

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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EURAXESS INDIA

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1 Briefing | EURAXESS country: Greece

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 e-newsletter. In this edition, we zoom in on Greece.



[Greece](#) is a developed democratic country with a high standard of living. A founding member of the United Nations, Greece was the tenth member to join the European Communities (precursor to the European Union) and has been part of the Eurozone since 2001.

¹ *Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH)- www.forth.gr/*

Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)- www.certh.gr/root.en.aspx,

National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos”- www.demokritos.gr/?lang=en,

Institute of Communications and Computer Systems (ICCS)- www.iccs.gr/en/,

ATHENA Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies- www.athena-innovation.gr/.

1.1 Research and Development in Greece

Greece has a number of research institutions conducting cutting-edge basic research. Five of the Top-50 research organizations that receive funding through the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) are from Greece¹. The capacity of Greek research institutes to conduct excellent research is also reflected in the relatively good performance in terms of outstanding scientific publications¹. Greece’s performance (2015) is above the EU average for some individual indicators such as: international scientific co-publications (120% of the EU average), non R&D innovation expenditure in the private sector (127%), SMEs marketing/organisational innovations (124%) and innovative SMEs collaborating with others (120%)².

At the end of 2013 (most recent available data), **Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** was at 1.47 billion Euro, increasing from 0.67% of GDP in 2011 to 0.8% of GDP in 2013³. In the context of the revision of the National Reform Programme (for the year 2014), the Greek authorities have proposed a more ambitious target of as much as 1.2 % of GDP.⁴ The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for 38.2 % of the total R&D expenditure in 2015. At the end of 2015, the Higher Education sector was composed of 22 public universities and 14 public Technological Education Institutes (TEI). In addition to public, there are 28 private universities of various types accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs operating in the country. There are 15 public research organisations, of varying sizes, supervised by the **GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (GSRT)**.

Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The R&I strategy for the next programming period (**Revision of the implementation law (Law 4386/2016) of the National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation-ESETAK**), which includes the **Smart Specialisation strategy (RIS3)**, focuses on the following priorities:

¹ *THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH ON GREEK ECONOMIC GROWTH, GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIW ECON, NOVEMBER 2016*

² *RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2017*

³ *RIO Country Report Greece 2014, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2015*

⁴ *Researchers’ Report 2014 Country Profile: Greece, prepared by Deloitte*

- Areas of traditional strength for the country (examples: shipping, tourism, energy);
- Areas of recent successes in terms of critical mass and on-going activities (examples: IT, pharmaceuticals, 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, biomedicine).

In total, 8 technological areas were identified matching the priorities; Biosciences, Agro-Biotechnology Nutrition, Energy and Environment, Computer Science and Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, with about 28% of the funding for the next programming period 2014-2020 allocated to Biosciences, followed by Engineering (18%) and Physical Sciences (12%)⁵. Approximately 27% of the total funding is expected to be dedicated to societal challenges.

1.2 Greek R&D Strategy

The **New R&D&I Strategy for the Programming Period 2014-2020**⁶ aspires to strengthen the Greek 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 Greek 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

The Business Sector is the second largest R&D provider of funds and performer in Greece (31.8% and 33.3% of the total GERD respectively). Based on EU2016 Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, **five Greek companies (one more than the previous year) featured among the top EU companies on R&D spending**: PHARMATHEN (Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology, www.pharmathen.com), INTRALOT (Technology Hardware & Equipment, www.intralot.com/), the National Bank of Greece (Banks, www.nbg.gr), GALAXIDI Marine Farmand (fish farm, www.gmf-sa.gr) and Creta Farm (meat and deli meats, www.cretafarms.gr). A large number of SMEs and start-ups are also declaring R&I activities mainly in service and incremental innovations⁷.

⁵ *National Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, National Council of Research and Technology*

⁶ *Greek National Reforms Programme 2014, April 2014*

⁷ *RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2016*

According to the National Reform Programme 2016, Greek enterprises are expected to increase their Business Expenditures on Research and Development (BERD) to approximately 0.38% of the GDP in 2020⁶. A large number of SMEs and start-ups have been undertaking R&I activities mainly in services and incremental innovations. Greece has three University Business Incubators and 6 Science and Technology Parks:

Technology & Science Park of Attika "Lefkippos" (www.demokritos.gr/Contents.aspx?CatId=60), Science and Technology Park of Crete (www.stepc.gr), Thessaloniki Technology Park (www.thestep.gr), Patras Science Park (www.psp.org.gr), Epirus Science and Technology Park (www.step-epirus.gr) and Lavrion Technological and Cultural Park (www.ltp.ntua.gr). Technology Transfer Offices (called "Innovation Liaison Offices") exist in major Higher Education Institutions and in 64% of Public Research Organisations⁷.

Establishment of a Foundation for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK) October 2016 by Law 4429/2016.

www.eib.org/projects/loan/loan/20150747

Brain drain has been recognized as a key challenge in the Operational Program for Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as the Greek Strategy for the European Research Area – Roadmap 2015-2020 (GSRT, 2016). The recently established (L.4429/2016) **National Foundation for Research and Innovation (NFRI-ELIDEK)** in the footsteps of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US, and Germany's Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) aims to address this challenge. The Foundation, co-sponsored by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and national funds, aims to fund combined with Greek national funds. The aim is to attract and to keep highly-qualified scientists in Greece, through funds devoted both to curiosity driven research and entrepreneurship & innovation. To this end, the Greek Research and Innovation Foundation will allocate 240 million euro by 2019⁶.

Enterprise Greece promotes investment and foreign trade in Greece

www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/en/about-us

Greece has valuable assets that contribute to the transition to an innovation-driven economy:

- leading research institutions,
- medium and high-tech firms, e.g. in the IT and pharmaceutical sector, as well as a certain number of innovative startups in the information technology sector in Athens,
- a considerable diaspora in research, finance and business.

Enterprise Greece is designed to promote and support Greek exports of goods & services and investments in Greece.

1.3 Funding and Recruitment Opportunities

The main funding body is the General Secretariat for Research and Technology

(www.gsrt.gr/)

The government constitutes the largest R&D source of funds (in 2015, 52.7% of the GERD was funded by GOV) and the third largest R&D performer (after Higher Education Institutes and Business). The National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI, www.esek.org.gr) 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, Research and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism. Funds coming from the EU

Regional Operational Programmes fall typically under the competence of the Regional Authorities. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food supervises the National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF, www.nagref.gr), which undertakes research and technology in agricultural, forest, animal and fish production and other related areas in Greece. The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for 38.2 % of the total R&D expenditure in 2015. The Business Sector is the second largest R&D funder and performer in Greece (31.8% and 33.3% of the total GERD respectively) ⁶.

The new Law on Research Technological Development and Innovation (L.4310/2014), acknowledges the pivotal role of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), part of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, in the design of R&D programmes and the allocation of funding.

1.4 International Research Cooperation and/or Mobility Examples

International cooperation is sought primarily through bilateral agreements. Such agreements have been signed between Greece and China (cooperation in the area of preservation of cultural heritage with the establishment of a Chinese Research Centre in Greece and a common research laboratory in China being under way) as well as Greece and Israel (collaboration in the area of entrepreneurship and Greek thematic priorities). New R&D agreements are planned with Chile, Montenegro, and Azerbaijan⁸.

Some examples of S&T cooperation:

- E-Rare-3 Call (www.erare.eu/) for proposals 2017: Transnational Research Projects for Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases

The following 17 countries intend to participate in this call: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

Agreements of Scientific Cooperation

- **The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** (www.auth.gr/en) has produced remarkable results with regard to international relations and its cooperation with foreign academic institutions. Within such a context, the Department of International Relations is the one responsible for coordinating and administering the Agreements on Scientific Cooperation which the university has signed over hundred and sixty (160) corresponding universities or equivalent higher education institutions in

Greek Embassies and representations around the world:
www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-bilateral-relations/a.html

Important information for incoming researchers

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

⁸ R&I sector, *Summarised Review, March 2015-August 2015, Ministry of Culture, Education and Religion*, pg. 8

Europe, the Balkan and Black Sea countries, Russia, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, the Near, Middle and Far East.

- **Cooperation agreement between HOPE-A** (Hellenic Organic and Printed Electronics Association) **and JAPEC** (Japan Advanced Printed Electronics Consortium) signed on July 5th, 2016 in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Economy, Development and Tourism of Greece. JAPEC numbers more than 90 members, among them Sony, Samsung, Hitachi, Toshiba, NEC και Panasonic. This Cooperation Agreement has opened new channels for effective collaboration, new cooperation opportunities, and mutual promotion of innovation activities between the HOPE-A and JAPEC members in OLED (Organic *Light* Emitting Diodes) Lighting and the emerging technological field for Organic and Printed Electronics Applications in Energy.

- The 7th **International Exhibition on Nanotechnologies**, Flexible Organic Electronics & Nanomedicine (www.nanotexnology.com) will take place from July 3rd to July 7th, 2017 in Thessaloniki. In Nanotexnology 2016, more than 1000 scientists and 450 innovation companies participated. Matchmaking events and a Business Forum are foreseen in the framework of Nanotexnology 2017.

- **Commitment** initially of 37 million euro from the smart specialization strategy (RIS3), in order to finance the programmes under the bilateral agreements until 2020. The first phase will be dedicated to the cooperation with Germany, China, Israel (Cyprus) and Russia. Part of the government's priorities is the promotion of the cooperation programmes in other countries within and outside the EU⁹.

⁹ HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH & RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (GSRT), *Greek Strategy for the European Research Area (ERA) National Roadmap (2015-2020)*, Athens, April 2016

About the author

Originally an immunologist, [Sanna](#) decided shortly after her PhD at Oxford that the lab bench was probably better off without her. She now works in communication and fundraising at EPFL (the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology).

EURAXESS India thanks EURAXESS ASEAN for this piece of information as the Hot topic in the 3-2017 EURAXESS India Newsletter.

2 Hot topic | Five ideas for better communicating your science by Sanna Fowler

As researchers, most of us still report our science in the same old way we've done it since school: title, authors, materials and methods, results, conclusions etc... you know the deal. This works for publications and peer-to-peer but are you increasingly being asked to explain what you do to 'non-experts'? Maybe you love this aspect of your work, maybe you find it challenging – in any case it requires a very different approach. Here are a few ideas that might help.

1. Ask yourself who is your 'end user'?

Everyone will tell you that one of the first rules of communication is “tailor your message to your audience... blah, blah blah...”

I think we can safely assume that you would never consider going into the depths of String Theory with a class of school kids, opting instead to explain things in a way that they'll understand. A different way of looking at it is to try and set up a chain reaction, allowing the person you communicate with to then use the information for something. This could be passing it on to someone else, or rethinking their opinion or behaviour for example. Your audience should never be the end user, try giving them the tools to be able to pass the message along.

2. Don't just educate...engage!

One of the biggest mistakes we make as scientists is feeling that our audience needs to understand how things work before we can begin to explain our research. This works fine with an intellectually curious audience but can actually be negative with non-experts – when people don't understand, they feel stupid and just switch off. There's a great article over at [Slate](#) that goes into more details on this with references to some nice studies if you want to know more, but essentially, ask yourself how much your audience really needs to know to be interested in what you say. Ok, so no schoolroom lectures - how do you really engage your audience?

3. Get personal and make your audience look good

The great American writer John Steinbeck noted rather sceptically “If a story is not about the hearer he/she will not listen.” It's obviously much easier to talk to an audience on a subject that affects them directly, like a possible cure for Alzheimer's or how much their water costs them, for example. But Steinbeck was only half right, probably because he lived in an age before social media. We naturally pick up on things that are new/crazy/funny/odd/frightening (delete as appropriate). So, if you can't make your research personal, ask yourself if you have something that will surprise or impress people.



“A science slam is a scientific talk where scientists present their own scientific research work in a given time frame - usually 10 minutes or less - in front of a non-expert audience. The focus lies on teaching current science to a diverse audience in an entertaining way.”

The **EURAXESS Science Slam** is a contest giving researchers the chance to showcase their **research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere**. This science communication competition is organised by EURAXESS India annually. It is now in its fifth edition.

EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017 is here!

Submit your video by 10 October 2017 and win a research trip to Europe via Chennai and Kolkata.

**Researchers of any nationality based in India and all career levels and fields welcome!
Go for it today!**

For more details, check out:

[EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)

On **facebook** you will be able to see videos by Indian candidates submitted in 2014, 2015, 2016 that will be gradually added as resource material for those of you participating in the 2017 edition.

[CERN](#) is a great example of this – not many of us can see the direct application of the Higgs Boson in our daily lives, but the idea of a 27km underground accelerator filled with superconducting magnets and cooling systems that use as much electricity as a small town is fascinating!

Can you give your audience something that will make them look good at a dinner party or get plenty of likes on social media when they relate what they've heard?

The last option is scandal, but unless you're willing to falsify a few results, get a couple of papers retracted, and ruin your career, this isn't the recommended option!

4. Pitch your science

If you've ever been to a start-up seed night, you'll have noticed that there is a pretty standard formula for pitching:

1. There's a problem,
2. I can fix it,
3. This is how much money I need and it can make you rich.

Ok, so you're not a start-up but you still have to 'sell' your idea. So set the stage, make sure people know what the problem or the question is (and if it affects them directly – see 3 above) and don't start with your science. Once they're tuned into the issue, then tell them about how you're trying to fix/answer it. Leave the money part for later.

5. Use your platforms & take yourself out of your comfort zone

Nobody gets good at anything by chance - sure genetics help, but you got your brain didn't you? Even if you think you're never going to be the Usain Bolt of the academic world, the old adage about practice goes for science communication too. This means you can't wait to be asked – get out of your comfort zone and sign up for [Science Slams](#), [3 minute thesis](#), [FameLab](#), [Soapbox Science](#), local [TEDx](#)'s, school's outreach programmes and many more.

Offer articles for your department's or university's websites/blogs/social media and if you're working for an institution with some kind of central communication unit, make sure they know who you are and when you publish. At first it might be the most frightening thing you've ever done but jump out of a plane (with a parachute!) enough times and that stomach-churning fear starts to come with a buzz.

What if none of these platforms exist where you are? Well, maybe you're just the right person to start one!

3 In Focus | Meet Damanbha Lyngdoh first prize winner of the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2016 competition



Damanbha Lyngdoh
Assistant Professor
Department of Zoology
Saint Anthony's College
Shillong, Meghalaya

Born and educated in Shillong, Meghalaya. Daman belongs to the Khasi matrilineal tribe, which is possibly one of the oldest tribes in India. Daman is a workaholic yet an avid nature lover who is also passionate about communicating science and sharing the wonders of biology with the general public, especially with students. He spends his free time being outdoors, listening to music, singing and doing a bit of photography.

Q: Daman, what is your research background and interests?

A: I am a zoologist, teaching zoology at St. Anthony's College, Shillong since 2009 right after my post-graduation. My research interests are parasitology and entomology involving molecular biology approach for studying various aspects of these organisms. My scientific inclination, especially my love for the subject parasitology can be attributed to my late grandmother who brought and initiated me to the world of these wonderful creatures known as parasites. Ever since then, I am always fascinated with these beautiful organisms. However, the scientific approach of questioning the unknown was triggered by my science school teachers and rekindled by my beloved teachers at St. Anthony's College, Shillong. Currently, my interest is on biodiversity studies involving molecular characterization, and molecular phylogenetics approach.

Where did you hear about the 4th EURAXESS Science Slam India competition? Why did you decide to participate?

I just chanced upon EURAXESS Science Slam on "youtube" when I was searching for some online videos for my PhD work. Then found out that the EURAXESS Science Slam is an annual competition for students, researchers to convey their work to the masses. Personally, I believe that knowledge should be shared and I couldn't think of a better platform to share the knowledge and interesting facts about my research work. The best part about EURAXESS Science Slam is that it involves a lot of fun and creativity and yes learning should be fun.

On your slam, why "Do not judge a book by its cover – A tale from India's North-East"? What did you want to convey the audience attending the live finals in Hyderabad last November?

India is a diverse, unique and a beautiful country. I come from a beautiful region of the country which is a treasure trove in terms of culture, nature, language, people and various life forms. During my field expeditions for my research, I realized that there are many things that people don't know about Northeast India. Therefore, I thought that it is best that I would want the outside world to know more about Northeast India and of course the scientific work that I am doing. Thus, I combined culture and science and present them in front of a live audience. So I took the opportunity to relate



Daman presenting in the finals at the EURAXESS Science Slam India 2016 competition in Hyderabad

my scientific work to the story of a famous Khasi Folktale, U Sier lapalang (The hunting of Lapalang: the stag).

Accolades:

Daman has won some other awards related to his research during his PhD period.

1. National Academy of Sciences, India - NASI SWARNA JAYANTI PURASKAR, for BEST ORAL PAPER PRESENTATION in BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES at the 85th Annual Session of the Academy held at KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, India on December 2015.

2. Won the Best Film at the First International Parasite Film Festival at the XII European Multicolloquium of Parasitology, Turku University, Turku, Finland, July 2016, awarded by the Jury.

3. Conferred the Sudev Bhusan Ghosh Young Scientist Award for 2015-16 by the Zoological Society of India, Kolkata on the 29th July, 2016 for scientific contribution on the "Phylogeography of the common liver-fluke *Fasciola* spp (Platyhelminthes:Trematoda: Fasciolidae) using nuclear and mitochondrial gene markers: Clues from Northeast India"

4. Conferred the Young Scientist Award for 2016-17 by The Indian Society for Parasitology, for best research paper presented at the Annual Congress of the Society at National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, Karnataka, India on the 27th April, 2017.

He has submitted his thesis which is under evaluation and he awaits the result.

Through the slam I also wanted to emphasize that everything in nature is created for a purpose and nature will balance itself, thus maintaining a harmony among all life forms. Parasites, also form a part of the intricate web whereby its position and structure within mother nature is crucial for the retaining and even restoring a balance in mother nature. Though parasites are known for their negative aspects, however, in my slam, through the help of the folktale, I portrayed them as heroes and titled the slam as "Do not judge a book by its cover – A tale from India's Northeast". Scientifically, the title is very apt as the parasites that I am working with cannot be identified and judged only by external appearance and it involves other aspects of identification. I took the art of story-telling and my rich culture to convey my research findings and brought home the award.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

Both had their own challenges. While preparing and applying for the slam, one has to keep in mind that the video to be made should be like a "teaser" of what you are going to present in the live finals (if selected). Therefore, one is confounded with the fact as to how much information is to be given, in what style should the video be made and above all it should be within five minutes. Thus one should be creative and smart enough so as to make a fun and entertaining video but also not to lose out on the crucial information that needs to be addressed.

Well, the live performance was even a greater challenge as one has to think outside the box as to how they should communicate their work to a general audience (the jury) who is unacquainted with your field of study. Moreover, the nerves also set in as we are performing live and also in front of a well read and highly intellectual Review panel. However, prior to the live finals, the Science communication workshop conducted by EURAXESS with the expertise of Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya from TIFR was an eye opener for all of us as it gave us some clues and hints as to how science communication should be. Thus, this helped me and I believe all the finalists tremendously in preparing for the live finals.

How was your experience as finalist of the 4th global EURAXESS Science Slam in India?

The EURAXESS Science Slam India 2016 was a great success and an unforgettable experience for me. The company among the other brilliant and talented finalist made it more memorable and a great learning experience. Moreover, I met a lot of people from various backgrounds and I learnt many new things and did make new friends too.

What was the first thought that came to your mind after winning the 2016 Science Slam title?

I was overwhelmed with the fact that the Review panel and the people in the audience loved the folktale as well as the scientific work conducted. The first thought that came to my mind was "gratitude". I am grateful to the

Almighty God for His care and protection, I am thankful to EURAXESS India for the wonderful opportunity, the little kids during my field visits that ignited the idea for the slam, my parents, family and friends for all their support and well wishes.

Where did your first prize EURAXESS Tour take you to?

I tried to visit more than just one research institute of my choice in the European Union. The four stops of the whole tour is summarized below:

1. New Delhi, India

The tour started with the meeting of Ms Tania Friederichs, Counsellor, Head of Research & Innovation Section, Delegation of the European Union to India, where I briefed her about my tour, my research work and the unique cultural diversity of India.

2. London and Liverpool, England

In London, at the Natural History Museum I met Dr. Fabian Schaer, Senior Project Manager, Deworm3 Project, Prof. Tim Littlewood, Head, Life Sciences Department, Dr. Bonnie Webster, Life Sciences Department; WHO Collaborating Centre for the Identification and Characterisation of Schistosomes and Snails, Dr. Aiden Emery, Life Sciences Department; Wolfson Wellcome Laboratories, NHM.

The visit to the Natural History Museum, London was a success. Moreover, I had the opportunity to give a talk at the Natural History Museum on 19 June 2017. The talk entitled "Do not judge a book by its cover - lessons from the liver-fluke species" was delivered at the Sir Neil Chalmers Seminar Room, NHM. The outcome of the interaction generated a positive response towards a future collaboration and prospects in studying the diverse fauna of India, in particular, Northeast India.

There was also a meeting with Shaun Holmes at the office of the British Council (EURAXESS Centre) in London. And I also met Dr. Diana Williams and Dr. Jane Hodgkinson at The University of Liverpool, Infection Biology in Liverpool before moving to Spain.

3. Valencia and Bilbao (Basque Country), Spain

At the University of Valencia I met Prof. Santiago Mas-Coma and his team, President of the International Federation of Tropical Medicine, Director of the WHO Reference Centre on Fascioliasis and its snail vectors and Director of the FAO-United Nations Reference Centre for Parasitology. I also met Dr. Juan Carlos Molto Cortes, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Valencia during the Valencia trip. My visit was published at the University of Valencia's webpage.

In Bilbao, I met Prof. Vladimir Kaberdin (Ikerbasque researcher) at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) and Miguel Benítez and Isabel Casas (MSCA-Individual Fellow) from the



Daman at the National History Museum with the Prof. Tim Littlewood, Head, Life Science, Natural History Museum, London

Basque Centre of Applied Mathematics (BCAM). These meetings were arranged by Ikerbasque (EURAXESS Centre).

4. European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

The meeting with Kitty Fehring and Carla Palmieri, the official in charge of EURAXESS within the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation in the European Commission Headquarters, and European Research Council (ERC) Information and Communication officer respectively, was very informative and helpful towards various scholarships/fellowships for Indian nationals.



Daman at University of Valencia with Dr. Juan Carlos Molto Cortes, the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Valencia and Prof. Santiago Mas Coma, President of the International Federation of Tropical Medicine

Now that you have visited Brussels and also at least one research institute of your choice in the European Union, do you find them different from research groups in India? Will you plan to pursue your research career in Europe?

The research experience is quite different and a good learning experience. From my experience, I can say that the system is more systematic and accessibility of resources is easier. Moreover, because of the European Union's own nature, there is an easy mobility between research labs across Europe, which facilitates easier sharing and acquiring of information in a short span of time. And yes, I would love to explore the possibility of a research career in Europe in the near future.

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

My only advice to other aspiring Science Slammers is to have fun, be creative and enjoy the moment. But of course, proper planning and exact dissemination of knowledge should be the ground base for the slam.

*I would like to end by saying "Thank you" in our Khasi language i.e **Khublei**, which carries a double meaning of expressing gratitude and also bestowing God's blessings upon the doer of good deeds.*

Khublei Daman, Thank you very much!



Daman at the European Commission Headquarters with Kitty Fehring (L), DG Research & Innovation in charge of EURAXESS and Carla Palmieri (R), ERC Information and Communication officer.

4 In case you missed it...

4.1 From our Flashnotes (July-September)

(click on the respective link for more details)

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

Calls: [Funding Opportunities 2017 July & August Issue](#)

News: [The new Indo-Italian Research Hub is on-line!](#)

Calls: Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) to fund two new calls from India side:

[Italy - India Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Program 2017](#) – **Open!**

[India, Israel may create \\$40-million innovation fund](#) – **Coming soon!**

News: [European Research Council announces its 2018 grant competitions](#)

Coming calls: [ERC Work Programme 2018](#)

Call open: [ERC Starting Grants competition](#)

Call open: [ERC Synergy Grants competition](#)

News: [ERC project by James Mallinson contributing to better understanding of yoga](#)

Call: [Chevening Scholarships are now open!](#)

News: [EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017 is here!](#)

Call: [Call by EU-India Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities \(EqUIP\)](#) on sustainability, equity, well-being and cultural connections

Call: [Spain - CDTI Programme for International Cooperation on Industrial R&D](#)

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

News: [European Research Day 2017 - EURAXESS Event, Ahmebadad, 15 Sept 2017 - Press Release](#)

News: [Show your research, and your scicomm skills, at EURAXESS Science Slam India 2017 - by IndiaBioscience](#)

4.2 Event Outlook

Event (click on event title for more details)	Location	Date (2017)
1 Europe/Outside India		
Events announced under Horizon 2020 website The website includes information on the Information Days by the European Commission and Brokerage events	<i>Check link</i>	<i>Check link</i>
AUR@sia 2017 - Exploring the frontier of science/Designing innovative international partnerships /Building a community	Shanghai, China	28-29 November
ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) - the largest interdisciplinary science meeting in Europe	Toulouse, France	9-14 July 2018
2 India		
5 th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Pre-selection (Stage 1) Stay tuned on EURAXESS India	Online	Open until 10 October
3 rd Communicating Science Out of the Lab – EURAXESS Event Stay tuned on EURAXESS India	Chennai	11 November
5 th EURAXESS Science Slam India – Live Finals (Stage 2) Stay tuned on EURAXESS India	Kolkata	8 December
