

IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND PRODUCTIVE INNOVATION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION FOR PROVIDING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE FOR ARGENTINE
RESEARCHERS

In accordance with Article 5 of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Argentine Republic and the European Community, signed on September 20th 1999¹ and entered into force on May 28th 2001, as renewed, an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Argentinean researchers of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) is hereby established between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT) and the European Commission (hereinafter referred as the "Sides").

The purpose of this Implementing Arrangement is to encourage, develop and facilitate such opportunities between the Sides, conducted on the basis of mutual benefit and equitable and fair treatment. This Implementing Arrangement is not intended to create rights and obligations under international law.

1. AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The Sides intend to provide opportunities for Argentinean Investigators of CONICET to pursue research collaboration with European colleagues already supported through EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

The Sides intend to facilitate use of ERC-funded projects to host Argentinean Investigators of CONICET. It is expected that collaborations will occur in thematic priorities and topics of common interest.

2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES

The collaboration is intended to enable Argentinean Investigators of CONICET with a running PICT (MINCYT Scientific and Technological Research Project)² or PIP (CONICET Multiannual Research Project)³ project and at least 10 years of full time research

¹ OJ L 6, 11.1.2000, p. 32.

² <http://www.agencia.mincyt.gob.ar/upload/BASES-PICT-2014.pdf>

³ <http://web.conicet.gov.ar/documents/19413/0c358b5f-d885-4d96-9d0d-03546bcc0ef>

experience after being awarded a Ph.D. degree, to undertake research visits to ERC-supported teams.

Argentinean Investigators' research visits could be single and long-term (e.g. 6-12 months) or multiple short-term (e.g. for joint experiments).

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 the Argentine-based scientists described in provision 2 to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods with the travel expenses between Argentina and Europe covered by the MINCYT.

The ERCEA would send to the MINCYT a listing of the interested PIs/teams, together with the publishable description of their respective ERC-funded projects.

The MINCYT would then inform Investigators through issuance of a "Dear Colleague Letter" (expression of interest) that describes the goals of the programme and the collaborative opportunities as defined by the European researchers, and provides application procedures, eligibility considerations, and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate.

4. STEERING GROUP

The Two Sides intend to set up 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 MINCYT 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 will review the activities under this Implementing Arrangement and decide if any adjustment will be necessary on a periodic basis. The Steering Group will meet at least once per year, and its meetings will be held virtually or alternately at MINCYT and ERCEA headquarters.



5. FUNDING

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

(a) The MINCYT

(1) The MINCYT will cover travel expenses of Argentinean Investigators and also health insurance, under current legislation.

(b) The CONICET

(1) Argentinean Investigators will continue receiving salary from CONICET during their stay abroad.

(c) The ERC

Argentinean Investigators 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 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 required between the visiting researcher and the ERC. 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 grant⁴ may not be increased for this purpose. Eligible cost categories include:

(1) For 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 visiting Argentinean Investigator.

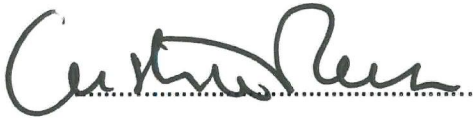
(2) Any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Argentinean Investigator that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

⁴ Essentially, this means the costs must be (a) incurred for the sole purpose of meeting the grant's objectives, (b) be incurred during the duration of the project and (c) correspond to the usual management and accounting practices of the host institution of the Principal Investigator.

6. DURATION

This Implementing Arrangement will come into effect when cooperation is intended to begin after the signature by both Sides, and it should continue for the remaining duration of the Agreement, unless terminated by either Side upon ninety days written notice to the other Side, or sooner by mutual agreement. This Implementing Arrangement may be amended by written consent of both Sides.

Done in duplicate at Buenos Aires, in Spanish and in English language, on March 13, 2015.



Cristina Russo
For the Directorate General
for Research and Innovation of the
European Commission



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