



Implementing Arrangement between the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development and the European Commission for Brazilian researchers to be hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe¹

In accordance with Article IV “Cooperative activity areas” of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the European Community, which was signed in 2004, entered into force in 2007² and was most recently renewed for a further period of 5 years, starting from 8 August 2022, hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”, an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for researchers based in Brazil is hereby established between the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq and the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”).

CNPq is an organization of the Brazilian federal government under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, dedicated to the promotion of scientific and technological research and to the formation of human resources for research in the country. CNPq offers among other instruments, fellowship programmes for researchers, which can range from short-term scholarships to technical visits lasting 6 to 12 months.

From the European Commission side, the European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), which is the dedicated implementation structure of the European Research Council (ERC), is intended to perform the tasks specified in this Implementing Arrangement. The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

The Sides understand that the collaboration under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to operate only within the limits of its respective authorities, policies, and legal frameworks.

Research opportunities are intended to be provided in accordance with the terms set out in the Agreement.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international or domestic law, and it has no new financial implications.

¹ European Union Member States or Countries Associated to Horizon Europe Programme (including Pillar 1)

² OJ L 295, 11.11.2005, p. 38–43.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for researchers with doctoral degrees based in Brazil with fellowship funded by CNPq in order to pursue research collaborations with European research teams already supported through the European Union (EU)-funded ERC grants.

It is expected that collaborations would occur on topics of mutual interest related to disciplines in engineering and the natural sciences, health sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

This collaboration is intended to enable selected researchers based in Brazil with doctoral degrees, supported by CNPq, to train and update their knowledge through internships and development provided by post-doctoral research visits to European teams supported by the ERC.

The research visits will last 6 to 12 months and will follow the CNPq's guidelines for postdoctoral scholarships.

3. PROCEDURE OF COOPERATION

The following set of operational steps is intended to be used to establish the cooperation:

The ERCEA solicits expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting CNPq grantees/fellows to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.³

The ERCEA sends to CNPq a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects and other information as mutually decided between the CNPq and the ERCEA to facilitate the collaborations between the researchers.

The CNPq would inform researchers based in Brazil about the collaboration opportunity by publishing a call for proposals, noting the objectives of the postdoctoral programme and providing information about ERC-funded projects that could receive interested researchers from Brazil. Researchers based in Brazil will then be able to apply to the public call for ERC-funded projects.

CNPq grantees/fellows will be invited to communicate directly with the ERC-supported European teams to negotiate the terms and conditions of collaboration with ERC-supported European teams, in accordance with the ERC grant agreement, before submitting the proposal to the CNPq call.

³ <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>

4. TECHNICAL WORKING MEETINGS

The Sides intend to have technical working meetings with the participation of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate additional participants to the meetings. The technical working meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the CNPq and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Best practices consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to collaborate under this Implementing Arrangement are expected to be discussed during the technical working meetings and be reflected in the meeting minutes.

During the technical working meetings, the Sides intend also to review the activities, including reporting activities, under this Implementing Arrangement and in this regard discuss any adjustment that would be necessary. These meetings are expected to take place at least once a year, and the meetings should be held virtually or alternately at the CNPq or the ERCEA premises.

5. FUNDING

Activities under this Implementing Arrangement are intended to be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of each Side.

(1) The CNPq

CNPq grantees/fellows can continue to receive their salaries according to the terms and conditions of their Brazilian research institutions. The scholarship offered in the public call will follow the CNPq guidelines for postdoctoral scholarships, including all the benefits allowed.

(2) The ERC

Visiting CNPq grantees/fellows may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the Host Institution of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that, if need be, any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grant, supporting the team and the activity as set out below. Sufficient flexibility exists in the ERC grant agreement to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC being required. The ERC grant agreement provides that only the costs eligible within its terms and conditions can be reimbursed and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. The visiting researcher would be in charge of seeking and obtaining any payments or reimbursements under the ERC grant directly from the ERC grantee, without the involvement of the CNPq. Subject to the compliance with all the eligibility criteria set out in the ERC grant agreement, eligible cost categories in this case include:

(i) For grantees/fellows receiving a grant/stipend from the CNPq: subsistence costs on a *per diem* basis, or any other applicable modality of the Host Institution, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution, commensurate to the level of experience of the individual visiting career researchers.

Alternatively, and only if the salary of the CNPq is suspended during the period of the visit: salary, stipend or other compensation of the visiting researcher, including any applicable social/health coverage expenses, in accordance with the applicable national law and any other rules or regulations applicable on the Host Institution. In this case no additional subsistence costs would be offered.

(ii) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the researcher with a doctoral degree that are directly related to the ERC-funded project and that are not covered by the Brazilian side.

6. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

The Sides may agree to amend the current Implementing Arrangement by including other programmes in addition to the CNPq postdoctoral fellowship.

7. DURATION

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from the date of its signature by the Sides. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time.

Signed at Brussels, on 11 December 2024, in duplicate in the English language.

**For the Brazilian National Council for
Scientific and Technological
Development**



**Professor Ricardo Galvão,
President**

For the European Commission



**Signe Ratso, Deputy Director-General
for Research and Innovation**