

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

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

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EURAXESS INDIA

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



Albania is a democratic and developing country with an upper-middle income economy. Albania is a member of the United Nations, World Bank, UNESCO, NATO, WTO, CoE, OSCE and OIC. It is also an official candidate for membership in the European Union. Furthermore, Albania is one of the founding members of the Energy Community, including the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and Union for the Mediterranean.

EURAXESS country in focus: Albania

1.1 Research and Development in Albania

Albania has a number of research institutions conducting cutting-edge basic research. Eleven of the Top-35 research organizations that receive funding through the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) are from Albania. The capacity of Albania's research institutes to conduct excellent research is also reflected in the relatively good performance in terms of scientific publications.

R&D performance is concentrated in public sector centres and institutes, higher education institutions, line ministries, and the government sector: UNESCO statistics indicate that in 2008, 52.1% of R&D was performed by the public sector and 47.9% by higher education. UNESCO¹ also reports that GERD funded by business enterprises totalled 13.1m ALL in 2007 and 54.3m ALL in 2008 (\$0.308m and \$1.311m in current PPP\$, respectively, or approximately €0.225m in 2007² and €0.891m 2008³). This is the first standardised indicator of the size of BERD in the country—other estimates suggest that the ratio of gross business enterprise expenditure on RTD to GDP is around 0.0025%⁴.

1.2 Albania's R&D Strategy

The **New R&D&I Strategy for the Programming Period 2017-2022** aspires to strengthen the Albania research system (human capital and infrastructure), conduct research relevant to the needs of the country and thus make R&D an indispensable tool for the further development of the Albania economy. In this context, it is intended to launch programmes focusing on the development of human capital for research in a knowledge economy (including support to excellent researchers, support to mobility of researchers to work in enterprises, and support to training for innovation activities, as well as starting grants for new researchers).

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

According to the programme of National Strategy for Development, Science and Innovation, Albanian enterprises are expected to increase their Business Expenditures on Research and Development sensibly. A considerable number of enterprises is more and more undertaking Research and Innovation activities mainly in services and incremental innovations. In this line, The National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation aims to support a close collaboration between the private businesses and the academic staffs through the implementation of The Triple Helix Project (Public + Businesses + Academia).

[1] Beyond 20/20 WDS - Table View

[2] Source: European Central Bank, ECB reference exchange rate, US dollar/Euro equal to \$1.3705/€1, 2007 data.

[3] Source: European Central Bank, ECB reference exchange rate, US dollar/Euro equal to \$1.4708/€1, 2008 data.

[4] Estimates from discussions with MES officials, 2011

1.3 Funding and Recruitment Opportunities

The government constitutes the largest R&D source of funds (in 2015, 0.4% of the GERD was funded by GOV) and the third largest R&D performer (after Higher Education Institutes and Business). The National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation www.akti.gov.al is the supreme State advisory body for national policy for research, technology and innovation. The responsibility of funding research is shared between the *Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth* and the *Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs*.

The National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI) consider the scientific and technological cooperation agreements as important in increasing the national capacities of the scientific research level. There are calls launched to do justice to this importance and these calls are funded from the government's budget.

The agency has a record on carrying out bilateral calls with Slovenia, Austria, Turkey and Italy. It is also important to note that governmental agreements on science exist with a whole range of states/countries all around the world:

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina
2. Malaysia (Active)
3. Kosovo (Active)
4. Macedoni (Active)
5. Austri (Active)
6. France (Active)
7. Jermani (Active)
8. Hungarian (Active)
9. Itali (Active)
10. Ceki (Active)
11. Slovakia (Active)
12. Croaci (Active)
13. Rumani (Active)
14. Slovenian (Active)
15. Bullgari (In Negotiation)
16. Polison (On Negotiations)
17. Greqi (In Negotiations)
18. Turqi (Active)
19. The United Emirates

Furthermore, Albania has an interstate agreement with 9 of the 28 European Union member states. The dates of implementation of these agreements are as follows :

1. Austria- 11.01.2006
2. France- 02.08.2011
3. Germany- 03.09.2012
4. Hungary- 04.01.2008
5. Italy 5-18.12.1997
6. Czech- 06.10.1998
7. Slovakia- 08.2001
8. Romania- 10.2009
9. Slovenia- 23.02.2007



Important information for incoming researchers

[EURAXESS Albania](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) is a resource for foreign researchers who plan to come to Albania. Whether you are looking for information about work, study or everyday life in Albania, EURAXESS Albania covers all matters relating to your professional and daily life, job and funding opportunities. EURAXESS Albania is also a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses.

Meanwhile, with other countries:

1. Turkey (07.02.2007)
2. United Arab Emirates-13.03.2014
3. Russia- (11.04.1995)
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina- (22.12.2003)
5. Monte Negro- (16.12.2008)
6. Kosovo- (12.2013)
7. Macedonia- (2016)

The current ambition of the agency (NASRI) is to endow into future calls with Monte Negro, Kosovo and Macedonia.

1.4 International Research Cooperation and Mobility Examples

The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for expenditure in 2015. At the end of 2015, the Higher Education sector was composed of 12 public universities and 28 institutes subordinated to Ministries. In addition to public, there are 24 private universities of various types accredited by the *Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth* operating in the country.

The R&I strategy for the next programming period 2017-2022 focuses on the following priorities:

- Areas of traditional strength for the country (examples: tourism, energy);
- Areas of recent successes in terms of critical mass and on-going activities (examples: IT, engineering, energy);
- Areas of high added value and able to deliver major economic benefit and employment prospects (examples: energy, nutrition – food sciences); and
- Areas of national interest (examples: food production, archaeology, culture, energy, defence).





Hot topic | Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 launched by the European Commission – Open to the world!



Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, says: "Artificial Intelligence, genetics, blockchain: science is at the core of today's most promising breakthrough innovations. Europe is a world leader in science and technology and will play a major role in driving innovation. The Commission is making a concerted effort – including with the European Innovation Council which takes its first steps today – to give Europe's many innovators a springboard to become world leading companies."

Spanning seven years (2014 - 2020) and with a budget of €77 billion, Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research and innovation funding programme ever supporting scientific excellence in Europe and has contributed to high-profile scientific breakthroughs such as the discovery of [exoplanets](#) and [gravitational waves](#). It is implemented via multi-annual work programmes.

On 27 October 2017, the European Commission presented the final Work Programme for Horizon 2020, covering the budgetary years 2018, 2019 and 2020 and representing an investment of around €30 billion.

Over the next 3 years, the Commission will seek greater impact of its research funding by focusing on fewer, but critical topics such as migration, security, climate, clean energy and digital economy. Horizon 2020 will also be more geared towards boosting breakthrough, market-creating innovation.

Supporting breakthrough, market-creating innovation

Since the beginning of its mandate, the Juncker Commission has been working hard to give Europe's many [innovative entrepreneurs](#) every opportunity to thrive. Now, the Commission is launching the first phase of the **European Innovation Council**. Between 2018 and 2020, the Commission will mobilise €2.7 billion from Horizon 2020 to support high-risk, high-gain innovation to create the markets of the future. Moreover, Horizon 2020 will make better use of its "crack the challenge" prizes to deliver breakthrough technology solutions to pressing problems faced by our citizens.

Focusing on political priorities

The 2018-2020 Work Programme will focus efforts on fewer topics with bigger budgets, directly supporting the [Commission's political priorities](#):

- **A low-carbon, climate resilient future:** €3.3 billion
- **Circular Economy:** €1 billion
- **Digitising and transforming European industry and services:** €1.7 billion
- **Security Union:** €1 billion
- **Migration:** €200 million

€2.2 billion will be earmarked for **clean energy** projects in four interrelated areas: renewables, energy efficient buildings, electro-mobility and storage solutions, including €200 million to support the [development and production in Europe of the next generation of electric batteries](#).

For more information on H2020

[MEMO](#): Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020

[Factsheet](#): migration-related research

[Factsheet](#): lump sum pilot

[Country factsheets](#)

[Horizon 2020 website](#) and [calls](#)

[Participant portal](#)

Horizon 2020 – EU-India Water Call Open: Euro 30 million for water research & innovation with India.

Jointly funded by the European Commission, Department of Science & Technology and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

The Call focuses on drinking water purification, waste water treatment & real-time monitoring & control systems.

Project consortia should include at least three legal entities from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon 2020 PLUS three legal entities from India.

Please visit the EU's participant portal [here](#) for detailed information.

Also complete guidelines for Indian participants and funding modalities is available on the websites of:

- Department of Science & Technology (DST): <http://www.dst.gov.in/>
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT): <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/>

Deadline for proposals: 27 February 2018.

For more information & guidelines visit [EURAXESS India](#)

Boosting 'blue sky' research

At the same time, Horizon 2020 will continue to fund 'curiosity-driven science' (often referred to as 'blue sky science' or 'frontier research'). The annual [Work Programme of the European Research Council](#) for 2018, adopted in August, will enable support for excellent researchers with nearly €1.86 billion. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, which fund fellowships for researchers at all stages of their careers, receive a boost with €2.9 billion in total over three years.

Enhancing international cooperation

The new Work Programme also strengthens international cooperation in research and innovation. It will invest over €1 billion in **30 flagship initiatives** in areas of mutual benefit. Examples include working with Canada on personalised medicine, with the US, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Australia on road transport automation, with India on water challenges and with African countries on food security and renewable energies.

Spreading excellence

Between 2018 and 2020, €460 million under Horizon 2020 will be allocated specifically to supporting Member States and associated countries that do not yet participate in the programme to their full potential. The aim is to tap into the unexploited pockets of excellence in Europe and beyond. In addition, the programme also continues to promote closer synergies with the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#).

Simplifying rules of participation further

Another novelty is the introduction of the **lump-sum pilot**, a new, simpler approach to providing financial support to participants. It will shift the focus of ex-ante controls from financial checks to the scientific-technical content of the projects.

Open Science

The programme marks a step change in promoting Open Science by shifting from publishing research results in scientific publications towards sharing knowledge sooner in the research process. €2 billion will be channelled to support Open Science, and €600 million will be dedicated to the **European Open Science Cloud**, European Data Infrastructure and High Performance Computing.

Partnering tools for Horizon 2020 calls:

For H2020 calls, in order to find European Partners, we strongly recommend you to visit:

CORDIS: is the Research and Technological Development (RTD) platform of the EU, including several on-line databases and partner search: <http://cordis.europa.eu/> OR <https://cordis.europa.eu/partners/web/guest>

- **CaRE:** Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials: The National Contact Points CaRE for H2020 has a partnering tool that supports potential applicants to the Horizon 2020 Work programme of the Societal Challenge 5 "Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials" in finding partners and building a consortium for a project proposal. <http://partnersearch.ncps-care.eu/>
- **EEN (The European Enterprise Network) targets SMEs:** <http://een.ec.europa.eu/>: The EEN helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make the most of business opportunities in the EU and beyond. It covers 17 key sectors that can be relevant to LIFE. <http://een.ec.europa.eu/tools/services/SearchCenter/Search/ProfileSimpleSearch>

3 In Focus | Meet Pranjul SHAH an Indian Researcher in Luxembourg and discover Luxembourg - the heartland of Europe that embraces diversity



*Pranjul SHAH, University of
Luxembourg - LCSB, Indian,
married, 2 children*



In this edition of the EURAXESS India Newsletter, we have the opportunity to present to you an Indian researcher in Luxembourg – Pranjul Shah. Pranjul did his research at the University of Luxembourg – LCSB.

Pranjul, how did you hear about Luxembourg and why did you decide to work in Luxembourg?

I was close to completion of my PhD at the Technical University of Denmark and was looking for opportunities where I could apply my research in more applied projects. I stumbled upon an interesting project in Luxembourg where my PhD thesis and outcomes were the missing piece in the puzzle and instantly decided to visit Luxembourg to get an exposure to the research environment and eventually decided to move to Luxembourg.

Name three characteristics about research work in Luxembourg or about Luxembourg in general.

Quality of research, State-of-the-art research facilities and ample funding opportunities are the three key characteristics which make Luxembourg an ideal destination for a researcher. Additionally, the dynamism and international outlook of the country's research community and attractive salary schemes for researchers makes it further appealing.

What role did EURAXESS play in this whole process (in the process of your settlement in Luxembourg)? Describe your experience with EURAXESS Luxembourg.

From the beginning, Euraxess was very helpful in simplifying the administrative process for me and this simplified the uncertainties linked to moving to a new country. Luxembourg can be a bit administratively heavy country at the start and Euraxess does the perfect job in minimizing this burden for the researchers so that they can focus on their research.



A message to anyone who is considering looking for partners in research in Luxembourg or moving to Luxembourg for work?

Luxembourg has a lot to offer as a research partner or as a next step in your career. Although small in comparison to other European countries but the sizeable research community is highly integrated, growing and reaching new heights each year. This is a right time to plan your move and get your Luxembourgish research career in motion. I am confident that in years to come Luxembourg research scene will race to the top.



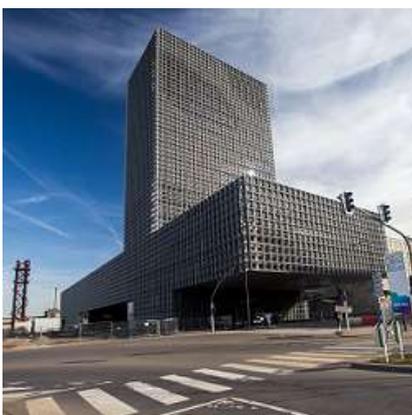
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[Welcome to Luxembourg - video](#)



© 2016, Le gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

[Belval – the City of Science](#)



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Luxembourg is becoming an energetic international research center. A great part of this ambition is and will be realised in Belval.

Discover LUXEMBOURG – an Inspiring Place!

Strategically located in the heart of Europe, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a strategic smart business, **research and innovation location** with a national character of openness, dynamism, reliability. For centuries, the country has been at the heart of a multitude of cultural influences, partly because of its geography but also because of trade, industrialisation, and **immigration**. It has protected its woodlands, shaped its landscapes with winegrowing, farming, and architecture. It has cultivated linguistic diversity, cultural originality, and economic freedom. It was also considered for a long time that the prosperity of Luxembourg was due to the richness of its soil. Once one of the main steel plant sites of Europe, the country became a financial place over the years due to the steel crisis in the seventies, before morphing recently into a research and innovation hub. Today, Luxembourg is **one of the most attractive countries in the world for working and living**, and a genuine societal laboratory.

Source: FNR. Luxembourg National Research Fund. Press Kit. September 2017.

LUXEMBOURG Policy and Strategy

LUXEMBOURG IS A DYNAMIC COUNTRY, WHERE RESEARCH HAS BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE

Public research in Luxembourg is young and dynamic with research policy contributing to the transition of the country towards a knowledge-based society. The overarching rationale behind research policy is to strengthen innovation as a driver of sustainable socioeconomic development and to contribute to a further diversification of the economy by developing new and strengthening existing high added-value economic activities. In this sense, research and innovation policy has been one of the major priorities of the Government since 1999 with Government budget outlays rising from 28 million euros in 2000 to approximately 400 million euros in 2016. This **proactive and committed policy approach puts Luxembourg firmly on the map of European research.** This is illustrated among others with the position of the University of Luxembourg, while only

created in 2003, ranging 11th in the latest “Times Higher Education” ranking of the 200 universities under 50 years.

Public research is mostly performed at

- the [University of Luxembourg](#);
- one of the 3 public research centres;
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Technology \(LIST\)](#)
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Health \(LIH\)](#)
 - [Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research \(LISER\)](#)
- the [Max-Planck Institute Luxembourg](#) for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law



Max-Planck-Institute
LUXEMBOURG
for Procedural Law



Innovation



[Luxinnovation](#) is a key partner for companies looking to engage in innovative activities in Luxembourg or aiming to expand their business at the international level.

Recruitment Opportunities

Luxembourg is a dynamic country, where research has become a central issue.

Public Sector Recruitment Opportunities

Most researchers in Luxembourg are employed in public sector institutions, with University of Luxembourg being one of the most important employers of research staff. All positions open at the public sector institutions and the University of Luxembourg are published on the [EURAXESS webpage](#).

Private Sector Recruitment Opportunities

The financial sector is the main driving force behind the Grand Duchy's economy. The Grand Duchy's authorities have adopted a policy of diversification of the country's economic fabric by providing support for information and communication technologies (ICTs), logistics, bio- and eco-technologies, research, etc. as well as actively promoting the diversification of the financial marketplace.

Several instruments for investment aid to stimulate R&D activities within companies: grants, loans, venture capital, export credit lowest VAT rate in Europe.

Source: <http://www.luxembourg.public.lu>

Find innovative partners in the [private and public sector](#).





Our newly updated [guide](#) includes key topics such as **employment, entry conditions, visa procedures, taxation, social security, health care**, as well as relevant information about **housing and daily life**.

Funding Opportunities



The **Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)** is the **main funder of research activities in Luxembourg**. The FNR invests public funds and private donations into research projects in various branches of science and the humanities, with an emphasis on selected core strategic areas. Furthermore, it supports and coordinates activities to strengthen the link between science and society and to raise awareness for research. The FNR also advises the Luxembourg government on research policy and strategy. The FNR has a broad range of international funding opportunities, among which bilateral collaborations with RIKEN in Japan or the NRF in Singapore. Further details are available under the “**International Cooperation**” section of the [Luxembourg National Research Fund website](#).

Important Information for Incoming Researchers

The [EURAXESS Luxembourg team](#) is at your full disposal.

[EURAXESS Luxembourg](#) provides information and support to international researchers, all services are free of charge. We provide information about **entry conditions, visas** and residence permits, Luxembourg in general, the Luxembourgian research landscape, **job & funding offers**, partnering, events for researchers and much more!

Please read our [Foreign Researchers' guide to Luxembourg](#), a practical guide on living & working in Luxembourg.

ENTRY CONDITIONS:

Please [check if you need a visa](#).

For working and long-term stays, they require a hosting agreement and a residence permit. See all [Luxembourgian embassies and representations](#) around the world.

Fees are waived for researchers from third countries travelling within the EU for the purpose of carrying out scientific research. For additional information on visa issues please visit the [Euraxess Luxembourg website](#).

4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (October-December)

(click on the respective link for more details)

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

News: [Meet Dr. Sanna Fowler an expert in science communication](#)

News: [Idea Books/Tools for researchers on how to improve their science communication skills by Dr Sanna Fowler](#)

News: [Fake news - including fake science news - is taking the world by storm](#)

News: [Talented Indian researchers to collaborate with ERC teams in Europe](#)

Call open: [ERC Consolidator Grants \(CoG\)](#)

News: [ERC Ideas Newsletter 3-2017 – Serendipity](#)

News: [Third Newsletter of the EU Technical Cooperation for Environment in India Project](#)

News: [Funding for skin health research – AlmirallShare](#)

Call open : [ERC Consolidator Grant Call – Host institution offer in Padova \(Italy\)](#)

Call open: [ERC Consolidator Grant Call 2018 – Host institution offer in A Coruña \(Galicia, Spain\)](#)

News: [ERC Starting Grants 2018 - Facts and Figures](#)

Call open: [Horizon 2020 - Calls related to Copernicus Open](#)

News: [Global Health Summer Program 2018 at BGU Israel](#)

News: [EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017 finalists on The Statesman!](#)

News: [Priyanka Das Gupta: 1st prize of the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017](#)

News: [Photo album of the LIVE finals of the 5th EURAXESS Science Slam India](#)

News: [More hosting offers in the specific “Hosting” Section on EURAXESS Portal](#) – For future MSCA-IF calls or other opportunities

Calls: [Funding Opportunities 2017 December Issue](#)

News: [Report on the TECO JOINT WORKSHOP 2017 – Out!](#)

4.2 Event Outlook

Event (click on event title for more details)	Location	Date
1 Europe/Outside India		
ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) - the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe	Toulouse, France	9-14 July 2018
2 India		
3rd Info & Networking Event: EU-India Call on Water	Guwahati, India	5 January 2018
4th Info & Networking Event: EU-India Call on Water	Vadodara, India	11 January 2018
5th edition of India m2m + iot forum	New Delhi, India	30-31 January 2018
India Smart Grid Week 2018	New Delhi, India	5-9 March 2018