

IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
AND
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

In the context of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United Mexican States and the European Community signed on February 3, 2004¹, as renewed, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Mexican scientists is hereby established between the European Commission and the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) of the United Mexican States (hereinafter referred to as "the Sides").

The purpose of this Implementing Arrangement is to promote, develop and strengthen the relationship between both Sides. Both Sides recognize the importance of promoting the development of specific scientific and technological cooperation programmes as well as activities related to the exchange of scientific experience.

This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international law.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to provide opportunities to already funded CONACYT Research Fellows and CONACYT Postdoctoral Fellows² to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues already supported through EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

This funding opportunity is addressed to individual researchers belonging to the above-mentioned groups and the CONACYT will pre-select a pool of researchers and postdoctoral fellows following the assessment of the submitted replies to the call for expression of interest that is published by the CONACYT.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

The collaboration is intended to enable CONACYT Research Fellows and CONACYT Postdoctoral Fellows to undertake research visits with ERC-supported European teams.

CONACYT Postdoctoral Fellowships visits will last from 6 (six) and up to 12 (twelve) months, upon previous approval from the Home Institution.

Research Fellowships include Mobility abroad Programmes, Young researchers Professorship Programme and National Researchers System Members. They will continue to receive complementary funding from CONACYT, according to the

¹ L290, 04/11/2005, p. 17.

² <http://www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/becas-y-posgrados/becas-en-el-extranjero/estancias-posdoctorales-y-sabaticas-en-el-extranjero>;
<http://www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/el-conacyt/convocatorias-y-resultados-conacyt/convocatoria-catedras>;
<http://www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/el-conacyt/convocatorias-y-resultados-conacyt/convocatorias-sistema-nacional-de-investigadores-sni>

Programme they have been awarded. The Research Fellowships visits will last up to 12 (twelve) months.

The duration of the visit will be approved as long as the CONACYT funding is active.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The Sides intend to use the following set of operational steps:

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) would solicit expressions of interest from Principal Investigators (PIs) holding ERC grants in hosting Mexican-based scientists to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.

The ERCEA would send to CONACYT a list of the interested Principal Investigators/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects.

The CONACYT would promote participation from Mexican researchers, so they can apply to the corresponding CONACYT call, and would also inform the already funded Research and Postdoctoral Fellows through an official correspondence that describes the goals of the programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers. Mexican-based scientists will need approval from their Institutions, and an ERC team / Host Institution (HI) letter of intent to host them before submitting the application.

4. FUNDING

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

National Council of Science and Technology

CONACYT Research Fellowships and CONACYT Postdoctoral Fellowships will continue to receive their funding during the period of the European visit, and their salaries and health insurance (if applicable) will be covered according to the CONACYT's terms and conditions. Through this collaboration, CONACYT will also cover travel expenses, according to the Terms and Conditions of the Programme that the researcher has been awarded. The CONACYT will coordinate with the Mexican Institution in case the researcher needs financial support for travel expenses.

European Research Council

Visiting Mexican researchers may be incorporated into the research teams of the ERC-funded Principal Investigators (at the HI of the ERC projects) for the duration of the visit, so that any relevant expenses can be claimed under the ERC grant, supporting the team and the activity as noted below. Sufficient flexibility exists for the ERC grant to support the visiting researcher with no separate direct funding arrangement between the visiting researcher and the ERC required. The costs which can be reimbursed under the ERC grant must be eligible within the terms of the grant and the maximum amount of the ERC grant may not be increased for this purpose. Eligible cost categories include:

1. 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 CONACYT Research Fellow.

2. Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Mexican researchers that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

5. STEERING GROUP

The two Sides intend to establish a Steering Group consisting of two representatives from each Side. As necessary, each Side may designate a limited number of additional participants to the meetings. It should be co-chaired by the CONACYT and the Head of the Scientific Management Department of the ERCEA. Operational guidance and management plans consistent with the needs of the respective Sides in order to implement this Arrangement will be adopted by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group should review the activities under this Implementing Arrangement and decide if any adjustment will be necessary on a periodic basis. The Steering Group should meet once per year, and these meetings should be held virtually or alternately at CONACYT and ERCEA headquarters.

6. PARTICIPATION OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS

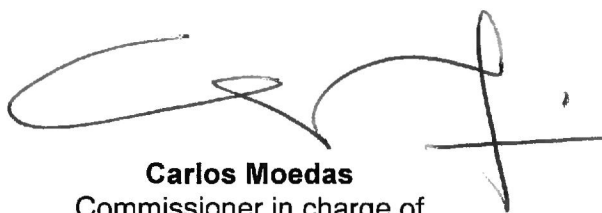
The Sides, if they so agree upon, would allow the participation of other public or private institutions, whose activities directly impact the areas of cooperation, with the aim of strengthening and expanding the mechanisms that support an effective implementation of this Arrangement.

7. DURATION

This Implementing Arrangement will come into effect upon signature by both Sides. It should continue to have effect for the period of the duration of the Agreement, unless terminated by either Side upon ninety days written notice to the other Side, or sooner by mutual agreement. Termination will not affect obligations already made (and not totally completed) at the time of the termination. This Implementing Arrangement may be amended by written consent of both Sides.

Signed on November 12th, 2015 in two original copies in Spanish and English languages, all texts being equally valid.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Carlos Moedas
Commissioner in charge of
Research, Science and Innovation

**FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



Enrique Cabrero Mendoza
General Director



Jesús Arturo Borja Tamayo
Director of International Cooperation