

India Country Page

1. Participation and Funding of Indian Entities in Horizon 2020

The EU's research and innovation framework programme 'Horizon 2020' (2014-2020) is **open to participation of entities from across the world** and in addition, many topics are flagged as being specifically relevant for cooperation with international partners.

Indian researchers, universities, research organisations and enterprises are able to team up with any European partners to participate in collaborative projects under Horizon 2020 and make the best use of Europe's scientific excellence. Through participation in Horizon 2020, Indian participants can gain great benefits from access to excellent talent, knowledge, data and infrastructures and connection to world-leading teams, networks and value chains. Vice versa, the European scientific community and innovators can greatly benefit from India's scientific capacity and entrepreneurial spirit.

As to funding, participants from India, just like participants from industrialised countries and the other emerging economies (the so-called BRIC countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China), are **not automatically eligible for funding under Horizon 2020**. Indian participants have therefore to find themselves the financial resources for their participation in Horizon 2020 collaborative projects. These could be own funds, funds from Indian ministries, foundations and other organisations, that fund international research and innovation activities. Contributions in kind can also be made. In exceptional circumstances, funding from Horizon 2020 can be received, if the participation is essential for the execution of the project.

The European Commission has concluded a **Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM)** with respectively the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, on the modalities of funding the successful Indian entities in selected Horizon 2020 projects. To note that the CFM applies only in pre-selected calls of proposals of the Horizon 2020 Work programmes.



2. Calls co-funded by Government of India (GoI)

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, is the only Indian Department that has agreed to apply the CFM to the last Horizon 2020 Work programme 2018-2020 on Building a low-carbon climate resilient future: research and innovation in support of the European Green Deal (Green Deal call).

On 22 September 2020, DBT agreed to co-fund the successful Indian entities in FIVE calls under the Horizon 2020 Green Deal workprogramme.

The FIVE selected call topics are in the following areas:

S. NO.	Title	Topic Identifier	Type of Action	Opening Date	Closing Deadline
1.	Area 2: Clean, affordable and secure energy Innovative land-based and	LC-GD-2-1-2020	RIA & IA	22 September 2020	26 January 2021

	offshore renewable energy technologies and their integration into the energy system				17:00:00 Brussels time
	<p>Subtopic 1 (Research and Innovation action): Development of land-based renewable energy technologies and their integration into the energy system</p> <p>Subtopic 2 (Innovation Action): Demonstration of innovative technologies to enable future large scale deployment of offshore renewable energy</p>				
2.	Area 3: Industry for a clean and circular economy Closing the industrial carbon cycle to combat climate change - Industrial feasibility of catalytic routes for sustainable alternatives to fossil resources	LC-GD-3-1-2020	IA	22 September 2020	26 January 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
3.	Area 6: Farm to Fork Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations in support of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy	LC-GD-6-1-2020	IA	22 September 2020	26 January 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtopic A. [2021] Achieving climate neutral farms by reducing GHG emissions and by increasing farm-based carbon sequestration and storage (IA) • Subtopic B. [2021] Achieving climate neutral food businesses by mitigating climate change, reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency in processing, distribution, conservation and preparation of food (IA) • Subtopic C. [2021] Reducing the dependence on hazardous pesticides; reducing the use and increasing the efficiency of fertilisers; reducing the losses of nutrients from fertilisers, towards zero pollution of water, soil and air¹] (IA) • Subtopic D. [2021] Reducing the dependence on the use of antimicrobials in animal production and in aquaculture (IA) • Subtopic E. [2021] Reducing food losses and waste at every stage of the food chain including consumption, while also avoiding unsustainable packaging (IA) • Subtopic F. [2021] Shifting to sustainable healthy diets², sourced from land, inland water and sea, and accessible to all EU citizens, including the most deprived and vulnerable groups (IA) 				
4.	Area 7: Biodiversity and ecosystem services Restoring biodiversity and	LC-GD-7-1-2020	IA	22 September 2020	26 January 2021

¹Proposals have to address all challenges (those related to pesticides, and to fertilisers, and to losses of nutrients) specified under Scope [C]

² “Sustainable Healthy Diets are dietary patterns that promote all dimensions of individuals’ health and wellbeing; have low environmental pressure and impact; are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable; and are culturally acceptable.” (FAO & WHO. 2019. Sustainable healthy diets – Guiding principles. Rome, page 11)

	ecosystem services				17:00:00 Brussels time
5.	Area 8: Zero-pollution, toxic free environment Innovative, systemic zero-pollution solutions to protect health, environment and natural resources from persistent and mobile chemicals	LC-GD-8-1-2020	RIA	22 September 2020	26 January 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

For the **modalities of participation and funding of Indian entities by DBT**, see DBT Web notice with for guidelines for Indian applicants and detailed explanations on how to prepare a co-funded proposals and formalities to comply with by Indian applicants:

<http://dbtindia.gov.in/latest-announcement/india-eu-cooperation-research-innovation-green-deal-building-low-carbon-climate>

Summarized:

- DBT will co-fund selected Indian entities only in above earmarked calls;
- Participation/funding of Indian entities in other calls, will have to provide for own funding;
- There is no limit by DBT on the number of Indian applicants; more than one participants is encouraged (not an eligibility condition) to ensure that India can contribute to the challenges identified and that it brings added value to India's missions and objectives;
- Applicants are required to submit one single and the same proposal;
- Indian estimated budget in Rupees as per DBT requirements and formats.

To be noted

The successful Indian participants are not required to sign the EC Grant Agreement (GA) but should indicate at the proposal stage that they are International Partners ([Article 14a of the Model Grant Agreement](#)).

3. ['Implementing Arrangement' between EC - European Research Council \(ERC\) and Science and Engineering Research Board \(SERB\)](#)

An ['Implementing Arrangement'](#) between the European Commission (EC) and the Indian [Science and Engineering Research Board \(SERB\)](#), allowing Indian SERB grantees to join and collaborate with an ERC Principal Investigators (PIs) in Europe, was signed on 6 October 2017. This arrangement allows for short-term (6-12 months) collaboration opportunities between an ERC Team and Indian researcher beneficiary of a SERB grant.

The next call for Expression of Interest (EoI) from ERC grantees, will be launched in November 2020. Information on opportunities for SERB grantees will be available on the SERB website and/or through contacting directly Dr Praveen Kumar S (praveen@nic.in).

For details on this 'Implementing Arrangement'

- See <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-opportunities>
- Write to ERC-IMPLEMENTING-ARRANGEMENTS@ec.europa.eu
- Visit the SERB website <http://www.serb.gov.in/home.php>.

4. More Information

- Delegation of the European Union to India:
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india_en
- Questions may be addressed to the Delegation e-mail:
DELEGATION-INDIA-RI@eeas.europa.eu
- DBT: Dr Amit Parikh, Scientist 'E', International Cooperation, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
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- SERB: Dr Praveen Kumar S, Principal Scientific Officer, Science & Engineering Research Council, Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi - 110 016
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