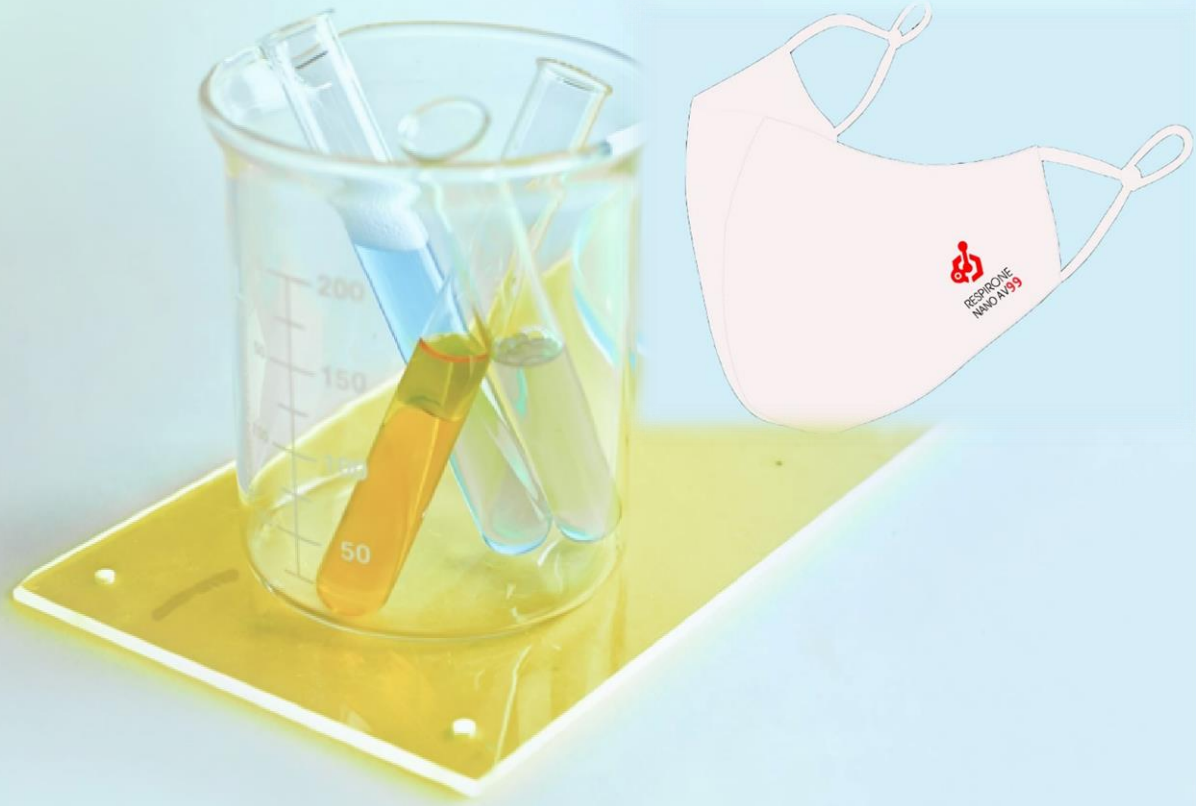
RESEARCH @

University Research Council – University of Peradeniya



Vol: I Issue: II
URC e-Newsletter
October 2021

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is the **9th European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**. It is the biggest and most ambitious programme of its kind ever with a budget of over €95 billion. The 5 defined missions are related to cancer, carbon-neutral cities, climate change, oceans and waters, and soil health.

Our researchers can participate in Pillar-II consortiums and receive funding. However, we cannot lead Horizon Europe grants. Applications should be submitted by a Member State or an Associated Country.

The application form will have two parts: Part A contains administrative information about the applicant organisations, the summarised budget for the Proposal and call-specific questions and Part B contains the technical description of the project. The Proposal should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria and highlight the technology readiness and social readiness levels.

The applications are evaluated based on **Excellence**, **Impact**, and **Quality and efficiency of the implementation**. Table 1 specifies the evaluation criteria in detail. Some of the impacts are defined in Figure 1.

The horizon Europe emphasises open science practices, including early and open sharing of research, research output management, reproducibility of research outputs, open access to research outputs, and involving all relevant knowledge actors. It is important to deposit research outputs in trusted repositories.

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

Excellence	• Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives • Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including the soundness of methodology.
Impact	• Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. • Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.
Quality and efficiency of the implementation	• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. • Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

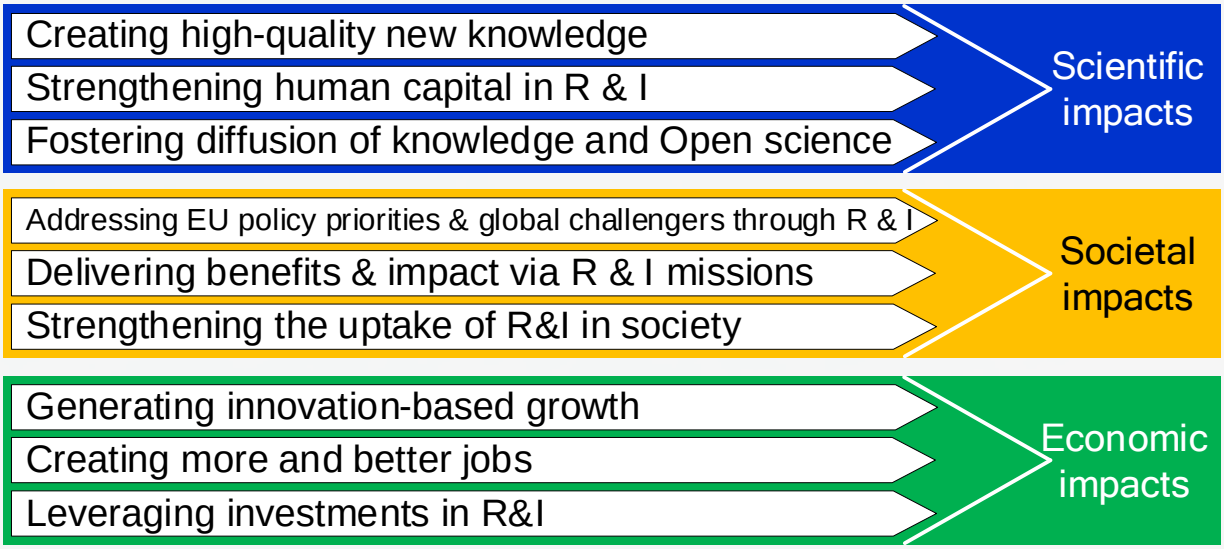


Figure 1: Different impacts expected

Resources:

Annexure 1 provides a step-by-step approach to access the Horizon Europe Application portal and searching information

Annexure 2 provides different calls under Pillar-II and most of calls has a deadline of early next year.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OTHER

Research Grants

1. ERC-2022-PoC1 proof-of-concept grants

Closing date: 14/10/2021
Funding Amount: €150,000 each over 18 months.
Description: The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2021-PoC1 proof-of-concept grants. These aim to maximise the value of ERC-funded research by funding further work to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC-funded projects.
Eligibility: All principal investigators in an ERC frontier research project, that is either ongoing or has ended less than one year before 1 January 2021 or 1 January 2022, may apply.
Website: https://erc.europa.eu/funding/proof-concept

2. ERC-2022-SyG synergy grants

Closing date: 10/11/2021
Funding Amount: The total budget is worth €297 million
Description: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2022-SyG synergy grants. These enable groups of two to four principal investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources in new ways, in order to jointly address research problems. The aim is to promote scientific advances, to cross-fertilise scientific fields, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines.
Eligibility: A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs) with an early achievement track-record or a ten-year track-record.
Website: https://erc.europa.eu/funding/synergy-grants

3. Wellcome Discovery Awards-Grant funding

Closing date: 11/11/2021
Funding Amount: The total budget is worth €297 million
Description: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2022-SyG synergy grants. These enable groups of two to four principal investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources in new ways, in order to jointly address research problems. The aim is to promote scientific advances, to cross-fertilise scientific fields, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines.
Eligibility: A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs) with an early achievement track-record or a ten-year track-record.
Website: https://erc.europa.eu/funding/synergy-grants

4. Development Innovation ventures

Closing date: 31/10/2021
Funding Amount: The total budget is worth €297 million
Description: Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) is USAID's open innovation program that funds breakthrough solutions to the world's most intractable development challenges. By funding innovation and focusing on rigorous evidence, DIV impacts millions of lives at a fraction of the usual cost. DIV offers three stages of funding to maximize impact per dollar spent. This allows for risk at early stages and mitigates risk at later stages, ensuring that funding is targeted to the most cost-effective innovations. DIV provides grant funding to innovators and researchers to test new ideas, take strategic risks, build evidence of what works, and advance the best solutions. DIV looks for solutions that demonstrate rigorous evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and a viable pathway to scale and sustainability. Learn more about DIV's core principles.
Eligibility: Any
Website: https://www.usaid.gov/div

Fellowships

1. Mahindra Humanities Centre postdoctoral fellowships

Closing date: 12/11/2021
Funding Amount: Fellowships include a stipend worth USD 65,000, medical insurance, additional research support of USD 2,500 and a sum of USD 1,500 to cover moving expenses.
Description: The Mahindra Humanities Centre at Harvard University invites applications for its postdoctoral fellowships. These enable early-career scholars to spend one year at the Mahindra Humanities Centre at Harvard University to pursue research projects on environmental humanities.
Eligibility: must have received a doctorate or terminal degree in or after May 2019, or be due to receive one in a relevant discipline by 1 August 2022.
Website: https://mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/postdoctoral-fellowships

For Early Researchers

1. CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program

Closing date: 27/10/2021
Funding Amount: $100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support
Eligibility: Applicants may be based anywhere in the world, must hold a PhD (or equivalent) and be within the first five years of starting a full-time research position at an institution of higher education or research.
Website: https://cifar.ca/next-generation/global-scholars/

2. Study trips and internships for groups of foreign students in Germany

Closing date: 1 November 2021, 1 February 2022, 1 May 2022, and repeated annually.
Funding Amount: Grants are worth €50 each per applicant per day and cover accommodation and travel costs.
Applicants from specific countries may also receive an additional grant for travel.
Description: The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) invites applications for its study trips and internships for groups of foreign students in Germany. These enable groups of foreign students to undertake study trips and internships in Germany. The aim is to strengthen relations between Germany and international universities and provide them with the possibility to gain a cultural insight into a German research institution, either through study trips or internships.
Website: Förderprogramme finden - DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

UPCOMING EVENTS

For Registration: https://forms.gle/NKMUmEREMpBchE6e9
For further details: https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/doc/Impact%20workshop%2020211005.pdf

TIER 4* RESEARCHER AWARDS
BASED ON THE TRANSPARENT RESEARCH PERFORMANCE SCHEME-2020

The University Research Council is organizing the Tier 4* Researcher Awards - 2020 at the closing ceremony of iPURSE on the 12th of November 2021.

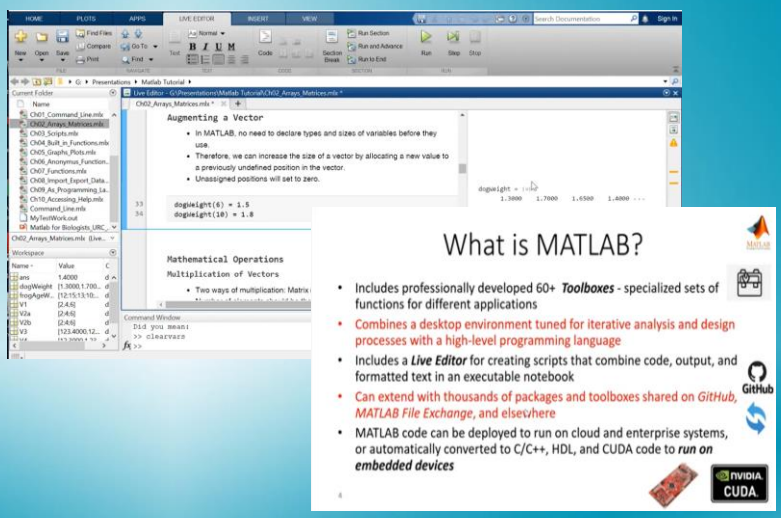
In the year of 2020, URC decided to recognize researchers belonging to academic staff categories of the University of Peradeniya who have fulfilled the minimum requirements for the Tier 4* category based on the transparent research 05/2018 performance scheme stipulated in the UGC circular.

The Senate of the University of Peradeniya at its 460th meeting held on June 09, 2021 and the 505th Council meeting held on June 28, 2021 approved and confirmed the list of 28 awardees. URC pleased to congratulate all the recipients.

NEWS

Introduction to MATLAB for Biologists

The University Research Council (URC) had organized a virtual training programme on “Introduction to MATLAB for Biologists" on 28th of September 2021 via Zoom. This training was targeted at the university community. The webinar was conducted by Dr. Nalin Harischandra from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. The objective of this virtual programme is to give an introduction to MATLAB for those who do research/teaching on biological sciences. The session took the participants through the basics of MATLAB as well as providing insight into how to use the Toolboxes in the tutorial session. The webinar was attended by nearly 140 participants.



Click the following Youtube link to watch the webinar : https://youtu.be/-Kh2Ip9kMvQ

ANALYSIS

Google Scholar: A more democratic space?

There is a debate going on within the academic circles about the pros and cons of the Google Scholar web search engine that indexes full text or metadata of scholarly literature compared to the curated databases of published and peer-reviewed content selected according to certain standards. As a long-term google scholar user, I would like to point out certain advantages of using google scholar from my own experience.

Google scholar engine is backed up by the search giant Google thus providing greater flexibility in extracting and providing information. Google scholar is fast and easy to use and researchers can increase their visibility by setting up a profile there far better than in any other platform. A google scholar user profile can give a good amount of useful information about the owner of the profile such as published work, citations of those work breakdown by year, and other performances matrices. Full access to google scholar is free whereas in the case of curated databases full access needs a subscription.

Some consider a greater volume of sometimes non-peer-reviewed literature displayed by the scholar as a weakness. But, as a researcher in the area of science and technology, I consider that an advantage as our sources of information is not limited to peer-reviewed scientific publications.

While the peer-reviewed publication process ensures to a greater extent the quality of the work it is not without its' biases and could filter out worthy research outputs from time to time. The fact that google scholar indexes publications that are not peer-reviewed such as what is in the arXiv allow other researchers to cite those work before if ever, they appear on peer-reviewed publications. This helps researchers who are doing cutting-edge research in the areas that are still in the development stage a great deal. Some researchers only publish their work as preprints. Google Scholar helps those works to be refereed and cited. One famous example is Gregory Perelman publishing his famous proof of Poincare Conjecture only on arXiv.

Finally, there are pros and cons of both sides of the argument. But it is well worth using google scholar while knowing its limitations.

Prof. Vijitha Herath
Director/Faculty Research Committee
Faculty of Engineering

How to get UoP email address

Please contact the following members to obtain a UoP email address as it is required to create your Google scholar account and claim funding under Research Publication Facilitation Fund

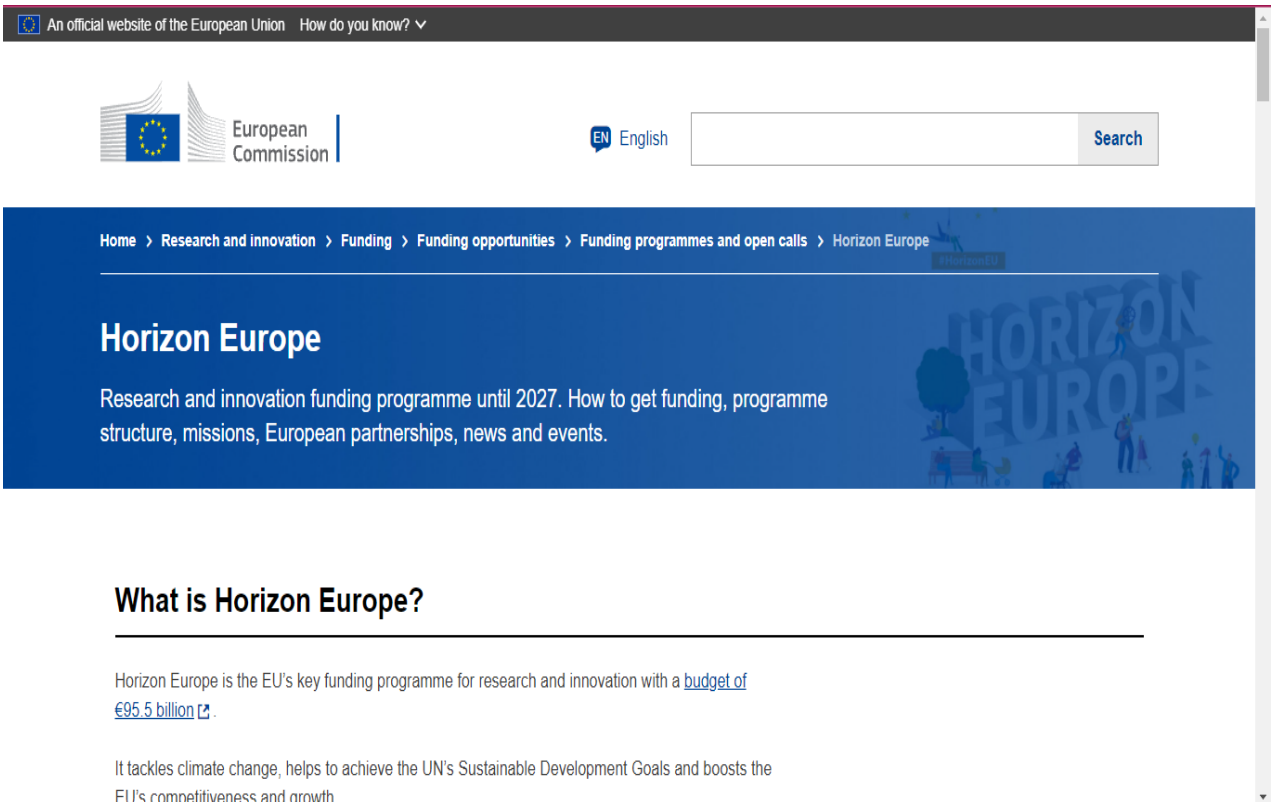
Faculty of Agriculture	Dr. SA Weerasuriya	Senal883@gmail.com
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	Dr. LC Menikarachchi	lochanac@gmail.com
Faculty of Arts	Dr. KRMU Bandara	k.r.mahinda.bandara@gmail.com
Faculty of Dental Sciences	Dr. N. Vithanarachchi	nvithanaarachchi3@gmail.com
Faculty of Engineering	Dr. Roshan Ragel	roshanr@pdn.ac.lk
Faculty of Management	Dr. RH Kuruppuge	kuruppuge@yahoo.com
Faculty of Medicine	Dr. Y Illangasekera	yasi04@gmail.com
Faculty of Science	Dr. R Nawarathna	ruwan.nawarathna@gmail.com
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science	Dr. RAC Rabel	chanakarabel@yahoo.com

If you have a Google Scholar Account that is not linked to the UoP email address, please follow the procedure given in Annexure 3 for a step-by-step guide to link it.

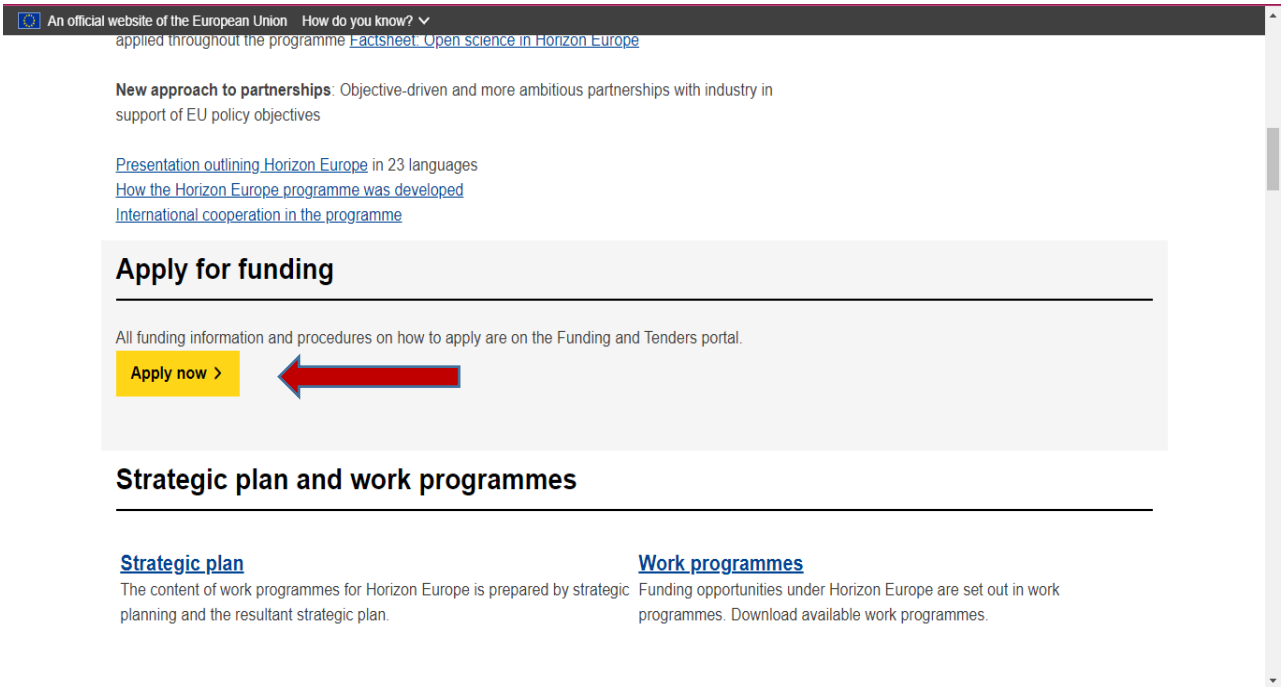
Annexure 1

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO APPLY FOR HORIZON EUROPE GRANTS

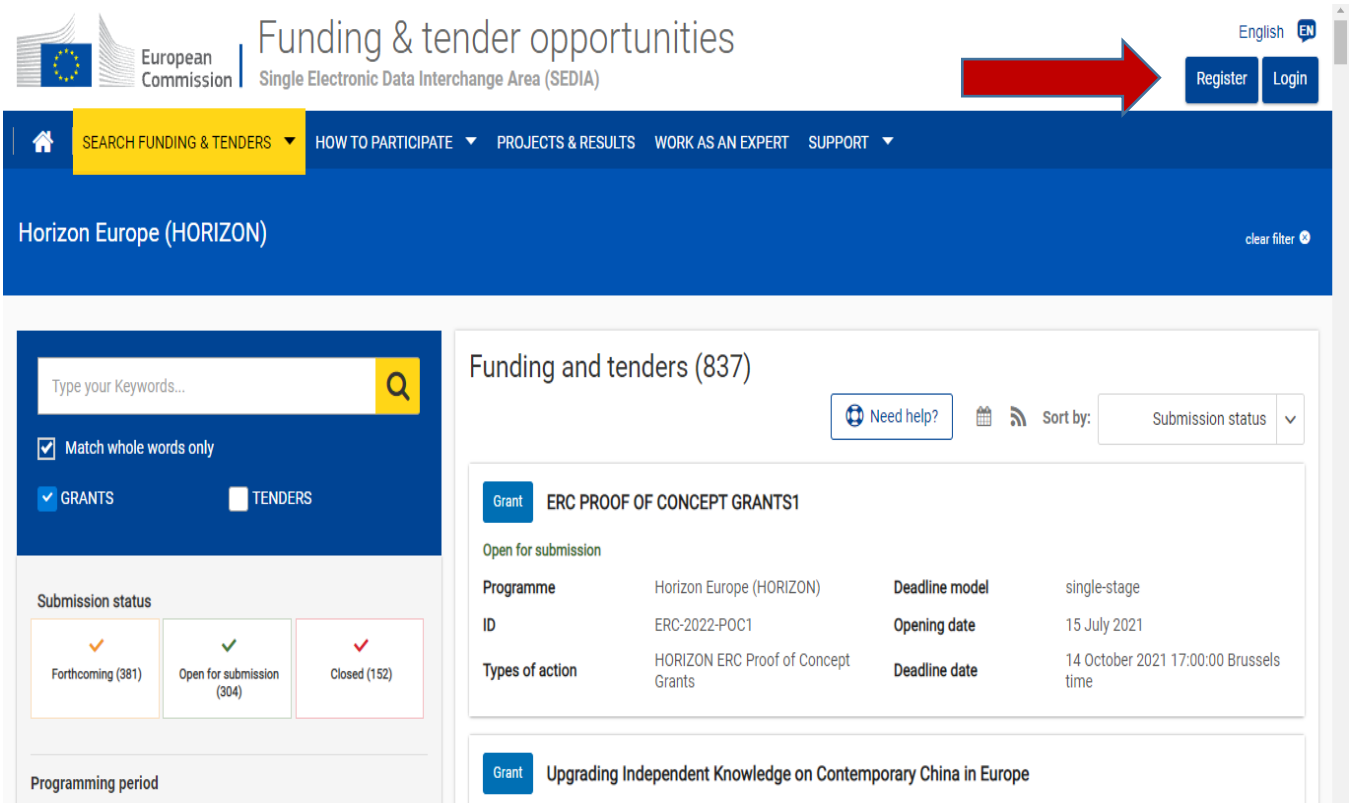
STEP 1 : Go to https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en



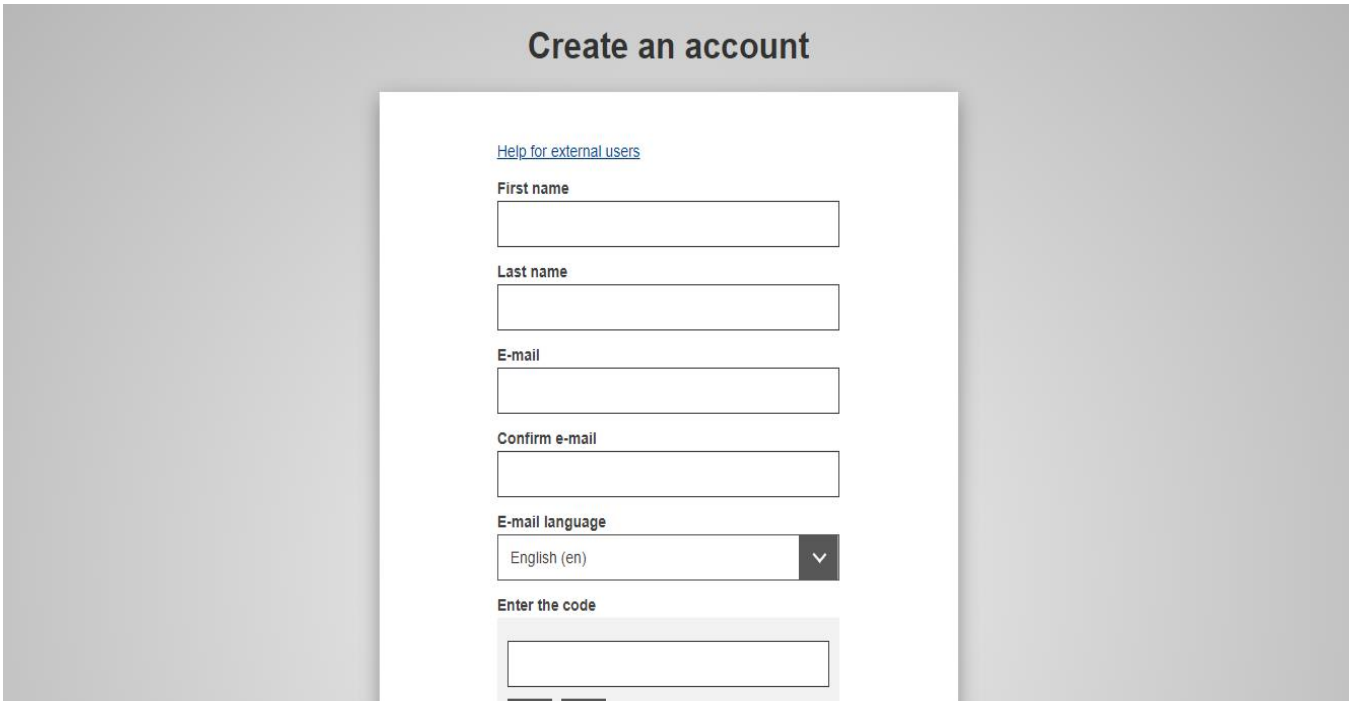
Step 2 : Scroll down the page and click Apply now



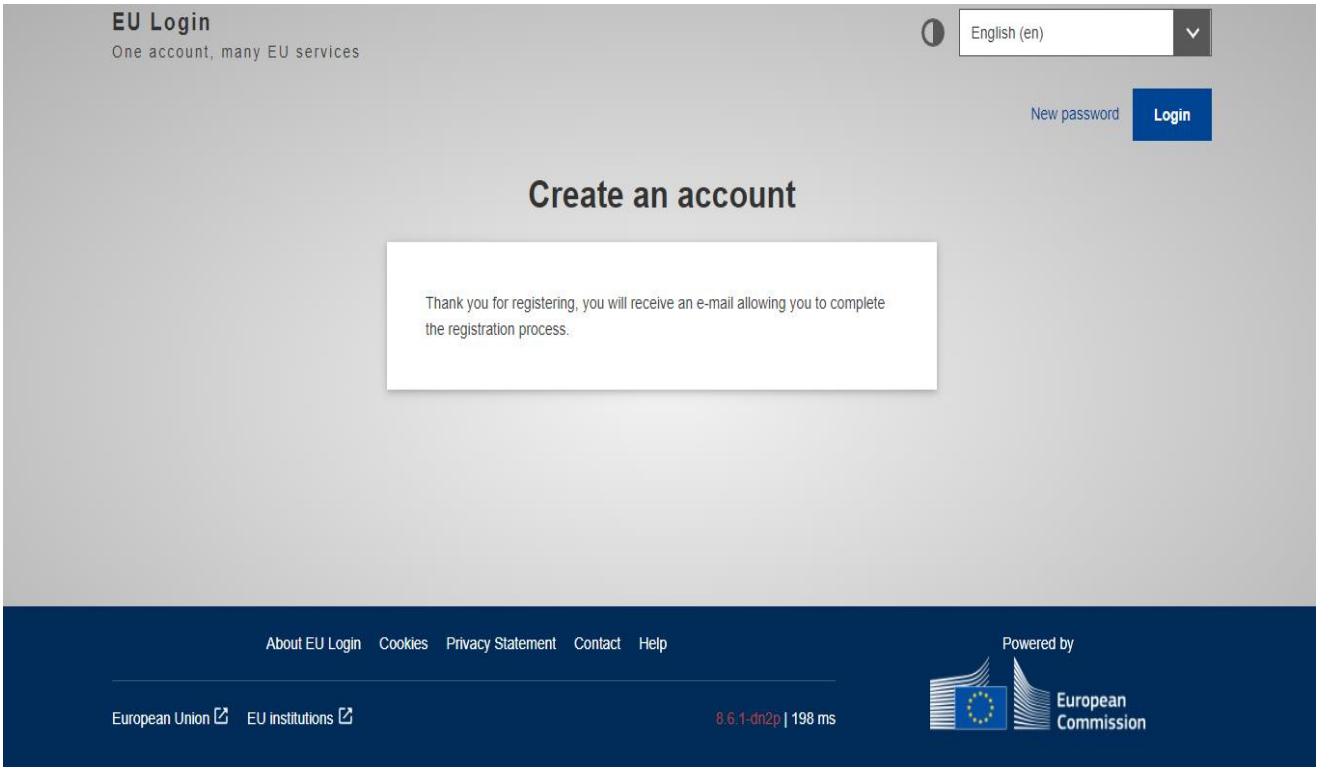
STEP 3 : Click Register on the top right corner.



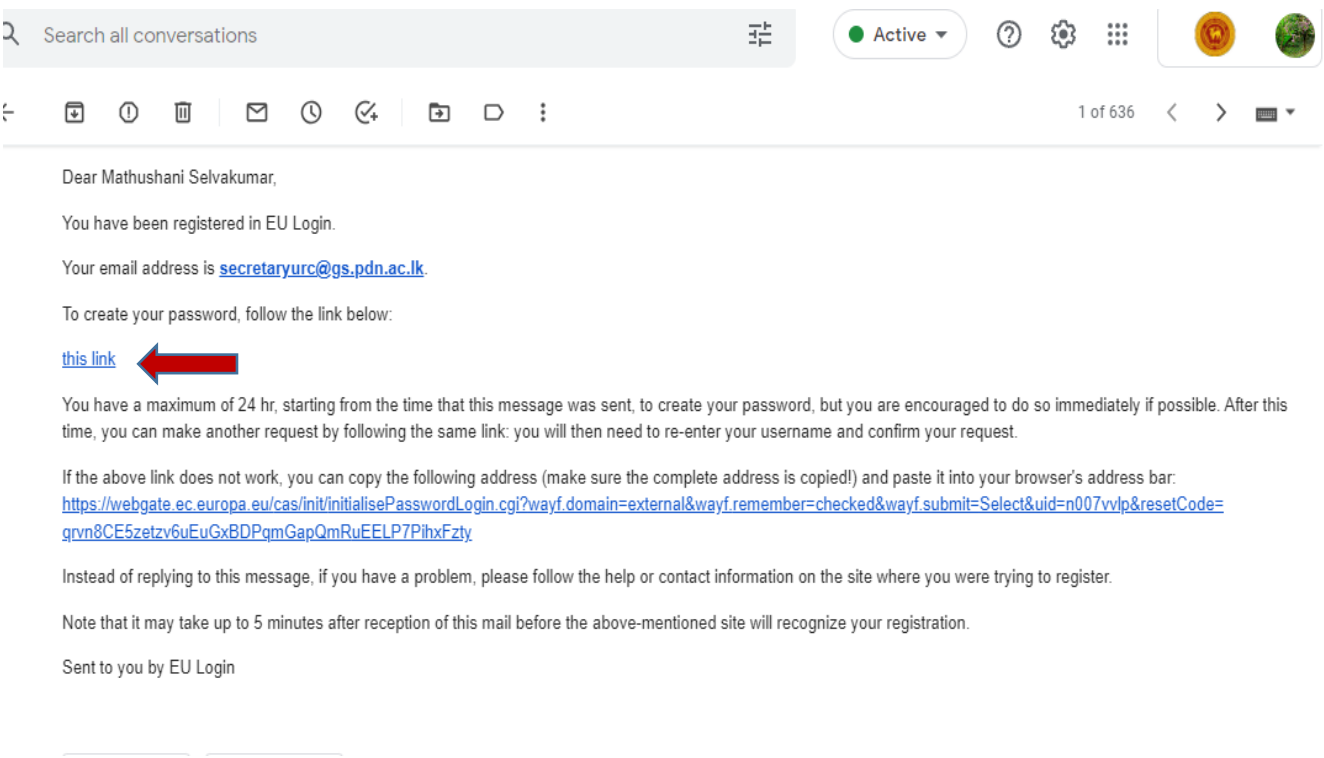
STEP 4 : Fill your details to create an account



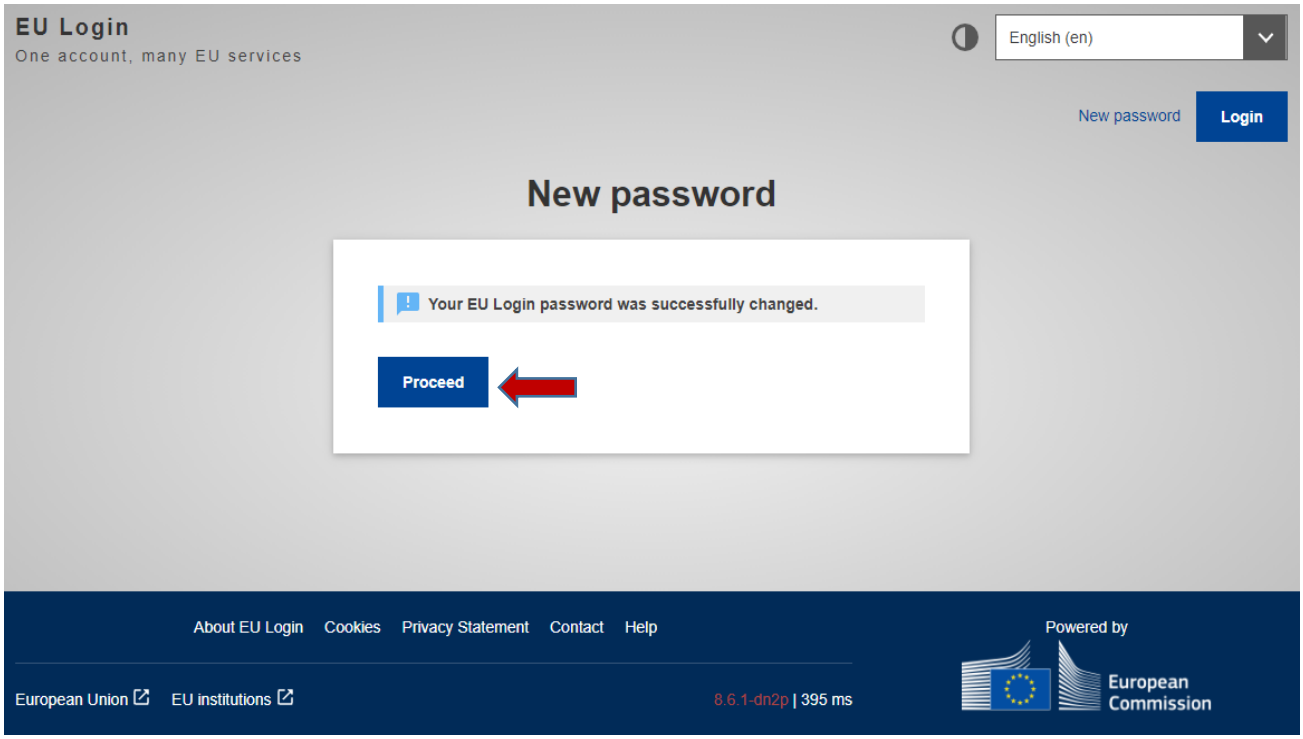
STEP 5 : You will be sent with an confirmation email to your email address.



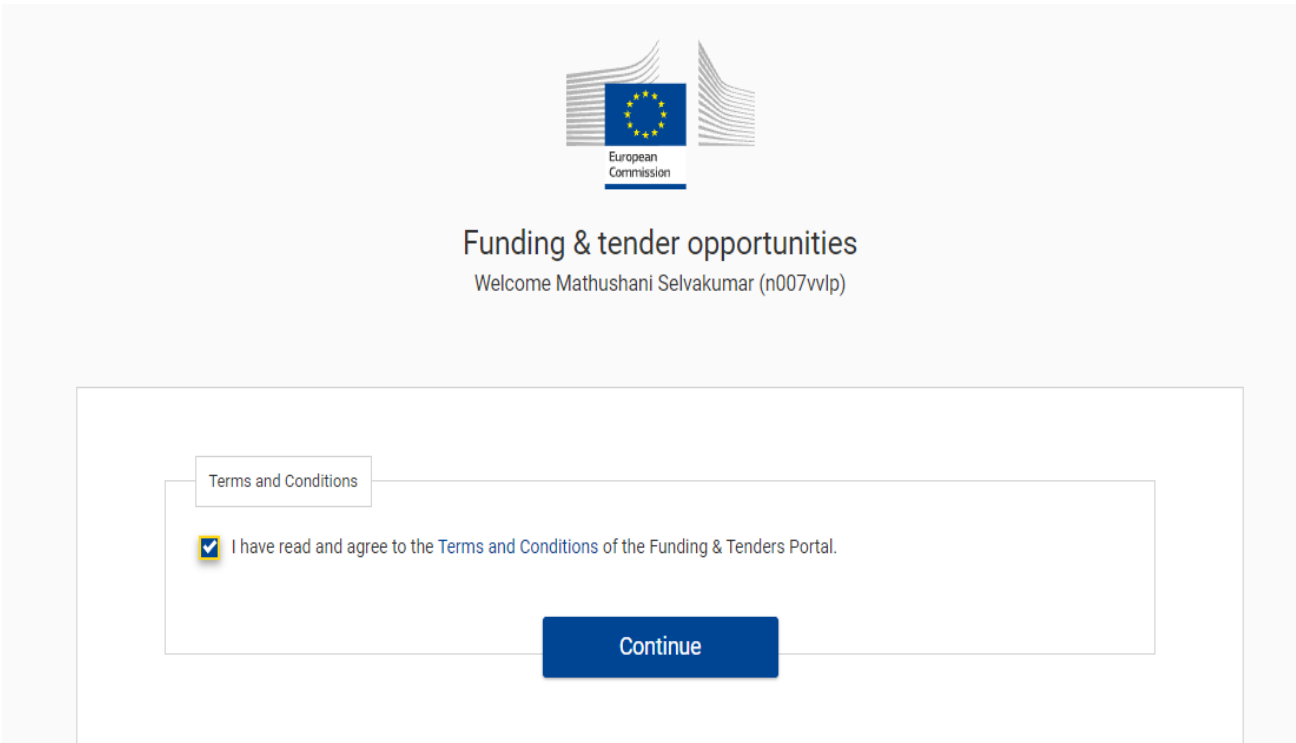
STEP 6 : Click the link in your email to create your own password.



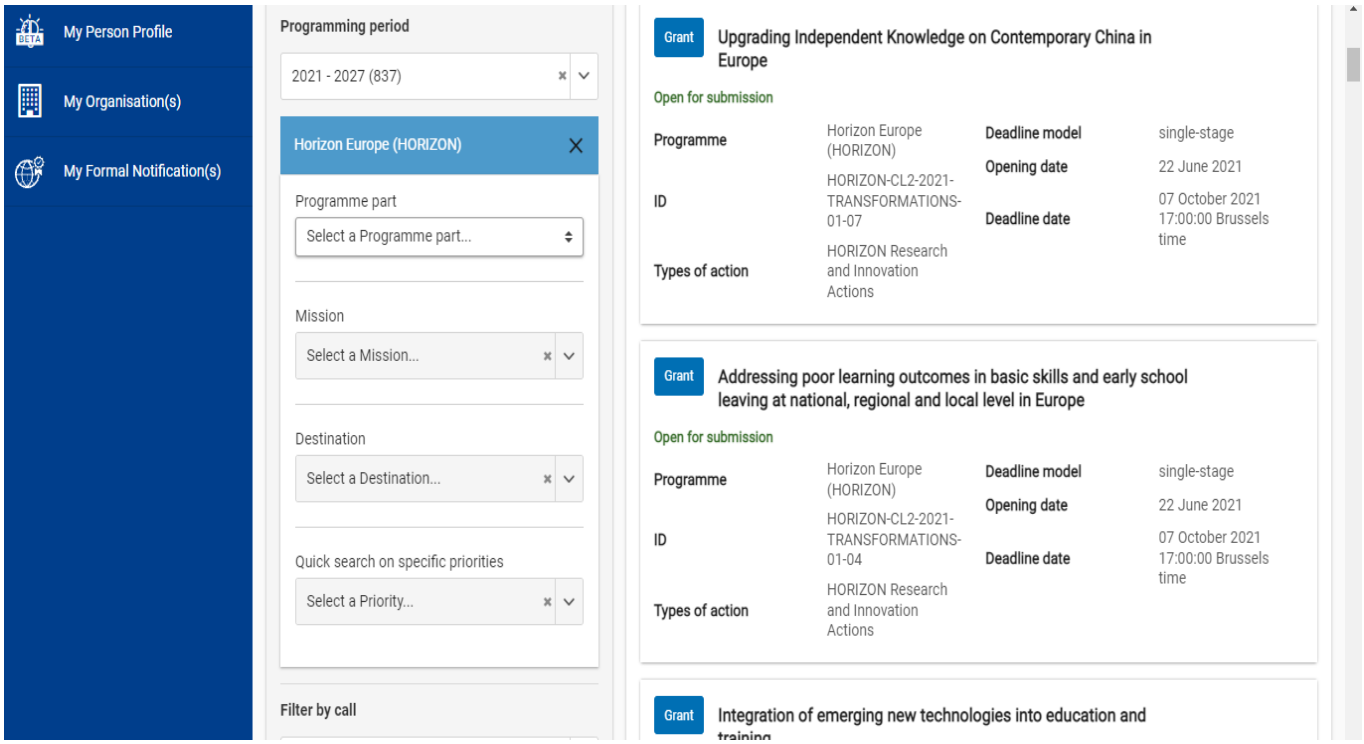
STEP 7 : You will receive a New password confirmation dialogue after typing your password. Click Proceed.



STEP 8 : Accept the terms and conditions.



STEP 9 : Select the Grant using the filters



Annexure 2

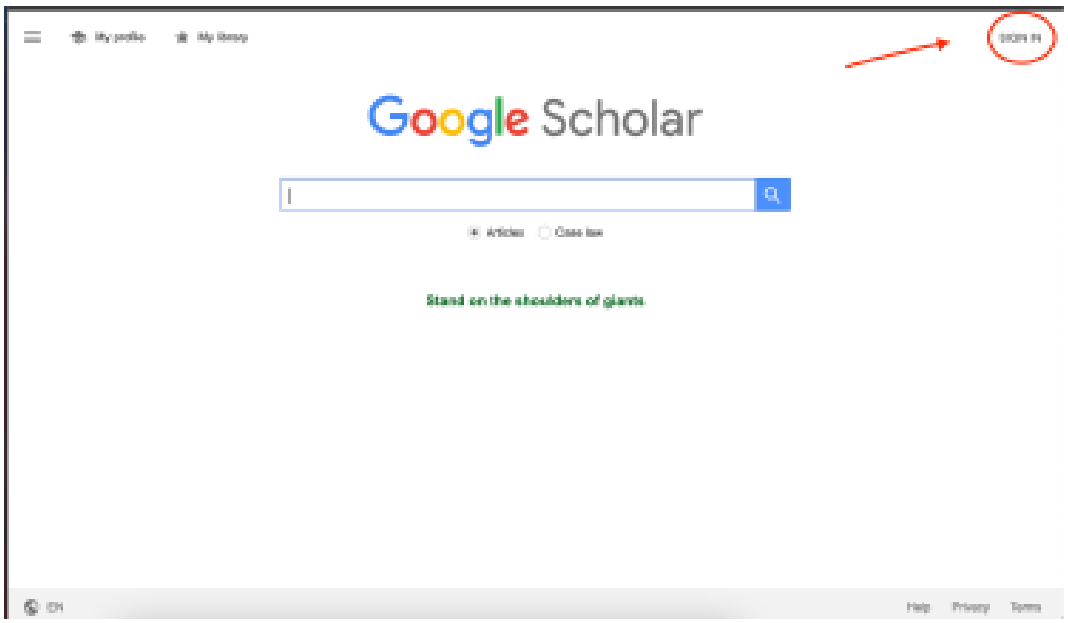
DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE
Climate Neutral, Circular and Digitised Production
World Leading Data and Computing Technologies
Digital and Emerging Technologies for Competitiveness and Fit for the Green Deal
Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-based Infrastructures, Services, Applications and Data
A Human-Centred and Ethical Development of Digital and Industrial Technologies
FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND AGRICULTURE
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Fair, Healthy and Environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
Circular Economy and Bioeconomy sectors
Clean Environment and Zero Pollution
Land, ocean and water for climate action
Resilient, Inclusive, Healthy and Green Rural, Coastal and Urban Communities
Innovative Governance, Environmental Observations and Digital Solutions in Support of the Green Deal
HEALTH
Staying Healthy in a Rapidly Changing Society
Living and Working in a Health-Promoting Environment
Tackling Diseases and Reducing Disease Burden
Ensuring Access to Innovative, Sustainable and High-Quality Health Care
Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
Maintaining and Innovative, Sustainable and Globally Competitive Health Industry
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY
Climate Sciences and Responses for the Transformation towards Climate Neutrality
Cross-sectional Solution for the Climate Transition
Sustainable, Secure and Competitive Energy Supply
Efficient, Sustainable and Inclusive Energy Use
Clean and Competitive Solutions for all Transport Modes
Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility Services for Passengers and Goods
CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY
Better Protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism
Effective Management of EU External Boarders
Resilient Infrastructure
Increased Cybersecurity
Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe

If you needs more details about these calls, either you could search on the website following the steps given in Annexure 1 or please contact us on secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk

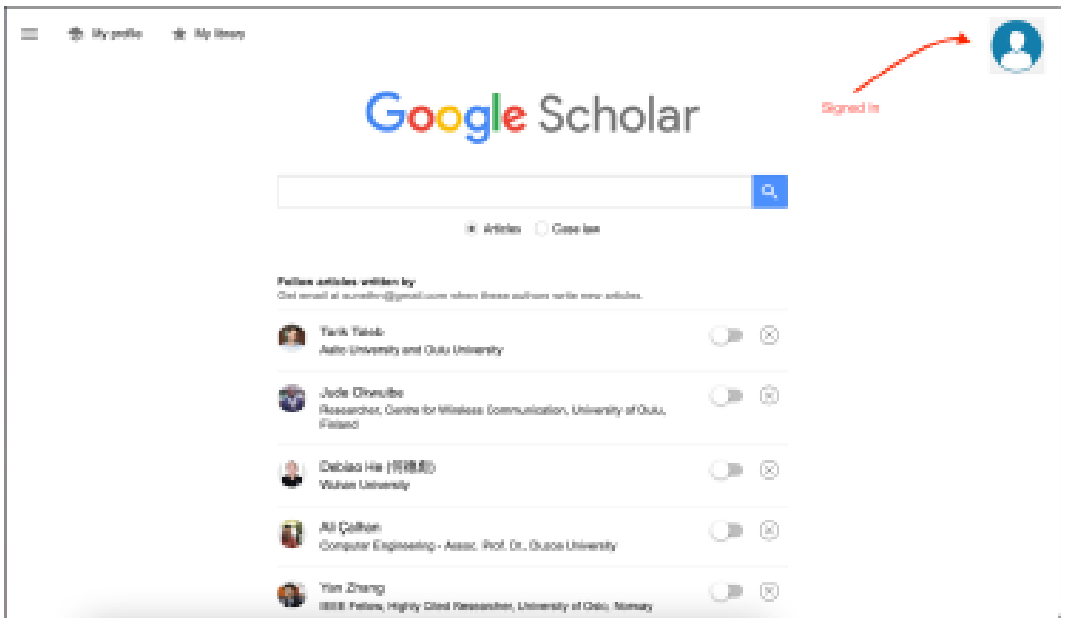
Annexure 3

Changing the institute domain to *.pdn.ac.lk

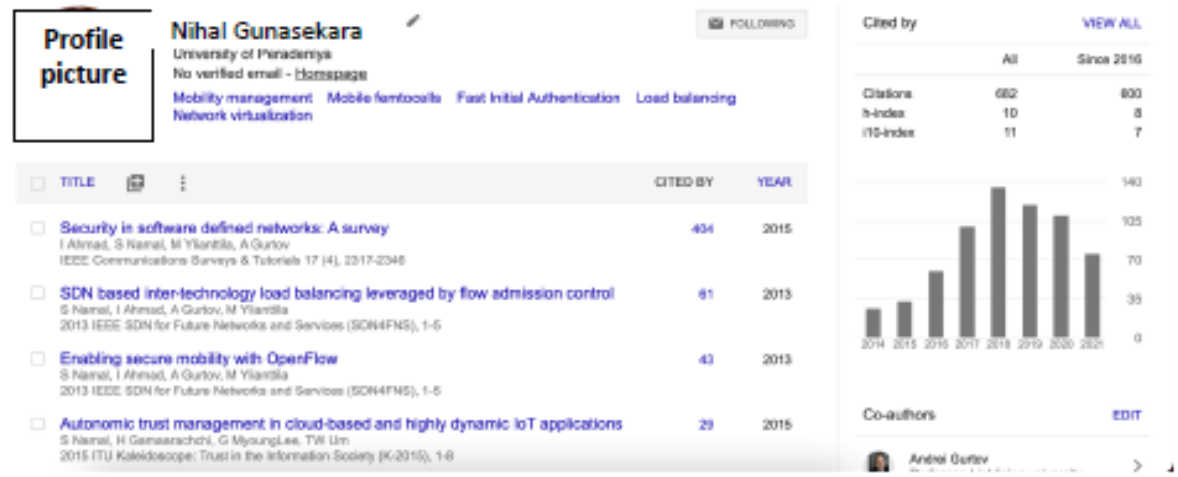
Step 01: Go to https://scholar.google.com



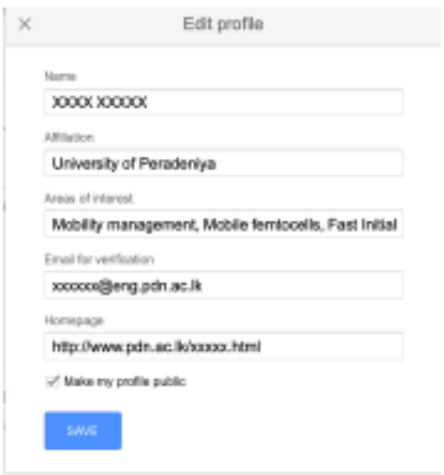
Step 02: Click SIGN IN and log into your profile



Step 03: Go to My profile at top, left hand side.

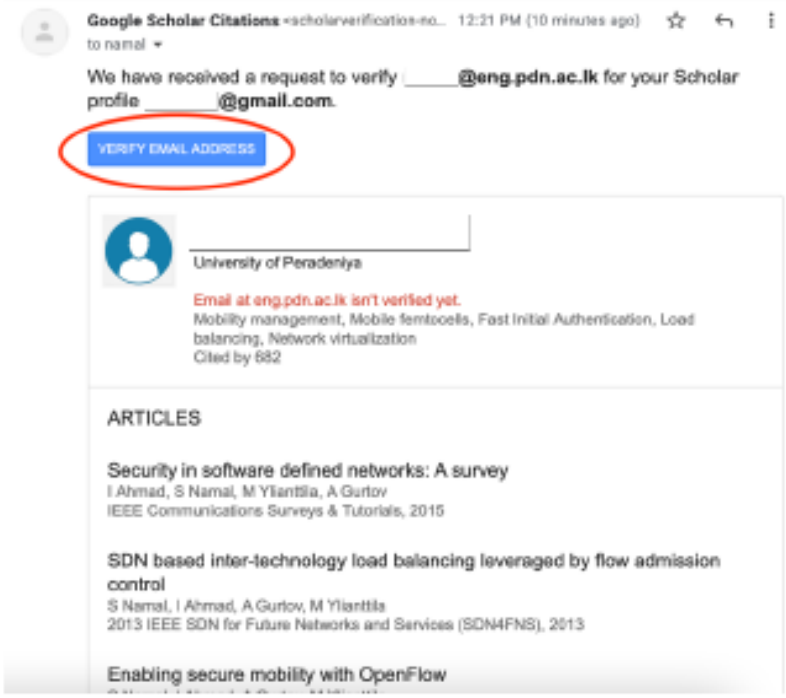


Step 04: Click the Edit pencil behind the name.



Step 05: Save your information

Step 06: Now you should have received an email to the given email. You are required to go to your mailbox and verify this modification.



Step 07: Click VERIFY EMAIL ADDRESS. It will divert you back to your verified Google scholar page.