



SAHYOG Short-term Exchanges of Young Researchers

Call Text

1. Motivation/Introduction to the Call

The increasing demand for energy characterizing the growing modern society has led to scarcity of resources, climate change, environmental problems and a reduction in biodiversity. The Europe 2020 strategy tackles these problems by turning them into challenges by i) developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation (smart growth), ii) promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy (sustainable growth), and iii) fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion (inclusive growth). One of the key technologies fully in view of this strategy is biotechnology in the broad sense. Indeed biomass and biowaste are delivering the most efficient and abundant renewable resources forming the basis for a bio-economy. The Indian National Action Plan for Greenhouse gas Mitigation is also focusing on solar energy and renewable biomass. This scenery creates an opportunity for collaboration in one of the key points of both the regions. This EU-India partnership will also contribute to the broader context of the Strategic Forum for International Cooperation S&T Cooperation (SFIC) EU-India pilot initiative, to strengthen cohesion of the EU-member states towards a strategic S&T co-operation with India with a high impact factor on implementation and economical consequences.

In this context the objective of the project SAHYOG (Strengthening Networking on Biomass Research and Biowaste Conversion – Biotechnology for Europe India Integration) is to actively

link research activities implemented within EU research programmes and related programmes by Indian national institutions.

One effective element is to enhance the networking and exchange of young talents and by this to pave the way for a sustainable cooperation between Europe and India.

The aim of the call is to fund short term exchange programmes in order to address high potential junior experts to enhance the networking and exchange of young talents and to establish a sustainable cooperation between the EU and India. Focus of this call is to create conditions for mutual learning as well as to involve young scientist in the decisions about future EU-India science and technology cooperation (STC) in the addressed field of science. At the same time international cooperation will be enhanced contributing to the development of sustainable solutions in the field of biomass production and biowaste conversion.

The high potentials coming from India/Europe are invited for a visit of up to ten days Europe/India. The stay will include the chance to present their ideas (e.g. in context of a conference within the institution) and the possibility to strengthen their networks by participating in matchmaking events.

2. What can be applied for:

Young European and Indian researchers will be invited to visit renowned research facilities of their respective field of research. The objective is to strengthen the inter-regional exchange: Indian researchers will be invited to visit European institutions, European researchers will visit India. The exchange is envisaged for up to ten days and is fully financed by SAHYOG. Therewith young talents will have the unique opportunity to gain first hand insights of the respective research landscape, make contacts and build new networks.

Financing:

The programme covers all expenses for the stay (visa, travel, accommodation and meals).

Visit programme for European applicants:

There are two options for Europeans willing to visit India:

- 1.) Participating in a research tour: there will be a tour organised by SAHYOG considering some renowned institutions in India. The aim of the tour is to gain an insight into the Indian research landscape in biomass production and biowaste conversion. **The tour will be 12-21 November 2013.**
- 2.) Applying to stay at a certain institution in the field of biomass production and biowaste conversion in India for up to ten days. The destination can be chosen by the applicant. The applicant should only explain why this institution was chosen and already have a contact to this institution.

Visit Programme of Indian applicants:

- 1.) The eligibility of the Indian applicants is limited to members of certain institutions in India. Please make sure that you are eligible before you apply. For eligible Indian scientists there will be organised a visiting tour to European hosting institutions. The aim of the tour is to gain an insight into the European research landscape in biomass production and biowaste conversion.

3. Focus topics of the SAHYOG short term exchange programme

- Bioethanol production from lignocellulosic biomass
- Thermochemical conversion technologies (pyrolysis, gasification)
- Anaerobic digestion technologies (biogas, biomethane, hydrogen)
- Algae production and conversion systems
- Biomass to chemicals – the biorefinery approach
- Feedstock production and genetic improvement of plants
- Sustainability and life cycle assessment

4. Who can apply:

Proposals for **Short-term Exchanges of Researcher** may be submitted by Indian/European scientists who fulfil the following requirements:

For Indian applicants please note, only young researchers of certain institutions in India are eligible.

For European applicants please note: the applicants have to be from European Member states or Associated states.

The following criteria apply for European and Indian applicants:

- under the age of 35
- working in the scientific in the field of biomass / biowaste and are interested in one of the focus topics of the call
- minimum degree: Master
- maximum degree: PhD
- proven excellent command of the English language
- above average grades

5. Application

Application is open from 05 August 2013 until 16 September 2013

Applications can only be submitted via email to the call secretariat:

DLR - Deutsches Zentrum für Luft - und Raumfahrt, Germany
European and International Cooperation at the Project Management Agency
c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR)

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All applications require the following information

- Application form (available on the SAHYOG-Website)
- List of publications (in PDF format)

Please also consider the following points when submitting your application:

- Submitted all documents with a clear assignment (YOUR NAME_application form).
- Sent all documents in one email (Subject: SAHYOG-Application_YOUR NAME) to the named contact points.
- The reference letter should not be older than one year.
- Incomplete or delayed submitted application cannot be considered.

6. Eligibility and Evaluation

The formal eligibility of the applicants will be evaluated by the Call secretariat.

All eligible applications are evaluated by scientist on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific excellence
- Motivation for participation
- link to biomass and biowaste research

7. Funding decision

Considering the scientific evaluation and ranking the funding decision will be communicated by the call secretariat. The sole criteria for funding are the scientific ranks and available budget.

8. Project Output and Acknowledgements

In order to ensure the maximum output of the exchange programme all funding recipients are requested to draft a report on their stay, outcomes and experiences. The reports are to be published on the SAHYOG website.