Dear Colleagues,

This month’s EU Insight is focusing on the 2nd International Conference on Research Infrastructures held in Athens, Greece, earlier this month. The European Research Infrastructures are part of Horizon 2020’s first pillar – Excellent Science.

Under the Grants & Fellowships section, you will find many fellowships, grants and job opportunities offered by the EU member states and associated countries.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 is going to take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 November 2014.

More information about the submission and participation rules can be found here.

Wishing you a great month ahead!
Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team
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1 EU Insight – 2\textsuperscript{nd} International Conference on Research Infrastructures

Since 2012 the former biennial European Conferences on Research Infrastructures have been opened to address an international audience on global research infrastructures. Under this new scope, the second International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI) was held in Athens, from 2-4 April, 2014.

ICRI 2014 offered a high level international forum where key stakeholders could meet, discuss and contribute to bringing forward global issues related to Research Infrastructures. It was co-organised by the European Commission and the Greek EU Presidency of the European Union.

The conference attracted more than 800 international participants during three days and included an exhibition of demonstrations and videos of international research infrastructure projects.

In her launching keynote speech, the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn stressed “the importance of Research Infrastructures as centres of innovation and of knowledge transfer to industry and society at large.”

Research infrastructures play a vital role in the advancement of knowledge and technology. Scientific progress would be impossible without state-of-the-art super-computers or, for instance, large-scale laser systems. Responding to challenges like climate change is also greatly helped by environmental research facilities such as deep-sea-floor observatories or icebreaker research vessels, to name only a few.

The key objectives of the ICRI 2014 included:

- highlighting the essential role of global research infrastructures in addressing grand challenges at all scales: national, regional, continental and global
- reflecting on the needs and challenges that arise during the development and operation of global research infrastructures at all these levels
- presenting the main characteristics of global research infrastructures and identifying the challenges and drivers for collaboration at an international level.

Plenary sessions were held on the issues of big data management, innovation potential for research infrastructures, governance of research infrastructures and research infrastructures for global challenges. The key topics of the parallel sessions at ICRI 2014 included marine research infrastructures, palaeoanthropology and cultural heritage, food security and e-infrastructures.
A major difficulty in setting up such research infrastructures between EU countries is the lack of an adequate legal framework allowing the creation of appropriate partnerships. Existing legal forms under national law do not fulfil the needs of these new European infrastructures. The same applies to legal forms under international or EU law.

It is in this context that the European Commission, responding to requests from EU countries and the scientific community, proposed a legal framework for a European research infrastructure (ERI) adapted to the needs of such facilities.

In August 2009, the community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) entered into force. This specific legal form is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European interest.

Member States, Associated Countries, third countries and intergovernmental organisations can be members of an ERIC. However, a state may decide to be represented by one or more public entities or private entities with a public-service mission, e.g. research organisations or research councils. Following the application to the European Commission, the typical timing for the decision could be between 4 and 8 months.

Sources:
[1] International Conference on Research Infrastructures
[2] Launching speech ICRI by Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
2 Spotlight: Helping ASEAN Researchers Access Horizon 2020: the ASEAN NCP Network

The new EU funding programme for research and innovation called Horizon 2020 was officially launched in ASEAN in January this year by Ms Cristina Russo, Director, Director of International Cooperation, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission. She noted in her opening remarks that in Horizon 2020 “European partnership with ASEAN countries will be of the utmost importance. The traditional powerhouses of the US, Europe and Japan will account for a smaller share in science and technology.”

Horizon 2020 has a budget of 80 billion Euros, and these funds are allocated through a competitive process, in which ASEAN traditionally fares quite well. In the previous EU funding programme called FP7, ASEAN as a region ranked 5th after Russia, US, China and India in terms of non-EU participation.

There are opportunities throughout Horizon 2020 for participation by individual researchers, research organisations, and companies to participate. But for newcomers, accessing Horizon 2020, can be a daunting task. Fortunately, there is a support network across ASEAN who can help researchers identify these opportunities. These are the Horizon 2020 National Contact Points (NCPs).

There are currently more than 50 NCPs across ASEAN who have been instrumental in raising awareness about the opportunities offered by the EU funding programmes, disseminating timely information on Call topics, and providing guidance on the general rules of participation. This network was built with support from a number of FP7 funded projects including SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT.

To find the NCPs in your country, please visit the Support section of the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN will be involved in a series of Horizon 2020 information events across ASEAN throughout 2014. For information on our upcoming events please refer to our website.
3 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Research Fellowships

It is widely accepted that international cooperation in science and technology is crucial in dealing with many of today’s challenges which are of a global and transborder nature, such as environmental and health concerns. Enabling researchers to be mobile and to cooperate with each other across national borders is a key factor in tackling these challenges successfully.

International cooperation including researcher mobility is a key element of the European Unions’ current Research & Innovation Programme Horizon 2020 (H2020) which welcomes top-class researchers from Third Countries (i.e. countries that are neither members of the European Union nor associated with it) to work on projects in and with Europe. Included in the “Excellent Science” pillar of Horizon 2020 are the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs) which will award EUR 6,162 million over the period 2014-2020.

The objective of the MSCA is to support the career development and training of researchers – with a focus on innovation skills – in all scientific disciplines through worldwide and cross-sector mobility. For this, the MSCA provide grants at all stages of researchers’ careers, from PhD candidates to highly experienced researchers, and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA will become the main EU programme for doctoral training, funding 25,000 PhDs.

Endowing researchers with new skills and a wider range of competences, while offering them attractive working conditions, is a crucial aspect of the MSCA. In addition to mobility between countries, the MSCA also seek to break the real and perceived barriers between academic and other sectors, especially business. The MSCA follow a “bottom-up” approach, i.e. individuals and organisations working in any area of research can apply for funding. Several MSCA initiatives promote the involvement of industry etc. in doctoral and post-doctoral research.

Amongst the growing alumni network of this prestigious fellowship scheme are highly talented young researchers from ASEAN – 71 fellows from Vietnam, 36 from Thailand, 32 from Indonesia, 24 Philippines, 21 from Malaysia, 17 from Singapore, two from Myanmar and one from Brunei.

Each month, EURAXESS Links ASEAN invites Marie Curie Fellows from countries within ASEAN to share their experience with our readership. This month we caught up with two researchers; Malaysian Ms Mun Li Yam is currently a senior scientist with a Scottish biotech company while Ms Anna Liza Bais hails from the Philippines and is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria University in Vienna, Austria.

Ms Yam, Ms Bais please tell us a little about you.

**MLY:** I am from Malaysia and I hold a BSc. degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Putra Malaysia and a MSc. degree in Medical Science from the...
University of Malaya. I began my career working on cancer research in a Malaysian independent non-profit organisation for two years prior to securing the NanoTOES project fellowship. Under the programme, I joined AvantiCell Science Ltd. in Scotland and have since remained here to continue my scientific career specialising in cell-based analysis.

**ALB:** I am from the Philippines and currently a PhD candidate at the Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria University in Vienna, Austria. I hold a Bachelor degree in Forestry from the University of the Philippines and an Erasmus Mundus double Master’s degree in European Forestry and Forest and Nature Conservation from the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu, Finland and Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

**What are your respective research backgrounds?**

**MLY:** The beginning of my research career involved studying of natural products using both in vitro and in vivo models. Upon graduation, I began working at a cancer research charity, focusing on screening and characterisation of small molecules and natural compounds for anti-cancer properties, specifically photosensitisers for use in Photodynamic Therapy. At the same time, I was also involved in some immunology-related research.

**ALB:** My research background spans over different fields such as forestry and natural resources economics, forest ecology and management, atmospheric particles technology and social and industrial ecology. I was involved in the following research projects: determination of households’ willingness to pay using a “Contingent Valuation Method” for sustainable watersheds management in the Philippines; semi-continuous measurement of atmospheric ammonia and ammonium in Gwangju, South Korea; and a comprehensive review of traditional woodfuel data in tropical countries. I had experienced in analyzing soot and atmospheric particles measured by Transmission Electron Microscopy and designing heater tips to improve the collection efficiency of Aerosol Mass Spectrometer. My Master’s thesis focused on financial analysis of post-harvesting silvicultural treatments applied in logging gaps for promoting regeneration of commercial species in eastern Brazilian Amazon. My current research focuses on using and expanding the Material- and Energy Flow Analysis framework for sustainability impact assessment of bioenergy systems.

**Can you tell our readers about the research projects you are doing as Marie Curie Fellows?**

**MLY:** “Nanotechnology: Training of Experts in Safety (NanoTOES)” is a project under the FP7-PEOPLE-2010-ITN (Marie-Curie Initial Training Networks) programme. Under this training-by-research programme, my contribution was to develop cell-based assays validated for their ability to predict toxicological responses to engineered nanomaterials under a range of sample-presentation conditions. I aimed to deliver the assays in simple and user-friendly format while also allowing the possibility of high content outputs for additional information on cell function and changes resulting from exposure to nanomaterials.
ALB: I am currently involved in CASTLE (Careers in Sustainability Excellence) project within a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN). CASTLE project has received research funding from the European Union’s programme called Marie Curie Actions. CASTLE combines scientific innovative problem-oriented research and practical training of young academics on methods used for sustainability impact assessments in the bioenergy and forest-based sector in Europe. CASTLE educates sustainability experts for a broader bio-based economy. There are 14 individual research projects within CASTLE ITN project. I am currently working on Individual Research Project number 5: Using material flow indicators for sustainability impact assessment of bioenergy systems. My research aims at analyzing sustainability aspects of bioenergy provisions, at the global scale, with particular focus on land efficiency and land competition. The methodological basis of my research is the Material- and Energy flow analysis which provides a framework to assess biomass resource use intensity and sustainability of socio-economic activities in a top-down (systematic) perspective.

Why did you choose to apply for this particular project?

MLY: The attractive aspect of this project is the opportunity to experience a scientific career in industry, with my host AvantiCell Science Ltd. being an industry partner within the NanoTOES project consortium. I got a valuable chance to enhance my skills particularly in cell-based analysis and assay development which applies not only to nanotoxicological assessment, but to a wide area of biomedical research and life sciences in general.

ALB: I decided to apply for CASTLE project because I am very much interested on the topic itself. My research interest, academic background and experience fit well with the individual research project I have applied for.

So far, what are the most significant benefits you derive as a Marie Curie Fellow?

MLY: My fellowship experience in a commercial SME has exposed me to regulatory affairs and work under certified standards required in industry. Besides acquiring expertise in my area of interest, the programme allowed multi-disciplinary and cross-sectorial training through organised workshops and secondments to project partners’ laboratories. Last but not least, the fellowship allowed me to collaborate and establish scientific networks with various highly-reputable international institutions in Europe.

ALB: As a Marie Curie Fellow I had wonderful training experience where I gained new knowledge, experiences and expertise in both scientifically and technically, built my networks and the opportunity to apply the principles of sustainability in innovation sectors.

What are your plans for the future?
MLY: I hope to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology learned during my fellowship back to my home country, Malaysia. Therefore, I decided to remain in the company following the completion of my fellowship, and to realise this plan by building strategic partnerships with scientists in Malaysia’s life science sector; this is already in progress.

ALB: After completing my PhD studies, I plan to work as a researcher or consultant in a bioenergy sector or academic/research institutions active in sustainability issues.

How did you experience your move to Europe? Did you encounter any difficulties? What would be your advice for your peers?

MLY: Overall, my move to Europe went smoothly although I would consider the application for a UK work visa to be the most challenging and time consuming part. Having said that, my company has been very supportive throughout the application process and it eventually went well. Apart from the immigration red tape, being aware of the host country’s living and cultural expectations may make it easier to adapt to work and life abroad.

ALB: My experience when I moved to Europe was rather easy and I didn’t encounter any problem. One of the challenging parts of living in Europe as an Asian was dealing with bureaucracy but I am very fortunate in having a very supportive host institution. To adapt much easier and to have a good interaction with local people, I would advise you to learn the basic language and culture of your host country.

In retrospect, which elements do you think were decisive in you being successful in your application?

MLY: In my opinion, my research background in cell-based analysis for drug discovery and screening for potential therapeutics has been an advantage in my fellowship application. In addition, positive references from my previous employers could have helped tremendously as well.

ALB: I believe my strong academic background and research experience were powerful elements in my application.

Do you have any advice for other young researchers who are considering applying for a MCF?

MLY: I would strongly encourage this because the fellowship is not only a prestigious award but a truly rewarding one. My advice for aspiring applicants is to identify your area of interest and apply for one that will allow development of expertise and knowledge towards your desired research direction.

ALB: You should start gaining experience (e.g. internship, summer school, conferences) and skills which you can use as your powerful elements to have a successful application. Be well prepared and don’t forget to sell yourself and market your brilliant ideas!

About the researchers
Anna Liza Bais holds a Bachelor degree in Forestry from the University of the Philippines and an Erasmus Mundus double Master's degree in European Forestry and Forest and Nature Conservation from the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu, Finland and Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute of Social Ecology, Alpen-Adria University in Vienna, Austria.

Ms Bais is a Marie Curie Fellow on the CASTLE (Careers in Sustainability Excellence) project within a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN).

Mun Li Yam is currently a senior scientist at AvantiCell Science Limited (Ayr, Scotland), a company that focuses on cell-based assays for use in drug discovery, biomedical research and natural product testing. Mun Li holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Putra Malaysia and a Master's degree in Medical Science from the University of Malaya. For two years, she was conducting research in an independent non-profit cancer research organisation in Malaysia. In 2011, she moved to Scotland after being awarded the Marie Curie Fellowship to join the NanoTOES project as an Experienced Researcher.
Which MSCAs are on offer?

- **International Incoming Fellowships (IIFs)** are open to experienced researchers moving from Third Countries to EU Member States or Associated Countries and all areas of scientific and technological research that are of interest to the EU. IIF funding is provided for 12-24 months for a research project which will transfer knowledge into the applicant’s host organisation and building or enhancing collaborations between Europe and the rest of the world.

- Early stage international researchers will benefit from the **Initial Training Networks (ITN)** which offer early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects. ITNs receive funding specifically for the recruitment of researchers from all over the world who are in the first five years of their career for initial training, for instance, doctoral research or initial post-doctoral research.

- Mobility by individual researchers has been supported by Marie Curie Actions for some time now. But something similar was needed for research organisations in particular for exchanges outside Europe. Marie Curie’s new **International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)** plugs that gap. It helps research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated exchange programme for their staff. Eligible for application are active research organisations, such as universities or research centres. Each proposal for an IRSES must include one organisation located either in countries with which the EU has an S&T Agreement or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. The following EURAXESS Links countries currently have an S&T Agreement with the EU; Canada, China, India, Japan and the U.S.

For detailed information as well as announcement on forthcoming and open calls please visit the website of the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs)](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)
How to be a successful MSCA applicant – hear it from the expert

Dr Dinnyés, you are a real expert on EU R&D funding. What has your involvement in EU FP funding been so far?

I have profited myself from EU mobility grants when I returned home after about 8 years abroad - in 2003 I have received a Marie Curie Excellence Team grant - the equivalent of todays' ERC Advanced Grants. This was a generous source to build up a new team in Hungary. Since then I have coordinated MC Initial Training Networks and Industry – Academia Partnership and Pathways grants, and hosted several individual fellows returning from US and EU countries at my biotech-stem cell company. In Horizon 2020 we are writing some MC ITN and Health proposals at the moment, as my consulting company is helping other teams to obtain such funding.

Why do you think should young researchers apply for a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship?

Mobility among teams is an essential part of a research career, providing new skills and networking for further progress. EU fellowships are very researcher-friendly and without too many strings attached, an ideal combination for international mobility.

The competition for a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship is very tough. What would you say are the most common mistakes applicants make?

Excellence is the key, primarily that of the researcher, but also the research topic and the host institution are key issues. Often a logical and realistic presentation of the added values for the researcher going to that specific host institution is not included.

What would be your top 5 tips that every applicant should follow?

1) Prove your positive statements with facts (your publications, skills, equipment available, past activities and achievements)
2) Choose a very good topic for your research plan
3) Choose an excellent host, fitting your existing skills and adding additional ones via the planned research period.
4) Look at the "big picture" and show how your work will advance the entire field
5) Part of the story is the social, economic and environmental impact of your research - check EU policies and priorities and try to address them in your proposal.
4 News & Developments

4.1 European Union

4.1.1 EU-wide hunt for top tech startups

The European Commission is looking for Europe's best startups in this year's [Tech All Stars competition](#). The lucky winners will have exclusive access to Europe's most prestigious startup events and will pitch to the likes of Sir Richard Branson, Chad Hurley and Niklas Zennström.

The competition is open to EU registered startups younger than 3 years, which have raised less than €1 million in external funding. Applications are open until May 22nd 2014.

Previous Tech All Star Winners include Irish company Trustev which offers real time, online verification using social fingerprinting technology and Cognicor a Spanish start-up offering an automated complaint resolution service.

Source: [European Commission](#)

4.1.2 European Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of EUR22 billion Innovation Investment Package

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn has welcomed today's adoption by the European Parliament of a package of public-private and public-public research partnerships worth up to €22 billion. The Innovation Investment Package (IIP) and the Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR) joint undertaking now go to Council for final approval. Most of the investment will go to six public-private partnerships in innovative medicines, aeronautics, bio-based industries, fuel cells and hydrogen, electronics and rail transport.

Over the next seven years, the EU's contribution of €9 billion to the package will unlock an equivalent investment from the private sector and €4 billion from Member States. The EU funding will come from Horizon 2020, the European Union's new €80 billion research and innovation programme.

Source: [European Commission](#)

4.1.3 New Commission study identifies Europe’s top ICT hubs

A new EU Atlas of ICT hotspots shows where digital technologies thrive and examines the factors contributing to this success. Most of Europe's ICT activity takes place in 34 regions across 12 countries. Key ingredients to success included access to top Universities and research centres and funding opportunities such as venture capital.

European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes said: "This is proof that digital success comes through a willingness to invest, an open mindset for innovation and planning. Europe needs to build these values today to be a global leader in technology."

Source: [European Commission](#)
4.2 ASEAN

4.2.1 Report summarising key findings of workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in SEA accessible on SEA-EU-Net 2

In the context of the SEA-EU-Net 2: "EU-ASEAN S&T cooperation to Jointly Tackle the Societal Challenges" project, a workshop titled "Intellectual Property Rights in Southeast Asia" (IPR workshop) was organized during the ASEAN-EU STI Days 2014 held in Bangkok, Thailand in January 2014. The workshop sought to identify and support cooperation for the framework conditions in STI and effective private-public partnerships. The report is now available online.

SEA EU Net 2 is an international cooperation network, which will build upon and leverage strong Europe-Southeast Asia S&T relationships developed through past support and coordination actions, to deepen engagement and build momentum in S&T cooperation. It broadens the scope of Europe-Southeast Asia cooperation through stimulating sustainable innovation collaborations.

Source: SEA EU Net 2

4.2.2 Thai malaria drug at pre-clinical stage

A Thai research team developing an anti-malaria drug has reached the pre-clinical trial stage. They claim the synthesis compound P218 can successfully stop the DNA of malaria parasites from forming. This could lead to the new drug replacing pyrimethamine, the most commonly used anti-malarial, to which the disease is developing increasing resistance. Dr Yongyuth Yuthavong, adviser to the research and development team, said that local laboratory tests have found the new drug can completely kill the Plasmodium falciparum strain of the parasite — the most common strain of malarial infection. “Tests in our local lab already successfully killed the parasite. What we are going to do next is have a pre-clinical trial at an overseas laboratory with Good Laboratory Practice certification — a compulsory requirement before moving to the next step of a trial on humans,” he said. It takes around a year and a half to fully complete a pre-clinical trial. If successful, the human trial stage will last for about three years. In total it will take more than five years to release the new Thai-developed medicine on the drug market. The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NASTDA) has cooperated with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a Switzerland-based not-for-profit malaria drug research organisation, since 1999.

Source: Bangkok Post

4.2.3 Thailand’s first national biopharmaceutical facility officially opens

H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the opening ceremony of National Biopharmaceutical Facility (NBF) located at King Mongkut's
University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkhunthien Campus. It is Thailand’s first state-owned contract manufacturing facility for the production of clinical, research-grade biopharmaceuticals. NBF was initiated in 2008 under the collaboration between BIOTEC/NSTDA and KMUTT. The facility consists of 2 production suites for microbial fermentation and cell culture with corresponding downstream processing capabilities and an automatic sterile fill and finish line, which were all designed to comply with international GMP standards and biosafety regulations. NBF has also acquired a license from Thai FDA to manufacture drug, vaccine and biologics. As part of the national vaccine plan, NSTDA is currently coordinating the dengue vaccine development endeavor, focusing on three approaches namely chimeric live-attenuated vaccine, DNA vaccine and VLP vaccine; whereas BIOTEC is now working on animal vaccine and the up-stream technology such as the development of recombinant host cell and expression system.

Source: BIOTEC

4.2.4 Germany and Indonesia discuss enhanced S&T collaboration

H.E. Gusti. M. Hatta. Indonesian Minister of Research and Technology welcomed Deputy Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Research of Germany (BMBF), Mr. Maximilian Metzger and H.E. Georg Witschel, German Ambassador, on April 2, 2014 at the office of the Ministry of Research and Technology (BPPT) in Jakarta.

They discussed the long-standing cooperation in science and technology between Germany and Indonesia as well as the important role that S&T is playing in Indonesia’s socio-economic development. Mr. Metzger noted that “BMBF feels very satisfied with the science and technology cooperation which will be closer and beneficial to both parties.” In terms of education, Mr. Metzger expressed appreciation for the fact that Indonesian students are still very much interested in studying in Germany. Currently there are about 2,500 Indonesian students studying at various institutions across Germany.
5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 National EURAXESS portals

The latest information on open calls for national grants and fellowships in the 40 member countries of the EURAXESS network can be accessed on the respective national EURAXESS portal.

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYRoMacedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK.

Besides providing information on funding opportunities for incoming international and European researchers, staff at the EURAXESS Service Centres offer individual assistance on all aspects of researcher mobility.

5.2 H2020

The European Commission has launched the first calls under Horizon 2020. Calls in the 2014 budget focus on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- **Excellent Science**: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.

- **Industrial Leadership**: €1.8 billion to support Europe’s industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.

- **Societal Challenges**: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020’s seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

To find out more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project please visit the European Commission’s Participant Portal where all calls will be published.

International researchers are also invited to join the database of independent experts for European research and innovation. Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.
5.3 European Fellowships Open to Participation by Researchers from ASEAN

On March 12, 2014 the European Commission opened the call for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) which offer an opportunity for individual researchers and research institutes across Europe.

The grant usually covers two years’ salary, a mobility allowance, research costs and overheads for the host institution. Individual researchers submit proposals for funding in liaison with their planned host organisation. Proposals are judged on their research quality, the researcher's future career prospects, and the support offered by the host organisation.

These Individual Fellowships also offer an opportunity for European researchers to spend up to 2 years working in universities and research institutes in ASEAN.

**Deadline for application: 11 September 2014**

Further details: [Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)

5.4 Belgian Federal Science Policy Office Postdoc Fellowships for non-EU researchers

The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) offers a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e. postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work during 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

The potential Belgian host units are those which are involved in the research programmes and actions of BELSPO (cf. FEDRA) or belong to a federal scientific institution.

The call for proposals 2014 is currently open.

The deadline for application is **30 April, 2014**.

Further details available on the [BELSPO website](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).

5.5 Visiting Professorships at Swedish Universities

The Kerstin Hesselgren Chair is to enable outstanding women scholars from abroad to take up a visiting professorship at a Swedish university in the faculties of humanities, social sciences, law and theology. The scheme addresses prominent international and internationally-recognized female researcher in the social sciences or humanities.

The Olof Palme Chair is for an outstanding scholar from abroad to take up a visiting professorship at a Swedish university. The scheme addresses
internationally prominent researcher focused on topics important to the pursuit of peace in a broad context. Such topics could include research on international policy, peace and conflict, and comparative social institutions. Other areas could include research on fundamental causes of conflict and social developments that in various ways promote peace and human security.

Swedish universities and Higher education institutes (HEI) are welcome to nominate candidates for the visiting professorship. The application – with the nominated candidate – should be submitted by the department wishing to host the chair.

The stay in Sweden should be at least six months and maximum of one year.

**Application deadline: 5 May 2014**

Further details: [Swedish Research Council](#)

### 5.6 Database of PhD positions in Germany

The PhDGermany database offers a great variety of job openings / PhD positions for doctoral students. By entering their criteria prospective doctoral students can narrow down their search for suitable doctoral positions and apply directly online.

PhD studies in Germany are free of charge. Language of instruction is English.

[Database Information](#) on how to finance PhD studies in Germany.

### 5.7 Queen’s University Belfast (UK) seeking to develop joint funding applications with postdoctoral researchers from MSCA fellowships

Queen’s University Belfast is looking for high-quality post-doctoral researchers of any nationality who would be interested in preparing and submitting a joint Marie Skłodowska Curie - European fellowship application with one of its Principal Investigators.

List of available topics and information on PIs available [online](#).

Register your interest by 13 May 2014.

[Details here](#).
5.8 Post-doctoral Fellowships in Thailand Open to European Researchers

Thailand’s National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) invites applications for post-doctoral research fellowships in various fields. The fellowships seek to support and encourage Ph.D. graduates in Engineering (e.g. Electronics, Electrical, Computer), Science (e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Computer, IT), and other related fields in order to strengthen their R&D experiences, under the supervision of senior fellow researchers.

NECTEC is one of four technology centers under the auspices of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), an agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand. NECTEC is specialized in and responsible for undertaking, supporting, and promoting the development of electronics and computer technologies through research and development (R&D) activities.

Further details: [NECTEC](#)

5.9 IIAS – ISEAS Postdoctoral Fellowship

Applications are invited for International Institute for Asian Studies—Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (IIAS-ISEAS) Postdoctoral Fellowships for commencement after September 2014. These fellowships are part of the collaboration between IIAS, Netherlands and ISEAS, Singapore. The IIAS-ISEAS Joint Fellowship position is intended for outstanding recent doctoral graduates (within 6 years of receiving Ph.D. degree) from around the world, to work on an important piece of research in the humanities and the social sciences.

The theme for 2013-2014 deals with Critical Heritage Studies (CHS) or modes of cultural heritage production in the Asian context. The fellowship will be tenable for a maximum period of 12 months, with a maximum of 6 months attached to the IIAS office in Leiden and a maximum of 6 months at the ISEAS office in Singapore. Fieldwork can be done in Europe and Asia.

Application deadline: 15 June 2014

Details [IIAS-ISEAS](#)

5.10 EMBO Funding for Courses & Workshops

Biannual selection by a committee of members of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) ensures the consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO-funded courses, workshops and conferences. The commitment of the scientific organizers guarantees the long-term success of the programme to inform and train researchers at all career stages. With over 80 meetings
attracting more than 8,000 participants every year, EMBO offers the largest number of scientific training events in Europe. Funding is available for conference series, workshops, practical courses and symposia as well as plenary lectures. EMBO assists organizers with websites, posters and registration.

Further information: EMBO Courses & Workshops
6 Jobs

There are currently **7504** research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the [EURAXESS Jobs database](https:// EURAXESS Jobs database).

**BELGIUM** (Brussels): PhD position in research unit "Stem Cell Biology and Development", Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), Duve Institute  
[Details](https://)

**FRANCE** (Labege): Marie Curie Early Stage Research position (PhD) in RENESENG project, CIMV - Compagnie Industrielle de la Matière Végétale  
[Details](https://)

**GERMANY** (Aachen): Full Professorship in Bioanorganic Chemistry, RWTH Aachen, Faculty of Mathematics, Computer Science and Natural Sciences  
[Details](https://)

**INDIA** (New Delhi): Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher (PhD student) in the field of Regional Powers in World Politics, Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
[Details](https://)

**IRELAND** (Dublin): Research Assistant in Agricultural Sciences, University College Dublin  
[Details](https://)

**NORWAY** (Bergen): Associate Professor in archaeological methods with emphasis on archaeological osteology, University of Bergen, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion (AHKR)  
[Details](https://)
## 7 Events

### 7.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events April – May 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Seminar on EURAXESS and European Funding and Fellowship Opportunities</td>
<td>23 April/ KMUTT University, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Researchers and Research Administrators</td>
<td>Inform Thai researchers about European mobility opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Seminar on EURAXESS and European Funding and Fellowship Opportunities</td>
<td>28 April / Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>Researchers and Research Administrators</td>
<td>Inform Malaysian researchers about European mobility opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>The 2nd NCPs Workshop for Building NCPs Network between Korea and the EU</td>
<td>28-30 April/Seoul, Korea</td>
<td>Research Administrators, researchers, NCPs and funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS and provide an overview of the NCP network in ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Seminar on EURAXESS and European Funding and Fellowship Opportunities</td>
<td>9 May, 2014, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Researchers and Research Administrators</td>
<td>Inform Thai researchers about European mobility opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 info Day and Workshops - co-organised by NSTDA, EURAXESS Links ASEAN and the SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT projects</td>
<td>26-27 May, NSTDA, Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Thai funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2 Denmark: Euroscience Open Forum – ESOF 2014, 21 – 26 June 2014

ESOF2014 offers a platform where researchers, journalists, policy makers, students and organisations can meet and debate European research and global challenges.

The scientific programme, covering 8 themes, consists of keynote lectures, seminars, workshops and engaging formats for debating the latest research.

Further details

7.3 France: ICS - Innovation Connecting Show: Connecting Innovation and Business, 16 – 18 September 2014

The Innovation Connecting Show will be held from 16 to 18 September 2014 at the Toulouse Exhibition Park, under the distinguished patronage of the French President, Mr François Hollande.

Focused on the presentation and the interconnection of the key generic technologies, the uses and the needs, this major international event of innovation and competitiveness will, thanks to its large cross, associate and link the technological innovations and the markets. These ones have to be able to adapt, integrate and create new applications specific to their economic and societal sector.

To this end, the Innovation Connecting Show will bring together more than 700 exhibitors, project leaders, actors of innovation in its broadest sense. They will value their demonstrators, prototypes, processes and services from their R&D department.

20,000 professional visitors are expected: including national and international, public and private investors, academics, representatives from traditional sectors searching for innovation and the national, international and professional press.

About 100 conferences, round table discussions and exhibitor workshops will be driven by a high-level scientific committee. Transversal innovation specialists from all sectors of the economy will be considering ways to influence future innovations, and will be treated the following themes: future factories, the Key Enabling Technologies, future Biology and synthetic Biology, Smart Cities, Internet of the future, and communicating objects.

An “Innovation Award” will reward the most innovative exhibitors and project leaders. These ones are instigators of growth, creators of wealth and builders of future employments.

With the help of a broad international communication campaign and the High patronage of the French Presidency, the French representation of the European Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Industrial Renewal,
the Ministry for Craft Industries and Trades, Commerce and Tourism, the Ministry for Higher Education and Research, and the Ministry Delegate attached to the Ministry for Industrial Renewal, with the responsibility for SME’s, Innovation and the Digital Economy, the ICS will make of Toulouse the world’s innovation capital in September 2014

Details: ICS

7.4 Germany: 22nd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, 23 – 26 June 2014

The 22nd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition is the leading international platform for dialogue between research, industry, policy and business of biomass. The EU BC&E combines one of the largest biomass science and technology conferences with a leading biomass industry and technology exhibition, attracting the entire professional biomass community from around the globe. This event is supported by European and international organizations such as the European Commission, UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Natural Sciences Sector, WCRE - the World Council for Renewable Energy, EUBIA - the European Biomass Industry Association, UNICA - Sugarcane Industry Association, Brazil, BEC – Biomass Energy Committee, China and other organisations. The Technical Programme is coordinated by the European Commission, Joint Research Centre.

Further details

7.5 Greece: 5th INCO conference “Addressing Future Challenges”, 2 – 4 June 2014

INCONTACT 2020, is organizing the “5th INCO Conference - Addressing Future Challenges”, in 2-4 June 2014 in Athens, Greece. The Conference is organized under the auspices of DG Research of the European Commission and the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology. This year’s event is dedicated to the role of integrated research in addressing global challenges.

The annual INCO Conference series targets primarily European and Third Country International Cooperation (INCO) Experts and FP7/Horizon 2020 national Contact Points (NCPs), providing an excellent forum for a plethora of activities including the dissemination of information by INCO EC staff, training activities for NCPs and International Partner Countries Contact Points, presentations on specific international cooperation projects and presentations on the research landscape in specific countries. Discussions will address critical issues such as the future of research in relation to the global challenges lying ahead in order to acquire insight for future coordinated actions. Invited speakers from worldwide organizations funding research will share their experiences, best practices and obstacles.
The conference will also host the annual meeting of the national INCO experts as well as a special training session on international research collaboration under Horizon 2020.

The conference seeks to:

- set the framework for international cooperation in H2020,
- collect the experiences of international organizations funding global research,
- highlight the link between research and societal challenges,
- underline best practices, and
- provide insight to the future of interconnected research.

Details: [INCO](#)

7.6 Poland: The 3rd International Conference on Informatics Engineering and Information Science (ICIEIS2014), 22 – 24 September 2014

The event will be held over three days, with presentations delivered by researchers from the international community, including presentations from keynote speakers and state-of-the-art lectures. The conference aims to enable researchers to build connections between different digital applications.

Further [details](#)

7.7 Sweden: 1st International Conference on Renewable Energy Gas Technology, 22 – 22 May 2014

[REGATEC 2014](#)
REGATEC 2014 has a technical and industrial focus and is directed towards thermo-chemical and biological conversion of biomass and waste to biomethane.

Further details

7.8 Switzerland: 3rd GRF One Health Summit, Davos, 5 – 8 October 2014

The 3rd GRF One Health Summit will further develop and strengthen the One Health paradigm and its global movement. In particular this 3rd global gathering will focus on the added value of a global One Health approach and a stronger involvement of the private sector and policy.

The deadline for abstract submission is extended to 30 April 2014. Submit your abstract now on one of the conference topics.

Further details

7.9 UK: Research Commercialisation - From Idea to IPO, 19 – 20 May 2014

Research Commercialisation is a new cross-discipline event and will provide a platform for all those involved in promoting university-industry-investor collaboration, technology transfer and start-ups. Delegates to this major new conference will hear from UK government, leading industrial, investor and academic speakers on strategies to support the commercialisation of academic research including: Bringing research to the market, Best practices in technology transfer, Academic-industry collaboration, Intellectual property strategies, License vs. start-up, Investment strategies, Key Performance Indicators.

Further details
For more information on research events across Europe and across all disciplines please visit the European Commission managed page "What's New in European Research"
8 Resources

Latest Calls
Here you can find the latest calls on the newly set up Research Participant Portal.

International Cooperation Activities
Access the portal of the European Commission's International Cooperation Activities here.

Other Research Career Sites
Find A Postdoc: http://www.findapostdoc.com/
Find Scholarships in Europe: http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/
Find PhDs in Europe: http://www.phdportal.eu/
Academic Jobs EU: http://www.academicjobseu.com
Euro Science Jobs: http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/
EMBO excellence in life sciences: http://www.embo.org
EuroBrussels: http://www.eurobrussels.com/
Jobs at ITER: http://www.iter.org/jobs
Nature.jobs: http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html
Jobs.ac.uk: www.jobs.ac.uk
Research Jobs in Germany: Research-in-Germany.de
Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Brainpower Austria: http://www.brainpower-austria.at/