

**Implementing Arrangement  
between  
the European Commission  
and  
the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)  
for AMED-supported researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in  
Europe**

In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Japan on cooperation in science and technology, signed on 30th November 2009 and entered into force on 29th March 2011, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide opportunities for collaboration between researchers is hereby established between the European Commission and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) (hereinafter referred to individually as a "Side" and collectively as the "Sides").

From the European Commission side, the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council (ERC), is intended to perform the tasks specified in this Implementing Arrangement. The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

The Sides recognise that the collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of their respective authorities, policies, legal frameworks and other requirements.

Research opportunities are intended to be provided in line with the terms set out in the Agreement.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law and it has no financial implications.

## **1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES**

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for researchers receiving support under AMED-funded projects (hereinafter referred to as 'AMED-supported researchers') to pursue research collaborations with European research teams already supported through the EU-funded ERC grants<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'ERC-supported European teams'). It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest

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<sup>1</sup> <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/funding-schemes>

to generate synergistic benefits for both the AMED-funded projects and the EU-funded ERC grants projects.

## **2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES**

This collaboration is intended to enable AMED-supported researchers to carry out research visits with ERC-supported European teams.

The collaboration is intended to enable AMED-supported researchers to participate in the ERC-supported European teams through short-term/ long-term/ single or multiple visits within the lifetime of the AMED-funded projects and the EU-funded ERC grant projects.

## **3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION**

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used:

- a) The ERCEA would solicit expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) benefiting from ERC grants in cooperating with AMED-supported researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.
- b) The ERCEA would send to the AMED a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between the AMED and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- c) The AMED would inform AMED-supported researchers of the collaborative opportunities available, describing the goals of the ERC programme, and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers. It would also provide information about application procedures, eligibility conditions, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate. The AMED would also invite AMED-supported researchers to communicate directly with the ERC-supported European teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of the collaboration with ERC-supported European teams.

## **4. TECHNICAL WORKING MEETINGS**

The Sides intend to have regular technical working meetings with the participation of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate additional representatives to the meetings and, where appropriate, may invite researchers who have participated in the collaboration activities under this Implementing Arrangement. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the AMED and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Best practices and other relevant aspects consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to maximize collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be stated in the meeting minutes.

During the technical working meetings, the Sides should review the activities, under this Implementing Arrangement and discuss any adjustment that would be necessary. These meetings are expected to take place at least once per year, and they should be held virtually or, if opportune, at the AMED or the ERCEA premises.

## **5. FUNDING**

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are intended to be made in line with the availability of appropriated funds, with the applicable laws and regulations, and with the policies and programmes of each Side.

### **(1) The AMED**

AMED-supported researchers can continue to receive AMED funding according to the terms and conditions of their respective grant/s. Travel expenses related to the research visits could therefore be claimed under the active AMED grant. However, in line with the rules that apply to AMED grants, they would be required to obtain approval from their respective institution which they belong to and AMED before commencing a collaborative project arrangement with their European counterparts.

### **(2) The ERC**

Visiting AMED-supported researchers may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the research visit, so that any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grants, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms can be reimbursed and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. The involved AMED-supported researchers should be solely involved in seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under the ERC grant without any involvement of AMED. Subject to the compliance with all the eligibility criteria set out in the ERC grant agreement, eligible cost categories of the Host Institution could include:

- i. For researchers receiving a grant/stipend under AMED-funded projects, subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other pertinent modality of the Host Institution, in line with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable to the Host Institution, which may take into account the level of experience of the individual visiting Japanese researchers.
- ii. Any other eligible costs incurred by the Host Institution during the visit of the AMED-supported researcher that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

## 6. DURATION

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time.

Signed at Tokyo on 13 November 2020, in duplicate in the English language.

**For the European Commission**



**Dr Patricia Flor**

Ambassador of the European Union to Japan

**For the Japan Agency for Medical  
Research and Development**



**Dr MISHIMA Yoshinao**

President