

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 1
2019



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 1st quarterly newsletter of EURAXESS China in 2019!
We hope you have all had a good time over Chinese New Years holiday and we wish you a happy year of the pig.

We start this edition with special ["How to" piece on the Marie Curie Individual Fellowship](#). The applications open at 11 April 2019 and have a great track record of supporting hundreds of Chinese researchers to go to Europe.

This issue's [hot topic](#) puts the spotlight on women in research. On the occasion of international women's day we interviewed two of our women members here in China to hear about their experience and achievements.

The [Country in Focus](#) this time is Croatia. We take a look at the research system and funding opportunities in the newest member of the European Union. We also have [an interview with a Chinese researcher](#) successfully doing research in Croatia.

As usual we finish up with a short overview of the main EURAXESS news of the last quarter, [In Case You Missed](#). We discuss the first meeting of the Network of Spanish Researcher held in Beijing, the opening of the EU-China R&I Stakeholders Tour, and the Horizon 2020 Info Days held in Wuhan and Chongqing.

Best regards

Your EURAXESS China team



National Contact Point Network

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

China-based researchers can contact the National Contact Points in the country where their research host is located or where there would like to undertake their MSCA IF. The NCPs offer the following services:

- Guidance on choosing relevant H2020 topics and types of action
- Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
- Training and assistance on proposal writing
- Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
- Assistance in partner search

The EU funded Net4Mobility project has put together a map with the contact details for NCPs across Europe

How to get funding for 2-year research stays in Europe

Marie Curie Individual Fellowship

Application Open 11 April 2019

Join the 110,000 MSCA funded researchers and apply for your own fellowship!

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 at 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 to open 11 April 2019 and will close 11 September 2019.**




Please visit the European Commission Funding & Tenders for Call information [here](#). Check also the MSCA IF Guide for Applicants [here](#).

Support for your Application

If you are interested in applying for the MSCA-IF there are a variety of tools available to support you in the application process.

How-to pieces/ hints and tips/ training

There are materials from various sources from the past few years:

<p>MSCA IF Guide for Applicants 2017</p> <p>FAQ-Blog specialised on MSCA</p> <p>Net4Mobility's 'Survival guide to MSCA IF'</p> <p>About the MSCA IF and RISE programmes  (4.45 MB)</p> <p>How to find a host institution in Europe for your MSCA-IF proposal  (2.96 MB)</p> <p>How to write a competitive MSCA-IF proposal  (4.45 MB)</p> <p>The presentation from the 2017 EURAXESS China Marie Curie Individual Fellowship's Brain Storming Meeting</p>	<p>EURAXESS China also organizes the Grants in Practice events with more information on how to apply to these grants.</p> <p>Stay up to date with our announcements to see when we will have an event close to you.</p> <p>See a recording of our 2018 meeting in Beijing.</p>
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Hot topic: Women in Research

Interviews with Women Researchers

On the occasion of International Women's Day EURAXESS China put the focus on the valuable contribution that women researchers bring to the field of science, in Europe and in China as well as around the world.

The European Union has a clear policy of [gender equality in Research and Innovation](#) and to achieve that there is a strategy with three objectives



Fostering gender balance in research teams, in order to close the gaps in the participation of women.



Ensuring gender balance in decision-making, in order to reach the target of 40% of the under-represented sex in panels and groups and of 50% in advisory groups.



Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation (R&I) content, helps improve the scientific quality and societal relevance of the produced knowledge, technology and/or innovation.



Li Miaoyan works for the Tax Science Institute of the State Taxation Administration (SAT) and does research on financial risk, taxation in a digital economy, tax system, and Internet finance

Who is your favorite woman scientist/researcher? Why?

I like Mrs. Curie best for her perseverance and important scientific discoveries. She set a great example for us.

Do you think women researchers face special challenges? Are there, in your opinion, any advantages of being a woman when doing research?

One of the challenges Women researchers face generally is finding a balance between their family and work. It's particularly hard to find a way to distribute energy between scientific research and family responsibility, and the handling of traditional family relations in China. The advantages of being a woman in research include tolerance, flexibility in handling dispute, attention to details, seriousness at work, and relentless pursuit of research success.

Why did you choose this research field? What is your plan or vision for the next five years?

It was during the global financial crisis in 2008, which also involved China. It was the reason for why I opted to study finance in order to research how the government can address the impact of global economic crises on China. Looking into the future, I expect better exchange and cooperation with EU countries in the fields of finance, taxation, and digital economy. Regarding taxation in a digital economy, in particular, we have been communicating with some French experts, though such communication is still not as close as we would like. I hope to exchange ideas more often with European experts and attend more academic meetings to inspire each other.

What would you like to say to the girls who will soon begin their research career?

Women are at least as good as men in terms of scientific research, but we need to properly handle the relationship between our responsibility for scientific research and for our family by maintaining a balance between them. We are now in an era of emerging interdisciplinary studies. Diversified knowledge will help us accomplish innovation in developing theories.

What achievement are you most proud of?

I'm very glad to have shown the qualities of Chinese women researchers by participating in the Science Slam held by Euraxess. This is what I'm most



proud of.



Wu Qiaoling is a professor of School of Economics at Peking University and specializes in a teaching courses on EU economics and international marketing and doing research in these two fields.

Who is your favorite woman scientist/researcher? Why?

My favorite scientist is Mrs. Curie. I still remember that I read her stories in secondary school and was impressed by one of them -- she named one of the new elements she and her husband had discovered "polonium" to express her love for Poland, her motherland.

Why did you choose this research field? What achievement are you most proud of? & What is your plan or vision for the next five years?

I chose EU economics and international marketing as my fields of teaching and research because of the movies I watched during my childhood and fairy tales I read in that period of time, which have since made me strongly interested in Europe. Working at Peking University, I interact with excellent students each and every semester and have found out that it is very meaningful to impart knowledge to them, widen their horizons, and trigger their interest in studying through classroom teaching.

Of all my teaching and research experiences, the part I'm most proud of is that two of my online open courses have been available from edX and xuetangx.com in most recent years, and that many students globally have registered for them. We combine classroom teaching with online courses to explore MOOC-based online and offline teaching, which has been well received by students.

Many of our students have opted to receive post graduate education at European universities since they are very interested in this continent after studying courses on EU economics. For the next five years, I will continue working hard on teaching and further improve my capabilities of teaching and research through exchange and cooperation with my European counterparts.

What would you like to say to the girls who will soon begin their research career?

I hope that more women students will opt to specialize in teaching and research, as they will bring you a special sense of fulfillment and great

spiritual satisfaction



Country in Focus: Croatia



Croatia is situated in South East Europe, at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, neighbouring five countries on land border: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro. The Croatian Adriatic coastline is one of the most indented coastlines in Europe, next to the Norwegian fjords.

The International Monetary Fund classified Croatia as an open and developing economy and the World Bank defined it as a high-income economy.

CROATIAN S&T FUNDING AGENCIES

Scientific research in Croatia is monitored and conducted in six fields of science: natural sciences, technical, biomedical, biotechnical and social sciences, and humanities. The entire system of science and technology is financed through direct project financing with a mechanism of annual monitoring of results, through financing of junior researchers on concrete projects, with multi-year monitoring of their progress and financing of equipment.

The main funding bodies, in addition to the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE), are the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) and the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO). Through the Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme and Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Croatia is combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for funding development of science and research.

Interesting Reads:

[Nature Index Croatia](#)

[OpenAIRE Croatia](#)

[Croatia become member of CERN \(article\)](#)

Croatian Science Foundation (CSF)

Croatian Science Foundation was established by the Croatian Parliament in December 2001 under the name The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia. Its mission is to promote science, higher education and technological development in Croatia in order to ensure the economic development and to support employment. The Foundation provides support to scientific, higher education and technological programmes and projects, fosters international cooperation, and supports the realization of scientific programmes of special interest in the field of fundamental, applied and developmental research.

Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)

HAMAG-BICRO is the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the purpose of enhancing SME development and promoting investment and innovation. The Agency is an independent institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts.



CROATIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTIONS

The Croatian research and innovation system

The Croatian research and innovation system has evolved over the last decade into a complex system of various institutions and measures directed to build innovation-driven growth. The basic principles and guidelines of science and higher education policy are determined by the Croatian Parliament. **The Ministry of Science and Education (MSE)** is the main administrative body responsible for planning, funding and monitoring of the entire science and education system while the highest advisory body for the scientific research system is **The National Council of Science, Higher Education and Technological Development** with the aim to harmonize the overall development of the R&D and innovation system. **The Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts** complements the national innovation policy related to innovation-based entrepreneurship and business infrastructure. The role of the **Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds** has increased upon the Croatian accession to EU. Scientific activity in Croatia is performed at the universities, public research institutes, research institutes, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other legal persons duly registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations.

Investment in R&D and employment in Science and Technology

The Croatian science and technology sector employed 38,2 % of the active population (aged 25-64) in 2016 according to the Eurostat report



which is close to the EU-28 average (46%). The public R&D sector, with universities playing a leading role, is the largely dominant sector research manpower (56,5% of total researchers HEI in 2016). As reported by Eurostat in 2016, the business sector employs a modest 21% of total researchers and invests 0,44 percent of GDP in R&D. On the other hand, the business enterprises sector is leading in R&D performing activities (49,4%), followed by the higher education sector (31%). Furthermore, the total investment into R&D was 0,85% of the GDP in 2016 and has been fluctuating around 1% in the past 10 years, marking Croatia as one of the most advanced R&D performers in the region, but not at the EU level. However, according to ERAWATCH, Economic Programme of Croatia envisaged increasing the investment in research and development to achieve a share of GERD of 1,4% of the GDP by 2020 in order to overcome the gap in science funding between Croatia and the EU countries (0,85% of GDP vs. 2,03 % of GDP in 2016).



*Institut
Ruđer
Bošković*

Ruđer Bošković Institute

The Ruđer Bošković Institute is regarded as Croatia's leading scientific institute in the natural and biomedical sciences as well as marine and environmental research, owing to its size, scientific productivity, international reputation in research, and the quality of its scientific personnel and research facilities. The Institute is the leading and internationally most competitive Croatian institute by virtue of its participation in international research projects.



Croatian Academy of Science and Arts

The Academy promotes and organizes scientific research and encourages the application of the findings of this research, develops artistic and cultural activities, and is concerned with Croatian cultural heritage and its affirmation throughout the world. It publishes the results of scientific research and artistic creation and makes proposals and gives its opinion on the promotion of sciences and arts in the fields which are of special importance to the Republic of Croatia.



STUDY IN CROATIA

The portal "Study in Croatia" (www.studyincroatia.hr) is owned and managed by the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes. It contains information about higher education in Croatia aimed at prospective international students. You can find an overview of the Croatian higher education system, practical information about application procedures, student life, visas and accommodation and scholarships. Furthermore, the portal provides information on learning Croatian as a foreign language, as well as general information about Croatia. More information can be found at: <http://www.studyincroatia.hr/>



Interview with [Dr Jiangyang You \(China\)](#)

Research Associate, Laboratory of Magnetic Resonance, Division of Physical Chemistry, Institute Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb, Croatia

How did you decide to come to Croatia?

In 2009, a Croatian research team got in contact with me and after overcoming a series of initial administrative difficulties, I finally came to Rudjer Boskovic Institute (RBI) in 2011 as a postdoc, sponsored by the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF). In the following years I worked under a few more postdoc level contracts at Rudjer Boskovic Institute (RBI), in the division of theoretical physics, until joining the laboratory for magnetic resonances, division of physical chemistry, as a research associate in May 2017 and starting in a whole new research area which I am working on now.

How would you describe everyday life and work in Croatia?

I currently live a usual researcher's life in Zagreb: intensive at work while simple and peaceful otherwise. The work load is not low, but thankfully the working environment is flexible so I can set up the schedule that is most suitable for me. After work, I spend most of my time doing sports, playing badminton as well as doing the physical training necessary for it.

What advice would you give to your fellow researchers who are thinking of coming to Croatia?

I would like to say that Croatia is a good place to start developing something for and on your own. You are coming to a country with a solid high education tradition as basis, and a country seeking all chances to catch up to the highest standard in the European Union right now. From my point of view such a scenario presents many opportunities, but of course challenges, too.



EURAXESS Croatia

The Agency for Mobility and European Union Programmes is coordinator (Bridgehead Organization) of the EURAXESS programme in Croatia as well as a EURAXESS Service Centre. The EURAXESS Service Centre (ESC) assists researchers and their families during their period of mobility, in all matters relating to their professional and daily lives, helping them to reach adequate services for their needs, as well as assists the core contact points in research institutions and informs a wider group of contact points about matters of interest to mobility. For all required information, incoming researchers should contact Croatian EURAXESS Service Centre, or check out our website.

In case you missed...

The first meeting of the Spanish Researcher's Network RICE in Beijing

On the first day of March, the Network of Researchers China-Spain (RICE, from its acronym in Spanish) hosted a gathering sharing academic ideas at Cervantes Institute in Beijing.

RICE was established in February 2016 with the aim of boosting the exchange of information and cooperation to offer new opportunities and enhance the efficiency of the Spanish scientific community in China.

Many topics were discussed at the scene, covering the areas of the Humanities, Exact Science, Social Science and Natural Science.

Researchers and scientists shared their professional experience, study results and compared similarities and differences in their research fields between the two countries.

See at [China Daily](#).

The EURAXESS Country Representative participated in the final roundtable of the event to discuss the future of Sino-Spanish research collaboration, the importance of European Research Networks like RICE and the ways EURAXESS can support the activities of such networks.



2019 EU-China Research & Innovation Stakeholders Tour of China launched in Jinan

The 2019 EU-China Research & Innovation Stakeholders Tour of China was officially launched on 12 March in Jinan, Shandong Province, by the Ambassador of the European Union to China Mr. Nicolas Chapuis. It is the 6th edition of an ambitious awareness raising campaign through 10 cities across China. The Tour seeks to highlight opportunities available to Chinese researchers and innovators in Europe.

The events include active participation of the Country Representative of EURAXESS China, introducing EURAXESS, the European Research Area and available mobility funding programmes in the Horizon 2020 framework programme. The Tour aims to reach out to a targeted audience composed of research and innovation stakeholders.

The cities visited in the 2019 tour are: Jinan (12 March), Qingdao (13 March), Wuhan (26 March), Chongqing (28 March), Lanzhou (17 April), Xi'an (18 April), Nanjing (22 May), Nanning (23 May), Tianjin (5 June) and Dalian (6 June).



Study on European researchers' mobility in China

During the first quarter of 2019 **EURAXESS China** in cooperation with The EU-funded project “*Improving EU Access to National and Regional Financial Incentives for Innovation in China*” (www.chinainnovationfunding.eu) conducted a study on the mobility of European researchers in China.

Specifically, the study mapped all the main funding programmes and incentive schemes available for European researchers in China, as well as the main challenges they face and their motivations to work in China.

96 researchers participated in the survey giving a lot of valuable feedback on the state of affairs.

The key findings from the survey and the study will feed into and will be presented during the upcoming EU-China research and innovation bilateral dialogues and at later date the main findings will also be published by EURAXESS China.



Horizon 2020 Info Days in Chongqing and Wuhan

Approximately 200 local researchers participated in the Horizon 2020 Info Days held concurrently with the EU-China R&I Stakeholders Tour in Wuhan and Chongqing on 26 and 28 March respectively.

The Info Days are a detailed training session organized by the Service Facility of the European Commission to train researchers outside of Europe how to apply for and collaborate in Horizon 2020 projects.

This series of training event is a continuation of the same trainings that took place in Xiamen, Harbin and Changchun in 2018.

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.