



**CONFAP**

CONSELHO NACIONAL DAS  
FUNDAÇÕES ESTADUAIS DE AMPARO À PESQUISA



## **IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE FUNDING AGENCIES – CONFAP AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

In accordance with the terms of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the European Community, signed on 19 January 2004 and entered into force on 7 August 2007, as renewed, hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”, an Implementing Arrangement to provide research opportunities in Europe for Brazilian researchers is hereby established between the Brazilian National Council of the State Funding Agencies - CONFAP and the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Sides”).

Research opportunities are intended to be provided under the terms of this Implementing Arrangement.

The purpose of this Implementing Arrangement is to encourage, develop and facilitate such opportunities between the two Sides, conducted on the basis of mutual benefit and equitable and fair treatment. 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 for active Postdoctoral Grantees from the State Funding Agencies (FAPs), from the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) and from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), to pursue research collaboration with Principal Investigators already supported through EU-funded European Research Council (ERC) grants.

### **2. COLLABORATIVE OBJECTIVES**

The collaboration is intended to enable selected Brazilian researchers to undertake research visits with ERC-supported European teams.

Selected Brazilian researchers can undertake single and long-term (e.g., 6-12 months) or multiple short-term visits (e.g., for joint experiments). Research visits should begin at least 12 months prior to the termination date of the ERC grant that supports the receiving Principal Investigator. Multiple short-term visits should aggregate to an agreed upon minimum (e.g., 6 months).

### **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 holding ERC grants in hosting Brazilian researchers to contribute to their teams for short or longer periods.

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

CONFAP would inform the Brazilian active Postdoctoral Grantees from FAPs, CAPES and CNPq of the collaborative opportunity through the issuance of a *Dear Colleague Letter* that describes the goals of the programme and provides information about the ERC-funded projects that may host interested Brazilian researchers.

CONFAP would coordinate the process on behalf of the FAPs, CAPES and CNPq and in agreement with the participant FAP(s), would provide application procedures, eligibility considerations and relevant policies and requirements, as appropriate.

The participant FAP(s) would select the Brazilian researchers following the evaluation of the submitted replies to the *Dear Colleague Letter* that is published by CONFAP.

#### **4. STEERING GROUP**

The 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 shall be co-chaired by the CONFAP President 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 CONFAP 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.

#### **CONFAP**

Brazilian active Postdoctoral grantees from FAPs, CAPES and CNPq will continue to receive their salaries and/or scholarship according to their institutional terms and conditions. Through this collaboration, the participant FAP will also provide support for travel expenses. In case of a long-term visit (6 months or longer), travel expenses of accompanying family members may also be covered by the participant FAP.

## ERC

Visiting Brazilian researchers 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, already 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 ERC-funded Principal Investigators are expected to establish and decide in advance, with the visiting Brazilian researcher, the research conditions, which should give considerable consideration to an enabling environment for the research visits and also be in line with the applicable national law and any other rules and regulations applicable on the Host institution. 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 cannot 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 researcher;
2. any other eligible costs incurred during the visit of the Brazilian researchers that are directly related to the ERC-funded project.

### 6. DURATION

Cooperation under this Implementing Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides and to 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 consent in writing. This Implementing Arrangement may be amended or extended by written consent of the two Sides.

Signed at Brussels, on 13 October 2016, in duplicate in the English language.

**FOR THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE  
STATE FUNDING AGENCIES - CONFAP**



**Sergio Luiz Gargioni**  
President

**FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**



**Carlos Moedas**  
Commissioner for Research, Science and  
Innovation