

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 4
2018



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 4th and last quarterly newsletter of EURAXESS China in 2018!
We hope you have all had a good time over the Christmas and New Year's
Holidays.

We start this edition with the news of the 2018 EURAXESS Science Slam China
winner Dr Cheng Tung Chong of Shanghai Jiao Tong University! He won the
live finals held in Innovation Street in Zhongguancun in Beijing on 13 December
. See the details about the competition and pictures from the event in this
quarter's [Hot Topic](#).

The [Country in Focus](#) this time is Lithuania. We take a look at the research
system of the Baltic country, funding opportunities and its relations with China in
the field of Science and Technology.

As usual we finish up with a short overview of the main EURAXESS news of the
last quarter, [In Case You Missed](#). This time we take a look at the EURAXESS
Grants in Practice event that took place in Shanghai in November, the
establishment of group of German scientists in China, and EURAXESS first
ever events in Shenzhen and Guangzhou in November.

Best regards

Your EURAXESS China team



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science slam

Dr Cheng Tung Chong: Winner of Science Slam China 2018

Science Communication Competition Concludes

The EURAXESS Science Slam China was held for the 5th time on 13 December 2018 at the InnoPlanet Incubator Space in the InnoWay Innovation Street at Zhongguancun in the Haidian university district in Beijing. As usual, 5 researchers from all over China were selected from a group of applicants to participate in the final competition. In the end Dr Cheng Tung Chong, an Associate Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, got the most points from the audience and jury (?) resulting in him winning a return trip to Europe to visit a research institute of his own choice.



Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet, the Director-General of Directorate of Research and Innovation of the European Commission, hands the Main Prize over to Dr Cheng Tung Chong, the winner of Science Slam China 2018



What?

A science slam is a **scientific talk** where researchers compete to present their work in front of a non-expert audience.



Why?

The slam is a way to show the **engaging** and **fascinating** side of research to the wider **public**.

Dr Chong's slam was titled *Powering Airplanes with Biofuels: Possible?* In his presentation Dr Chong went into details about what makes a biofuel, how gas turbines work and his experiments with combustion in relations to his research on burners and combustion engines at China-UK Low-Carbon College at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The lively presentation style, enthusiasm for the research topic and clear explanations making the subject understandable in layman's terms won him the favor of the audience and ultimately the title of Winner of Science Slam China

2018. Video recording of all the presentations, including the winning one, will be available at the end of January at <http://china.euraxess.org>.

Selection Method

The selection of the Science Slam winner is based on a method where the audience is given the power to score each of the finalists.

The average score from the audience weighs 70% of the final result. In addition to the audience there is also a 4-person jury of experts chosen by EURAXESS China. They score each contestant in similar manner and in the end deliberate on a ranking that weighs 30% of the final results.

In case of ties the jury's ranking takes precedence.

Criteria	Points
Accessibility	3
Presentation style	4
Originality	2
Interest	4
Scientific Value	5
TOTAL POINTS	18

Example score sheet

Finalists

In addition to the winner there were four other excellent finalists from Beijing, Guangzhou and Suzhou who competed in the Science Slam China 2018 discussing research topics as diverse as energy economics to brain tumors.



RICARDO LOPEZ GONZALEZ
PHD STUDENT

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Slam Topic: From the soil to the bench: a short story



SRINIVASAPRIYAN VIJAYAN
PHD STUDENT

National Center for Nanoscience and Technology UCAS

Slam Topic: Ultrafast Temperature Synthesis of 2D Metal Organic Frameworks



CHENG TUNG CHONG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Slam Topic: Is it possible to power airplanes with bio fuels?



HELENA UHDE
PHD STUDENT

Beijing Institute of Technology

Slam Topic: Let's change the way we're thinking about electricity



RUHEENA JAVED
POST-DOC

Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Centre

Slam Topic: To identify the target gene for Glioblastoma Chemoresistance



The Jury

The Science Slam jury of 2018 consisted of **Dr. Odette Paramor**, Head of School of Geographical Sciences at the University of Nottingham Ningbo and coordinator at ENRICH, European Network of Research and Innovation Centres and Hubs in China; **Prof. Dr. Manuel Pérez García**, School of Humanities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University / P.I. of the ERC Funded GECM Project; **Dr. Glen Noble**, Deputy Director at UK Research and Innovation China; and **Ms. Wei Dan**, Head of academic exchange department at China Science & Technology Association



The finalists with the jury and EURAXESS China country representative after the announcement of the winner

Opening Remarks of The Director General

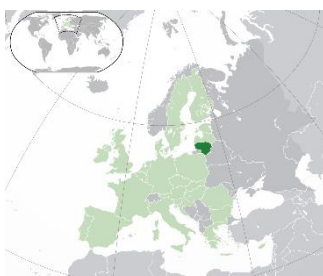
The EURAXESS Science Slam China 2018 was opened by Mr. Jean-Eric Paquet, the Director-General of Directorate of Research and Innovation of the European Commission who also handed the final prize to the winner at the end of the event. During the welcoming drinks before the Science Slam session started Mr, Paquet also conducted a public press



conference to discuss the results of his visit in China. The meeting attracted the attention of Chinese news outlets such as CGTN, Xinhua, China Daily, Science and Technology Daily, China.org.cn, and more, who wrote about his meetings, Horizon Europe, as well as the 5th EURAXESS Science Slam China and the EURAXESS China network.

Gallery of photos from the Science Slam





Lithuania is a country in the Baltic region of North-Eastern Europe (source: Wikipedia).



[Lithuania.travel](http://lithuania.travel) - your official tourism gateway to Lithuania

Lithuania is a member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Eurozone, the Schengen Agreement, NATO and the OECD.

Country in Focus: Lithuania

Introduction

From the world's most powerful laser through to the extra-resistant glass used in over 4.5 billion smartphones, Lithuanian innovation is impacting research and product development globally. So, it's not surprising that the 2018 Bloomberg Innovation Index ranked Lithuania 8th globally for "tertiary efficiency," a category which includes enrolment in higher education and the number of graduates in key innovation sectors. Companies are currently assembling international-quality research teams in Lithuania at highly competitive costs, and there is strong and committed governmental support for R&D.

Research, Development & Innovation in Lithuania

The [Ministry of Economy](#) and the [Ministry of Education and Science](#) are the main institutions responsible for the formation and implementation of innovation policy in Lithuania. The other institutions involved in coordinating and implementing R&D and innovation policy in Lithuania are:

- The [Research Council of Lithuania](#), which consists of a Research Fund and a number of expert committees. The council's role is to be an expert institution, implementing R&D policy and providing competitive funding.
- The [Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology \(MITA\)](#), which is the national organization for the implementation of innovation policy.
- The [Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre \(MOSTA\)](#), which operates as an advisory institution. It monitors and evaluates research, higher education and innovation, and other related activities, and provides evidence-based information and guidance.

The fundamental strategic documents that set the guidelines for innovation policy in Lithuania are:

- The Science and Innovation Policy Reform guidelines that were issued by the President's Office and adopted by the Parliament in 2016. This important policy reform initiative was launched to provide significant impetus to the country's innovation performance.
- [The Innovation Development Programme 2014–2020](#). This programme was drafted with a view to mobilising state resources for two purposes: firstly, the improvement of Lithuania's innovativeness, and secondly, the continued development of a competitive economy that is based on high-level knowledge, advanced technologies, skilled and well-qualified human resources and smart specialisation. The strategic goal of the programme is to enhance the competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy through the development of an effective system that promotes economic innovation.
- The [Smart Specialization Strategy, which is](#) the main programme of state support for R&D in Lithuania. The following R&D and innovation priority areas



Research
Council of
Lithuania

The [Research Council of Lithuania](#) – an expert institution for scientific development at a national level



The [Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology \(MITA\)](#) – a national innovation agency



[Enterprise Lithuania](#) – an agency that promotes entrepreneurship and business development



[Invest Lithuania](#) – an investment development agency that provides free advice to global companies interested in doing business in Lithuania

are defined in the Smart Specialization Strategy: energy and environmental sustainability; agro-innovation and food technologies; health technologies and bio technologies; forming an inclusive and creative society; new production processes; materials and technologies; transport and logistics; ICT.

In order to fully exploit Lithuania's scientific potential, [Open R&D Lithuania](#), a new platform that brings together the main actors in this field, was launched. This network consists of 14 Lithuanian universities, 13 research institutes, and 7 science and technology parks. These institutions have united their high-level R&D intellectual potential, infrastructure and resources in order to provide science-based solutions to problems in business and society. This concentration of resources facilitates the creation of new technologies and products, the provision of R&D services, and the growth of the competitiveness of all the partners involved.

Support for R&D and innovative technology sectors has been made a national priority. As a result, between 2006-2013, Lithuania invested €411 million to develop its R&D infrastructure and science valleys. Another €679 million will be put into the further enhancement of Lithuania's R&D capacity over the period 2014-2020.

Research Excellence in Lithuania

Lithuania has been planting seeds which are now bearing fruit, thanks to its longstanding focus on two areas: developing talents and professionals in scientific institutions, and investing into modern R&D equipment (more than €300 million has been invested in the last 7-8 years).

The most significant achievements of Lithuanian researchers to date have been in the fields of biotechnology, life sciences and lasers.

The most important factor in the success of the Lithuanian [laser industry](#) has been the continuous and diverse collaboration between researchers from scientific institutions and engineers from the private sector. This collaborative approach has become the foundation for constantly growing expertise in cutting-edge laser technologies. The products manufactured by the Lithuanian laser sector are extremely diverse. They include every kind of laser, along with optics, electronics, mechanical laser components, assemblies, elements and more. Lithuania accounts for more than half of the global market of pico-second laser spectrometers. These are widely exported to European countries, the USA, Australia, and Asia.

The laser manufacturing sector in Lithuania has recorded 15–20% year on year growth. Lithuanian laser products are exported to over 100 countries around the world - the largest clients are laboratories and research centres in the EU, the USA and Japan.

Lithuania is known for its world class researchers. For example, [Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys](#) from Vilnius University, working with Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna, is credited as one of the inventors of [CRISPR-Cas9](#), a precise nano-tool for editing DNA. These so-called DNA scissors allow scientists to correct disease-causing mutations and use gene therapy to cure serious

diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, sickle-cell anemia, and some forms of blindness and cancer.

Another example is [Prof. Arminas Ragauskas](#), a scientist at Kaunas Technology University who has invented two devices for measuring intracranial pressure and blood flow. His inventions enable the fast and safe diagnosis of traumatic brain injuries, strokes, glaucoma and brain tumours. Ragauskas' innovative measuring devices are important tools for treating intracranial injuries, which are among the world's deadliest killers.

Recruitment Opportunities

Lithuanian universities and research institutions offer study and employment opportunities to foreign researchers at all levels of their career, from doctoral students through to high level researchers. The Research Council of Lithuania provides a wide range of funding tools for research competence and skills development. It also works to promote international cooperation and activities to internationalize research. Foreign researchers are encouraged to work in Lithuania and, together with Lithuanian researchers, to participate in projects funded by the Research Council of Lithuania and other initiatives.

The [Center for Physical Sciences and Technology](#) (FTMC), the largest non-university research institution in the Baltic States, offers PhD studies in physical and technological sciences. These study programmes are open to international students, and talents from all over the world are very welcome to apply. Joint project collaboration is also promoted, and the FTMC looks forward to arranging exchanges not only of students, but also of scientists and engineers who have already graduated.

As most research is performed in public universities and research institutes, these are also where most research jobs are available. Many of the positions available are published on the [EURAXESS webpage](#).

Funding Opportunities

Research in Lithuania is primarily financed on the basis of quality competition. Financing comes from the state budget, foreign funds (mostly EU), and several institutions.

The Research Council of Lithuania (RCL) is the principal national institution providing competitive R&D funding in Lithuania. Every year, the RCL publishes more than 30 calls for proposals. [Click here for more information](#).

Lithuania also offers a wide range of direct and indirect public support for business R&D and technological innovation, aimed primarily at boosting private investment in R&D. State support includes grants and subsidies, financial engineering schemes, public innovation support services, and R&D tax incentives on corporate income tax. In Lithuania, business R&D and innovation support schemes focus on funding R&D, procuring R&D services, and providing (mainly soft) support for innovation. Funding for innovation is mostly focused on startup and equity instruments. [Click here for more information](#).

1st in CEE for university-business collaboration in R&D

Over 25% of students in Lithuania are enrolled in innovation related studies – Science, Mathematics, Computing and engineering-related fields

Lithuania spent €411 million on developing its R&D infrastructure and science valleys in the period 2006-2013

International recognition

Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys – A Lithuanian biochemist who has received numerous international awards, including the Warren Alpert Foundation Prize, the Novozymes Prize and the shared Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, for his work on the invention of CRISPR-Cas9, a precise nanotool for editing DNA which has sparked a revolution in biology,



Bilateral Agreement on ST&I Cooperation

Main initiatives and programmes

Important information for incoming researchers

The Research Council of Lithuania is the EURAXESS Bridgehead Organization in Lithuania. The EURAXESS network in Lithuania has 5 members: Kaunas University of Technology, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius University, and Vytautas Magnus University. EURAXESS provides incoming researchers with up-to-date information related to mobility services.

In 2018, Lithuania launched a new programme aimed at attracting internationally-recognised foreign researchers to carry out research in smart specialisation areas and encouraging them to establish themselves in research and higher education institutions. These researchers are given a range of opportunities through this programme, including: implementing high-budget research projects; putting together and leading a research team; transferring knowledge and experience; and introducing advanced research methods and new practices. The programme is coordinated by the Research Council of Lithuania.

For employment opportunities, and to participate in projects coordinated by the Research Council of Lithuania, foreign researchers should apply directly to their chosen university or research institute.

Lithuania S&T Relations with China

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the People's Republic of China on scientific-technological cooperation, signed in April, 1992 • Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Co-operation in the Field of Culture signed in November, 1993 	
<p><i>The agreement on scientific-technological cooperation includes following measures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of scientific delegations, individual scientists and specialists; • Exchange of scientific-technological information and documentation, samples of the materials and products, know-how and licences; • Organization of scientific-technological symposiums and scientific conferences; • Implementation of joint projects and scientific works, as well as Exchange of the results of researches and scientific works; • Other scientific-technological cooperation methods, mutually agreed. 	<p><i>The agreement on cooperation in the field of culture includes the following measures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of scientists, teachers, specialists for lectures or study visits; • Granting scholarships according to the needs and possibilities of the other side; • Support of the direct contacts and cooperation between the universities of both countries; • Support and promotion of the participation of scientists and specialists participation in the science conferences held in both countries. • Lithuania 's mobile operator Omnitel, China's Huawei and the University of Vilnius set up a joint research laboratory focusing on speech recognition, cloud computing, designing applications and other issues. • Lithuania 's NORTHOWN technology park has agreement with EU Innovation Centre Chengdu EUPIC and Chengdu high-tech industrial park. The main fields are energy sector, IT, high-tech industries and environmental technologies. Main objectives are active communication, cooperation in innovations and trade and investment.

In case you missed...

Successful EURAXESS Grants in Practice Event Takes Place at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Friday 9 November, the event EURAXESS Grants in Practice Shanghai took place in the main hall of the School of Foreign Languages at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The event attracted around 100 people that came to learn about European grants and funding opportunities available to Chinese researchers. The event put the spotlight on grants available to researchers in the field of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

A special country of focus was Spain and Mrs Carmen Fontes Muñoz, Spanish Consul General in Shanghai addressed the audience with welcoming words and talked about the importance of European grants for researchers coming to Spain. Ass. Prof. Tao Qing, the Vice-Dean of the School of Foreign Languages of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University also addressed the audience and spoke about the many international research projects the school is involved in.

The event included an overview from EURAXESS of funding opportunities in Europe, testimonies from the ERC grantee Prof. Dr. Manuel Pérez García, Marie Curie Fellow Prof Liu Sifeng, and an introduction to funding opportunities in Spain by Mr Carlos Quintana de Juan. Links to the presentations can be found at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/china/successful-euraxess-grants-practice-event-takes-place-shanghai-jiao-tong>.

Establishment of an informal group of German Researchers in China

On 20-21 November, The German Embassy in Beijing and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) organized a workshop for German speaking scientists in China.

After the meeting EURAXESS China was instrumental in establishing an informal group for the researchers to follow up on the success of the meeting and to serve as a base for future communication within the group. The group is currently operating through a special group on WeChat but the hope is that this can eventually lead to a strong network of German researchers in in China. If you are a German speaking researcher in China and interested to join contact us at china@euraxess.net.

To read more about the benefits of European Diaspora Networks for researchers find our pamphlet published by EURAXESS China in connection to Researchers' Night Shanghai 2018:

https://cdn1.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/diaspora_article2.pdf



First EURAXESS Researchers' Night in Guangzhou

The first EURAXESS Researchers' Night in Guangzhou and the first Researchers' Night in China outside of Beijing and Shanghai was held Friday evening 16 November at E-café in Tianhe District of Guangzhou.

Around 30 excellent researchers from various fields met and learned about EURAXESS China as well as made new contacts in the Guangzhou researcher community while enjoying some light dinner and drinks. The event resulted in the participants creating a special EURAXESS WeChat group for researchers in Guangzhou. If you are working in the region or have a colleague there you can contact us at china@euraxess.org to join.

Read more and download the presentations from the event: at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/china/first-euraxess-researchers-night-guangzhou>.



EURAXESS China First Event in Shenzhen

Thursday, 15 November, EURAXESS China successfully held its first event in Shenzhen in cooperation with the Shenzhen Science and Technology Development Exchange Center. The event called EURAXESS Grants in Practice Shenzhen attracted around 30 excellent researchers from various universities in Shenzhen and surrounding areas to learn about European Research Funding opportunities available to researchers based in China.

Download the presentations from the event and see more pictures from the event at <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/china/euraxess-china-first-event-shenzhen>.

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.