

Dear Counsellors,

We are pleased to bring to your attention an ERC scheme which offers great opportunities between Europe and India, but which has not yet been used by Indian PIs: the Synergy Grant, an European Research Council (ERC) frontier research grant under the EU's R&I Framework Programme Horizon Europe. The call has been launched on 15 July 2021, with closing deadline on 10 November 2021.

This scheme offers a unique opportunity for a group of researchers worldwide to address a research problem so ambitious that it cannot be dealt alone. In other words, it allows Indian researchers to team up with their counterparts in Europe, without the need for re-location, unless the Indian PI is the lead researcher.

Hereby the main features of the call, along with the web link for more detailed information:

Who can apply?

- A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs);
- The application must demonstrate the work cannot be carried out by a single PI;
- PIs with an early achievement track-record or a ten-year track-record, whichever is most appropriate. No specific criteria on PI's academic training;
- Sole criterion of scientific excellence, with outstanding synergy effect.

Criteria

- Scientific field: Any field of research (bottom – up principle);
- Location: All PIs in a public or private research organization (known as a Host Institution (HI)) in an EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC);
- PIs can apply within the same HI or through different HIs.

Opportunity for Indian researchers

- Participate in a Research team without relocation (unless the Indian PI has a leading role);
- One PI per grant at any one time can be hosted by an institution outside EU MS/AC like in India (thus, one researcher in the team can be outside the MS/AC and thus stay in India);
- The PIs can employ researchers of any nationality as team members.

Grant

- A maximum of € 10 million for a period of 6 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration), and in addition € 4 million can be requested in the proposal to cover costs like start-up costs for researchers relocating to Europe for the grant, purchase of equipment's, access to large facilities.

Links for detailed information:

1. Detailed information for applicants: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-syg_en.pdf
2. Published call: tinyurl.com/b46ptdud

I hope you find this information useful and will on your turn disseminate it amongst your network of European and Indian universities and institutes who would have PIs interested in the scheme.

Thanks & kind regards,

R&I Section

Tania Friederichs

Minister Counsellor

Head of Research & Innovation Sector

Delegation of the European Union to India