

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 2
2019



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you!
Via china@euraxess.net,
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or **suggestions**.

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EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 2nd quarterly newsletter of EURAXESS China in 2019!

It's been a productive quarter and a lot of us are already on our well-earned summer breaks – but don't get too comfortable; the third quarter will bring a lot of exciting activities and before you know it we will all be knee deep with things to do, as we will see in this issue of the newsletter.

The [Hot Topic](#) of this issue is the report on *European researchers' mobility in China: Challenges and opportunities* that is based on a survey conducted by EURAXESS China last winter and was published during the quarter. This work will be followed by a special [Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China](#) that will be organised on 19 September by the European Delegation in Beijing in cooperation with EURAXESS China.

We also put the spotlight on couple of news we thought were of special interest to our community; first is the upcoming [InnovationLab](#) which is part of the German Falling Walls competition and will be held in Shanghai in September, and the second is the news of the 2020 work plan of the [European Research Council which will dedicate 2.2 billion euros](#) to fund the blue-sky research of over 1100 researchers in 2020.

Finally we end the newsletter on familiar notes. This issue's [Country in Focus is Serbia](#) and we also have included an extensive 4 page overview of all the activities in the community last quarter in our section [In case you missed...](#)

We wish you a happy summer!

Best regards

Your EURAXESS China team

Hot Topic: European researchers' mobility in China

New report on European researchers' mobility in China: Challenges and opportunities

Over the last decade, China established a wide range of programmes and schemes, both at the central and local level, aimed at recruiting overseas talents. Despite such efforts, which coincided with a period of substantial increase in the quality of Chinese universities and research structures, **China remains a non-attractive destination for European researchers**: a recent EU-funded study ranked China 16th amongst non-EU research destinations. This has important implications on the mobility of European researchers to and within China.

Based on the results of an ad hoc survey formulated by EURAXESS China in cooperation with the project team of the EU funded project [*Improving EU Access to National and Regional Financial Incentives for Innovation in China*](#), to which 95 European researchers responded (70% of which has already stayed or plans to stay in China for at least 5 years), this study illustrates **six main challenges perceived and encountered by European researchers prior, during and after embarking on a position in China**:

- Non-effective integration within the Chinese scientific research community;
- Still burdensome and time-consuming immigration procedures and residence regulations;
- Awareness of funding opportunities and talent mobility incentives remains not optimal;
- Stiff selection criteria for European researchers to obtain funding opportunities and talent mobility incentives;
- Frustration for not being always allowed to write research proposals in English;
- Constraints in accessing data and information, both from outside and from within China

Because these issues seriously affect China's attractiveness as a research destination for many European researchers, one inevitable consequence is that research experience in China and in Chinese institutions is often not seen as a strong asset for one's own career: **holding a position in China is perceived not to be as prestigious as in other countries**, mainly in Europe or in the United States.

On this basis, set of **concrete actions** were recommended by survey respondents in order to increase China's attractiveness as a research destination for European researchers, and for all the international scientific community in general. Finally, as an annex to the study, **practical factsheets on 26 currently existing programmes in China targeting European researchers are provided** (from both the central and local level), together with an overview of other general fellowship or job opportunities in Chinese institutions.

Download the report from the EURAXESS website by clicking [here](#).





Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China

19 September 2019 at the Delegation of the European Union in Beijing

Building on the results of the aforementioned survey a **Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China** will be organised **19 September 2019**. The forum will include a workshop structured around six target groups of European researchers in China (structured around Researchers' Career Stage, Fields and Sectors) a set of concrete solutions and recommendations will be agreed on that will feed into the discussions with the Chinese government on producing a *Joint EU-China Research and Innovation Roadmap*.

The forum will be organized by EU-China Partnership Facility for the European Commission in cooperation with EURAXESS China.

The Forum will include a workshop, joint lunch, a joint session that will be addressed by either Mr. Nicolas Chapuis, Ambassador of the European Union to China or Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission and a speech from a representative of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, and an expert overview of the state of play and recent developments when it comes to the situation of European researchers in China. Finally the forum will end with a panel with representatives from all of the day's working groups, discussing the main results of the Forum.

The forum participants will be 100-120 European researchers currently based in China. The forum will aim at ensuring a balanced participation that represents all different types of European researchers.

The forum can give some travel support to researchers from outside of Beijing to participate. In case there are more interested participants than available seats then the selection will be made with keeping the balances above in mind and then by first-come, first-served bases. Invitation letter will be sent to selected researchers before 15 August.



Are you a European researcher currently based in China?

Show your interest in participating in the forum by registering at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/china/call-interest-forum-mobility-european-researchers-china>

Side event: First meeting of the China European Scientific Diaspora Networks

On the 20th of September 2019, the day after the Forum EURAXESS China in cooperation with EURAXESS Top IV will hold a smaller meeting bringing together the main representatives of the established national networks of European researchers in China and representatives from potential future groups of similar networks.

The goal of the event will be to establish a permanent group of representative of European networks, find possible tasks for joint cooperation and to check the interest in establishing a wider network.

Participation is invitation only but if you think you and your network should be part of this initiative please contact us at china@euraxess.net.



21 SEPTEMBER 2019 | 1:30 pm

WHO

Students, entrepreneurs,
early-career researchers,
& academics of all
disciplines

WHAT

Convince a jury of your idea
- in 3 minutes!

WHY

Join the growing innovation
community & win a trip to
the global Finale in Berlin
this November!

WHERE

German Centre Shanghai
Keyuan Road 88, Pudong,
Shanghai

QUESTIONS

shanghai@daad.org.cn
<https://www.daad.org.cn/>

APPLY HERE

falling-walls.com/lab/apply
Deadline: 08. 09. 2019

*Public event – attendance is
free & encouraged

INNOVATION LAB SHANGHAI 2019

Which wall will your research break? Pitch your innovative idea in just 3 minutes, showcasing a breakthrough that creates a positive impact on science and society.

Innovation Lab Shanghai is calling all talented researchers and professionals to showcase their most innovative ideas

Early-career researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals can now apply for the Innovation Lab Shanghai 2019 on September, 21st to present their research work - in 3 minutes each. Applications are due to September 8th. The competition is organised by the German DAAD as part of the worldwide series of events called Falling Walls.

EURAXESS China encourages all members that have a great idea to take a look!

Visit <http://falling-walls.com/lab/apply> to get more details and to apply.

INNOVATION
LAB
SHANGHAI





ERC Plans for 2020: More than €2.2 billion for Europe's excellent researchers

The European Research Council is today announcing its biggest ever annual injection of funding in blue-sky research. €2.2 billion will be made available in 2020 to support some 1,100 top researchers. As in previous years, most of the funding (61%) is earmarked for early- to mid-career scientists and scholars. The funding will also support jobs for an estimated 8,000 postdoctoral researchers, PhD students and other research staff employed in ERC-funded teams.

Established by the ERC Scientific Council, the work programme for the coming year has been adopted today by the European Commission.

Besides adjustments to the recently re-introduced Synergy Grant, the ERC Scientific Council decided to align the ceilings of the amounts that applicants can request to cover extraordinary costs exceeding the normal grant ceilings of Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants. Previously, Advanced Grant applicants could request up to €1 million in additional funding, while Starting and Consolidator Grant applicants could request up to €500 000 and €750 000 respectively. The ceiling is now €1 million for all of the three grants, while it remains €4 million for Synergy Grant. This decision aims to better reflect the actual costs of doing research across scientific disciplines especially when it comes to major experimental and field work costs.

How and when to apply for ERC grants

The work programme published today includes a tentative calendar of grant competitions. The Starting Grant call is scheduled to open on 17 July 2019, and the Synergy Grant call on 18 July 2019. [\[calendar\]](#)

Read the [Work Programme](#).



The President of the ERC, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, commented:

"I am pleased that the ERC 2020 Work Programme will allow for funding the research of over a thousand excellent scientists who believe that Europe is the best place to follow their scientific curiosity. However, our continent hosts much more top talent with a wealth of creative ideas to bring to life. If Europe is serious about being a real powerhouse for science and innovation, major investment in R&I is needed, notably in blue sky research via the European Research Council."



EURAXESS Members in focus: Serbia

Introduction of the national research landscape

Outlook of R&D ecosystem

In terms of both quantity and quality, R&D landscape is dominated by **state and public research organisations**. There are seven public universities with 89 faculties acting as independent legal units involved in tertiary education and R&D. Some of the universities host research institutes, while the other organisations are either independent or affiliated to Serbian Academy of Sciences or Arts.

Research funding

Most of the research funding comes from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development which runs the framework, comprised of the basic science, technology development and interdisciplinary research actions. However, this framework is expected to be significantly revamped in 2019, as a result of recently passed legislation on National Science Fund.

Since 2011, the [Serbian Innovation Fund](#) implements various financial aid instruments for fostering the establishment of new and strengthening the existing innovative companies, by allowing them to access venture capital markets, and by attracting foreign direct investment in the high-tech research and development sectors. It also awards successful industry-academia collaborations through the Collaborative Grant Scheme for R&D Organisations and Private Sector Enterprises; it helps different stakeholders focusing on the technology transfer aspect of innovation through the Technology Transfer Facility programme; and it implements a number of mini and matching grants.

Research impact

For years, especially since 2009, Serbia is regularly being endorsed as a rising star in different scientific fields as it has achieved the highest percentage increase in total citations, based on bi-monthly Essential Science Indicators from Clarivate Analytics. According to [Scimago Journal & Country rank](#), Serbia is ranked as 57th in number of citations, better than many European countries.

Regarding the participation in Horizon 2020 framework, Serbia is one of the top performers in the region, with 76.3 million € of net EU contribution and 158 unique participants. When considering its very low national investment in science and research (0.89% of GDP in 2017), all this can be taken as an exceptional result and reflection of its highly skilled work force in this domain.

Open science

In 2018, Serbian government formally adopted a [national open science policy](#). The policy mandates deposits of all publicly funded research in open access (OA) repositories and recommends OA to research data. It also places a call to organisations for adopting institutional policies and repositories in the next six months. This is the latest addition to previous initiatives, such as local directories

Population (2017): 7,02 million
(World Bank)

GDP (2017): 41,4 billion USD
(World Bank)

89th largest economy in the
world in 2017 (World Bank)

Global Innovation Index
(2018): 55/126 (World
Intellectual Property
Organization)

Global Competitiveness Index
(2017-2018): 78/137 (World
Economic Forum)

Gross domestic expenditure
on R&D in % of GDP (2017):
0,89 (EUROSTAT)

Scientific/technical journal
articles per million inhabitants
(2016): 712,1 (World Bank)

Ease of Doing Business score
(2018): 73,13 (World Bank)



Dam of the Iron Gates -
Serbia - Rumania

@ www.all-free-photos.com

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development.

This pan-European effort is currently supported by over 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS LAC newsletters. In the June 2019 edition, we zoomed in on Serbia.

READ OUR EURAXESS countries in FOCUS:

Focuses on other EU countries are available [here](#).

BioSense institute

[BioSense Institute](#) is one of the success stories. It is a research organisation striving at introducing advanced IT in agriculture, food safety, ecology and environmental protection. It was kicked-off in 2006 and today it is recognised as European Center of Excellence, with 190 researchers, state of the art equipment and facilities and immense networking capital gained in multiple collaborative projects, funded by FP7, Horizon 2020 and other frameworks. BioSense has established the first Living Lab for precision agriculture which actively engages relevant domestic SMEs, companies, farmers, decision makers and other beneficiaries. It hosts many other forms of collaboration such as demonstration farms, shared research facilities, accelerator and more.

of OA journals ([doiSerbia](#) and [SCIIndeks](#)) and [national open access portal for PhD theses and dissertations](#).

About PhD studies

All public universities have accredited doctoral programmes in different scientific fields, welcoming also international students. The outlook of those programmes is very similar to the ones of other European academic organisations; it takes 3 years to complete, it involves attending courses (typically in the first 3 semesters) and independent research (second 3 semesters). The admission to a doctoral programme is conditioned to the completion of a master's degree programme. Typically, the successful completion is conditioned by the results published or accepted for publication in scientific journals with a given impact factor associated to it. Every doctoral student has typically one mentor. Formally, there are three committees involved in the development of a doctoral thesis. First, there is the committee approving the subject and the title of the thesis. Second, the committee responsible for evaluating the thesis, and the third committee, appointed for the defense procedure.

Top research performers

Besides major public universities in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Niš, top research performers (based on national funding) in Serbia include: [Institute of Physics](#), [Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences](#), [Institute Mihajlo Pupin](#), [Institute for Biological Research „Siniša Stanković“](#) and [Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy](#).

International cooperation

International cooperation is one of the top priorities of the national R&D ecosystem. All universities have very active international cooperation offices, while there are also similar institutional initiatives on the faculty level. Serbia is associated to the European research funding frameworks since FP7 (2007) and it is considered as an equal opportunity stakeholder in ERA. It participates in the H2020 programme development (19 Programme Committee members), it is committed to supporting local scientists in grant development through the network of National Contact Points (17 NCPs) and mobility (5 EURAXESS Centres). For years, Serbian government maintains its own fund of science collaboration grants with a number of countries. Bilateral cooperation with People Republic of China is one of the recent additions to this programme and it has shown to be quite successful in the first round of funding (2017-2019).

Serbian participation in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

According to [MSCA Country profile](#), 40 foreign researchers have been hosted by Serbian R&D organizations in period 2014-2020, most of them in RISE actions. However, as the interest in national R&D landscape for participation is growing (68 different organizations have participated in some MSCA action in the period above), this number is expected to significantly increase in the future.



Working as a researcher and living in Serbia

Since 2013, Serbian organisations are involved in achieving the highest level of commitment to the principles of [The European Charter and Code for Researchers](#) (so called, Charter and Code), demonstrating their care for human resources as the Country's most valuable asset. In the period of 2013-2019, all public universities have been awarded HR Excellence in Research label by the European Commission as an endorsement to successfully implemented HR management policies.

Work culture in Serbia is similar to the one dominant in Mediterranean countries. People prefer informal behavior and open communication; they cherish personal relationships. Serbs tend to respect the deadlines, agreements and obligations. Fluency in foreign language (especially English) is very high.

According to the [statistical office of Republic of Serbia](#), out of 16,000 researchers employed in different R&D organisations (including industry), 50.04% are women. Some under-representation is visible at management layers though: 38.3% of all managers of R&D organisations are women.

Despite the rising quality of living and modern facilities, Serbia is still a cheap country to live in. Based on [Numbeo online service](#) index, it is ranked 89th of 119 countries, more expensive than Turkey, Philippines, Mexico and India, slightly cheaper than Russia, Bulgaria, Poland and China. According to Numbeo crowd-sourced data, the typical basket of goods and services for 3-member household with apartment rent costs approx. 1,600 EUR (for comparison, the cost of the same basket in Amsterdam is 5,000 EUR, in Boston, USA: 6,400 EUR).

On the latest release of the Transparency International corruption perception indexes, Serbia takes 72nd position (of 176 countries), with the global average score.



EURAXESS Serbia

Serbia joined EURAXESS in 2009. Since 2011, 5 EURAXESS Service Centres are continuously providing support to researchers on the topics such as relocation and career development. Since 2017, two Career Development centers (in Belgrade and Niš) are actively involved in the network. EURAXESS Serbian coordinator (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Niš) is continuously and actively engaged in network collaboration, especially in EURAXESS portal development (leader of TOPIV WP8 Open EURAXESS portals) and Open Science initiative, HRS4R assessment, different think-tanks (WG Network Management) and service data analysis (EURAXESS Service Data tool).

In case you missed...

EURAXESS Grants in Practice 2019

In this quarter EURAXESS China held the first 3 parts of the series of events called EURAXESS Grants in Practice; hosted by Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, Tsinghua University in Shenzhen, and Tianjin university in Tianjin. All three institutions are amongst top 20 universities in China.

The events are 3-hour long seminars where EURAXESS Country Representative talks with 20-50 researchers about how to apply for Marie Curie and ERC funding, with a special focus on Marie Curie Individual Fellowships. The training also includes information about how to participate in other Horizon 2020 projects targeting Chinese participation, how to find information about funding opportunities and mobility schemes of individual EU Member States and Associated Countries as well as a special session on how to find partners in Europe.



EURAXESS Grants in Practice at Xi'an Jiaotong University

18 April 2019



EURAXESS Grants in Practice at Tsinghua University Shenzhen

25 April 2019



EURAXESS Grants in Practice at Tianjin University

18 June 2019



Brainstorming Meeting for European Researchers in Beijing

On July 5 from 14:30 – 17:00 EURAXESS China organised at the meeting facilities of the German Chamber of Commerce a meeting for European Researchers in Beijing. The topic of the event was to discuss the challenges and best practices of the mobility of European researchers in China and to serve as a focus group in the preparation of the Forum in September.

Italian Research Day

The Italian Research Day 2019 took place on 15 April in the Cultural Center of the Italian embassy in Beijing. The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate Italian Research in China and an important occasion for the community of Italian researchers in China. EURAXESS China Country Representative participated in the afternoon discussion session with around 25 members of the Association of Italian Scholars in China taking about researchers' mobility.





EURAXESS Researchers' Night Shenzhen

The second EURAXESS Researchers' Night in Guangdong held in the evening of the Saturday 29 June attracted over 100 excellent European, Chinese and International researchers who enjoyed a relaxed evening of networking and sharing of experience. The Researchers' Night was this time organised in the technological capital of China, Shenzhen, held at Whatever Artspace in the Xi'li District, right next to the University Town of Shenzhen.

The theme of the this edition of the Researchers' Night was **science communication** and the benefits of being able to effectively communicate to the public to the career of researchers. The event included a **improv workshop** organised by YouImprove in Shenzhen. The workshop engaged the participants in several common improv exercises that in addition to teach valuable lessons about performance also loosened up the crowd and raised the level of energy in the room that translated into the rest of the evening. The event also included a testimony from **Vikas Malik**, the winner of the EURAXESS Science Slam 2015, who talked about how Science Communication has benefitted him as a researchers, his experience with the Science Slasm and how it impacted his life and career. The event also included a spontaneous **open mic** session, where leading researchers gave quick pitches to the crowd looking for potential new team members. Finally the event also included the formal launching of the application phase of the EURAXESS Science Slam China 2019 (<http://scienceslamchina.com>).



1st Meeting of Ibero-American Researchers in Southern China

EURAXESS participated in the opening ceremony of the 1st Meeting of Ibero-American Researchers in Southern China that was held by RICE Association of Spanish Researchers in China at SUSTECH in Shenzhen the Saturday 29 June. EURAXESS China representative gave some welcoming words. The ceremony was also attended by the Consul of Spain in Guangzhou and the SUSTECH University Leadership.

The event got the attention of [Shenzhen Daily](#) where CR's speech was quoted. CR also moderated a discussion session in the afternoon with 28 Spanish speaking researchers; in addition to introducing EURAXESS and what we do the session was dedicated to discuss the challenges to mobility and best practices of European Researchers in China. The session was structured around the 6 main issues identified in a recent EURAXESS survey and ended with discussing the possibility of an upcoming Forum on Researchers' Mobility and encouragement to participate.

Sino-German Alumni Expert Networks Meeting

EURAXESS helped the organisers of the DCHAN Sino-German Alumni Event to reach out to German community of researchers in China to participate in their



activities that were held at the Sino-German Centre for Research Promotion 13-15 May. In addition to that CR also introduced EURAXESS to the audience on the first day of the event as well as participating in a panel on the *Current Issues of Innovation, Knowledge and Technology Transfer in China*.



Launch Event: Denmark-China Alumni Association

On June 16th the Denmark-China Alumni Association launched in Beijing. Initiated by the Danish Chamber of Commerce and the Innovation Centre Denmark in Shanghai, and in partnership with eight Danish universities, the Alumni Association wishes to gather the knowledge and experiences of Chinese nationals who have previously studied at a Danish university and with a strong interest in Danish-Chinese relations. In addition to this, the Alumni Association also seeks to function as a social and networking platform for Chinese nationals with a connection to Denmark.



EURAXESS China Part of TV Programme Discussing Black Hole Pictures

EURAXESS China Country Representative appeared the Friday 12 April on the live news talk show [The Point with LIU Xin](#) at [CGTN](#) discussion the photos of Black Hole taken by the Event Horizon Telescope project that was significantly funded by the [European Research Council](#). A great opportunity to share the importance of international collaboration and mobility in science!

See the interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQMCx6-EgcM>



Winner of EURAXESS Science Slam China 2018 interviewed by Horizon Magazine

Dr Chong Cheng Tung, associate professor at China-UK Low Carbon College of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the winner of EURAXESS Science Slam China 2018 was recently in an interview titled *Aeroplanes could cut emissions by flying on waste cooking oil fuel* at **Horizon - The EU Research and Innovation Magazine**. The interview focuses on the potential of biofuels to reduce aviation emissions.



'The trend is that we are shifting towards second-generation and third-generation biofuel, which does not compete with food or land.'

Dr Chong Cheng Tung, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

The interview was taken at Brussels during Dr Chong's Science Slam prize trip to Europe where he visited many researchers in his field. See more about the trip in a future newsletter. [Read the whole interview here.](#)



EURAXESS Science Slam China 2019: Apply to Participate

The Researchers' Night Shenzhen marked the launch of the 2019 application phase for the 6th EURAXESS Science Slam China. The Science Slam is planned to take place in Beijing in December 2019 and is open to application from interested researchers in the network until 30 November 2019. Go for an early application if you want to get attention to your potential and increase your probability of being chosen as one of the 5 finalists.

Find out more information about our previous Science Slams and Science Slam winners at <http://scienceslamchina.com> as well as for information about how to apply. Jia you!



Reminder: 2019 Call for Marie Curie Individual Fellowship Deadline in September

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships (IF) support the mobility of experienced researchers (in possession of a doctoral degree or with at least four years of research experience). The Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for China-based researchers to conduct research and a university, research institute, or company in Europe (it can also be used by a Chinese institution to get a European researcher to come to China, with a 1-year compulsory return to Europe period). **The call is now open and will close on 11 September 2019.** Please visit the Horizon 2020 Portal for Call information [here](#).

About us

EURAXESS China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese and international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. **Membership is free.**

Visit us at china.euraxess.org and [Join](#) the EURAXESS China community.



EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist you: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, North America (USA and Canada), and – as of July 2018 – the EURAXESS Korea network was officially launched. Additionally, a EURAXESS information website for Australia and New Zealand went online in June 2018.