



Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for Indian researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India¹, signed on 23 November 2001 and entered into force on 14 October 2002, as renewed², hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”, an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Indian researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities is hereby established between the European Commission and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) (hereinafter referred 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. *MA*

The Sides understand 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 accordance 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. *V.K.*

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for Indian researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities, in particular Principal Investigators of Research Projects, Senior Fellowship Awardees and Post-Doctoral Fellows who are supported by the ICSSR (hereinafter referred to as ‘Indian researchers’) to pursue research collaborations with European

¹ OJ L 213, 09.08.2002, p. 30

² OJ L171, 01.07.2009 p. 17, OJ L260, 07.10.2015, p. 18 and OJ L 193, 17.06.2020, p. 3

researchers already supported through the EU-funded ERC grants³. It is expected that collaborations would occur in similar areas of scientific pursuit or on topics of mutual interest.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

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

The collaboration is intended to enable Indian researchers to participate through short-term (up to two months) visit. Research visits are expected to begin at least six months prior to the end date of the completion and submission of the report of the project.

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 Indian researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.
- b) The ERCEA would send to the ICSSR 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 ICSSR and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.
- c) The ICSSR would inform Indian 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.

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. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the ICSSR and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Best practices consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to collaborate 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

³ <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/funding-schemes>

meetings are expected to take place at least once per year, and they should be held virtually or, if opportune, at the ICSSR or the ERCEA premises.

5. FUNDING

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

(1) The ICSSR

Indian researchers can continue to receive ICSSR funding according to the terms and conditions of their respective grant/s. Travel expenses, visa fees and travel insurance related to the research visits could therefore be claimed under the active ICSSR grant. However, in accordance with the rules that apply to ICSSR grants, they would be required to obtain approval from their respective institution before commencing a collaborative agreement with their European counterparts.

(2) The ERC

Visiting Indian 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 Indian researchers should be solely involved in seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under the ERC grant, without any involvement of the ICSSR. 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 ICSSR, subsistence costs on a per diem basis, or any other pertinent modality of the Host Institution, in accordance 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 Indian researchers.
- ii. Any other eligible costs incurred by the Host Institution during the visit of the Indian researcher that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

6. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

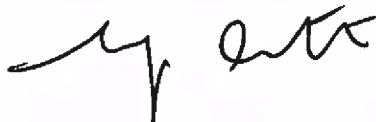
The Sides, by mutual consent in writing, may allow the inclusion of other categories of Indian researchers supported by the ICSSR under this Implementing Arrangement.

7. 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 New Delhi, on 28 October 2020, in duplicate in the English language.

For the European Commission



Ambassador Ugo Astuto
Head of the EU Delegation to the
Republic of India

**For the Indian Council of Social
Science Research**



Prof. V.K. Malhotra
Member Secretary, ICSSR