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EURAXESS LINKS INDIA

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present to you the fourth 2015 issue of the EURAXESS Links India Newsletter.

I hope that you will find this issue interesting and useful. Feel free to circulate it, asking your correspondents to [register](#) with EURAXESS Links so that they can receive future editions directly.

This issue will *close the round of interviews with the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014 finalists*: For April, we would like to introduce Priti Gupta, promising Indian female researcher at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). Would you like to be featured in our next round of 2015 finalists and maybe even win the 1st prize? Then don't hesitate and take part in this year's EURAXESS Science Slam India.

In addition to the **EU Insight** on "Increasing Access to Higher Education in Europe" you will find information on **News** related to research and innovation in Europe and India, a selection of **Grants and Fellowships** (e.g. *MSCA Individual Fellowships* and *COFUND*, *ERC Advanced Grant*, *EU-India joint call for proposals on «Diagnostics and interventions in Chronic non-communicable diseases»*), a collection of **Job opportunities** (over **7954** in **EURAXESS Jobs** - *including fellowships*) as well as of upcoming **Events** (in Europe and India).

If you have any comments or remarks on the newsletter or the website, or if you would like to include an event or news item, please let us know. The monthly newsletter is meant to be a communication tool for its readers. Interacting with you is very important to us.

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EURAXESS Links India Newsletter is a monthly 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.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to India.

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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1 EU Insight – Increasing Access to Higher Education in Europe

Simply put, more must be done to increase access to higher education in the European Union. This statement succinctly summarises the results of a recently published report by the European Commission—[*Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention and employability 2014*](#)—the second in a series focused on higher education in Europe. Why this is so has much to do with the role that knowledge, and subsequently education, plays in fulfilling the long-term developmental objectives the European Union has set for itself.

The report

Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention and employability 2014 is based on a study conducted by the Eurydice Network, which looked at 36 different education systems within the Europe (including all 28 EU Member States). The aim of the study was to evaluate the extent to which the European Commission's modernisation agenda, which "supports higher education systems in Europe in responding to the needs of our increasingly knowledge-based economy and societies", is being implemented across Europe (1). The full report plus report brief can be downloaded free of charge at the Eurydice website.

Why access to higher education is important

According to the European Commission, "knowledge [is] at the heart of the Union's efforts for achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth...and higher education in particular and its links with research and innovation, plays a crucial role in individual and societal development, and in providing the highly skilled human capital and the articulate citizens Europe needs to create jobs, economic growth and prosperity" (2). Yet even with this lofty goal in mind, the majority of governments within the EU have so far failed to institute proper measures to support access to higher education.

What is behind this outcome?

The report names three distinct factors—an overly narrow focus on quantification, insufficient retainment and transition to labour market—as contributing to the slow pace widening participation in higher education in the European Union has taken so far.

The first of these factors concerns governments' placing too much emphasis on just increasing numbers, a practice which unfortunately limits access to many social groups and contributes to a lack of diversity. For example, one group not yet addressed by participation widening efforts are young people from disadvantaged families. Additionally, those with disabilities tend not to be included in widening efforts.

The second factor is the lack of sufficient retainment strategies for individuals once they gain access to higher education. Specifically, this refers to the lack of measures to help prevent students from dropping out,



in particular those from underserved and underrepresented groups. Currently, not enough support is offered in terms of the mode of study (part vs full-time), timeframe (how long should it take to complete programme/degree), and information and guidance to those most at risk.

The third, and last, factor is employability. Because employability is a complex concept with more than one definition, this also means that more than one approach exists to how it might be measured (i.e. employment-based vs. competence-based). This lack of clarity in turn blurs understanding of the type of training students actually need in order to obtain jobs following completion of their degree programmes; all too often measures and policies (if they exist at all) confuse or conflate employment for the things (skills, previous work experience, mode of study) which actually account for one's ability to be employed.

However, beyond these factors, perhaps the most crucial reason underlying the problems associated with the widening of participation in higher education is a general lack of *systematic* monitoring processes. According to the report, all EU countries plus the eight additional European countries included in the study do have some type of policy measure in place to support higher education. The problem, unfortunately, is that at the current moment such measures are uneven and “insufficiently developed to provide an evidence-based picture across Europe” (3).

To date, only one EU member state has truly stepped up to address this challenge—Ireland (4).

Sources and further information

(1) Eurydice Network, *Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Access, retention and employability* 2014
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/165EN.pdf [accessed 15 April 2015]

(2) European Commission(2011), “Supporting growth and jobs – an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems”.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0567>
 [accessed 15 April 2015]

(3) O'Malley, Brendan. “Governments must do more to widen access—Eurydice.” *University World News Global Edition*, 9 April 2015, Issue 362.
 [accessed 14 April 2015]

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20150403005719833>

(4) Ibid.



2 Feature – Promising Indian female researcher: Priti Gupta, finalist at EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014



Priti Gupta at the live finals
by Denis Dambois

I planned to take the audience on an “N-lightening” journey through the world of nitride semiconductors, and highlight how new materials combinations can enable futuristic flexible displays.

Priti Gupta showed big determination, creativity and energy at the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2014. She promises contributing to society and being a role model for other researchers, too. With this interview EURAXESS Links India ends its feature series on the five finalists of the last EURAXESS Science Slam in India. Enjoy meeting Priti!

Priti (left) is a Ph.D. student at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai trying to explore the curiosities of the world of semiconductor materials. Her research focuses on exploring novel materials combinations that may impact future solid-state lighting applications. She enjoys doing creative things especially playing with light and capturing the wonderful colours and patterns of the world with her camera. At times, she also attempts doing outdoor activities such as hiking in Himalayas/Sahyadris, running marathons, or cycling long distances. She loves sharing knowledge with children and in fact, they always teach her a lot of things. She wishes to spend a part of her life teaching the underprivileged kids in the hope to give them ‘proper’ exposure to the developments in the scientific world.

Tell us about Priti’s research background and interests

I work in the area of semiconductor physics where we are trying to combine two materials of great research interests – group III-nitrides and layered materials like graphene. We aim to explore if this combination can lead to some novel optoelectronic devices which can impact the semiconductor based lighting applications.



Priti Gupta “N-lightening”
by Denis Dambois

Where did you hear about the 2nd EURAXESS Science Slam India competition? Why did you decide to participate?

I received an email about it from the public relation office of the institute.

I thought it will be fun to communicate our research work in an entertaining way to people from diverse backgrounds.

Why “Bending Rules: N-Lightening the Future”? Tell EURAXESS Links India Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made. What was the message that you wanted to reach out the audience attending the live finals in Mumbai three months ago?



Priti interacting with the audience

I planned to take the audience on an “N-lightening” journey through the world of nitride semiconductors, and highlight how new materials combinations can enable futuristic flexible displays.

I wanted to talk about the III-nitride (III-N) semiconductor materials which are the basis for today's optoelectronic devices like white LEDs, blue/green lasers, UV photodetectors and LEDs. III-nitrides such as gallium nitride (GaN) have emerged as an excellent material for realization of next generation light sources because of their high efficiency and high robustness. Thus, ‘N’ in “N-lightenment” is for ‘nitrogen’ which makes ‘nitrides’, which are used for efficient light applications.

But achievement to its full potential on industrial scale is still limited, because bulk GaN crystals are not readily available. That's where we thought of “bending the rules”! Conventionally, III-nitrides are grown on some other materials such as sapphire which is hard; hence these are not good for making flexible devices. People in our research area are trying different ways to grow these materials. We used graphene, which is attracting great contemporary interest due to its unique properties.

Graphene is just one atom thick carbon sheet and it is highly robust, transparent and above all flexible! Hence, we attempted to demonstrate III-nitrides grown on graphene which can be transferred to any flexible material such a thin plastic film. Thus, the message which our work conveys is that using graphene as a material to grow III-nitrides can enable flexible large area nitride devices for efficient lighting applications.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation at Café Zoe in Mumbai?

Both pre-selection video and live presentation were equally challenging but in different ways.

For the video, it took me a few days to frame what will be the way to convey our research work to people from non-science background. I aimed to make the video entertaining without compromising on/ diluting the scientific rigor. I would like to say that in the course of creating this video, I had to explore various aspects of videography and I thank EURAXESS for this opportunity.

The live presentation had posed other kinds of challenges. After creating the video, I had the basic framework for the presentation, but I think having it as a monologue like video wouldn't have been a fun way of doing it. I had the challenge to make it interactive, interesting, entertaining and yet complete in just 10 minutes. I wanted that after my presentation, people should return N-lightened and informed and not mystified. I wanted to show the audience a dream which we are seeing along with many other people in the research world. To plant that dream, I created different props to help the audience to imagine the world with flexible displays everywhere. For example, a rollable TV was shown by simply drawing a cartoon TV on a calendar and rolling it in front of the audience or a bendable digital photo frame in the form a curtain with many cartoons photos pasted on it which can be bent or spread as per the need. I also collected some nitride samples and nitrides-based LEDs from the lab which can be shown outside

The live presentation had posed other kinds of challenges. After creating the video, I had the basic framework for the presentation, but I think having it as a monologue like video wouldn't have been a fun way of doing it. I had the challenge to make it interactive, interesting, entertaining and yet complete in just 10 minutes.



The audience stretching in response ☺



the lab in working condition. But, there were a few things in my presentation which cannot be presented live without the lab equipment; hence, for that I used cartoon and images to clarify the concept. Thus, in case of live presentation, several iterations were done to make it concise and clear yet entertaining to the best of my capacity.

How was your experience as finalist of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam in India?

I would say "WONDERFUL!" It was a good learning experience in a different area. I enjoyed it a lot! This experience has made it easier for me to explain our work in an interesting yet scientific way to curious people from non-science background.

Would you recommend the experience to other researchers? Why?

Of course! I think as scientists we should be very enthusiastic to take science to the common people, and especially to the younger people.



Priti's foldable EURAXESS TV



Priti receiving her finalist certificate from Gerold Heinrichs (PT-DLR), Review Panel member

Any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

I just have one thing to say: enjoy telling people about your work!

Happy science slamming!

Thank You Priti!

3 EURAXESS in India

3.1 EURAXESS Links India in April

This month, two EURAXESS Info Sessions were organised at NCBS and IISc respectively in Bengaluru. EURAXESS Links India also made a presentation to the 'Horizon 2020 Focal Points Network India' and at the



Education Conference on 'Education & Skills– Connecting India to the World ' at the Global Exhibition on Services, both events in New Delhi. To close the month, the EURAXESS Links India Country Representative travelled to Europe to attend the biannual conference of the EURAXESS network. The latter was an excellent occasion to bring India closer to Europe, with a presentation about India at a workshop on Intercultural Dialogue focusing on China and India.

3.2 EURAXESS Events in 2015



EURAXESS Links India will be coming to Kolkata after the summer break that soon starts in India with a EURAXESS Share event: *"Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Indian Researchers"*. The exact date and content of this event will be announced in the May newsletter.

With the monsoon, the 2015 edition of the *EURAXESS Science Slam India* will be launched in June. The live finals will take place in October 2015. This will be the 3rd edition of this global event taking place in all the EURAXESS Links regions: ASEAN, Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America.

A third event is planned for after the monsoon. It will be a EURAXESS Connect event most likely addressed to Marie Curie (now Marie Skłodowska-Curie) fellows and European Research Council grantees in India. EURAXESS Links India newsletter readers will be informed well in advance.

Follow the latest on EURAXESS Links India events [here](#).

You can follow the EURAXESS Links India events and EU Research & Innovation news on Facebook via the site of the Delegation of the European Union to India: [Facebook EU in India](#).

3.3 EURAXESS Links India on-site visits



The Country Representative can present the services offered by 'EURAXESS-Researchers in Motion' and cooperation and career opportunities with Europe on-site – at your university or your research institution, including European or Indian companies in the sub-continent.

If you wish to host such a presentation in your organization, please contact us at india@euraxess.net.

You may also contact us if you are nearby any of the locations listed below and wish to host another 'EURAXESS Info Day' session around the same date:

- Late May/Early June (tbc): 2nd visit to **Bengaluru** (*possible to request a presentation*). Dedicated sessions on MSCA Individual Fellowship Action, ERC Starting Grant and EURAXESS Science Slam India 2015 being organised at NCBS, IISc, NIAS and



JNCASR. These sessions are also open to researchers from other institutes.

Target audience (for above): Talented PhD candidates in any research field and of any nationality who will obtain their doctorate by 9th September 2015, and excellent researchers with no more than 7 years since completion of PhD.

- In late August/early September, at BITS-Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus in **Zuarinagar** (Goa)
- In September, **Mumbai** (*possible to request a presentation*)
- Other cities on the agenda with no date fixed yet: Chennai, Nagkor, Aurangabad or Mandi.

3.4 Professor Chitra Natarajan in Memoriam

EURAXESS Links India deeply mourns the passing of Professor Chitra Natarajan.

Chitra joined Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) in 1993 and served as Dean, HBCSE faculty since 2011. After eight months of courageously battling cancer, she passed away peacefully on April 13, 2015. She also contributed to EURAXESS and became an active member of the Review Panel of last year's science slam.

Thank you Chitra for sharing with us some of your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to communicating science. The collaboration started with you at HBCSE will hopefully continue.

EURAXESS Links India offers condolences to her family and her many friends, colleagues and admirers.



4 News & Developments

4.1 European Union

4.1.1 European Commission launches scientific debate on how to feed the planet

The European Commission has launched an [online consultation](#) on how science and innovation can help the EU ensuring safe, nutritious, sufficient and sustainable food globally. The discussion is linked to the theme of this year's Universal Exhibition ([Expo Milano 2015](#)) "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", which aims to go beyond cultural activities and open a real political debate on global food security and sustainability.

The paper was presented on 13 April in Brussels by [Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport](#), and responsible for the JRC, together with Franz Fischler, Chairman of the Expo 2015 EU Scientific Steering Committee.

Commissioner Navracsics said: *"The European Union has a vital role to play in tackling the challenges associated with food and nutrition security and sustainability. Expo 2015 offers us a great opportunity to showcase what the EU is already doing in this field. I hope it will also breathe new life into our efforts and further foster international collaboration. I commend the work of the Joint Research Centre and look forward to working on these issues closely with my colleagues, in particular my fellow Commissioners in charge of agriculture, health, research, environment and development."*

Chairman Franz Fischler said: *"I believe that science and innovation are crucial if we are to guarantee access to safe and nutritious food for all, produced in a sustainable way. We have worked hard to ensure that Expo 2015 has a strong scientific dimension. I hope that the consultation and the discussion paper will steer a global debate."*

The consultation will underpin the debate on a future research agenda to help tackle global food and nutrition security challenges. It will focus on the areas where the EU's research efforts can have the strongest impact, such as how to improve public health through nutrition, increase food safety and quality, reduce food loss and waste, make rural development more sustainable, increase agricultural yields through sustainable intensification, as well as how to better understand food markets and increase access to food for people around the world.

The [consultation](#) is available online for input by all interested stakeholders until 1 September. The results of the consultation will be published on 15 October, ahead of World Food Day, and will contribute to shape the EU's legacy for Expo 2015. They will complement the scientific programme taking place at the [EU's Expo Pavillion](#), which will bring together experts and decision makers from around the world.

Source: [Joint Research Centre](#)



4.1.2 Horizon Prize: European Commission launches €3m prize to improve air quality in cities

A prize of €3 million will be awarded to the person or team that develops the best material to reduce the concentration of particulate matter in urban areas, the European Commission announced on 16 April. The aim is to improve air quality in cities and reduce the serious health risks posed by particulate matter (PM), the [air pollutant](#) which has the most severe impact on health.

Can you crack the challenge ?



[The Horizon Prize on materials for clean air](#) aims to stimulate innovative thinking to find a material-based solution to the problem. The material can be made from any chemical substance (e.g. plastic, concrete, asphalt, etc.) capable of reducing PM concentration in the air (e.g. by capturing it).

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"Poor air quality is a major problem for health and the environment. Air pollutants kill half a million Europeans every year. Under Horizon 2020, we are continuing to invest in key enabling technologies, such as advanced materials, to reduce particulate matter in the air for the benefit of everyone."*

The prize is open to established scientists as well as other innovators. It leaves applicants total freedom to come up with the most promising and effective solution. The award criteria just require the solution to be affordable, sustainable, innovative and well-designed.

As of today, the rules of contest are available [online](#). Contestants will be able to submit their entries from 26 January 2017 until 23 January 2018.

Source: [European Commission](#)

4.1.3 European Inventor Award finalists 2015: inventors behind 15 ground-breaking innovations selected



Ivars Kalvins, inventor of mildronate heart medication and others

Their inventions make day-to-day life easier, create economic value and generate employment. They sometimes even save lives. The European Patent Office (EPO) announced on 21 April the 15 finalists for the European Inventor Award 2015. With this prestigious annual award, the EPO honours scientists and engineers in five categories whose inventions have been patented by the EPO and have contributed to technological progress, social development and economic growth. The 10th edition of the award will be held in Paris on 11 June, when the winners will be announced at a ceremony attended by prominent representatives of the



worlds of politics, business, research and industry. Once again the public will select the winner of the Popular Prize, which will be decided by online voting in the run-up to the ceremony.

More than 300 individuals and teams of inventors were proposed for this year's award, 15 of whom have been selected as finalists by the independent international jury. The 2015 finalists are from 11 countries: Austria, Australia, China, France, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US. Their inventions cover a wide range of technological fields including biochemistry, civil engineering, energy, electronics, industrial chemistry, material science, medical technology, nutrition and physics.

"These ground-breaking inventions showcase Europe's role as a prime technology region and a hub of innovation for inventors from all over the world," said EPO President Benoît Battistelli. "The European patent system not only provides appropriate conditions to inventors from around the world for realising their creativity but also incentivises investors and entrepreneurs to strengthen their R&D activities and thus contribute to the economic prosperity of a region of 600 million people. These inventions once again show that the development of the European economy lies in its innovative capacity."

Source: [European Patent Office](#)

4.1.4 ESOF 2016 | Call for session proposals closes on 1 June 2015

ESOF – EuroScience Open Forum – is the biennial pan-European meeting dedicated to scientific research and innovation.

At ESOF meetings leading scientists, researchers, young researchers, business people, entrepreneurs and innovators, policy makers, science and technology communicators and the general public from all over Europe discuss new discoveries and debate the direction that research is taking in the sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Preparatory work has started for ESOF 2016 in Manchester (United Kingdom).

Submissions for the science programme are now open until the deadline for session proposals is 1 June 2015 at 10:00 am CET. There are nine core themes running through the science programme, spanning particle physics to pandemics, antimicrobial resistance to artificial intelligence and the Anthropocene epoch. More information on each of the themes can be [found here](#). The nine themes are:

- Healthy populations
- Material dimensions
- Sustaining the environment
- Turing's legacy - data and the human brain
- Far frontiers



- Living in the Future
- Bio-revolution
- Science for policy and policy for science
- Science in our cultures

ESOF 2016 will comprise a number of distinct programme tracks:

- A science programme of seminars, workshops and debates on the latest research and related policy issues, structured around a programme of keynote speakers and the latest scientific issues. The call for proposals is now open.
- A science-to-business programme to explore the major issues for research within business and industry and the role of universities for business.
- A career programme showcasing career opportunities across Europe and beyond for researchers at all stages of their careers.
- An exhibition that showcases the best of European academic, public and private research.
- A forum to host other meetings, satellite events and networking opportunities (e.g. science policy advisers and science media)

Read more: [ESOF 2016 Manchester](#)

4.1.5 A new Wave of Scientific Transatlantic Cooperation

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney T.D. joined on 16 April 2015 Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, and Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in Brussels, along with Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea, to announce the first trans-Atlantic mapping survey to take place under the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

The Irish research vessel, RV Celtic Explorer will undertake a mapping expedition between St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada and Galway in Ireland in June of this year, as scientists from the Marine Institute, Ireland will be joined by a multi-national team made up of USA, Canadian and European ocean mapping experts. This is an important step following the agreement reached at Galway in May 2013 and is an example of scientific diplomacy in action.

Speaking from Brussels, Minister Coveney said *"Information from the sea-floor is vital to the sustainable management of the Atlantic as well as to important industries such as fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. Ireland has developed a world-leading reputation for sea-bed mapping and is also very committed to the implementation of the Galway Statement and so I am delighted to put at the disposal of the team, Ireland's state of the art research vessel-RV Celtic Explorer."*



Commissioner Moedas stated *"I am committed to harnessing the societal and economic value of our oceans, while protecting fragile marine ecosystems. Under Horizon 2020 we have invested just under €70 million to support the Galway Statement follow-up. The first calls delivered excellent project proposals involving international teams. I am glad that this investment is being leveraged to make our transatlantic vision a reality."*

Commissioner Vella welcomed the announcement, stating: *"One of the priorities of my mandate is Ocean Governance. Our wish is that the EU continues to be fully engaged on this subject. The sea-bed mapping expedition announced today illustrates the EU's capacity as a global leader and partner. The 'Celtic Explorer's' mission across the north Atlantic will be undertaken by crew from 'both sides of the pond'. This embodies the spirit of cooperation that we need in the field of Ocean Governance. Their work will help inform the mapping of the European seabed, which is set to be completed by 2020. I congratulate all those involved"*.

Welcoming the initiative, the Honourable Gail Shea, Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans said *"Canada recognizes the importance and complexity of Atlantic Ocean science. Our nations' cooperation is key to broadening our scientific understanding of the Atlantic Ocean and helping to ensure it remains healthy, resilient and productive. This is why our scientists are collaborating through the Galway Statement to pool resources, share expertise and advance our science goals."*

The announcement was made at the European Commission hosted event, **"The Atlantic- Our Shared resource. Making the Vision Reality"**, which was a follow up to the May 2013 signing of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Research Cooperation between the EU, Canada and the United States of America.

This event is the launch pad for all the Galway Statement follow-up projects funded with the first Horizon 2020 Blue Growth calls - the main financial instrument on the EU side implementing the Galway Statement commitments.

With a view to translating commitments into investments, the European Commission has earmarked around € 70 million in calls under **Horizon 2020**, the EU Research and Innovation Programme for the period 2014-2015.

Source: [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)

4.1.6 Foresight 2025: integrated and fast-evolving standards key to innovation

A [JRC foresight study](#) suggests the European standardisation system should accelerate and rely on an integrated strategy. The study argues this is the only way standardisation will be able to keep pace with technological developments and societal challenges, stimulating innovation and fostering competition.

In an ever-more globalised economy with increasingly fierce competition, European industry will need to rely more on new, advanced manufacturing



systems and technologies, for which new or upgraded standards will be needed on a regular basis to ensure quality and performance throughout the production and distribution system.

The study focuses on a 2025 vision and identifies five priority areas: integration, which aims at having standards that can cope with converging technologies and infrastructures, and assure interoperability and interconnectivity; environmental sustainability, focused on resource efficiency, zero waste and energy neutrality; quality and performance; services, meaning that consumers' demand for high-quality services as part of any product package will need to be addressed and "de-risking", referring to having standards that provide confidence towards innovative solutions and ensure protection from potential risks to health, security, safety and privacy.

The foresight study was carried out at the request of the European Commission's Directorate-General for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs and with the participation of the Directorate-General for research and innovation. It was presented on 21 April at StandarDays - Your chance to discover the world of European Standards, held in Brussels.

The study also provides a template to identify standardisation needs so that they can be addressed earlier and in a more systematic way.

Source: [Joint Research Centre](#)

4.1.7 Cheap and renewable electricity anywhere



Energy comes from turbines 150 metres above ground level. At this altitude are however weak and intermittent, with most wind blowing at only 25 - 30% of their capacity. EU-funded researchers created a prototype wind energy system that works at much higher altitudes where winds are stronger and more constant, increasing production dramatically. A commercialised product is in the pipeline.

Read more [here](#).

4.1.8 Infoday: Science with and for Society 2015

Date: 22/05/2015

Venue: Brussels, Belgium



The information day and brokerage event is targeted at all stakeholders interested in the Science with and for Society Programme of Horizon 2020. Science with and for Society will help build effective cooperation between science and society, to recruit new talent for science and to pair scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility.

The main objective of the Science with and for Society networking event is to provide, in the first session, first-hand information by the European Commission officials about the first Horizon2020 Science with and for



Society 2014-2015 calls, launched on the 10th December 2013, and to bring in the second half of the day all stakeholders together (universities, research institutions, civil society organisations, SMEs, public bodies, Science Centres etc.), in order to meet potential coordinators and partners in a fruitful networking environment.

The networking event will be of particular interest and relevance to members of the Science with and for Society research community who are looking for networking and funding opportunities within Horizon 2020. It will be mainly targeted at the researchers and other stakeholders preparing for the first and second calls of Horizon 2020 relevant to the Science with and for Society.

This event is organized by SiS.net2, the international network of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the field of Science with and for Society in Horizon 2020 in cooperation with the European Commission

Source: [European Commission](#)

4.1.9 European Commission Foresight fiches: "Global Trends to 2030"

The set of European Commission Foresight fiches, analysing global trends to 2030, which were developed in the preparation of 'The Future of Europe is Science' report, is now available. This report was presented by the President's Science & Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) at the "Future of Europe is Science" conference in Lisbon in October 2014.

At a time when the new European Commission announced that it will concentrate on bold initiatives, it is important to recall that any policy decision has complex ramifications. Indeed, an increasing number of decisions affect several policy portfolios, and they need to take into account an increasing number of parameters, like geo-politics, economics, finance, security, health, environment, climate change, sociology, urbanisation, ageing society, and integrate fundamental European social values such as gender equality and ethics. In addition, technological breakthroughs are accelerating as never before in history and social innovation (e.g. social media) augments the speed of information gathering and dissemination.

Because societies become ever more complex, collaborative long-term anticipation must replace the "silo" thinking habits and the short-termism that has characterised many aspects of policy-making in Europe.

Foreseeing is not sufficient anymore because it is only a tactical extrapolation of current trends; it is the future of the past. Foresighting however is strategic because it is based on more disruptive views; it is about the future of the future. But foresight needs also to become more integrated and collaborative, using coproduction of knowledge by means of "concurrent design" approaches. These will foster anticipatory and more consistent policies and thus lead to more visionary governance. 'The rougher the seas the more connected watch-towers are needed'.



Europe invented the modern world despite a resource poor continent because we used the most precious resource we have: our brains. Europe's real strength lies in its diversity that is a powerful driver of innovation. Where different minds meet, there is inspiration. This is why the network of foresight experts has such a great potential. It is an excellent way to obtain a comprehensive analysis that integrates the various scientific, technological, but also social aspects. This is encompassed in the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation.

'We cannot predict the future, but we have the opportunity to invent it, based on sound science and technological foresight'.

Related Documents: [Foresight Fiches 2014](#)

Source: [European Commission](#)



4.1.10 Smart grids in Europe: outlook and large scale application

On 1 April 2015, the JRC released two reports in the area of smart grids, which look at how smart grids research and innovation can help achieve the Energy Union's targets of secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.

The first report, entitled "[Smart Grids Laboratories Inventory 2015](#)" is a first edition of a periodic report that will gather and disseminate information on the smart grid laboratories active in Europe and beyond. The report presents the results of a survey carried out to obtain a complete overview of smart grid technologies operational at laboratory level in order to identify trends and gaps in smart grids research and innovation.

The report highlights that the surveyed smart grid laboratories, which invested on average around EUR 1 million to set up their facilities, are mainly serving industrial customers, followed by utilities, academia and governments.

The JRC, along with the report, has also launched a [webpage](#) with information from the participating laboratories. In the future, it will be merged [with the existing inventory of smart grid projects in Europe](#). The objective is to create an interactive platform to share best practices and knowledge on smart grid activities, facilities, technologies and standards.

In the second report, "[A Smart Grid for the City of Rome](#)", the JRC investigates whether smart grid technologies can be profitably scaled up to a large city scale. To this aim, the JRC in collaboration with ACEA (Rome's Electricity Distribution System Operator) applied, for the first time, its [Smart Grid Cost-Benefit Analysis](#) to a full-scale smart grid urban project. This scale-up would entail expanding the impact area from a thousand consumers to more than 1 million. The central result is that the overall outlook for the extension to Rome of the smart grid project is positive from both the private investor and the societal perspective.

This analysis, which is based on data coming from daily grid management and real demonstration testing, helps evaluate the costs and benefits of



developing a smart grid. In particular, the report makes an effort to monetise the several effects of interventions on software and physical infrastructure aimed at improving operation automation, constantly monitoring the health status of the grid (reducing the risk of failures and the consequent costs), and allowing for integration of more distributed generation (such as solar and wind power), thereby decreasing fossil-fuelled generation and CO2 emissions.

Both reports have been presented at [Innogrid](#), the European Research & Development conference for electricity transmission and distribution grids taking place on 31 March-1 April 2015 in Brussels, by JRC Director, Giovanni De Santi. The conference was attended by experts from the industry, associations, EU institutions, projects, NGOs and EU Member States contributing to the exchange of information and debates on the development of future electricity grids.

Source: [Joint Research Center](#)

4.1.11 [U-Multirank 2015 edition](#)

The European Commission global university ranking tool, [U-Multirank](#), which assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, recently released its second set of results.

Particularly interesting for students and PhD candidates, the tool allows one to compare performance of more than 1,200 higher education institutions, 1,800 faculties and 7,500 study programmes from more than 83 countries.

4.1.12 EU Investment Plan launched

The European Fund for Strategic Investment will be a package of measures to unlock public and private investments in the real economy of at least € 315 billion over the next three years (2015- 2017). The Investment Plan consists of three strands: (1) mobilising investment finance without creating new public debt; **(2) supporting projects and investments in key areas such as infrastructure, education, research and innovation** and (3) removing sector-specific and other financial and non-financial barriers to investment. The EFSI is a major step toward job creation and growth in the European economy.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, stressed the importance of investing in research and innovation in Europe. As for the EFSI, the Commissioner was convinced that "the new European Fund for Strategic Investment will further support research and innovation, by leveraging more public and private sector financing for "high risk high reward projects".

Read more: [Press release](#), [Factsheet](#), [Where does Money Come From?](#)



Read the [EURAXESS Links EU Insight focused on U-Multirank](#) that was published in May 2014.



4.2 India

4.2.1 President presented Visitor's Awards for 'Best University', 'Innovation' and 'Research'

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee presented Visitor's Awards to Central Universities in the categories of 'Best University', 'Innovation' and 'Research' for the year 2015 at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 5, 2015

The University of Hyderabad received 'Best University' Award for academic excellence. Professors of Delhi University were presented with 'Innovation' Award for their invention of 'TB Confirm', a rapid diagnostic test for Tuberculosis. The 'Research' Award was received by Cosmology and Astrophysics Research Group, Jamia Millia Islamia for path-breaking research carried out in the field of Astrophysics and Cosmology.

Read more: [President of India](#)

4.2.2 BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in Brasília

This 2nd meeting was held in Brasilia on 18th March 2015. The BRICS nations proposed the establishment of a BRICS Technology Foresight for Climate System to develop solutions for climate change and natural disaster management while identifying viable R&D initiatives. It was also decided to establish 5 thematic working areas, with each BRICS member providing leadership in one. India will take the lead in geospatial technology and applications. BRICS nations have also endorsed India's Young Scientists Forum Initiative, that will form part of the BRICS STI work plan for 2015-2018.

Read more: [VI BRICS Summit](#)

4.2.3 Symposium on "Mainstreaming University-Community Research Partnerships (CURP)"

The UNESCO Chair for Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education conducted a symposium on 'Mainstreaming University-Community Research Partnerships' on 9th April, in New Delhi. This symposium primarily focused on the practices of CURP across the world. Denis Dambois, EU Research & Innovation Counsellor, presented the EU perspective in a panel discussion, as a means for promoting University-Community engagement – in particular the Horizon 2020 actions relating to "Science in and for society" and to "Responsible research & innovation".

Read more: [UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education](#)



4.2.4 Success through skills by Debdulal Thakur (*)

According to the author, the government can minimise the skills gap by partnering the private sector and setting up institutes of higher learning.

Opportunities are scarce, so it's important to reap them on time. Indeed, the World Bank (2013) had predicted that India is going to have its demographic dividend till 2040—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any nation. But do we have the required skill-sets to combat the rising societal needs for providing access to information, primary health care, education to all, efficiently reduce carbon footprint, provide safe drinking water, mitigate natural and man-made disasters, and many alike hindrances to quality life? The government is focusing on setting up new institutes of higher learning (mostly technical) wherein it expects to train the human resource with the required skill-sets that could cater to this huge societal demand. But how prepared are we and can the government alone cater to this call of the hour?

As pointed out in the World Economic Forum (2010), the issue of skills gap is leading the world towards a global demographic shock, and in near future human capital is expected to surpass financial capital as the critical economic engine of growth. India is exception.

Read full article: [The Financial Express](#)

(*) *Debdulal Thakur is member of EURAXESS Links India community.*

4.2.5 7th edition of the Young Investigators' Meeting (YIM)



The 7th edition of the Young Investigators' Meeting (YIM) recently took place at Gulmarg, Kashmir from the 27th of March to the 1st of April. This 5-day Meeting brought together an eclectic mix of India's best early-career life-science researchers, postdoctoral fellows, reputed Indian and international scientists, administrators of institutions, funding agency representatives and science policy makers for five days of discussions and interactions focusing on science and careers in science.

The YIM series aims to build a community of well-networked biologists by allowing young Indian scientists from different regions and institutions to establish friendships, initiate collaborations, and learn from peer-to-peer mentoring. The Meeting is organised annually by [IndiaBioscience](#), a science outreach initiative based out of the National Centre of Biological Science (NCBS), Bangalore. This year the YIM enjoyed local support from the University of Kashmir in Srinagar.



The Young Investigators Meeting 2015 opened on 27th March with the Postdoctoral Satellite Meeting, during which directors from research institutions across the country interacted closely with postdoctoral fellows, giving them a unique chance to learn first-hand about the opportunities available for starting up their research careers. A keynote talk by Prof. K VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology inaugurated the Young Investigators' Meeting on the evening of 28th March.

The next few days of YIM shifted between talks by experienced faculty, each discussing their research as a journey through academia, and young investigators just starting out in faculty positions. A morning session on the challenges and opportunities posed by science funding in India had talks by representatives from funding agencies ranging from DBT and Wellcome Trust to international bodies, all of which had energetic question and answer sessions. Daily poster sessions prompted lively scientific exchanges. Break-out sessions through the days opened dialogues between mentors and young investigators on a range of topics including lab management, the role of mentorship in science and science outreach.

Contribution by Harini Barath

4.2.6 IIT women game for Make in India plan

The first All Woman Alumni meet at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur on Saturday deliberated on how to take forward one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet projects - Make In India. It was decided that IITs should collaborate with other colleges in terms of knowledge sharing and resource participation.

The nearly hour-long session on the scheme dealt with the role of IITs in industrial growth and how women could play a greater role in this programme.

"We want to take forward this initiative on a broader scale... We have a lot of talent and IITs have a pool of knowledge. We need to diversify ourselves a little from our academics and see how our work can be translated for societal needs," said Tripta Thakur.

Read more: [Press reader](#)



4.2.7 Pooja Chandrasekar: She's only 17, but has scored admissions to all 8 Ivy League Schools

Indian-American student Pooja Chandrashekar has reason enough to feel on top of the world. At the age of just 17, she's developed an app that analyses speech patterns to predict whether a person has Parkinson's disease and set up a nationwide organisation to encourage young American girls to pursue careers in technology.

But that's not all – she's also scored an admission to 14 top US universities, including all eight Ivy League schools.

Read more: [hisdustan times](#)

4.2.8 IISc scientists extract energy from vibrations

Devices, sensors and lights everywhere. These elements increasingly surround us in a modern setting. What do all these cogs of technology need in common? Power, to run uninterrupted. Often this power is provided by bulky batteries that need timely replacement making them an inconvenience.

What if these devices, sensors and tiny lights could run on energy extracted out of thin air! Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru have now devised a technology which can efficiently extract energy from vibrations that are almost always present around us. Though not from thin air, this development has a wide scope of applications and could power smalls LED lights, fire and smoke alarms, biomedical devices to name a few.

Read more: [Bangalore Mirror](#)

4.2.9 Engineering Smart City solutions with L&T Technology Services

The concept of smart cities is gaining momentum given the current battles faced globally. Due to global economic turmoil, climate change, an ageing population, energy deficit, and rapid urbanisation, it is extremely important to update systems to beat in the same rhythm. While systems are getting highly ubiquitous and tremendously technology driven, a lot of data is captured and data analysis is imperative. This data must be transported to systems which are part of its ecosystem to enable perfect synergy and ensure that systems can perform efficiently. This article looks at smart city solutions by L&T Technology Services Ltd. (L&T TS) and opportunities to collaborate with them.

Read more: [EBTC](#)

4.2.10 Institutes not participating in disability survey have 'something to hide'

The figures are dismal. Just 8,449 disabled students (0.5%) out of 15,21,438 students, are enrolled in more than 150 top Indian colleges, a

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survey on Status of Disability in Higher Education has revealed. About 250 institutes were contacted by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP), which conducted the survey, but those who did not respond “obviously had something to hide,” says Javed Abidi, honorary director, NCPEDP.

“We didn’t leave any stone unturned, but most of the ones who didn’t respond were private educational institutions,” Abidi adds. The law (Disability Act) was passed in 1995, guaranteeing 3% reservation in higher education. Two decades later, the actual reality is extremely dismal.

Read more: [Hindustan Times](#)

4.3 India-Europe cooperation

4.3.1 Sustainable Development Leadership Award presented to Former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso

Former President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso was presented with the 11th Sustainable Development Leadership Award by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The award recognised his pioneering efforts to de-carbonise the European economy and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency during his tenure at the European Commission. The award was presented to him by the Director General of TERI and Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu.

As the President of the European Commission Dr. Barroso spearheaded the first international legally binding agreement for curbing greenhouse gas emissions when he launched the historic 2020 package on Climate and Energy whereby the EU would reduce greenhouse gases by 20% (over 1990 levels), improve energy efficiency by 20%, and raise the share of renewables in the energy mix to 20%. During his second term as President of the EC, Dr. Barroso introduced new and more ambitious targets, extending the binding commitments for reduction of carbon emissions to 40% by 2030. His leadership and ideas not only helped the European Union reduce carbon emissions, but boosted innovations and investments which led to the increased dynamism of the renewable energy sector and brought about greater energy efficiency. The EU is on track to achieve these voluntarily adopted but legally binding and enforceable targets; and hopes moreover to achieve a complete decarbonisation of its economies by 2050. Dr. Barroso's path-breaking efforts to tackle climate change enabled, moreover, the tapping of new sources of growth and improved energy security on a global level.

Read more: [EU Delegation to India](#)

Listen to Mr. Barroso's acceptance speech: [here](#)



4.3.2 EU promotes Cluster-to-Cluster Mobility Partnerships

Six joint research & innovation (R&I) projects to promote cooperation between European and Indian research and innovation clusters were recently launched between the EU and India, on the basis of a call for proposals published in 2014 by the Delegation of the European Union to India, New Delhi.

With the establishment of the EU's Innovation Union and India's Decade of Innovation initiative, the importance of innovation in addressing resource constraints or designing delivery systems has been recognised as an important factor in development policy. Appropriately, proposals were invited in the areas of environment, biotech, transport, energy, health and information and communication technologies (ICT) where societal challenges and opportunities are the greatest.

Six projects have now been selected and will be funded, each with a maximum funding of €333,333 provided by the EU. Most of them will run from December 2014 till November 2018; and they include a total of 21 European and 15 Indian participants.

Read more: [EU Delegation to India](#)

EU-India Cluster to Cluster Cooperation

Climate adaptation and service community (CASCO)

The project will deliver joint strategic research and innovation papers on cross-cutting issues in the field of climate adaptation. The project will also explore how research in the scientific domain can be transferred to SMEs and NGOs within the partnership and outside it.

Technological eco-innovation for the quality control and the decontamination of polluted waters and soils

European and Indian experts will work on developing solutions for the quality control and decontamination of polluted soils and waters with emphasis on networking private companies and solution providers with research laboratories and public authorities.

Vaccine development for hookworm and other neglected tropical diseases

The project is to create partnerships between Indian vaccine manufacturers, Indian specialists on hookworm disease and Europe-based vaccine developers.

Rural broadband internet access using cooperative mesh networking in white space spectrum (REACH)

REACH will work to address a range of technical and regulatory issues for robust and auto-configured rural broadband solutions based on the use of the unlicensed (mainly TV) spectrum.

EU-India cooperation platform in future internet and electronic media project (EU-INDIA FI-MEDIA) This project will develop and implement partnerships between clusters created from already existing platforms/initiatives engaged in research and innovation related to ICT, specifically within the areas of Future Internet and Digital Electronic Media.

For efficient and sustainable freight transportation (REINVEST)

Benchmarking will be undertaken to compare the sustainable freight transportation best practices in EU & India. On the basis of the results, this project will develop a knowledge framework and a sustainable freight transportation toolkit which will help the decision makers to make informed decisions for sustainability of freight transportation.



4.3.3 Launch of EU-India Joint Call on Chronic non-communicable diseases

Within the framework of the INDIGO Partnership Programme (IPP), an EU-India joint call for proposals on «Diagnostics and interventions in Chronic non-communicable diseases» is now open!

Indian-European collaborative research and technological development projects in the field of “Diagnostics and interventions in Chronic non-communicable diseases” with a specific focus on will be eligible for funding:

- Development of tools and technologies for the diagnostics of chronic non-communicable diseases
- Research and innovation within interventions for chronic non-communicable diseases
- Mechanisms in chronic non-communicable diseases

Countries contributing to the Call are: India, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway and Portugal.

Deadline for submission: 22 June 2015 (12:00 CET / 15:30 IST)

For more information: please refer to **section 5.5** of this newsletter or the [Call text](#) and [Guidelines for applicants](#) for more information.

4.3.4 Indo-French Workshop on Scientific Cooperation for Agricultural Research

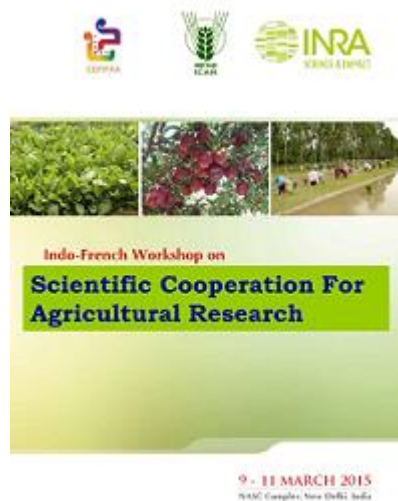
A conference of researchers from the National Institute for Agricultural Research ([INRA](#), France) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ([ICAR](#)) was held from March 9 to 11, 2015, in New Delhi, under the auspice of [CEFIPRA](#) and French Embassy.

This conference has been focused on priority areas as well as important issues of mutual interest for both countries, including the following topics:

- Sustainable Management of Crop Health;
- Adaptation of Agriculture and Forests to Climate Change;
- Diet Impacts and Determinants: Interactions and Transitions;
- Genomic Selection;
- Study of Transitions for Global Food Security;
- Ecosystem Services;
- Food Processing & Packaging.

Six of the seven themes matched the titles of [meta-programs INRA](#) whereas the 7th theme dedicated to the processing and packaging of food, was suggested by the Indian side.

After the conference, the Indian and French coordinators of each thematic workshop proposed potential research topics.





- For "adaptation of agriculture to climate change and forest," a work proposal on association trees / crops as part of the long-term strategy for adaptation to climate change;
- For "ecosystem services": a proposal for evaluation study and optimization of services provided by ecosystems in the watershed ;
- For "sustainable management of crop health", a work proposal on a smartphone application as diagnosis tool for farmers;
- For "genomic selection", a work proposal on a vast project of genomic selection in cattle;
- For "study of transition for global food security": possibly a complete study of food security in India through stresses acting on both the supply (climate, soil degradation , urbanization) and demand (food transition, demographics);
- Workshop " diet impacts & determinants: interactions and transitions": a project focused on the nutritional and dietary determinants to prevent muscle mass loss (sarcopenia), a common disease in Europe in the elderly and widespread in India among children in malnutrition, work on the effects of muscle wasting in diabetes are also considered;
- For "food processing & packaging": a work proposal around processing techniques, food preservation and quality monitoring throughout the production chain.

This event designed to boost bilateral cooperation in agricultural research is open to collaboration with all Indian Institutes working on the above-mentioned theme areas.

For further information, please contact Dr Edmond ROCK, Scientific Officer, International Relations Affairs of INRA-CIRAD (edmond.rock@clermont.inra.fr). Dr. Edmund Rock is also member of the EURAXESS Links India community.

4.3.5 India's department of biotechnology and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) to establish a National Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology in India

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France in mid April, an agreement was signed between India's department of biotechnology and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) to establish a National Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology in India.

It was also announced that Indian students will be able to stay on for 2 more years after completing studies.

Read more: [Hindustan Times](#)



4.3.6 The Road to Paris: second session of “COP21 Dialogues”

In the lead-up to the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) in December this year, the Embassy of France in India is organizing a monthly seminar series, entitled: “The Road to Paris: COP21 Dialogues”.

The second session of this conference series, entitled “Supporting climate-resilient development in India”, took place on Thursday, 23rd April 2015 at the Alliance française du Bengale.

This event was organised in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and its Kolkata chapter.

This session was moderated by Dr V. Mathur, Senior Research Fellow, ORF. The speakers were Mr Sujan Pandit, Member, Governing body, West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), Prof Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Dr Anurag Danda, Program Lead- Climate Change Adaptation, WWF India, and Ms Poonam Madan, Managing Director, INESA.

Read more: [French Embassy in India](#)

4.3.7 Heritage Preservation and urban renovation through waterfront management

A team of experts from France from the domains of architecture and urban planning interacted with stakeholders in Pondicherry to envision a planned future for the town and region incorporating heritage conservation, tourism, water management and sustainable development.

Read more: [French Embassy in India](#)

4.3.8 India did itself proud at Hannover Messe 2015 & EBTC signed an MoU with IEEMA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly inaugurated the India Pavilion at Hannover Messe 2015. With India as the Partner country, “Make in India” was the central theme and was visible throughout the fair. It was during this prestigious event that the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) signed an MoU with the Indian Electronics and Electric Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) to promote EU R&D in India.

Hannover Messe which took place from 13th to 17th April 2015 was a tremendous success for India in every respect. As the partner country at one of the world's largest engineering fair, Indian companies were able to showcase their technical skills, engineering capabilities and human resources before a global audience.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly inaugurated the India Pavilion at the Hanover Fair. The “Make in India” theme was clearly visible throughout the whole fair. There were flags and towers and more posters highlighting various



aspects of India's economy and inviting investors and companies to join in.

Read more: [EBTC](#)

4.3.9 DWIH New Delhi participates at TechKriti at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

The German House for Research and Innovation - DWIH New Delhi participated in the TechKriti 2015, an annual festival of the IIT, Kanpur, from March 21-22, 2015 as a Research & Innovation Partner.

During the festival, various side events were organized by DWIH and its consortium members, including a workshop on "Application preparedness for Research Grant" by Freie University Berlin and a session on "My Germany Experience" by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) followed by info-sessions by German Research Foundation (DFG), Max Planck Society (MPG), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, University of Göttingen and Heidelberg University – Heidelberg Centre South Asia.

Read more: [TechKriti '15](#)

4.3.10 Centre for the Study of Indian Languages and Society (INLANSO) - Open to researchers

INLANSO facilitates short and long-term Hindi courses for students and researchers who wish to improve their oral language proficiency, deepen their knowledge of Hindi grammar as well as get acquainted with different aspects of Indian society and culture. The courses are tailor-made for the needs of the individual students and/or sending university departments.

INLANSO has signed MOUs with Aarhus University, Denmark, University of Oslo, Norway and Uppsala and Stockholm Universities in Sweden. The Universities of Würzburg and Göttingen in Germany have been sending students for short term training in language and culture/society/religion.

Read more: [INLANSO](#)

5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 National EURAXESS Portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the 40 member countries of the EURAXESS network can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal:

[Albania](#), [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Faroe Islands](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [FYRoMacedonia](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Israel](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Moldova](#), [Montenegro](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovakia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Turkey](#), [United Kingdom](#).



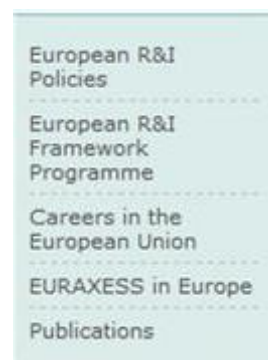
Access to all national EURAXESS Portals (overview): [here](#)

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.

5.2 New sub-section on ERC publications at the EURAXESS Links website

New direct access from EURAXESS Links to relevant flyers and reports by the European Research Council (ERC).

Go to ERC Publications [here](#)



5.3 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) | Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)

Deadline: 1 October 2015



**Marie Curie
Actions**

Indian entities are not entitled to automatic funding under this call. Indian nationals however are usually eligible for COFUND funding to be added under COFUND projects. This can be to pursue a doctoral programme or as part of a fellowship programme.

Objective:

The COFUND scheme aims at stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.



This will be achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

Scope:

Each proposal funded under the COFUND scheme shall have a sole participant that will be responsible for the availability of the necessary matching funds to execute the proposal.

Read more: [Participant Portal](#)

5.4 MSCA (IF) | Expression of Interest– Spanish Host Institutions | Great tool for MSCA (IF) Applicants!

If you are looking for a host institution in Spain [click here](#) to help you identify one.



This new section "IF Expressions of interest - Spanish Host Institutions" been designed to facilitate the *visibility of those Spanish Institutions willing to recruit and host experienced researchers under the framework of a Marie Skłodowska- Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCA IF)*. The MSCA IF 2015 call opened on 12 March 2015 and deadline for submission is 10 September 2015.

This call was announced in the March EURAXESS Links India newsletter:

The objective of the call MSCA IF is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers who wish to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and inter-sectoral mobility. Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research in a European context or outside Europe. This scheme also supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Funding is provided for two years (European Fellowships) or three years (Global Fellowships). This includes an attractive salary for the researcher, transnational mobility and family allowances as well as a contribution towards management and research-related-costs.



5.5 EU-India joint call for proposals on «Diagnostics and interventions in Chronic non-communicable diseases»



Deadline: 22 June 2015

Type of funded projects:

Indian-European collaborative research and technological development projects in the field of “Diagnostics and interventions in Chronic non-communicable diseases” with a specific focus on:

- Development of tools and technologies for the diagnostics of chronic non-communicable diseases
- Research and innovation within interventions for chronic non-communicable diseases
- Mechanisms in chronic non-communicable diseases

Participating and contributing countries in this call:

- India – Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- Belgium – Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (F.R.S. – FNRS)
- Estonia – The Estonia Research Council (ETAg)
- France - Bpifrance
- Germany – Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Norway – Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Portugal – Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)

Scope of the projects:

Projects can have a maximum duration of 3 years and funding is around € 100.000 - € 200.000 per partner/country, depending on national regulations.

According to the respective national regulations the following funding can be applied for: Mobility, Workshops, Research costs, Personnel costs

Who can apply?

Applications may be submitted by academics, higher education institutions and / or non-university research establishments. SMEs are also eligible depending on national regulations.

Consortia that wish to apply for funding of a research project within the above mentioned topics, have to consist of at least three partners: two from different European countries, and one from India.

Partners from other countries than those participating in the IPP Call can join a consortium but have to secure their own funding.

Read more: INNO INDIGO



5.6 CSIR: Call for Industry Originated R&D Concept Proposals

Deadline: 15 June 2015

CSIR's New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (CSIR-NMITLI) envisages symbiotic promotion and fostering of R&D/Academic Institution and Industry Partnership in a Team-India spirit to enable Indian industry attain global leadership position in selected areas. The programme is backed by national determination. It turns sound technological ideas into a reality through systematic development and operationalization of innovative projects for realizing desired objectives.

Eligibility:

- 1) Companies registered in India and having more than 50% of shareholding by Indians/Non-resident Indians or less than 50% shareholding by Indians/Nonresident Indians but with manufacturing base in India.
- 2) The Company must have an R&D Centre, registered with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India. If not, the designated firm to undertake steps to get its R&D Centre recognized within 12 months.
- 3) Up to two projects of any company will be supported under the NMITLI Scheme at any given time.

Read more: [CSIR](#)

5.7 BELGIUM: Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers - SELECTION 2015 – India target

Deadline: 31 May 2015

The stimulation of international mobility and the attraction of researchers from abroad is one of the priorities of the European Research Area.

In this context and intending to stimulate the S&T cooperation, the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) does implement a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e. postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work during 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

This initiative started in 1981. Till now already 750 fellowships were granted.

The target countries under this call for proposals are those countries with which Belgian Research Institutions wish to strengthen cooperation.

For this call 2015, the list of eligible countries is restricted to:

- the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, **India**, China, South-Africa),
- all the African countries,
- Vietnam.

Read more: [BELSPO](#)



5.8 GERMANY: Green Talents Competition 2015

Deadline: 2 June 2015

Win a 2-week science tour and a fully funded research stay in Germany!!

- Participate in the fully funded two-week science forum and take advantage of the unique access to top science and research institutions in Germany.
- Present yourself and your research in person during individual appointments with experts of your choice.
- Tap the potential of a fully funded research stay at an institution of your choice in 2016.

Read more: [Green Talents](#)

5.9 German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation | India target

Deadline: 15 September 2015

The next application round for the German Chancellor Fellowship for tomorrow's leaders of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is open.

Each year, the German Chancellor Fellowship for prospective leaders gives up to 50 highly talented young professionals from Brazil, China, **India**, Russia and the USA the opportunity to spend a year in Germany enhancing their professional qualifications. Working with a host and mentor of their choice, the fellows implement independently developed projects in their respective field, e.g. in politics, business, society, culture or the media. The fellowship programme is under the patronage of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Application requirements include

- a Bachelor's or equivalent academic degree
- initial proven leadership experience
- German or English language skills
- a project plan
- a letter of acceptance from the fellow's German host, who may work e.g. in an organisation, a business, in public administration, a museum or the media.

Read more: [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#)



5.10 EMBO Long-Term Fellowship

Deadline: 14 August 2015

The European Molecular Biology Organisation ([EMBO](#)) brings together more than 1,500 leading researchers from 27 Member states and promotes excellence in the life sciences.

Young scientists actively seek EMBO Long-Term Fellowships for postdoctoral research to fund their internationally mobile careers. Hundreds of scientists also benefit each year from EMBO Short-Term Fellowships, returning to their home laboratories with new skills as well as contacts for future collaborations (deadline for the latter closed on 15/04/2015).

EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support postdoctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe. International exchange is a key feature in the application process.

Further information: [EMBO](#)

5.11 Forthcoming calls

Under HORIZON 2020:

Revised HORIZON 2020 Work Programme 2014-2015: [here](#) (check for documents ending with "v.2" under H2020/Work Programmes/2014-15/Main WP).

European Research Council (ERC)'s Work Programme 2015: [here](#)

Industrial Leadership I Horizon Prize I [BREAKING THE OPTICAL TRANSMISSION BARRIERS](#)

Planned to be launched on 28/05/2015

Industrial Leadership I Horizon Prize I [COLLABORATIVE SHARING OF SPECTRUM](#)

Planned to be launched on 28/05/2015

Societal Challenges I [Green Vehicles 2014-2015](#)

Planned to be launched on 24/06/2015



5.12 Calls still open (over 50 opportunities!!)

(see previous newsletters or click on the respective link for more details)



HORIZON 2020 – Calls for proposals (collaborative projects): access all calls under **Industrial Leadership** and **Societal Challenges** pillars on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

Deadline for submission: **check under specific call**.

A few new calls were launched in March under Societal Challenges pillar.

EURAXESS Links India pays particular attention to calls open to individual researchers under **Excellent Science** pillar (see below).

The following calls under HORIZON 2020 are highlighted here:

Excellent Science – [ERC Advanced Grant](#)

Deadline: 2 June 2015

Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators (10-year excellent scientific track record) at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Applicant Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Excellent Science – [ERC Proof of Concept Grant](#)

There are 3 deadlines for submission to the ERC-2015-Proof of Concept:

First deadline: 5 February 2015 at 17:00 (Brussels local time) - **CLOSED**

Intermediate deadline: **28 May 2015** at 17:00 (Brussels local time)

Final deadline: **1 October 2015** at 17:00 (Brussels local time)

Excellent Science I [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships \(IF\)](#) – Deadline: 2 September 2015

The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of *experienced researchers* (i.e. **more than 4 years research experience or have a doctoral degree** (PhD)) wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition at multi- or interdisciplinary level through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Industrial Leadership I [Fast Track Innovation - Pilot](#) (2015-2016)

Proposals can be submitted at any time as of January 9 2015, yet will be ranked following **three cut-off dates in 2015**: April 29 (closed), **September 1 and December 1**. The three cut-off dates for 2016 will be made public at a later time. FTI Pilot in Horizon Work Programme 2014-2015: [here](#)

Other European calls (Europe-India specific or where India involved):

Indo-Dutch: [Cooperation between The Netherlands and India on X-ray Astronomy and Technology](#)

Deadline: **no deadline applicable**.





Calls by European Research Area countries (not only for India):

AUSTRIA: [Lise Meitner Programme for scientists from abroad](#)

Deadline: accepted continuously, **no application deadlines**

AUSTRIA: [Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants](#)

BELGIUM-Wallonia: [BEWARE Fellowships I Industry and Academia](#)

Deadline (cut-off dates: April 30 (CLOSED), **June 30, September 30 and November 30 2015.**

Two funding schemes are open to attract researchers in Wallonia / Federation Wallonia – Brussels: (1) BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS Industry and (2) BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS Academia.

The BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS (BELgium WALLonia REsearch) programmes are co-financed by the COFUND program of the European Union (Marie Curie Actions).

FRANCE: [“Connect Talent” 2015 International Call for Projects](#)

Deadlines: 28 April 2015 (closed), **September 2015 and February 2016**

Support funded by Pays de la Loire Region to research, training and innovation "breakthrough projects"

Eligible fields: acoustics, vegetal, renewable marine energies, numeric, professional electronics, agro food, tourism, material for molecular photonics and organic electronics, European studies, creative and cultural industries, among others.

GERMANY: [Georg Forster Research Fellowship \(HERMES\) - Top opportunities for researchers from developing countries](#)

Deadline: There is **no closing date** for submitting applications.

GERMANY: [Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers](#)

Deadline: There is **no closing date** for submitting application

ITALY: [Call for 86 posts in PhD courses at the Scuola Normale Superiore](#)

Applications registered by: **31 August 2015, for the autumn session**

POLAND: [Foundation for Polish Science – Ideas for Poland](#)

Deadline: Applications **accepted on a rolling basis**

Eligible applicants: Winners of the “ERC Starting Grants” competition who intend to pursue scientific research in Poland.

PORTUGAL: [New Media and Pervasive Systems PhD Programme by COPELABS and University Lusofona](#)

Deadline for application: **different deadlines**

TURKEY: [TÜBİTAK – Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers](#)



Applications will be accepted **twice a year**. Application deadlines for 2015:

I. Period : 16 March 2015 - 20 April 2015 - **CLOSED**

II. Period : **14 September 2015 - 19 October 2015**

UK: [Wellcome Trust- Investigator Awards](#)

Applications are considered **three times a year** (February, July, November).

Next full application closing dates: **17 July 2015** and **6 November 2015**



Horizon 2020: Call of expression of interest for experts

Additional details can be found in the [Participant Portal](#). *We encourage experienced researchers to check it and register as an expert.* The call for expression of interest will remain open for the lifetime of Horizon 2020.

6 Jobs

6.1 EURAXESS Portal and EURAXESS Jobs



The [EURAXESS Portal](#) provides links to information on career and grant opportunities in science and technology mainly in European countries.

For research careers in Europe and the world, visit the [EURAXESS Jobs](#) website! **It includes fellowships such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie ones as well as vacancies advertised by Science AAAS** (the American Association for the Advancement of Science) *and Alumniportal* (Germany). EURAXESS Jobs vacancies are also seen at Naturejobs portal.

Currently, there are 7954 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe but also in other countries such as in India and in all disciplines, including social sciences and humanities) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

Most jobs are open to researchers of any nationality.

6.2 JRC Call for expressions: European Researchers (postdocs) – *Still open*



The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has just launched a call for expressions of interest to recruit on fixed-term contracts. As the European Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre provides the science for EU policy making, providing a unique opportunity to make your work count. Successful candidates will work in one of the JRC sites, located in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

The selection is open to applicants from the EU Member States or from one of the countries associated with the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Eligible fields are: Biology, Chemistry, Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Biochemistry, Oceanography / Marine Sciences, Nanotechnology, Nanobiotechnology, Veterinary, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Computer Sciences, Statistics, Material Sciences, Economics, Political Sciences, Social Sciences, Educational Sciences, Psychology ,



Geography, Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural Engineering, Meteorology, Ecology, Forestry, Geology, Hydrological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Pharmacy, Nutritional Sciences.

More info: [Joint Research Centre](#)

6.3 Graphene Based Nanostructures and Materials (France, UK, Spain, Greece) | 13 positions

Deadline: 29 May 2015

Applications are invited for 13 PhD positions working in graphene-based materials, funded by the EU commission Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN initiative. The network entitled "Enabling Excellence" offers integral R&D training at PhD level around one of the most active and exciting topics at the forefront of nanoscience and nanotechnology, graphene-based nanostructures and materials, and associated instrumentation development. This is accompanied by a unique and continuous Communication training programme throughout the duration of the project. We are looking for: 13 excellent candidates to pursue research leading to a PhD from 2015 to 2018 in a European network of excellent academic and non-academic institutions. The successful candidates will have a background in Chemistry, Physics, Materials Science, Engineering or a related discipline. They will be highly motivated researchers with an excellent academic background, team players ready to actively contribute to the network activities.

Read more: [EURAXESS Jobs](#)

6.4 Join us on LinkedIn: [linkedin.euraxess.org](https://www.linkedin.com/company/euraxess)



The EURAXESS Links group on LinkedIn is for **internationally mobile researchers** to share their experiences and learn of jobs and career opportunities around the world.

It is part of the EURAXESS initiative, the European Commission's programme to support researchers, of which EURAXESS Links is its external window (i.e. for outside Europe).

The global EURAXESS LinkedIn group is complementary to the country based EURAXESS Links India community managed with SINAPSE.

An example of recent employment, fellowship or course opportunity published on EURAXESS Links - Internationally Mobile Researchers is provided below. For further information click on the title:

[Training for an assessment center in Saarbrücken \(July 9 and 10\)](#)

(Article available in English!)

For 8 PhDs from all disciplines. Training language will be German.

To get more information, check out the video: [here](#)



6.5 India: Jobs at [DevNetJobsIndia](#)

At the time of writing this issue, DevNetJobsIndia offers positions in research and innovation. Best is to check it up in the beginning of the month when new positions are advertised.

6.6 India: Jobs at [IndiaBioScience](#)

IndiaBioscience is a non-profit science outreach initiative created to fulfill the niche gap within the Life Science sector in India. IBS is envisioned to function as a catalyst organization that will invigorate the various activities associated with establishing a strong hold for scientific research on the global scene – this includes recruitment, networking, collaborations, research oriented education and science communication.

IndiaBioScience is your Gateway to Indian Biology!

7 Events

Event (click for more details)	Location	Date
7.1 Europe		
Events announced under Horizon 2020 website It includes the Information Days by the EC and Brokerage events	<i>Check link</i>	<i>Check link</i>
Infoday: Science with and for Society 2015 by SiS.net2 in cooperation with the EC	Brussels, Belgium	22 May
12th International Conference of Young Scientists on ENergy Issues (CYSENI 2015)	Kaunas, Lithuania	27-28 May
A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation by the European Commission	Brussels, Belgium	22-23 June
6th EMBO Meeting	Birmingham, UK	5-8 September
27th European Union Contest for Young Scientists by the European Commission	Milan, Italy	17-22 September
ICT 2015 - Innovate, Connect, Transform by the European Commission with the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia Portugal	Lisbon, Portugal	20-22 October
ESOF 2016	Manchester, UK	22-27 July 2016
7.2 India		
Smart Cities India 2015 Europe Enterprise Network (EEN) India Brokerage Event planned. Register here	New Delhi (Pragati Maidan)	20-22 May
EURAXESS MSCA IF and ERC Session	Bengaluru, Karnataka	early June (tbc)



One day workshop on ' Using patent information for business intelligence and IPR commercialisation '	Kolkata, West Bengal	1 June
One day workshop on ' Using patent information for business intelligence and IPR commercialisation '	Bhubaneswar, Odhisa	3 June
Indo-European Conference on Fostering Co-operation in Research, Innovation and IPR by CII with EBTC and EPO	New Delhi	5 June
EURAXESS Information Session at BITS-Pilani	Zuarinagar, Goa	August/September
EURAXESS event: <i>Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Indian Researchers</i>	Kolkata, West Bengal	3 September (tbc)
EURAXESS Information Session	Mumbai, Maharashtra	September
9th Renewable Energy India Expo 2015	Greater Noida, NCR	23-25 September
EURAXESS Science Slam India 2015 Live finals	Bengaluru (tbc)	October
Intersolar India 2015	Mumbai, Maharashtra	18-20 November

EURAXESS Links India is a networking tool for European researchers active in India and Indian ones wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a research career in Europe. EURAXESS Links India provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-India and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. Membership is free.

Visit us at india.euraxess.org and click on **Login Community / Join the EURAXESS Links India community** on the right-hand side of the page.

EURAXESS Links is a European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation initiative. It has thus far been launched in the ASEAN (encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Brazil, China, India, Japan, and North America (USA & Canada).