RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

Quarterly Newsletter Issue 2 2017

EURAXESS NORTH AMERICA

Contents

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Greece is a developed democratic country with a high standard of living. A founding member of the United Nations, Greece was the tenth member to join the European Communities (precursor to the European Union) and has been part of the Eurozone since 2001.

1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: GREECE

Research and Development in Greece

Greece has a number of research institutions conducting cutting-edge basic research. Five of the Top-50 research organizations that receive funding through the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) are from Greece[i]. The capacity of Greek research institutes to conduct excellent research is also reflected in the relatively good performance in terms of outstanding scientific publications[1]. Greece's performance (2015) is above the EU average for some individual indicators such as: international scientific co-publications (120% of the EU average), non-R&D innovation expenditure in the private sector (127%), SMEs marketing/organisational innovations (124%) and innovative SMEs collaborating with others (120%)[2].

At the end of 2013 (most recent available data), **Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** was at 1.47 billion euro, increasing from 0.67% of GDP in 2011 to 0.8% of GDP in 2013[3]. In the context of the revision of the National Reform Programme (for the year 2014), the Greek authorities have proposed a more ambitious target of as much as 1,2% of GDP.[4] The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for 38.2% of the total R&D expenditure in 2015. At the end of 2015, the Higher Education sector was composed of 22 public universities and 14 public Technological Education Institutes (TEI). In addition to public, there are 28 private universities of various types accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs operating in the country. There are 15 public research organisations, of varying sizes, supervised by the **General Secretariat for Research and Technology.**

Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The R&I strategy for the next programming period (Revision of the implementation law (Law 4386/2016) of the National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation-ESETAK), which includes the **Smart Specialisation strategy (RIS3)**, focuses on the following priorities:

- areas of traditional strength for the country (examples: shipping, tourism, energy)

- areas of recent successes in terms of critical mass and on-going activities (examples: IT, pharmaceuticals, engineering, energy);

[i] *Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH)- www.forth.gr/*

Center for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)- www.certh.gr/root.en.aspx,

National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"- www.demokritos.gr/?lang=en,

Institute of Communications and Computer Systems (ICCS)- www.iccs.gr/en/,

ATHENA Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies- www.athena-innovation.gr/.

[1] *THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH ON GREEK ECONOMIC GROWTH, GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIW ECON, NOVEMBER 2016*

[2] *RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2017*

[3] *RIO Country Report Greece 2014, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2015*

[4] *Researchers' Report 2014 Country Profile: Greece, prepared by Deloitte*

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 Japan newsletters. In this edition, we will zoom in on Greece.

- areas of high added value and able to deliver major economic benefit and employment prospects (examples: energy, nutrition – food sciences); and

- areas of national interest (examples: food production, archaeology, culture, energy, defense, biomedicine).

In total, 8 technological areas were identified matching the priorities; Biosciences, Agro-Biotechnology Nutrition, Energy and Environment, Computer Science and Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, with about 28% of the funding for the next programming period 2014-2020 allocated to Biosciences, followed by Engineering (18%) and Physical Sciences (12%)[5]. Approximately 27% of the total funding is expected to be dedicated to societal challenges.

Greek R&D Strategy

The **New R&D&I Strategy for the Programming Period 2014-2020[6]** aspires to strengthen the Greek research system (human capital and infrastructure), conduct research relevant to the needs of the country and thus make R&D an indispensable tool for the further development of the Greek economy. In this context, it is intended to launch programmes focusing on the development of human capital for research in a knowledge economy (including support to excellent researchers, support to mobility of researchers to work in enterprises, and support to training for innovation activities, as well as starting grants for new researchers).

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Business Sector is the second largest R&D provider of funds and performer in Greece (31.8% and 33.3% of the total GERD respectively). Based on EU2016 Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, **five Greek companies (one more than the previous year) featured among the top EU companies on R&D spending**: PHARMATHEN (Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology, www.pharmathen.com , INTRALOT (Technology Hardware & Equipment, www.intralot.com/ , the National Bank of Greece (Banks, www.nbg.gr , GALAXIDI Marine Farmand (fish farm, www.gmf-sa.gr and Creta Farm (meat and deli meats, www.cretafarms.gr . A large number of SMEs and start-ups are also declaring R&I activities mainly in service and incremental innovations[7]. According to the National Reform Programme 2016, Greek enterprises are expected to increase their Business Expenditures on Research and Development (BERD) to approximately 0.38% of the GDP in 2020[6]. A large number of SMEs and start-ups have been undertaking R&I activities mainly in services and incremental innovations. Greece has three University Business Incubators and 6 Science and Technology Parks: Technology & Science Park

[5] *National Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, National Council of Research and Technology*
[6] *Greek National Reforms Programme 2014, April 2014*
[7] *RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2016*

Establishment of a Foundation for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK) October 2016 by Law 4429/2016.

www.eib.org/projects/loan/loan/20150747

Enterprise Greece promotes investment and foreign trade in Greece ***www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/en/about-us***

The main funding body is the General Secretariat for Research and Technology

(**www.gsrt.gr/**)

of Attika "Lefkippos"(www.demokritos.gr/Contents.aspx?CatId=60), Science and Technology Park of Crete (www.stepc.gr**)** , Thessaloniki Technology Park (www.thestep.gr**)**, Patras Science Park (www.psp.org.gr**)**, Epirus Science and Technology Park (www.step-epirus.gr**)** and Lavrion Technological and Cultural Park (www.ltp.ntua.gr). Technology Transfer Offices (called "Innovation Liaison Offices") exist in major Higher Education Institutions and in 64% of Public Research Organisations[7].

Brain drain has been recognized as a key challenge in the Operational Program for Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as the Greek Strategy for the European Research Area – Roadmap 2015-2020 (GSRT, 2016). The recently established (L.4429/2016) **National Foundation for Research and Innovation (NFRI-ELIDEK)** in the footsteps of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US, and Germany's Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) aims to address this challenge. The Foundation, co-sponsored by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and national funds, aims to fund combined with Greek national funds. The aim is to attract and to keep highly-qualified scientists in Greece, through funds devoted both to curiosity driven research and entrepreneurship & innovation. To this end, the Greek Research and Innovation Foundation will allocate €240 million by 2019[6].

Greece has valuable assets that contribute to the transition to an innovation-driven economy:

- leading research institutions,
- medium and high-tech firms, e.g. in the IT and pharmaceutical sector, as well as a certain number of innovative startups in the information technology sector in Athens,
- a considerable diaspora in research, finance and business

Enterprise Greece is designed to promote and support Greek exports of goods & services and investments in Greece.

Funding and Recruitment Opportunities

The government constitutes the largest R&D source of funds (in 2015, 52.7% of the GERD was funded by GOV) and the third largest R&D performer (after Higher Education Institutes and Business).

The National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI, www.esek.org.gr) is the supreme State advisory body for national policy for research, technology and innovation. The responsibility of funding research is shared between the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism. Funds coming from the EU Regional Operational Programmes fall typically under the competence of the Regional Authorities. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food supervises the National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF, www.nagref.gr), which undertakes research and technology in agricultural, forest, animal and fish production and other related areas in Greece. The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for 38.2 % of the total R&D expenditure in 2015. The Business Sector is the second largest R&D funder and performer in Greece (31.8% and 33.3% of the total GERD respectively) [6].

Greek Embassies and representations around the world: www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-bilateral-relations/a.html

Important information for incoming researchers

EURAXESS Greece is a resource for foreign researchers who plan to come to Greece. Whether you are looking for information about work, study or everyday life in Greece, EURAXESS Greece covers all matters relating to your professional and daily life, job and funding opportunities. EURAXESS Greece is also a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses.

The new Law on Research Technological Development and Innovation (L.4310/2014), acknowledges the pivotal role of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology, part of the Ministry of Education, Research & Religious Affairs, in the design of R&D programmes and the allocation of funding.

International Research Cooperation and/or Mobility Examples

International cooperation is sought primarily through bilateral agreements.

Some examples of S&T cooperation:

E-Rare-3 Call (www.erare.eu/) for proposals 2017: Transnational Research Projects for Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases

The following 17 countries intend to participate in this call: Austria, Belgium, **Canada**, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

Agreements of Scientific Cooperation:

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (www.auth.gr/en) has produced remarkable results with regard to international relations and its cooperation with foreign academic institutions. Within such a context, the Department of International Relations is the one responsible for coordinating and administering the Agreements on Scientific Cooperation which the university has signed over hundred and sixty (160) corresponding universities or equivalent higher education institutions in Europe, the Balkan and Black Sea countries, Russia, the **U.S.A., Canada**, Australia, the Near, Middle and Far East.

The **7th International Exhibition on Nanotechnologies**, Flexible Organic Electronics & Nanomedicine (www.nanotexnology.com) will take place from July 3rd to July 7th, 2017 in Thessaloniki. In Nanotexnology 2016, more than 1000 scientists and 450 innovation companies participated. Matchmaking events and a Business Forum are foreseen in the framework of Nanotexnology 2017.

Commitment initially of 37 million euro from the smart specialization strategy (RIS3), in order to finance the programmes under the bilateral agreements until 2020. The first phase will be dedicated to the cooperation with Germany, China, Israel (Cyprus) and Russia. Part of the government's priorities is the promotion of the cooperation programmes in other countries within and outside the EU[8].

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***Eirini Kama**, First Secretary for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Greece (Tokyo)*

[8] *HELLENIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH & RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (GSRT), Greek Strategy for the European Research Area (ERA) National Roadmap (2015-2020), Athens, April 2016*

2 European Scientific Diasporas in North America Series

Portuguese American Post-Graduate Society - PAPS

What is PAPS? When was it founded?

PAPS (*Portuguese American Postgraduate Society*), an independent non-profit organization with no political affiliations, was founded in 1998 with the mission of supporting the Portuguese scientific diaspora studying or working in North America. For almost 20 years, PAPS has been representing and supporting Portuguese graduates in this continent and bridging Portugal and the U.S./Canada by stimulating and strengthening the relationship between the Portuguese and Portuguese-American graduate community studying/working in North America and Portugal.

Today, PAPS is represented in 14 chapters (Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Diego, Seattle, Texas, Toronto, Washington D.C., Portugal-*Alumni*).

Initially founded in Boston, where there was a high concentration of researchers, PAPS has been expanding throughout North America.

Though PAPS' initial focus was solely on the scientific diaspora, PAPS has recently reviewed its bylaws so that Portuguese of any academic-professional field can also become members and be integrated in its very diverse and highly qualified network. We believe that innovation emerges from cross-fertilization of different fields, especially in the scientific/technology arena.

What are the benefits of becoming a PAPS member?

PAPS' help starts before Portuguese graduates even arrive to North America by providing them with PAPS Welcome Packages (informative guides) with practical information about living in North America.

Newly arrived members are easily integrated in the already existing **PAPS network comprised of approximately 2000 members** studying/working at renowned Universities, Research Centers, and Companies across North America, in diverse areas (such as science, technology, management, entrepreneurship, arts, and others). Because the PAPS network comprises members from various academic-professional fields with the experience of studying/working in the United States or Canada (including those who have meanwhile moved to a different country) it allows its members to find and connect to possible collaborators and mentors, find out about job opportunities, be inspired by the success of fellow members, and share their own challenges and achievements.

PAPS promotes exclusive local/nation-wide events and initiatives, as well as the opportunity to meet Portuguese entities residing or visiting North America, strengthening the relationship between this continent and our home country.

How does PAPS provide opportunities for mentorship and collaboration?

Over the past few years, PAPS has been focusing a great part of its effort in promoting different kinds of mentorship opportunities to make use of its extensive member network, which is comprised of a large number of graduates as well as PhDs, working or studying in renowned companies, universities, or research centers, in the U.S. and Canada.

With this in mind, PAPS developed the PAPSummer mentorship program in 2015. This program was created with the goal of providing the opportunity for

This program offers Portuguese undergraduate students the unique opportunity to be paired with a mentor in an area relevant to their current or future studies and gain some "hands-on" experience.

Portuguese college students or recent college graduates to do one-month internships at companies, universities, or research centers, in the U.S. or Canada, under the supervision of a PAPS member. In addition to the obvious benefit to the student's career, there is also the benefit of being exposed to a different culture and perspectives, during the one month spent in North America.

Because the PAPSummer program has been financed through sponsorships, there is no cost incurred by either the mentor or the student. The PAPSummer fellowships are used to cover airfare, a stipend, and health insurance, and vary slightly depending on the cost of living associated with the city where the internship takes place.

The first edition of this program, PAPSummer 2015, received more than 500 applications from Portuguese students from different geographic locations and backgrounds. Eight Portuguese students were awarded a PAPSummer fellowship in 2015 and developed internship projects at renowned universities and companies such as the Harvard Medical School, the Space Telescope Science Institute, the Portuguese Consulate of New York, and the consulting company Axis Advisors.

In 2016, the program continued to be extremely successful. Five Portuguese students were awarded a PAPSummer fellowship in 2016 and developed internship projects in areas from cinema to biology/medicine to astrophysics, at Harvard Medical School; Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, Park Bench Pictures in New York, and Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

The application process is structured in three phases. Initially, PAPS invites its members, i.e. potential advisors, to submit projects and budgets. The PAPSummer mentors' projects are reviewed by PAPS and, once approved, the next phase starts, consisting of selecting potential matching students. For each project, 10 candidate students are selected from all the applicants to that project, following a review of the application materials (CV, cover letter, and recommendation letters). Each application is evaluated by at least two PAPS representatives, who grade the applications based on a set of criteria (fit between student's background/experience and project, CV, recommendation letters, cover letter, and English proficiency). The application materials for the best 10 students for each project are then made available to the mentor, who then selects 3 students for a video-call interview, with the mentor and a PAPSummer representative. Students are only allowed to apply to a single project and preference is given to students that have not had an internship abroad before. During the student selection process care is taken to ensure that there is gender-balance in the 10 students selected for each project and that they represent a diverse sample of diverse Portuguese universities.

This mentorship program has been extremely appreciated by all the **PAPSummer interns**, who have described it as **'unforgettable', 'invaluable', 'enriching', and 'unique'**.

They have also expressed how this mentorship opportunity has changed their view on cultural differences between the U.S. and Portugal, has enriched their academic-professional experience, and has enabled them to get new positions following the internship. All of these aspects are very rewarding to both PAPS and the PAPSummer mentors, who continue to be linked to the students beyond the conclusion of the internship.

Besides the PAPSummer mentorship program, PAPS has been developing other initiatives that are equally important to develop both opportunities of mentorship and collaboration, aiming at supporting the academic-development of its members in North America and strengthening the liaison between North America and Europe:

- **PAPS Annual Forum** in North America focuses on current themes of interest to the Portuguese community. Each year PAPS gathers its members in a North American city with some of the top academic, corporate, government, and entrepreneurial figures for a two-day event with discussion on pertinent topics and networking.

PAPS invites you to visit and explore its website, learn more about it and contact us with any questions and ideas!

PAPS website:
www.papsonline.org

PAPS e-mail:
paps@papsonline.org

- ***PAPSpeakers Series*** is organized locally, by the different chapters with the goal of highlighting the value of the PAPS network in sessions where PAPS members share their career path, experience, and academic/professional skills, promoting opportunities of collaboration, mentorship, and networking.

- ***PAPS Meets gatherings*** with PAPS members and representatives of Portuguese entities who visit different North American cities.

- **GraPE Annual Forum** in Portugal, is co-organized by PAPS and its sister organizations in Europe (UK, France and Germany, Belgium/Luxembourg) to promote the interaction and discussion among Portuguese graduates abroad and in Portugal.

- ***PAPS Inspires*** aims to inspire middle/high school level Portuguese-American students at Portuguese Schools in North America through presentations by PAPS members.

- **PAPS *Alumni* Network** also has the great potential to continue to strengthen the relationship between Portugal and North America and to contribute to the development of our country through their academic-professional experience.

How to learn more and get in touch with PAPS?

PAPS' recently renewed website - www.papsonline.org - was designed to integrate two main components:

- "***PAPS Website***" provides the opportunity for all – members, prospective members, general public, partners, potential partners, government entities, companies, and others – to learn about PAPS, its structure, and initiatives;

- "***PAPS Network***" is a digital platform for PAPS members that allows them to be connected and stay connected, find and interact with other members in an academic-professional context, share their work, and have access to opportunities of collaboration, knowledge, as well as useful resources.

Picture 1: PAPS members special gathering with the President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, New York, 2016. (photo credit: Henrique Mano/ Jornal Luso-Americano)

Picture 2: Members of the organizing committee of PAPS Forum 2016, New York. (photo credit: Henrique Mano/ Jornal Luso-Americano)

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3 HOT TOPIC: MSCA Individual Fellowships: opportunities for North American researchers and host institutions

The MSCA IF 2017 call opened on 11 April, will close on 14 September, with an overall budget of EUR 248 million.

call text and application

guide for applicants

Within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), a new call for 2017 Individual Fellowships was launched last April, as every year. This call offers a wealth of opportunities for both North American (or North American-based) researchers and North American research institutions.

Individual Fellowships are divided in two categories: **European Fellowships** and **Global Fellowships**, both characterised by the goal of promoting excellent science, career development, international and intersectoral mobility, transfer and exchange of knowledge, focus on research and innovation.

This particular Action of MSCA is appealing to North American researchers and research institutions alike, due to the fact that **its eligibility criteria allow American & Canadian researchers to be active candidates**, entitled to receive EU funding, and in the same dimension, **North American host institutions are eligible to host researchers from the European Union and Associated Countries (EU/AC)**.

European Fellowships and Global Fellowships

A characteristic feature of the MSCA Individual Fellowships is that the programme is totally **bottom up**; therefore, **open to all fields of knowledge**, offering a unique flexibility and variety of research topics for project proponents.

- In the case of a European Fellowship, the applicant researcher can move either within Europe or from a Third Country (including Canada & US) to any European Member State or Associated Country.
- In the case of a Global Fellowship, the researcher moves from Europe to any Third Country, including Canada & US, and then goes back to his/her host institution in Europe.

For North America, this means equal mobility opportunities with any of the 28 countries which are part of the European Union, and the 16 associated countries, giving a wide range of options and possibilities to implement such exchanges.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria for individual researchers (applicants):

- Applicants must be experienced researchers who, at the date of the call deadline, are in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.
- Applicants must follow the ‘mobility rule’, which states they cannot apply for a fellowship if their planned destination is a country where they have had

Some definitions:

Member states (MS):
the 28 countries which are part of the European Union

Associated Countries (AC):
the16 countries associated to the EU framework programme for research and innovation, **Horizon 2020**

Third Countries:
any country that is not an EU Member State or Associated Country to H2020

Beneficiary:
the legal entity that signs the Grant Agreement and has the complete responsibility for the proper implementation of the action.

Applicant:
Individual researchers from anywhere in the world may submit the proposal, in coordination with a host institution based in a MS/AC.

In the case of global fellowship, all details of the US & Canadian host institution or "Partner Organisation" must be included in the proposal and its "Letter of Commitment" must be annexed

research activities for more than 12 months during the 3 years prior to the call (counted from the call deadline).

Eligibility criteria for host institutions and partner organisations:

- Beneficiaries of the fellowships are research organisations in MS or AC that host the researcher. In the case of Global Fellowships, organisations in Third Countries that host the researcher during the compulsory initial outgoing period and provide additional training are partner organisations, but not beneficiaries.
- The partner organisations located in Third Countries must include in the proposal a letter of commitment to ensure their real and active participation in the proposed action. Their precise role should also be clearly described in the proposal.

Detailed eligibility conditions should be checked in the guide for applicants, which details different specific cases.

Duration of the supported research stays

For European Fellowships, the overall duration ranges from 12 to 24 months. For Global Fellowships, 12 to 24 months must be spent at a partner organisation in a Third Country (i.e. Canada or US), followed by an obligatory return period of 12 months at the host institution (beneficiary) in the MS or AC.

The European Fellowships offer a wide range of options which reflect different needs and demands of researchers, and are aimed in particular to support experienced researchers to undertake international and inter-sector mobility (through the *Society and Enterprise Panel*); individuals who wish to resume their research career in Europe after a break such as a parental leave or positions outside of research (through the *Career Restart Panel*); or MS/AC nationals or long-term residents who wish to come back to an MS or AC after a long stay abroad (through the *Reintegration Panel*).

Financial aspects

The living allowance is the EU contribution to the gross salary costs of the researcher and amounts to €4,650 per month, adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient for the cost of living in the country of the beneficiary. In addition to the living allowance, a monthly mobility allowance of €600 will be paid to recruited researchers. A family allowance of €500 per month will also be paid in case the researcher has family obligations.

In addition to these, so-called 'institutional costs' are also covered by the fellowship. Research, training and networking costs amount to €800/month and is managed by the beneficiary to contribute to expenses related to, for example, the participation of researchers in training activities; or expenses related to research and networking costs. Management and indirect costs amounts to €650/month, to be used for the management and indirect costs of the action.

Individual Fellowships and North America

North American institutions (public or private universities, research institutions, private research centres or companies) could support their researchers and their research teams by widely promoting possibilities offered by the Individual Fellowships. Take advantage of the 2017 call to attract excellent researchers from MS/AC and to send young researchers abroad.

North American institutions interested in hosting an MSCA Fellow can:

- Express their interest to host fellows on the EURAXESS jobs portal, or through the Net4Mobility Expressions of Interest webpage (contact the Net4Mobility team for details: net4mobility@euresearch.ch);
- Contact their European partners, institutions or individuals alike, to remind them that the European Commission can fund individual research stays in Canada and US for up to two years through the Global Fellowships.

North American institutions interested in sending their researchers abroad as MSCA fellows can:

- Promote the call to their researchers using the call text and guide for applicants;
- Provide redirections to requests for grant proposal drafting support, by using either their own networks or the network of Horizon 2020 National Contact Points experts for MSCA;
- Suggest to their researchers to subscribe for free, or to participate in the activities organized by EURAXESS North America.

Preparing a proposal

Some advice can be kept in mind in preparing a proposal:

The network of **National Contact Points (NCPs)** is the main structure to provide guidance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020.

The type and level of services offered may differ from country to country. In general, they provide personalised services such as: guidance on H2020; advice on administrative procedures; assistance on proposal writing; assistance in partner search.

- Applicants should start preparing the proposal as soon as possible, in order to focus the project on its conception and elaboration;
- Researchers should coordinate the proposal with the host institution and with the supervisor, who agrees and whose details are included in the proposal;
- Applicants should previously study the guiding documents of the programme and the call, including the policy background, in particular on the European side;
- If the researcher has already submitted a proposal which has not been approved, the feedback received from evaluators can contain extremely useful orientations on how to improve the proposal, i.e. which elements need to be strengthened, in order to be successful for a future application;
- Proposals should be drafted keeping in mind the evaluation and award criteria, which orient the content of each section of the project. Each criterion has a different weight in evaluation, namely: Excellence 50%,

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Impact 30%, Implementation 20%. Further detail is necessary in each of the proposal parts, where elements have to be specifically addressed and highlighted, as specified in the guide for applicants;

- Researchers can ask the NCP network or EURAXESS North America for support and guidance on technical issues or for networking and matchmaking purposes.
- Follow the orientations for project elaboration detailed in the IF "Guide for Applicants" and see practical tips in the Net4Mobility "Survivor's Guide to MSCA-IF"

Additional support material

- Feedback: How to apply for an (MSCA) post doc grant? Tips and tricks!

- Press release: 100 000 fellows supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Interviews with four MSCA fellows based in Europe as well as North America

- Event: European Research Day 2017 in Washington, DC on 21 September 2017 – RSVP coming soon!

4 In case you missed it….

4.1 Event Outlook

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link
Information Session on European Funding Opportunities for Researchers	27 June 2017	Houston, TX, USA	Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Texas	Link
2017 Graduate Career Consortium Conference	27-30 June 2017	MD Anderson, Houston, TX, USA	Graduate Career Consortium	Link
SAVE THE DATE: European Research Day 2017 *(More information & RSVP available as of 1st week of July)*	21 September 2017	Washington, DC, USA	EURAXESS North America	Link

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About EURAXESS North America

EURAXESS North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS North America, please visit: http://northamerica.euraxess.org.

To sign up for membership in our network, please go to our website and click on *Sign up and become a member for free* button.