

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 3
2019



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

This newsletter is for you!
Via china@euraxess.net,
you can send us any
comments on this
newsletter, **contributions**
or **suggestions**.

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EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 3rd quarterly newsletter of EURAXESS China in 2019!
We wish all our colleagues all over China congratulations on the 70 years
anniversary of the People's republic.

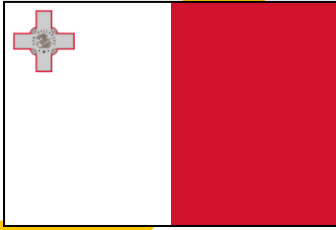
We start this issue with a our [EURAXESS member in focus](#); this time we put the
spotlight on the beautiful Mediterranean island of Malta who turn out to have a
lot of science going on. Taka look at their video!

We follow that by reporting back from the [Forum on the Mobility of European
Researchers in China](#) and the [1st Meeting of the European National Scientists'
Networks in China](#). It was a busy month for Europeans in China! That leads us
to the hot topic of the quarter: [Seven Steps to Establishing a Sustainable
Scientific Diaspora Network](#) written by our colleagues in EURAXESS North
America. We have high hopes that these meetings are simply the beginning of a
rich community of European Scientific Networks in China.

Finally, as usual, we close with going over some of the main news and stories
from both our website and WeChat channel [In case you missed...](#)

Best regards

Your EURAXESS China team



EURAXESS members in focus: Malta



[Research and Innovation Landscape of Malta](#)

[VIDEO]



Malta at a glance

The Republic of Malta is an island country situated right in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, yet close to the European mainland. With its rich history, dating back to 5,000 BCE, Malta is often referred to as an open-air museum. Along with its history and heritage, Malta offers 300 days of sunshine, sea-sculpted shores, azure waters and delicious Mediterranean cuisine. The island's lifestyle is modern and welcoming, providing a good base for families. Malta has excellent local and international public and private education, with all schools teaching in English. English is one of the two official languages, along with Maltese.

Malta is considered as one of the safest countries in the world, especially when it comes to natural disasters and crime according to the 2018 edition of the World Risk Report.

In recent years, Malta has experienced above average economic growth and has been ranked as the fastest growing economy in the Eurozone for the first half of 2018.

With efficient support features in place, the island is also an attractive place for business. The government understands that a healthy private sector and an overall pro-investment climate contributes to the country's sustainable development.

Moreover, Malta is on its route to becoming a leading innovation island. It has made important strides in key technological areas by establishing the first regulatory framework for Block Chain, Cryptocurrency and Distributed Ledger Technology.

EURAXESS Malta has produced a video that gives a brief overview of the Maltese science, technology and innovation landscape. **Watch the video [here](#).**



Valletta (source: shutterstock)

Maltese Policy, Strategy and Funding opportunities

The [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) (MCST) is the governmental body responsible for Research and Innovation (R&I), space, science and technology in Malta. MCST is responsible for the [National R&I Strategy](#), the [National Action Plan](#) and the [National Space Policy](#).

Being the official contact point for the EU Framework programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) and the PRIMA initiative, MCST is also the managing body of the national funds for research, namely the FUSION programme and the Space Research Fund. MCST has a team of National Contact Points ready to assist you in finding relevant partners, applying for funding or resolving your project related queries.

MCST regularly publishes calls for proposals under various funding mechanisms, some of which are highlighted below:

[FUSION](#), a National Funding Programme, is supported through Malta Government funds and managed by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. The main objectives of FUSION are: to raise the level and profile of locally funded research; to ingrain research and innovation at the heart of the Maltese economy; to spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth and to sustain improvements in the quality of life.

[IPAS+](#) provides researchers with two options:

- Option A aims to foster mutually beneficial international relationships between local R&I-performing academic or private entities and foreign counterparts.
- Option B provides opportunities for Maltese entities intending to submit a Horizon 2020 (H2020) proposal as the coordinator of a consortium to engage a service provider (local or foreign) who will be supporting the applicant through proposal writing and submission.

The [Space Research Fund](#) provides financial support for research, development and innovation in the downstream Satellite Earth Observation (EO) sector, specifically projects that deal with the processing and exploitation of data collected through EO satellites.

Malta's research landscape

The [University of Malta](#) (UM) is the highest teaching and research institution in Malta and was founded in 1769. It is a publicly funded institution and caters for 11,000 students which include over 1,000 international students from 92 different countries and comprises over 1,000 academics, and approximately 800 technical and administrative staff. The UM is made up of 14 Faculties and a number of



Marsaxlokk (source: shutterstock)

interdisciplinary Institutes, Centres and Schools. The UM is actively participating in MSCA projects and proposals.

The [Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology](#) (MCAST) is a vocational education and training institution. Established in 2001, MCAST offers 180 full-time and over 300 part-time vocational courses ranging from certificates to Master degrees.

[Malta Enterprise](#) is the country's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment as well as facilitating the growth of existing operations. The agency has developed various R&I incentives for the promotion and expansion of industry and the development of innovative enterprises.

The [Malta Life Sciences Park](#) (MLSP) provides an international class facility for life sciences and information technology development. The MLSP is designed to promote research and development and to spur the growth of the life sciences sector in Malta, building on the base that the country developed in the pharmaceutical industry during the last decade.

Based at the University of Malta, [TAKEOFF](#) is Malta's first technology business incubator. The programme is specifically designed to help innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs create successful science, technology, engineering, creative media and knowledge-based startup business – taking them from idea to investment and, well, to takeoff.

Malta is also home of a number of private companies which main core is research and development in various sectors.

Upcoming developments:

- Construction of new center of excellence for aircraft maintenance which will include ground breaking facilities.
- A state-of-the-art laboratory dedicated to medical cannabis research is being set up in Malta as a result of a memorandum of understanding between Malta Enterprise and the La Sapienza University of Rome.

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 edition of our quarterly e-newsletter.

EURAXESS in Malta – ready to support you!

[EURAXESS Malta](#) is hosted by the [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) and is ready to assist you if you choose Malta as your host country or you would like to cooperate with Maltese researchers!

[PlumTri](#) acts as a platform that facilitates networking and knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders in the Mediterranean, involved in the spheres of research and innovation and serves as a 'one-stop-shop' for information on relevant funding opportunities and events in the EuroMed region.

Be part of Malta's Research and Innovation landscape!

Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China

More than 100 European researchers based in China met in the European Delegation



The Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China that took place Thursday 19 September at the premises of the European Delegation in Beijing was a huge success. Gathering together more than 100 European researchers from all over China the event was the largest such event to ever take place. The participants came from 21 European countries and are based in 20 different cities around China.



The groups of researchers were split in the morning into 6 parallel working groups; a group for PhD students, a group for PostDocs and other Early Career Researchers, a group of Social Scientist, a group of Natural Scientists, a group of people involved in management and administration and a group for researchers that come from International institutions in China. Each group discussed for 4 hours the topics of mobility focusing on concrete and practical solutions to some of the challenges their group faces.



Nicolas Chapuis, European Union Ambassador to China opened a joint afternoon session and talked directly with the researchers for more than an hour about the importance of their presence in China. The second half of the session was opened by Andrea Strelcova, an expert on the topic of mobility of European Researchers in China, who gave an overview of the previous activities on the same topic, the current state of play and some of the outcomes of the morning. The final session of the day was moderated by Halldor Berg Hardarson, the Chief Representative of EURAXESS China, who brought together in a panel representatives of all the different working groups and opened up a debate with the joint group of the researchers on the outcome of the day.



The forum was closed by few remarks from Florent Bernard, the China desk officer of the DG RTD of the European Commission. The event was followed by a brief networking cocktail at the Galileo Room of the European Delegation.



The event was organised by the Europe-China Partnership Facility for the European Delegation in China in cooperation with EURAXESS China. The outcomes and in particular the recommendations gathered in the morning workshops will be the base of an internal report that will be used by the European Delegation as a resource to decide on the framework conditions on the topic of mobility that will be part of the upcoming joint Sino-European R&I Roadmap.

[See a gallery with pictures from the event on our Facebook page](#)




1st Meeting of the European National Scientists' Network in China

On 20 September, the day after the [Forum on the Mobility of European Researchers in China](#), EURAXESS China in cooperation with EURAXESS European Network (TOP IV), used the opportunity having all these China based European researchers in Beijing at the same time and held the *First Meeting of the European National Scientists' Networks in China*.

The meeting brought together for the first-time representatives of different national networks of European scientists in China to share experience. The event also invited a wider audience from the European research community in China and the goal was to explore the possibility of the establishment of a formal network of European Researchers in China.


The event was held at the main room of the north wing of the Delegation of the European Delegation in Beijing and attracted a full room of researchers and other network representatives. Before starting the formal meeting, the participants met for a pre-meeting lunch at the nearby Greek restaurant *Athena* forging new inter-European connections within the research community in China.



Halldor Berg from EURAXESS China and Isser Peer from EURAXESS European Network opened the formal session of the meeting followed by a thorough introduction of EURAXESS and EURAXESS China delivered by Halldor Berg [see [Presentation](#)  (7.42 MB)]. The first session of the meeting consisted of representatives from different networks introducing their activities and taking questions.

- **Dr Odette Paramor**, introduced the Guide for EU Researchers in China written by her for the Dragon Star Plus Project in January 2018. The guide can be found [here](#).
- **Dr Francesco Silvestri**, board member of the Association of Italian Scholars in China ([AAIC](#)) introduce the association to the participants.
- **Dr Jose Pastor-Pareja**, professor at Tsinghua University and the head of Association of Spanish Researchers in China ([RICE](#)), introduced the RICE network to the participants.
- **Mr Cédric Guillerme**, Deputy Counsellor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in Beijing, introduced the activity for French researchers in China lead by the embassy of France in Beijing.
- **Mr Jens Hofmann**, Science and Technology Counsellor of the Embassy of Germany in Beijing, introduced the activities for German researchers in China.

- **Mr Taake Manning**, The Science & Technology Counsellor of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Beijing, joined the meeting to introduce the [Holland Science Network in China](#).
- **Mr Jonas Thürig**, Deputy Head of Science, Technology and Education Section of the Swiss Embassy in Beijing, introduced [Swissnex](#).
- **Ms Anne Kari Johansen**, the Science and Technology Counsellor of the Norwegian embassy in Beijing introduced [NORALUMNI](#).

The first session was finished with a presentation from **Dr Isser Pier**, the representative of the EURAXESS European Network. He introduced the global picture of European Scientific Networks around the world. See his presentation here: [Presentation](#)  (698.92 KB).



The second session of the meeting was a round-table and open conversation amongst the participants about the feasibility of establishing a network of European researchers in China and what kind of format that should take. The main take-away was that such a network was very welcome by the participants who were all interested in supporting its formation.

The meeting came to the conclusion that the next steps would be the following:

1. Make sure to do a report and circulate a report on the outcomes of the meeting so the whole community is on board and aware of these talks.
2. Form 3 different type discussion groups on Wechat.
 1. One for the wide community of European researchers in China
 2. One for a big group of interested researchers that want to support the formation of this network.
 3. A small working group of main stakeholders (representatives of networks etc)
3. Make sure that there exists a comprehensive list of all networks and stakeholders that should be included
4. Choose an acting preparation committee - make a detailed concept note for such a network and introduce to the European Delegation and other potential future partners

The meeting finished at 17:00 and the group of participating researchers were invited to go to the nearby rooftop bar *Arrow Factory* for further networking and continuing the conversation.



[See a gallery with pictures from the event on our Facebook page](#)

Mobile researchers are afforded unique opportunities in the experience of not only engaging international scientific landscapes, but essentially becoming a bridge connecting both host and home countries. They endure an equally unique set of challenges, best tackled in alliance with those who have or continue to experience the same. While there is not one single way to establishing a diaspora network, whether you are looking to connect with fellow researchers from your country or discipline (or both), there are 7 starting steps to building a sustainable scientific diaspora network.

**EURAXESS worldwide hubs, their representatives and their vast network of scientific excellence can help connect you to experienced facilitators as well as other diaspora networks to exchange best practices, tips and tricks **

Hot Topic: Seven Steps to Establishing a Sustainable Scientific Diaspora Network

On the occasion of the [1st Meeting of the European National Scientists Networks in China](#) we wanted to republish an excellent article on the topic written by our experienced colleagues in [EURAXESS North America](#). See the original article [here](#).



Why establish a scientific diaspora network?

- Influence policymaking affecting you as a mobile researcher as well as your scientific discipline.
- Consult on research collaboration initiatives between your host and home countries.
- Access resources and extended networks of members and allies.
- Promote your work on multiple national and international platforms
- Extend your expertise to help newly arriving researchers navigate the new geographic and research landscapes
- Sense of community

In the face of global and societal challenges from climate change to extremism in all its faces, there is a demand for building bridges, collaborating and finding solutions. There is a demand, more than ever before, to activating the collective mindset. This piece is the outcome of our combined experience of over 25 years of building networks to, for and by mobile researchers and professionals. It is in response to the evidently growing interest by governments, institutions and researchers alike to leverage the profound potential of scientific diasporas. While these steps are applicable to national, regional or thematic scientific diaspora this article focuses primarily on establishing a national or regional scientific diaspora.

In 2013, the year of the official launch of EURAXESS Worldwide (then EURAXESS Links), William J. Burns, US Deputy Secretary of State at the time, wrote a perspective article on “The Potential of Science Diasporas”. He asserted that at time of writing, though some would certainly argue that this remains a valid assertion, that “the two most powerful currents in today’s international landscape present important opportunities for American Diplomacy: the unrelenting advancement of scientific knowledge and innovation, and the ever-thickening web of connections that brings diaspora communities and their homelands closer together.”

Indeed, the European Commission continues to heavily invest in the advancement and promotion of mobile researchers and their development. Similarly, China and India devise specific policies to both engage and empower their diasporas to establish a constant exchange of knowledge and experience between host and home countries. In short, as a mobile researcher you are an asset and there is no need for you to face challenges alone. Build and they will come. But where do you start?

Do your research

Building a network from scratch is not an easy task. As a researcher, you have the tools you need to adequately prepare yourself to the task and magnitude of work it takes to bringing people together. Here are a few questions to ask:

- How many researchers from your country are in your institute, your city, your host country? Are there any pre-established networks?
- Is there a platform where someone raised similar concerns to you as a mobile researcher or expressed interest in a network?
- What are the trends of scientific collaboration between your host and home country?
- What is the rate of academic/scientific exchange? Are there any policies aimed at increasing this?

These questions will help lay the ground work for identifying the potential venues your network can leverage to fill the gaps in the support system you need as a mobile researcher. Seek other diaspora network members and leaders in your area, compare and contrast best practices and challenges faced by them to better prepare you in your trajectory. Go to their events, follow them on social media,



“The US has the largest number of European researchers outside of Europe. The most active and dynamic European Scientific Diaspora networks in North America are those supported and working directly with their embassy. In some cases, there is even a noticeable shift in the activity level of the diaspora around the time of transition of Science Counselors.”

-Viktoria Bodnarova

This is HOW they did it in North America!

Link to all the Reports of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America Annual Meetings:

[1st Annual Meeting](#) (2015)

[2nd Annual Meeting](#) (2016)

[3rd Annual Meeting](#) (2017)

[4th Annual Meeting](#) (2018)

sign up to their newsletters (yes even if your mailbox does not need another - unsubscribing is but a click away).

Reach out to your embassy

Most embassies do not have a designated science, technology and innovation counsellor, let alone office. This does not necessarily reflect a government's interest, eagerness and various attempts of mapping its researchers abroad. To the contrary, it is our experience that embassies without a designated liaison to their researchers eagerly welcome researchers wanting to champion the effort of building such a network. The support from the embassy does not need to be (and indeed most times is not) financial, it can take many forms including but not limited to:

- Connecting you to other researchers who may have expressed similar interests
- Facilitating introductions to leading experts in your field in both host and home countries
- Promote your work and research achievements not only in your host country but also at home or simply providing a meeting space

Identify the co-creators

Rewarding as it may be, building and maintaining a sustainable network while working a full-time job, trying to publish, staying healthy and perhaps squeezing some form of social life if you date, can be a daunting business.

DISCLAIMER: DO NOT DO THIS ALONE. THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS.

Reach out to your personal networks and institutions from your home country and ask to be connected to researchers in your host country. For ever-changing privacy reasons, this may not be feasible but it may be possible to circulate information you provide so be prepared with an email calling on researchers interested in establishing this network to connect with you.

Find platforms that work with and focus on research career developments and ask for your call on researchers to be circulated. For European researchers abroad, for example, EURAXESS Worldwide is an excellent asset in facilitating these introductions and connections to build a stronger community of mobile researchers. On the EURAXESS North America portal, there is a tab dedicated to European scientific diaspora networks including their news, upcoming events and opportunities and the reports of the annual meetings of European Scientific Diasporas in North America with ample insights on this topic.

STRATEGIZE. STRATEGIZE. STRATEGIZE

This cannot be emphasized enough. How one lays the foundation influences not only the trajectory but ultimately their capacity to see it through to completion. It is imperative for your newly identified working group to be on the same page:

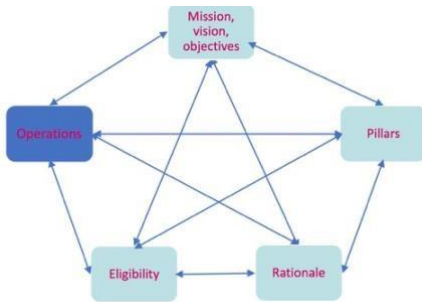


Illustration by FUTOUR

- Why do you want to establish this network?
- Who are you benefiting by this network?
- How are you benefitting?
- What challenges will you address as a network?
- What or who might stop/constrain you from establishing a sustainable network?
- Why is it have a structure?
- What will this structure look like?
- How would the network operate?
- What kind of programs would it offer?
- How will you finance them?

Create a one pager with your mission, vision, objectives, pillars, rationale for your network, eligibility. This will be used to announce, recruit and build alliances.

Find your allies

After much deliberation on the order of this particular step, it is very strategically placed here. It is later in the steps because what we call the “establishrush¹” will keep one going to a certain point, until the line between passion project and job gets blurred. This effort, or at least starting it, is almost always entirely volunteer work, which is taxing, trying and tiring. The moment the core group of visionaries behind the network, lose their rush: *Things. Will. Falter.*

Finding allies helps you maintain momentum and sustain the inevitable challenges and nuances of bringing different personalities and varying need and expertise together. Science-based NGOs, research institutions in host and home countries, funding agencies, programs and experts in Science Diplomacy are all potential allies. Another very important ally is a bracket of the research diaspora communities that often falls through the cracks: the undergraduates. Often looking to build their profile and gain experience, if engaged early they can contribute to administrative, logistic, creative and research tasks.

Go live

In the digital age of insta-tools and social media, there is no need for an official “launch” ceremony. Release your one pager tagging personal and professional

1 The excitement fuelled momentum of establishing something new.

“

“There is no single formula to establishing and operating a scientific diaspora. There may be some guidelines but ultimately it is a bottom up effort that is custom made to fit mission, vision, objectives, culture, trends, politics and many other things including - of course - the price tag. Don't let it be your sanity”

– Dimah Mahmoud, Ph.D.

networks, research institutions with higher numbers of your target audience and allies announcing that your network is ready to welcome new members.

Grow

There is little to no argument on how scientific diasporas directly contribute to the advancement of both home and host countries: the larger the collective, the more prominent the impact. How does a new, young and probably un/ill-funded grow? By animating synergies through partnerships with alumni networks from home countries and diasporas in neighbouring countries. Here too the forgotten undergraduates can play a vital role. More established researchers have a responsibility to engage, encourage and empower younger and early career researchers. This can be as simple as starting chapters in their respective universities and arranging a series of talks by the more advanced researchers in the network allowing for personal growth through intergenerational collaboration, professional growth whether through the experiences of organizing these events as undergraduates or speaking at them as more established research, as well as the growth of the network and its reach.

In case you missed...

4 Chinese Researchers Receive an ERC Starting Grant

Congratulations to the 4 Chinese researchers that just received an ERC Starting Grant They are part of the 408 early-career researchers have been awarded European Research Council grants in this year's first completed ERC call for proposals. The highly-coveted funding will help individual scientists and scholars to build their own teams and conduct pioneering research across all disciplines. The grants, worth in total €621 million, are part of.. [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].

AESCON Asia-Europe Sustainable Connectivity Scientific Conference

AESCON (Asia-Europe Sustainable CONnectivity) is the first scientific conference on Asia-Europe sustainable connectivity, bringing together researchers and policy analysts working in the field of international connectivity, globalization and their impacts on sustainable development, with a particular focus on Asia-Europe connections. At a time of increasing connectivity, the



conference aims to provide an academic forum to discuss global... [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].



"When Europeans do science in China" - Science Magazine

Science Magazine recently published the article "When Europeans do science in China" written by Jeffrey Mervis. "China's evolution into a scientific superpower has altered the politics behind the global movement of scientific talent. Once seen as a benign step in fostering international collaboration, such migrations are now viewed as a potential threat to domestic research by officials in the United States and Australia. In this week's two-part... [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].



5 UK-China Research Teams Shortlisted for the Newton Prize

Recently the Newton Fund announced the 5 UK-China Research Teams that were shortlisted for the UK-China Newton Prize 2019. A prize of up to £200,000 will be awarded to a project with each China that demonstrate high quality research and impact, and an additional prize (the Chair's Award) of up to £500,000 for a project that also demonstrates the best knowledge exchange and partnership development. During November 2019 the shortlisted projects... [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].



EURAXESS Grants in Practice in Inner Mongolia

EURAXESS held its first Grants in Practice event in Hohhot the capital of Inner Mongolia 30 August. The training activity teaches researchers in Inner Mongolia how to apply for Marie Curie individual fellowships and other European funding opportunities open to Chinese researchers. The event took place in front of over hundred researchers from various universities and research institutes in Inner Mongolia and was part of the Sino-European R... [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].



Guangxi Overseas Talent Database

In the 2nd quarter of 2019 EURAXESS did its first information session in the province of Guangxi in its capital Nanning. Being bit off the beaten path for most European researchers in China it was a delightful surprise to find out that there are many strong research institute keen on international cooperation. Over there we found for example involved in cooperation in veterinary diseases and physics. Recently the Guangxi Overseas Talent Database... [See more at [EURAXESS China website](#)].



The top stories from our WeChat Chanel

瑞典皇家理工学院招聘博士后

Postdoc in efficient planning of small-scale hydro power



荷兰 - 阿姆斯特丹自由大学招聘教授

Professor in Clinical Cariology



欧盟向来自50多个国家的初阶研究员提供了6.21亿欧元的科研...

EU awards grants worth €621 million to early-career researcher...



德国 - 布伦瑞克工业大学博士奖学金

2 DAAD PhD scholarships - Research Training Group "Social...



法国 - 国家科学研究中心招聘博士

PhD in acoustic-phonon engineering in semiconductor nanostr...



博士闯关五大秘籍

Top 5 PhD rules of the game



荷兰 - 特文特大学招聘助理教授

Assistant Professor (Tenure Track position) Earth observation of co...



奥地利 - 因斯布鲁克大学招聘高级讲师

Senior Lecturer (Doctorate/PhD)



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.

