections**, and subsequently to develop the network, based on the specific roles to be played in the project by all partners. As researchers, we are constantly collaborating with peers from other countries. This group of people should be the first network to be mobilised when looking for collaborators to join or form an H2020 consortium. However, researchers should also reach out beyond their personal connections to those colleagues whose work they draw on and with whom they share common research interests. Researchers in Asia should not hesitate to can get in direct contact with their Europe contacts, asking them if they are interested to be involved in a specific call for proposals.*

*On the other hand, structuring a good consortium also means adhering to the principles of **complementarity and interdisciplinarity**, as every institution needs to fulfil specific tasks in the project. Building a consortium for a project is like reconstructing a jigsaw, where the pieces are not the same, but they need to fit together in a way that ensures all work packages and tasks described in the call details are covered. So, we need to involve not only colleagues from our field, but also complementary research teams.*

In the frame of the Horizon 2020 programme (H2020), it is a compulsory requirement that collaborative research projects involve at least 3 participants from 3 different EU Member States or Associated Countries. Once this basic requirement has been fulfilled, additional partners from non-European countries – for example, research players based in India – can join the consortium. Be sure to check the eligibility for funding of your country in [Annex A of the Work Programme](#).

Which attributes should a good research partner have?

*Since the **three evaluation and award criteria of Horizon 2020 proposals are excellence, impact as well as quality and efficiency of the***



Prof. [Corina Georgeta ABRAHAM-BARNA](#) is member of the network of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points. She has 20 years' work experience in Higher Education and Research and 13 years' work experience in International Relations.

Prof. [Corina Georgeta ABRAHAM-BARNA](#) will be the trainer at the [European Research Day](#) 2018 taking place in Bangalore 26 September and Delhi 28 September.

implementation, high levels of scientific expertise and experience of the core partners are essential, and their excellence must be described in the proposal.

When choosing partners for a research consortium it is important to first get a clear understanding of the project goals. As a second step it is essential to carefully define the activities which are necessary to accomplish these goals and to group them into so-called work packages, for example management, experimental activities, dissemination etc. The work packages can then be divided into different tasks with specific activities and assigned to the different partners of the consortium. It goes without saying that the **partners should be chosen based on their ability to accomplish the tasks set out in the project.**

Research actors from academia and industry, including SMEs, but also NGOs can be partners of a research consortium. Most importantly, all partners need to be reliable and committed to the project and their obligations. Each partner should bring to the project excellent skills in a particular scientific field. While it is not obligatory, an ideal consortium partner already has previous experience in EU projects or international research cooperation. The partners within your research consortium should be well balanced in terms of geographical spread, expertise and type of organisation (Academia, Research centres, Industry, SMEs etc.). A fully integrated and balanced team should have a critical mass of research staff, a clearly described complementarity of the different partners, with a clear designation of roles and functions that rules out overlap or duplication. With regards to ensuring the societal impact of the research project being carried out, the consortium should carefully consider involving SMEs, consumer organisation, or associations etc.

When deliberating whether to choose partners from existing contacts or to approach new ones it is important to assess the following pros and cons. Existing contacts are likely most effective, most reliable and most predictable given a history of previous collaborations. However, past collaborators may at times be less suitable for a new project, especially when looking for complementary skills. New contacts may be a greater risk but may be a better option when looking for complementary skill sets in the different partners.

How could researchers in India build up their research network? Can you share some tips?

The European Commission provides a large number of **networking opportunities for research actors**. [The Participant Portal offers a partnering tool](#). Representatives of the European Commission, often in partnership with EURAXESS Worldwide, are frequently organising H2020 Info Days, project writing workshops and brokerage or match making events. **Networking events are important for finding partners**. Make sure to join your respective [EURAXESS Worldwide](#) network to stay updated on upcoming events and opportunities.

Researchers should make use of the scientific events they attend for networking purposes. Remember to be pragmatic and speak to colleagues at conferences and events; invite them to join a new project and communicate your interest to join their projects as well. When attending scientific events, do make sure to come prepared with a clear idea of your objectives. Preparing an 'elevator pitch' (a very short oral presentation) could be crucial in securing interest of potential new partners for your project. Make use of those discussions during the coffee break and always follow up with an email.

It is important to continue investing in the relationship with your research partners even after the project has been completed. Do make sure you remain visible as a reliable partner.

Are there any platforms or tools that researchers in India should consult to find European research partners?

The H2020 project management tool is the [Participant Portal](#), which includes a [Partner Finding Tool](#).

The [Projects & Results Service CORDIS](#) is another extremely useful database of institutions and/or research consortia that have successfully participated in previous projects funded by Horizon 2020 (or any of the previous funding programmes).

Moreover, a new tool for finding partners for concrete calls has recently been created. On every call page, potential applicants will now find a **Call for Partner Search**, where organisations are expressing their interest in collaborating with other researchers in this specific topic. Interested research actors can publish their partner requests for open and forthcoming topics after logging into the Participant Portal.

Please let me emphasise that individual researchers wishing to submit proposals to specific calls need to create a [personal profile on the Participant Portal](#). Institutions intending to participate in projects are required to create a unique organisation profile to receive a **PIC number - unique identifier for organisations**. This is a 9-digit number which institutions will receive after registering the organisation in the [Beneficiary Register](#). Please do check whether your organisation has already been registered by using the [PIC search form](#). If this is the case, there is no need to register it again.

Please do also make use of the EURAXESS website which offers a [partner finding tool](#).

What would be your advice to junior researchers looking for a supervisor in Europe to host their MSCA fellowship?

The [EURAXESS Portal](#) is an important tool for institutions and researchers who are looking for collaborators. Registration is free of charge and allows access to a growing global network of mobile researchers. European institutions are posting their [offers to host an MSCA fellow](#) on the EURAXESS Portal.

The network of the National Contact Points for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA NCPs) are also offering support in finding a European host and partner. You can find 'Expressions of Interest' (EOI) for researchers who are looking for a partner institution for MSCA projects, or for host institution for MSCA fellowships or MSCA fellowship positions [published on their website](#).

Which would be the steps for being involved in a H2020 research project?

The first step is to search the H2020 [Participant Portal](#) for a suitable call for proposals.

Once you have selected a call make sure to carefully study the call description, terms of reference and all related documents. Do make use of the [H2020 Online Manual](#), a detailed guide on the formal procedures starting from proposal submission to grant management.

After identifying a suitable call for proposals, the second step is to find project partners or to apply as an individual. Make use of the different [partner search services](#) in finding partner organisations.

The third step is to [create an individual account on the Participant Portal](#).

The fourth step is to register your organisation. Start by checking first on the [Organisation Register page](#) if your organisation is already registered. Only if you do not find your organisation there, you should start its registration by clicking on the Register Organisation button.

Step Five is step is to submit your project proposal to the European Commission. To submit your project proposal, you need to go to the section **Electronic Proposal Submission** on a specific Topic page **that belongs to a call**. You need to be logged in with your Participant Portal account to start filling in standard forms and to submit your proposal.

If you are invited by the coordinator to join a project proposal, you need to create a personal profile, and to send to the coordinator the email address used for your Participant Portal profile and the PIC number of your institution.

Are there other opportunities for researchers in India to develop their competencies in European projects?

As individuals, a researcher can join the database of independent experts. The European Commission frequently appoints [independent experts](#) to assist with assignments that include the evaluation of proposals, the monitoring of projects, the evaluation of programmes, and the design of policy. The opportunity to become an expert is open to any researcher with a high level of expertise in his or her relevant fields and with the flexibility to be involved in occasional, short-term assignments. Participation in the evaluation process will be financially compensated and is usually done online; at times there may be a meeting held in Brussels, Belgium.



3 In Focus | Interview with Dr. Matthew DiFranco – Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)

EURAXESS North America: Could you tell our readers a bit about your research background and what are you working on right now?

Born and raised in New Jersey, I did my undergraduate degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After 3 years as an IT consultant, I moved to London in 2003 with the intention of completing a 1-year master's program in Computer Science at University College London, and then going back to the US. But then life happened, and after 2 more years at UCL as a research assistant, I moved to Dublin for a PhD program in Computer Science at University College Dublin. During my PhD, the economy crashed in Ireland (and pretty much everywhere else). I spent two months in Vienna for a summer school and lab visit in 2008, where I developed a collaboration at the Medical University of Vienna (MUW) which would lead to my application for a Marie Curie Individual Fellowship to move to Vienna. Last year I left my job as a scientist at MUW to work independently as a researcher and consultant.

Matthew DiFranco: I originally studied Materials Science and Engineering as an undergrad at Drexel University in Philadelphia. After working for 3 years in IT consulting, I moved to London to pursue a master's in computer science (and do something adventurous in moving overseas). Professionally, I was motivated to work more closely to the cutting edge of computing, rather than working in corporate IT.

My research from that point until now has focused on image processing in medical imaging: I spent 3 years in London at UCL, then obtained my PhD in computer science in 2010 at University College Dublin, where I investigated machine learning in digital pathology.

I have lived in Austria since completing my PhD, working at the Medical Universities of Innsbruck and Vienna, the latter in part during my MSCA Intra-European Fellowship.

I've recently become self-employed in order to work as a research scientist with a neuroscience lab based at the University of California San Francisco.

You received the Marie Curie Individual Fellowship as an American researcher moving to Europe. What motivated you to apply and how have those two years impacted your research and more broadly your career development?

Although I was born and raised in the US, I completed my PhD in Ireland and applied for a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship to carry out a research project in Austria. My motivation came after spending two months in Vienna during my PhD visiting a lab and attending a summer school. I met some researchers who were working on similar topics to me, and also enjoyed the quality of life and general vibe in Vienna. Carrying out the fellowship, I was given responsibility for managing my budget and setting my own research goals. The experience can be seen as very good preparation for starting one's own research group.

Would you encourage your fellow American researchers (or any non-Europeans for that matter) to apply for the MSCA fellowship? Why?

Yes, of course! I have often encouraged colleagues and friends in research to consider an MSCA fellowship. Some have reservations due to issues related to mobility, including close family and community ties, the impact to a significant other, and on family life. These concerns are real and meaningful: mobility is not for everyone. However, carrying out an MSCA fellowship can have a profound impact on your career, and often yourself. You are challenged to adapt to a new culture and work environment, but also

“You are challenged to adapt to a new culture and work environment, but also given the independence to develop your own research ideas in a setting which should ideally enable you to achieve your goals.”

given the independence to develop your own research ideas in a setting which should ideally enable you to achieve your goals.

As you know, many of the European Scientific Diaspora members in North America are very interested in the topic of mentoring and EURAXESS North America provided the platform for members to come together and establish the Joint European Mentoring Initiative [JEMI], which you were kind enough to join and lend your extensive insights and expertise, particularly since MCAA also launched its own mentoring platform: MCAA Academy. Can you elaborate on both experiences?

MCAA has been developing a mentoring program titled MCAA Academy which is designed to match mentees and mentors within MCAA. When the MCAA Board became aware of JEMI in early 2017, we were eager to participate in the workshop in Washington, D.C. Although I had just returned from a summer vacation in New Jersey in early September, I booked a 2-night trip from Vienna to D.C. to take part. What struck me about the JEMI workshop was how motivated the participants were, how dedicated and enthusiastic the organizers were, and how much we accomplished in a single day. For MCAA, I took home many insights into what considerations a mentoring scheme needs to be successful. I envision MCAA Academy becoming an integral part of JEMI, in that we can contribute our own experience in helping to develop JEMI, and our mentors can also volunteer to take part in JEMI.

In February, EURAXESS Worldwide was awarded the MCAA Honorary Membership during the 2018 Annual Meeting and General Assembly in Leuven, Belgium. EURAXESS North America’s Regional Representative, Ms. Viktoria Bodnarova, was there to receive the award on behalf of the whole team. Not that we’re complaining, but why did the MCAA decide to honor EURAXESS Worldwide with this prestigious award?

“EURAXESS Worldwide has a clear mission – to support the mobility of European researchers abroad and raise the international profile of European research.”

EURAXESS Worldwide has a clear mission – to support the mobility of European researchers abroad and raise the international profile of European research. MCAA and EURAXESS Worldwide have partnered on a number of events over the last few years. The organizations have formed a synergetic collaboration. EURAXESS benefits from the publicity generated by our regional chapters, and MCAA members benefit from the support that EURAXESS Worldwide offers. MCAA wants to strengthen this relationship, and our Board was strongly supportive of the nomination of EURAXESS Worldwide to become an MCAA Honorary Member.

Congratulations on becoming the Chair for Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) this February for a two-year period. Can you tell us what the MCAA is and what your goals/visions are for your tenure?

*“MCAA has nearly **11,000 registered members** in our web portal.*

Members engage in networking, career development and public outreach through our 29 regional chapters and 10 working groups. In addition, our working groups also develop original content for webinars, workshops and conferences, develop communications strategies for MCAA, and lead science policy initiatives.

MCAA is governed by an 11-person Board, elected by its members, of which I am currently Chair, and for which I previously served as an Ordinary Board member.”

[MCAA Indian Chapter](#) will be involved in two [EURAXESS India](#) events in 2018. The *ERD2018 - Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India! MSCA-Individual Fellowships Training & Discover MCAA Indian Chapter* will be jointly organized in Bengaluru and New Delhi, on 26 and 28 September respectively. On 6 October the MCAA Indian Chapter will be supporting the *4th Communicating Research Out of the Lab-EURAXESS Event* at CSIR-CSIO in Chandigarh (see details under 4.2. Event Outlook).

MCAA is a network of researchers who share a common experience: participation in an MSCA research project. That participation includes early-stage researchers in International Training Networks (ITNs) and experienced researchers carrying out Individual Fellowships (IFs). In addition, MSCA COFUND and RISE participants are also eligible for membership, as are project leaders from all calls.

The newly elected MCAA Board is dedicated to improving the internal governance of the MCAA, which is a lot of behind the scenes work, but which we hope will ensure the sustainability of MCAA. In addition, we are committed to raising the profile of MCAA, and of research careers and scientists in general, through our career development workshops, career fairs, networking events, original content, and science policy activities. Ultimately, we want academia and industry alike to recognize the value of the MSCA experience when searching for new staff, and we want to use our collective experience and knowledge to impact and shape European science policy.

EURAXESS Worldwide and MCAA have been collaborating on many fronts now. What areas of collaboration do you see as potential in the near future?

We are already seeing close collaboration between EURAXESS Worldwide and MCAA Chapters in North America, ASEAN, Brazil, China, and India. We hope that EURAXESS Worldwide can leverage its MCAA Honorary Membership to establish similar collaborations with MCAA in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan.

Since its launch, MCAA has been rapidly growing in number of members as well as chapters in Europe and beyond. Could you update our readers on some statistics (number of members, chapters, male/female, European/non-European, etc.)?

“In terms of nationality, we have members from very many countries worldwide, but the top five nationalities are Italian, Spanish, German, French, and Indian in that order. As we are all about international mobility, most of our members are based outside their country of birth, and our top five countries for resident members are the UK, Germany, Spain, France, and Italy, again in that order. As for research fields, our top two areas are Life-Sciences, followed by Engineering, but the third place goes to Social Sciences and Humanities – so we are not all wearing white coats in laboratories.”

Back in 2013 when the MCAA was created we had just over 1500 members; this has steadily risen over the past four years, and we will reach 11 000 members any day now. We are a youthful organization, with nearly fifty percent of members under 35, and only about 6% over fifty; this reflects in part the strong growth of the Marie Curie program over the years of successive EU research framework programs. Gender-wise, the network is about 60 percent male, which is probably a reflection on persisting lower participation of women in many science fields. Nevertheless, many of our most active members are women.

Given its namesake, how does MCAA contribute to improving the situation of women in science?

Actually, the MCAA has long recognized the vital role of women in research; one of our earliest, largest, and most active working groups is the Gender Equality and Diversity for Mobile Researchers in Science working group. They organize or take part in events focused on levelling the playing field so that gender becomes less and less relevant, and career development becomes a result of competence and commitment. I emphasize that gender diversity is a key element for the working group, and the MCAA strives for gender equality in research, and society in general.

4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (April-June)

(click on the respective link for more details)

Selected News and still open Calls (in order of publication on EURAXESS India website):

Call: [MSCA IF 2018 Call Open on 12 April 2018](#)

News: [Partnering tools for Horizon 2020 calls](#)

News: [Host institutions for your MSCA-IF application on EURAXESS Portal](#)

News: [EURAXESS Country Briefings on EURAXESS India](#)

News: [SESEI India and Europe newsletters Online](#)

News: [Latest by the EU Technical Cooperation for Environment in India Project](#)

News: [European Research Council \(ERC\) Annual Report 2017](#)

News: [MSCA-IF Hosting Offer at Pablo de Olavide University \(UPO\) in Seville, Spain](#)

News: [MSCA-IF Hosting Offer by UDC in Galicia, Spain](#)

News: [List of funding opportunities April 2018 - Relevant to India too](#)

Call: [Horizon 2020 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Individual Fellowships - Flyer for India](#)

Call: [Offer your organisation as "partner organisation" to host a MSCA-IF-Global Fellowship on EURAXESS](#)

Call: [NCP MSC post-Webinar: How to write a successful MSC-IF proposal](#)

Call: [TECO Grants. Short mobility grants from Europe to India](#)

Call: [10 positions for Senior Researchers: Ikerbasque Research Professors](#)

Call: [Crossborder career workshop for postdocs in France, Germany or Luxembourg](#)

News: [UKRI India is here to continue the work by RCUK India](#)

Call: [Study and research grants for Indian nationals going to Slovenia](#)

News: [EURAXESS Australia & New Zealand website launched!](#)

News: [EURAXESS South Korea launched! Join launch event in July 2018](#)

News: [European Commission proposes 100 billion EUR research & innovation budget 2021-2027](#)

News: [TECO Final Conference 2018 @ RemTech Expo](#)

Call: [EURAXESS Brazil & LAC list of funding opportunities June / July 2018 edition!](#)

Call: [Applications open for AIT India 2018!](#)

Call: [The 3rd call for 2 postdoctoral researchers to the UDC-INDITEX InTalent Programme remains open!](#)

News: [Workshop: Smart solutions for next-gen hybrid broadcast-broadband IP convergence](#)

Call: [Mission Innovation Champions Program has been launched!](#)

4.2 Event Outlook

Event (click on event title for more details)	Location	Date in 2018
1 Europe/Outside India		
ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) - the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe	Toulouse, France	9-14 July
TECO Final Conference 2018 @ RemTech Expo	Ferrara, Italy	20 September

2 India		
EURAXESS India Events 2018 - Stay tuned!	India	September-December
6th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Pre-selection	On-line	July-September
European Research Day 2018 Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India! - MSCA-Individual Fellowships Training & Discover MCAA Indian Chapter	Bengaluru	26 September
European Research Day 2018 Become EURAXESS Ambassador in India! - MSCA-Individual Fellowships Training & Discover MCAA Indian Chapter	New Delhi	28 September
European Higher Education Virtual Fair 2018	Online	26-28 September
4th Communicating Research Out of the Lab-EURAXESS Event	Chandigarh	6 October
European Higher Education Virtual Fair 2018	Online	25-28 October
6th EURAXESS India Science Slam India – Live finals	Bengaluru	17 November
EURAXESS Info Sessions/Days across India	On request	August-December