Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present to you the 53rd edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

In this month’s EU Insight section, Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation outlines his vision for the next phase of the European Research Area (ERA) built on the principles of "Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World."

In this issue we interview the bright, young scientists who were the winners of the EURAXESS Links Science Slam 2014. They recently spent a week in Europe which was part of their prize given by EURAXESS.

Our News, Grants and Fellowships section contains our latest round-up of the most important developments and opportunities.

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter, and welcome your feedback.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team
Contents

1 EU Insight – Conference: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation ..........5

2 Interviews with the EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 Winners ............7

  2.1 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN Winner 2014 Bhamini Bhujun ..........................................................7

  2.2 Meet the researcher: Interview with Kai Narita, EURAXESS Science Slam Japan Winner 2014 .................................................................9

  2.3 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam India Winner 2014 Anand kant Das .........................................................11

  2.4 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam Brazil Winner 2014 Vanessa Cardoso Pires .............................................14

  2.5 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam North America Winner 2014 Kurtis Baute ..........................................16

  2.6 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam China Winner 2014 Yanting Wang .......................................................18

3 News & Developments .....................................................................21

  3.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries .........................21

    3.1.1 Investment Plan for Europe: European Fund for Strategic Investments adds firepower to Horizon 2020 for innovative SMEs .21

    3.1.2 ICT innovation: SMEs make best use of EU research funding ......21

    3.1.3 Horizon 2020 project information now available on CORDIS ........22

    3.1.4 Commission seeks the next European Capital of Innovation ........23

    3.1.5 ERC Advanced Grants: EUR 445 million from the EU to 190 senior research leaders ...............................................................24

    3.1.6 EPO supports new platform on renewable energy innovation ......24

    3.1.7 New trends in Open Science ....................................................25

    3.1.8 Over 31 million jobs across Europe supported by EU exports to the world, EU report says ..........................................................26

    3.1.9 Information Day on Horizon 2020 'Environment & Resource Efficiency' ..............................................................................26

    3.1.10 Info Day on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 'Smart, green and integrated transport' .............................................26

    3.1.11 Saving solar energy for a rainy day through hydrogen conversion .27
3.1.12 Helping the public sector get innovative while saving money ........27
3.1.13 Trending science: Study reveals dramatic differences in rates of ageing ..................................................................................................................28
3.2 ASEAN .................................................................................................................29
3.2.1 Singapore Becomes First Non-European EMBC Member .................29
3.2.2 Newton Fund a boon to researchers in Thailand ........................................29
3.2.3 EUR 1.4 Million For geoscience scholarships in Singapore ..............30
3.2.4 New university will add another chip to Thailand's emerging 'Silicon Valley' ........................................................................................................30
3.2.5 EU Delegation Vietnam hosts award ceremony for an on-line Climate Change Quiz 2015 .................................................................30
3.2.6 European Commission releases biennial report on the protection and enforcement of IPRs in third countries ........................................31
3.2.7 France part of multinational Southeast Asia expedition to assess tsunami risks and impact .................................................................31
3.2.8 UK research industry promoted on SE Asian trade delegation ..........31
3.2.9 Developing nations urged to spend big on science .................................32
4 Grants & Fellowships ..........................................................................................32
4.1 Merlion Programme supports researcher mobility between Singapore and France ..........................................................................................32
4.2 Singapore-Israel Joint Research Programme Call .......................................33
4.3 Southeast Asia - Europe Pilot Joint Call for Mobility to be published soon!! .................................................................................................33
4.4 UK Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants Open to Researchers in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines ...............34
4.5 Newton Advanced Fellowships Open to Thai and Malaysian Scientists 34
4.6 Newton Fund: UK-China-Philippines-Thailand-Vietnam call for collaborative research proposals in rice research .....................................35
4.7 EMBO Long Term Fellowships Open to ASEAN Researchers .............35
4.8 EMBO Short-Term Fellowships Open to Researchers in ASEAN.
    Three-month research visits to labs in Europe .............................................35
4.9 EMBO Courses and Workshops ....................................................................36
4.10 Germany - Georg Forster Research Fellowship - Excellent Opportunity for Researchers from ASEAN .........................................................36
4.11 Germany - George Forster Research Award - Open to ASEAN scientists .................................................................................................36
4.12 European University - Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships Deadline 25 October 2015 ......................................................... 37

4.13 Austria: Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad ............ 37

4.14 Austria: ISTFELLOW Postdoctoral Fellowships ............................. 37

4.15 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND ........ 38

4.16 CERN Postdoctoral Fellowships .................................................. 38

4.17 Turkey: TÜBİTAK Fellowships for Visiting Scientists ...................... 38

4.18 H2020 – 2016 Calls soon to be announced. ................................... 38

4.19 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions– Call for Individual Fellowships is open to researchers in ASEAN............................................. 39

4.20 The European Research Council (ERC) Work Programme includes the 2016 Indicative Call Dates .............................................. 39

4.21 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants to be announced soon. Open to ASEAN researchers................................. 40

4.22 Video “Step by step guide to ERC grants” ...................................... 41

4.23 National EURAXESS portals .......................................................... 41

5 Jobs .................................................................................................. 41

6 Events ............................................................................................... 42


7 Resources ......................................................................................... 43
1 EU Insight – Conference: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation

On 22 and 23 June, over 600 scientists, innovators, and policy-makers gathered in Brussels, Belgium under the umbrella of the conference “A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation” to discuss Open Science, the European Research Area, and Innovation. Bringing together key players from the fields of research, business and innovation, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to not only forge ideas on how to bring growth and jobs to Europe and to share views on the Innovation Union, but also to network with key stakeholders and decision-makers – and, ultimately, to shape the future of Europe’s research and innovation policy.¹

Commissioner Moedas’ opening speech: Strategic priorities to tackle Europe’s challenges – Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World²

On 22 June, Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation, opened the conference by summarising the achievements in respect to the creation of the European Research Area and researcher mobility, stating that mobility is becoming a normal part of the career of every researcher which is also underlined by the fact that around one in three EU researchers have been internationally mobile over the last 10 years. Furthermore, he highlighted the eight-fold increase in the number of jobs advertised on the EURAXESS site since 2007, with around 10,000 job offers on any given day.

“I see fantastic strengths in Europe. We are open, we have diversity, we host great institutions. With Horizon 2020, we are funding research on an unprecedented scale.”

Carlos Moedas
Commissioner for Science, Research and Innovation

22 June 2015
Opening speech

¹ Commissioner Moedas’ opening speech: Strategic priorities to tackle Europe’s challenges – Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World

² Commission Moedas’ opening speech: Strategic priorities to tackle Europe’s challenges – Open Innovation, Open Science, and Openness to the World
However, Commissioner Moedas also recognized the three most pressing challenges Europe is facing, i.e. that Europe rarely succeeds in bringing research results to market, that Europe falls behind on the very best science in some areas despite generating more scientific output than any other region in the world, and that Europe punches below its weight in international science and science diplomacy.

To tackle these challenges, the commissioner focused on three strategic priorities, including ‘openness to the world’. Here, he outlined his vision of creating not only a research area on a European scale, but a global research area: “This will not happen in one step, but through developing partnerships with other areas, such as China, Latin America and the United States. […] So, during my mandate I commit myself to launch and expand a series of international initiatives.”

**Live streaming, presentations and the programme**

The conference’s website³ now hosts a number of presentations and speeches as well as the final programme of the conference. Also available are the session recordings of the live streaming, which can be accessed [here](http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2015/era-of-innovation/index.cfm).

**Sources and further information**


3 See footnote 1.
2 Interviews with the EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 Winners

In mid-June (14th-17th), the six winners of the EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 came together in Bonn, Germany to claim their prize: a two-day science communication training in Bonn, Germany; a trip to Brussels, Belgium to meet with European Commission officials involved in European and international research and innovation; and an individual meeting at a European research institution of their choice as a way to encourage and support their future scientific careers.

2.1 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN Winner 2014 Bhamini Bhujun

Bhamini, please tell us about your research background and interests

My research deals with supercapacitors. These are energy storage devices that can charge in the space of seconds and retain the charge for several days. Supercapacitors aim at replacing batteries in the near future.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

I was browsing the internet when I came across Jibby’s video (winner of EURAXESS ASEAN 2013). It was very interesting and I thought why not give it a try.

Why did you decide to participate?

I thought that this was an interesting platform where I can showcase my research to the general public.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.

At first it was a bit stressful, because I was going to deliver a live presentation. However, after I met the other participants, the tension eased. They were all here to have fun while presenting their research.

What was the message that you wanted to deliver to the audience attending the live finals?

I wanted to engage with the audience by using their everyday lives. Almost everyone uses a smartphone and they could relate to the low-battery difficulty

Bhamini Bhujun
Born in Mauritius.
BENG at the University of Mauritius
MSC at the University of Nottingham
PHD (Current) at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
they experience everyday. I wanted to convince the audience that my research is definitely ground-breaking in terms of energy storage in electronic devices.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

Personally, the pre-selection video was more challenging because it was the first time I was making a video. I had to research on sound effects as well as graphics and efficiently incorporate my message in the video.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?

I did not expect it at all. There were some really awesome presentations and when I was announced as the winner, it took some time for the thought to register in my mind. After I finally realized that I am really the winner, I was exhilarated. The immediate thought was "Europe-here I come."

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

Definitely! The Science Slam is an incredible experience. You get to meet other researchers and showcase your work in a relaxed, casual way. It also gives you the opportunity to step back from the scientific world and have a more general view of your work.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

Do not use any scientific jargon. The audience is not specialised in your field. And most importantly, remember have fun.

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America. How was your training in scientific communication?

Meeting the other slammers was a fascinating experience. I got to learn about their research and experience different cultures. The two day training was interesting. The trainers were so passionate about their field and it was a fun learning experience.

EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit to a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

I chose to visit the CNRS in France, since it is one of the leading research institutes in my field in Europe. My meeting was scheduled with Dr Patrice Simon, who is an expert in the field of supercapacitors.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

This was the first time I was visiting a research institute in Europe.

Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?
I am definitely thinking of doing post-doc research at the CNRS. They are very specialised and they have a state of the art lab that would be a dream for any researcher.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

I met up with the EURAXESS service centre in Toulouse and I found a group of pleasant, research-focused people. They gave me a general idea about the services they offer. These services aim at facilitating bureaucratic procedures for a researcher.

Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

Being a Science Slam winner was an incredible experience. It opened doors to so many opportunities and most importantly, winning the Science Slam provided me with the opportunity of visiting my dream institution.

Thank you for your time!

2.2 Meet the researcher: Interview with Kai Narita, EURAXESS Science Slam Japan Winner 2014

Kai, tell us about your research background and interests.

My background is material sciences. My research focuses on biomaterials using magnesium/calcium phosphate composites.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

I attended the 1st EURAXESS Science Slam Japan in 2013 as an audience Why did you decide to participate?

I wanted to try showing my research to non-scientists. Moreover, the first prize, and the opportunities provided for the winner is very attractive, because building a connection with a scientist at an European institute in order to find a PhD position is not easy for a Japanese master’s course student to do on their own.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.

I showed my research of magnesium (Mg) as a new bone fixation wearing a Harry Potter costume. I started by comparing the philosopher’s stone (magic) and Mg (science) as a healing tool, and did some (I hope) funny experiments using Mg.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

Both the video and presentation time were very short. It was difficult for me to make them short while retaining important and entertaining points.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?
It was very impressive. I learned how my research can be interesting for non-scientists and researchers from other fields from the audience members’ reaction to my performance and other finalists’ presentations, which were very exciting.

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

Yes! Basically, science is not only for scientists but also for all people. I think, to learn how to show your research is very important in a researchers’ career, because you have many opportunities to explain your research to people who are not familiar with your science field; an interviewer for funding, collaborator of another field, even your parents!

Moreover, the Science Slam is fun!

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

Go beyond just an explanation and presentation! Make it easy to be understood by your parents, and don’t forget that you can do any type of performance during the Science Slam.

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from ASEAN, Brazil, China, India and North America. How was your training in scientific communication?

I learned many things related to science communication from the training. I think that the study of science communication is usually conducted for a science communicator: a science administrator, science journalist, science curator of museum and so on. However, in this time, I learned science communication from the view of a researcher, which is very helpful for my research career.

EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit to a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

I met some researchers at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, in Potsdam, Germany: Dr Bertinetti, Dr Habraken and Dr Dunlop. The reason of the visit was to find a PhD position related to the work of biomimetic materials.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

Yes. I also visited the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London in UK.

Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?

Yes. I would like to conduct my PhD research at one of the European institutes I visited.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

They help an international researcher concerning almost any aspect of life, from learning a language to dealing with the authorities.
Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

Yes! It is difficult to even get a reply by just sending an e-mail to an institute in Europe from an unknown Japanese student. In particular, my current research and the topic which I am interested in for a PhD position are different. Thus, I think the influence of being a science slam winner was very high!

Thank you for your time!

2.3 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam India Winner 2014 Anand kant Das

Anand, please tell us about your research background and interests

After completing my Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Chemistry from St Stephen’s college, Delhi, India, I joined the Integrated-Masters of Science (Biological Sciences) and Ph.D. (Neuroscience and Biophysics) program at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, India. At present, I am a senior PhD scholar working in the Biophotonics laboratory of Prof Sudipta Maiti where we investigate biophysically tractable problems using sensitive tools.

My present research focuses on the key steps which underlie debilitating neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. A better understanding of the disease mechanism will help us gather leads for designing effective therapeutics. I use a variety of very sensitive biophysical tools and techniques to probe damage of nerve cells in these diseases. In addition to this, I have a passion for science writing and communication and independently maintain a science blog by the name ‘Artha-meaning-of-Life’.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

I first time heard about the Science Slam was when I first encountered a beautiful poster on the notice board of TIFR announcing the EURAXESS Science Slam competition. In addition to this, quite a few emails were circulated by the institute briefing on the nature of the contest. I went online and decided to explore the do’s and don’ts of science slamming and this is how I got an idea of what slamming is all about.

Why did you decide to participate?

I believe that there is a wide gap exists between the research and innovations which take place in laboratories and what reaches the interested public. The only way to bridge the gap is science communication. It is an effective way to disseminate scientific knowledge and explain the wider relevance of scientific findings to societies. A science slam is a very powerful and entertaining way to communicate scientific research and this motivated me to participate in the event. In addition, the first prize—a trip to Europe, for the slam winner looked very tempting.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.
I work on proteins which are believed to cause damage to brain circuits in Alzheimer's disease. This malady of Alzheimer's is so devastating that the principle memory center of the brain gets damaged and eventually the other key areas of the brain are also paralyzed. The worst symptom of the disease arrives late but comes with a bang. One loses memory of everything including one's own name. It looks as if in the canvas of life, relationships and societies one has lost oneself. To be precise, one has forgotten one's own identity, experiences of life and everything what we call a collective memory of us and hence my talk was titled as 'A forgotten life…'.

I delivered a 10 min slam (see picture above) in front of a lively and enthusiastic audience at Café Zoe in Mumbai. It was a tough job but a great learning experience for me. The show was extremely well organized and professionally managed. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and learnt a lot of interesting science from fellow slammers.

In my own slam, I tried to explain the complexity of the human brain by giving proper anecdotes and examples. I briefly talked about how nerve cells talk to functions. If the information transfer is disrupted, then brain functions is affected. Such is the fatal turn of events in Alzheimer's disease that one's own proteins, Amyloid-β, turn rogue, form gangs and attack nerve cells disrupting communication between nerve cells; thus leading to damage of the memory center of the brain. My own research has lead to identification of two key parts of this protein, the fold region which is important for attaching to nerve cells, and the leg region of the protein which pulls the toxic trigger. Targeting these two regions could, in principle, lead to advanced therapeutics. I made use of a power-point presentation, videos, brain models and other props to bring out the excitement of my research to the non-expert audience.

What was the message that you wanted to deliver to the audience attending the live finals?

My message to the audience can be summarised in three key ideas:

1. The brain is very complex. Communication between nerve cells is most important for brain function.
2. Certain self-proteins turn rogue and can cause deficits in nerve communication.
3. Alzheimer’s disease causing Aβ protein can attack nerve cells with its bum region and pulls triggers with its legs. These two regions can principally be targeted in reducing brain damage in Alzheimer's disease.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

The live presentation was more challenging because there was no scope for retake. Additionally, you cannot overshoot the allotted time.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?

The experience can’t be summarized in a few words. It was a very enriching, entertaining and a great learning experience for me. I got to interact not only with
fellow speakers but also with the audiences and guests during the networking dinner. The ambience of the café, the aroma of the food and of course the slam sessions made my evening. Thank you EURAXESS for organizing such a lovely event. Three cheers to the team and management.

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

Yes, in brief I recommend the slam in the strongest possible words. I think more and more researchers should come out of their laboratories and share their research with society (the principle source of research - public money) and make them understand how the public money is being used to do useful and exciting science. Science communication will bridge a lot of gaps and also enthuse people with rational and scientific thought processes. Slamming is a fun way to communicate and I wish good luck to all the slammers in near future.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

Science communication is not that easy, particularly when the complexity and the relevance of one's own research needs to be explained to a lay person. Nevertheless, it is a fun and necessary exercise because as you prepare to explain your work, it gives you a sense of ownership and increases your confidence as you reach out to the public. Chalk out the key aims of your project in three basic ideas and then spend time thinking of ways to simplify these without going wrong on the scientific side or over claiming the findings.

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from ASEAN, Brazil, China, Japan and North America. How was your training in scientific communication?

Meeting fellow slammers from different parts of the world was great fun. The two-day science communication training programme was one of the best training workshops I have ever attended. The trainers were stalwarts in the field. The workshop was highly useful and covered different aspects of communication. It was very interactive in nature and comprised of different modules which taught us a lot.

EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit to a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

I opted for Cambridge University, UK and went on to meet Prof Maria Grazia Spillantini and Prof Peter St George-Hyslop. They are leading researchers in the field of neurodegenerative diseases, an area which is of immense interest to me.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

This was the first time I made contact with European researchers. Prior to this trip, I had only read about their work but had no contact with them. Thanks to EURAXESS, I could meet not only experts from Cambridge University but also make a private trip to Gottingen, Paris, Vienna etc. and meet leading researchers from these universities.
Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?

My trip to Europe was a life changing experience for me. It was a very successful and satisfying trip. I could meet, discuss and network with leading European scientists and policy makers. I was lucky enough to bag a few postdoctoral positions and have finally decided to take up a postdoctoral position at Vienna University of Technology.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

I met Dr Joy Warde at Cambridge. She was very helpful and kind. I discussed at length with her about different funding schemes which exists for researchers, accommodation and things related to a long term stay at Cambridge.

Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

Yes, definitely it did. I could communicate with confidence and clarity with leading European scientists. This eventually led me to post doc offers at various leading laboratories in Europe.

Thank you for your time!

2.4 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam Brazil Winner 2014 Vanessa Cardoso Pires

Vanessa, please tell us about your research background and interests

At the beginning of my research career, I was interested in investigating the effects of functional foods on male reproduction. Following this interest, I worked with green tea and grape juice. However, when I finished my Master’s degree, I wanted to open my mind to new areas. For this reason, I went to the US to learn more about natural products on cancer prevention and treatment, but this was not exactly what I wanted to work on. So, in my PhD project, I had the opportunity to put together the topics of male reproduction, functional foods and cancer, in an amazing and new area called maternal and paternal programming. Finally, my currently research project is focused on investigating the effects of maternal and/or paternal blackberry extract consumption on breast cancer risk in female offspring.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

I learned about the EURAXESS Science Slam on Facebook.

Why did you decide to participate?

I decided to participate in this competition because I and other friends created a group about science communication in Brazil (GATU), mainly due to the difficulty that some professors have in transmitting knowledge. However, we had no idea
about how relevant this topic is around the world, since in Brazil this has no great importance.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.

In my live presentation, I represented Death. She talked about her life and the difficulty of doing her job, which is to induce breast cancer in women, mainly because of research on the prevention of breast cancer before one is born through parents’ food intake. She was desperate and searching for a new opportunity in life in Europe.

What was the message that you wanted to deliver to the audience attending the live finals?

The most important thing in the final is to relax, enjoy this unique moment and have fun.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

The live presentation was more challenging because you need to transmit the principal message about your research project to a non-expert audience, that is not easy, and holding everyone’s attention using funny tools.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?

I can say that was a unique experience, not only the European trip (that was wonderful), but I also had the opportunity to show my research project on a TV show; radio; the website of my university; a lot of blogs, etc. I have been able enjoy good visibility to present a little of the big research world in Brazil.

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

Definitely yes! This is a great opportunity to develop abilities that in the academic environment, in general, is not allowed.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

If their grandparents and parents could understand their research project, probably is because is it easy to understand. I think this is the principal thing in the EURAXESS Science Slam. Other thing is: have fun!

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from ASEAN, China, India, Japan and North America. How was your training in scientific communication?

The training in scientific communication was wonderful! Not only because the course was extremely intense and productive, but also the opportunity to work with the other slammers. I was able to learn a little about each country and what the research area there is like.
EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

I decided to visit the University of Cambridge because one of the most important research groups in my area is located there.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

Yes, I have participated in a workshop at my university in partnership with the University of Cambridge. But the experience to be in the European research environment is irreplaceable.

Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?

Yes. During my visit in Europe, I could see how much greater the investment is in research compared to Brazil. It is really different and much better than in my country.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

I have received a lot of information about different ways to apply to a post-doc programme at the University of Cambridge; what kind of assistance they have; the cost of living in Cambridge and the benefits of studying there.

Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

I think so, because I could show my possible future boss more abilities than we can learn in academia. Maybe this can be a differentiator between me and other candidates.

Thank you for your time!

2.5 Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam North America Winner 2014 Kurtis Baute

Kurtis Baute is from rural Ontario, Canada. He holds a B.A. in Biology from Wilfrid Laurier University, and is currently finishing a M.Sc. candidate in Environmental Science at the University of Guelph.

kurtis.baute@gmail.com

Kurtis, please tell us about your research background and interests.

Currently, I’m trying to turn plants into power, by researching a form of renewable energy called ‘biogas’. It’s a super interesting field, but my passion for science communication has overwhelmed me – it’s what I want to do next. I want to know what scientists can do to make their research more accessible, and that too will take research.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

An email made its way through my university and reached me through a friend.

Why did you decide to participate?

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
I love making videos almost as much as I love science. Combine that with the fact that I don’t mind being a bit silly now and then, and submitting something to the competition became a no-brainer for me.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.

My live slam was one part audience participation, one part song, two parts nerdy science jokes, and six parts just having fun.

What was the message that you wanted to deliver to the audience attending the live finals?

I wanted to help the audience see that the future of energy production is probably not as bleak as they thought, but also suggest that it might be weirder than they imagined.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

The live presentation was certainly trickier for me in some ways. I wasn’t sure if my slam was going to be too long or too short, and choosing what to leave in and take out was hard.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?

I would say: Wow. The whole experience has lead to being contacted by newspapers, put our lab in touch with other researchers, it definitely didn’t hurt in helping me get a science communication job, and it sent me off to Europe to meet and learn from some incredible people. It has been a game changer for me.

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

Yes, of course! Do it! Worst case scenario, you tried something new and learned some things. Best case scenario, you are suddenly in Europe thinking about how your life has changed.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

Just go for it. Be yourself, have fun, and know that looking a bit silly is not only ‘OK’, it’s basically encouraged.

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from ASEAN, Brazil, China, India and Japan. How was your training in scientific communication?

The training was excellent. I learned a ton from the speakers, and became part of a growing community of enthusiastic scientists.

EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit to a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

The live presentation video can be watched online here.
I went off to the University of Copenhagen to meet with Jan Sølberg in the department of Science Education. Of all of Europe, I chose to go there because it seemed like the sort of city I could see myself living in at some point (did you know there are 1.8 bikes per person there?), and because it had a prestigious research group that I was interested in meeting.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

I have had only a very brief introduction to a European research group before, and not in the field of science education.

Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?

Definitely. If and when I decide to start my PhD, Europe will be on the top of my wish list.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

The main thing I learned in meeting with the EURAXESS service centre representative in Copenhagen is that there is a huge amount of support. You don’t have to go through the process of applying and moving to Europe on your own.

Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

Yup! Once I managed to make contact with the researchers there and once they knew I had won a contest for all of North America and chose to visit them, of all of Europe, they were definitely keen to meet me. However, I learned that I had to be a bit careful about keeping my emails out of spam boxes, because apparently this prize is unbelievable even to computers.

Thank you for your time!

Yanting Wang, born in Deyang, China, is now a PhD candidate at Peking University. Her research focus is on the molecular mechanisms underlying opioid addiction and her team identified heat shock protein 70 as a novel biological target for behavioral sensitisation induced by a single morphine exposure in rats.

Email address: phylliswang_2005@126.com

Meet the researcher: Interview with EURAXESS Science Slam China Winner 2014 Yanting Wang

In mid-June (14th-17th), the six winners of the EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 came together in Bonn, Germany to claim their prize: a two-day science communication training in Bonn, Germany; a trip to Brussels, Belgium to meet with European Commission officials involved in European and international research and innovation; and an individual meeting at a European research institution of their choice as a way to encourage and support their future scientific careers.

More than seven months earlier, Ms Yanting Wang (Peking University) participated in and won the EURAXESS Science Slam China. In the interview to follow, the Ms Wang recounts her experiences taking part in and winning the EURAXESS Science Slam and how doing so has affected her burgeoning research career.
Yanting, please tell us about your research background and interests

Molecular mechanisms underlying opioid addiction and looking for novel biological targets for prevention and treatment of opioid addiction.

How did you learn about the EURAXESS Science Slam competition?

I learned about it from the website of Peking University (posted by the Office of International Relations).

Why did you decide to participate?

First of all, it is very different from most scientific presentations, and the main purpose is to create fun from science. Secondly, I like making speeches, but I never tried to amuse the general public in a scientific context. This was a challenge for me, but attracted me a lot. Thirdly, I hoped that my presentation might change some people’s perspectives about science.

Please tell EURAXESS Links Newsletter readers about the live presentation that you made.

The topic of my live presentation is “A story about addiction: How can rats help us?” I began with a short self-made video to attract people’s interest in addiction and let people have a general idea about what my research is. Then I told people what problem I would like to solve and how I tried to solve it. Finally, I ended my presentation with a short rap to stress the significance of this research and my expectation about new medication for prevention and treatment of addiction.

What was the message that you wanted to deliver to the audience attending the live finals?

There is a lot of fun in science and scientists can, sometimes, be very interesting.

What did you find more challenging, preparing the pre-selection video or the live presentation?

The live presentation was much more challenging.

What was your experience like as winner of the 2nd global EURAXESS Science Slam?

It was a memorable event in my post graduate career. It is still a very fresh memory for me, especially those days when my friends and I discussed every detail about the final presentation.

Would you recommend taking part in the Science Slam to other researchers? Why?

I would recommend every researcher who is truly interested in science to participate, because it is an opportunity for us to see science in a new perspective.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective EURAXESS Science Slam participants?

1. Prepare well.
2. Speak loudly.
3. Be passionate.

4. Never think about winning or losing; just think about the presentation itself.

You were awarded a trip to Europe and met the other slammers from ASEAN, Brazil, India, Japan and North America. How was your training in scientific communication?

I enjoyed the science communication training and doing related exercises together with other winners from diversified backgrounds, and I learned about some skills in this field. It is very useful to me and it is also a possible career path for researches.

EURAXESS also funded your trip to visit to a European research institute of your choice. Which institute did you visit and who did you decide to meet? Why?

I visited Dr Hamid Noori at the Central Institute of Mental Health, at the University of Heidelberg. The reasons are that first of all, my interest is on addiction, and second of all, I am very interested in in-silico pharmacology, which is a new discipline allowing people to make treatment predictions without experimental efforts and to push drug repurposing to a novel level. Dr Noori is an expert in in-silico pharmacology and his research interest is also drug addiction. Therefore, I decided to visit him.

Have you had any contact with European research before?

Yes, I once participated in an international exchange programme hosted by Copenhagen University.

Would you now consider coming to Europe for either a short-term or long-term period to pursue a research career or additional studies?

Yes, I would like to.

You also had a meeting with the local EURAXESS Service Centre. What kind of information did you receive?

The meeting with the local EURAXESS service centre in Mannheim was not possible. But I met the staff of the German EURAXESS Bridgehead Organisation. I consulted with them about German classes and it seems that there are many choices for international researchers to learn German in Germany.

Do you think that being a Science Slam winner had an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?

I think so.

Thank you for your time!
3 News & Developments

3.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

3.1.1 Investment Plan for Europe: European Fund for Strategic Investments adds firepower to Horizon 2020 for innovative SMEs

The European Commission has put the final building blocks in place to kick-start investment in the real economy. A package of measures agreed on 22 July will ensure that the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is up and Jean-Claude Juncker to implement the Investment Plan for Europe.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, today signed an agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) that will enable the EFSI to enhance existing loan guarantee instruments. This notably concerns the InnovFin SME Guarantee, a part of the new generation of financial instruments developed under Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation funding programme.

Globally, the EFSI SME Window is expected to support at least EUR 30 billion of investments carried out by innovative SMEs and small mid-caps.

In the context of the Horizon 2020 InnovFin facilities, the Commission, the EIB and the EIF have also signed another agreement on a new pilot scheme run under the InnovFin SME Venture Capital facility, which will co-finance investments by business angels (BAs) in innovative SMEs and small midcaps that predominantly aim to commercialize new ICT-related products and services.

The aim of this pilot is to help overcome the deficiencies of the BAs financing environment by providing equity stakes in funds aiming to co-invest with or managed by BAs for the ultimate benefit of innovative SMEs and small midcaps located in the Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020, with a particular focus on Central and Easter Europe. With an initial EU financial contribution of EUR 30 million, this pilot is expected to generate an amount of up to EUR 120 million of investments.

Read more (Source: European Commission)

3.1.2 ICT innovation: SMEs make best use of EU research funding

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are champions of EU research programmes: they deliver 41% of the high potential innovations generated in ICT-related EU-funded research and innovation projects, despite accounting for a mere 14% of the total funding. However, greater focus on technology than on business strategies is one of the main bottlenecks when it comes to getting these innovations to the market.
These are some of the findings of the Innovation Radar survey which analysed information and communication technology (ICT) research and innovation projects funded by two European research programmes: the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). The survey was conducted by the JRC.

Other findings include:

Germany, Spain and the UK host the highest number of organisations identified as key innovators (17%, 12.3% and 12% respectively) and are trailed by Italy (10.9%) and France (9.6%). As for cities, Barcelona tops the list by hosting 19 innovative organisations (universities, innovative SMEs, startups), followed by London and Paris with 17 each, and Milan with 16.

However, reaching the market is not a smooth process for innovators: a quarter of already mature innovations are not yet being exploited. Among these, half were assessed as being innovations with high market potential. One of the main barriers to market commercialisation is that the projects' focus on technology aspects too often is at the expense of developing a market strategy. Of those market studies, a business plan is on the agenda for only 27% of the projects. That is why the European Commission is already improving links between innovators in EU-funded research projects and services that help such innovators prepare to "reach the market".

Nearly 70% of the innovations surveyed are to be brought to market within two years. Currently, 10% of all innovations are already being exploited, either on the market or internally by a partner organisation.

Read more (Source: ERC)

3.1.3 Horizon 2020 project information now available on CORDIS

CORDIS is continuing its role as the European Commission's primary public repository, containing over 100,000 EU-funded research projects and results stretching back 25 years and now extending its services to Horizon 2020 projects.

The first Horizon 2020 grants were signed in 2014 and hundreds of new projects are being added each month. CORDIS retrieves its information from the grant agreements, publishing for each project its acronym, costs, topic, funding scheme, objectives, coordinating and participating organisations, including the EC contribution for each beneficiary. Horizon 2020 projects can currently be found through their programme area and topic but further information is planned to be added, including project websites, contact persons and cross-cutting domains. A more thematic approach to information will also be explored.

The publishable reports from Horizon 2020 projects will also be made available on CORDIS in the future, alongside the thousands of Report Summaries currently being submitted by projects funded under FP7, the previous framework programme. The publication of these reports is followed by
multilingual Results in Brief for each project and coverage in the free research.eu results magazine – making it easier to identify exploitable results and opportunities for innovation.

Project factsheets on CORDIS also display the Open Access publications and research data collected by OpenAIRE.

CORDIS provides the EU Open Data Portal with popular datasets for all FP4, FP5, FP6, FP7 and now H2020 projects, allowing data consumers to reuse and repurpose machine-readable project information as needed, alongside thousands of other public datasets from the EU institutions. The CORDIS search engine also offers tools to retrieve data in different formats like RSS, PDF, XML, CSV or just regular email notifications, with plans to progressively extend these functions.

CORDIS focuses on research results but if you are interested in participating in an EU-funded project, you can find everything you need on the Participant Portal: funding calls, reference documents, submission of proposals, expert evaluators and project management and reporting. You can also find out more about the current 2014-2020 framework programme on the Horizon 2020 website.

Read more (Source: European Commission)

3.1.4 Commission seeks the next European Capital of Innovation

Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, launched on 9 July the second edition of the European Capital of Innovation award at the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions.

Won by Barcelona in 2014, this competition rewards the European city which is building the best “innovation ecosystem”, connecting citizens, public organisations, academia, and business. Given that urban areas generate two thirds of the EU’s GDP, it is these areas that will contribute the most to making Europe more innovative. The new Capital of Innovation will receive EUR 950,000 to scale up its innovation activities. The second and third cities in the ranking will respectively receive EUR 100,000 and EUR 50,000 for networking activities. The competition is open until 18 November 2015.

Applicant cities will be judged on how on-going and future initiatives create the right environment to innovate. An independent panel of experts will select the winning city and the two runners-up in early 2016.

The contest is open to cities:

which have over 100,000 inhabitants (in countries where there is no city with more than 100,000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply);

from EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon 2020, the European research and innovation programme.
3.1.5 ERC Advanced Grants: EUR 445 million from the EU to 190 senior research leaders

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced the award of its prestigious Advanced Grants to 190 senior researchers. The funding, worth in total EUR 445 million, will enable them and their teams to pursue ground-breaking ideas. These are the first ERC Advanced Grants awarded under the 'excellent science' pillar of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme launched in 2014.

The grantees will work on a wide range of topics and will follow many different approaches as the ERC supports frontier research in all areas of knowledge in a very open format. The following examples illustrate this diversity: a researcher in Italy will set up a team pioneering gene therapy for heart arrhythmias; a scientist in Sweden will address the outstanding questions for understanding the most important liquid on Earth – water; a Czech biologist will investigate biodiversity in tropical and temperate forests.

ERC grants are awarded to researchers of any nationality based in, or willing to move to, Europe. In this competition, researchers of 23 different nationalities received the funding, with British (38), German (33), Dutch (18), French (17) and Italian (16) researchers awarded the highest number of grants.

The new ERC projects will be hosted in 17 countries across Europe, with the United Kingdom (45 grants), Germany (29) and France (23) as top locations.

3.1.6 EPO supports new platform on renewable energy innovation

Policy makers and other energy sector players now have consolidated access to the world's largest collection of global renewable energy standards and patent documents, thanks to a new online platform launched by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in co-operation with the European Patent Office (EPO). Also known as INSPIRE, the International Standards and Patents in Renewable Energy platform is the first and most complete solution of its kind, helping users locate, search and analyse more than two million patent documents and 400 international standards relating to renewable energy and carbon mitigation technologies.

The result of collaboration between IRENA, the EPO and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), INSPIRE has multiple functionalities:

- The patents section contains information on over two million patent documents relating to carbon mitigation technologies from the world's most comprehensive global patent statistics database, PATSTAT, and links to the world's most comprehensive public online search tool for
patent documents, Espacenet, including its dedicated “Y02” patent classification scheme for carbon mitigation technologies.

- The standards section enables users to search through a database of more than 400 internationally used standards and generate reports as needed. It also explains what standards are, how they can be used and why they are important for quality assurance, investor confidence and the combination of resources on INSPIRE will help users analyse various aspects of renewable energy policy and innovation. It can help indicate the effectiveness of policies to promote renewable energy innovation through the analysis of trends in patent activity. Users can also perform metadata analysis of technology trends, comparing development within, or between, different technologies. For example, the number of patents filed for renewable energy technology has increased annually by more than 20% in recent years, while the average increase for other technologies is around 6%.

Read more (Source: EPO)

3.1.7 New trends in Open Science

Open Science is a broad term, covering the many exciting developments in how science is becoming more open, accessible, efficient, democratic, and transparent. This Open Science revolution is being driven by new, digital tools for scientific collaboration, experiments and analysis and which make scientific knowledge more easily accessible by professionals and the general public, anywhere, at any time.

At the Competitiveness Council, which took place from 28-29 May 2015, the European Research ministers agreed on the development of a European Open Science Agenda under the European Research Area. In its conclusions, the Council called for open, data-intensive and networked research and emphasised the importance of developing e-infrastructures.

Opening the “Opening up to an era of innovation” conference, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas, outlined the plans for Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World: "New knowledge is created through global collaborations involving thousands of people from across the world and from all walks of life".

On the same occasion, European Commissioners Günther H. Oettinger and Carlos Moedas published a joint blog post exploring open science, its role in boosting innovation & growth in Europe and the position of the EU. They announced the European Open Science Cloud initiative and the strategy on open data in research.

A public consultation on Science 2.0/open science was held between July and September 2014 to gather the opinions of a broad sample of interested parties from across the EU research landscape. The final report has been published.

Read more (Source: European Commission)
3.1.8 Over 31 million jobs across Europe supported by EU exports to the world, EU report says

In a new report released on 1 June by the European Commission, the increasing importance of EU exports for job opportunities in Europe and elsewhere is highlighted.

The report, prepared jointly by the JRC and the Directorate-General for Trade, analyses the complex interaction between trade activities, the job markets and income in all EU Member States and comes to the following main conclusions:

- EU exports to the world are increasingly important for supporting jobs in Europe; these export-related jobs are on average better paid than the jobs in the rest of the economy.
- Citizens from all Member States, not only from the export ‘powerhouses’, benefit from them. They either work in firms selling directly outside the EU or in firms supplying inputs to exporters. Those may be located both in their own Member State or elsewhere in the EU.
- With the expansion of global value chains, EU exports support more and more jobs not only in the EU but also in our partner countries.

Read more (Source: European Commission)

3.1.9 Information Day on Horizon 2020 ‘Environment & Resource Efficiency’

The European Commission is organising an Information Day on 21 September 2015 in Brussels to present the 2016 work programme of Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials" as well as related call topics in the “Blue Growth - Demonstrating an Ocean of Opportunities”, “Industry 2020 in the Circular Economy” and “Smart and Sustainable Cities” focus areas.

The morning plenary session will focus on the general strategy behind the new work programme also providing guidance on the preparation of proposals. During the afternoon sessions participants will then have plenty of opportunities to network and find project partners. If you wish to attend, please register in advance via our website (first come, first served).

Sessions will also be web-streamed and you are welcome to submit your questions via Twitter using #H2020SC5.

Further information here.

3.1.10 Info Day on the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017 'Smart, green and integrated transport'

The Information Day to be held on 5 November 2015 in Brussels will target potential applicants to the calls for project proposals under the Horizon 2020 challenge ‘Smart, green and integrated transport’.
Presentations will cover the Work Programme for 2016-2017 and the application procedure, as well as detailed information on the calls. Participants will have networking opportunities throughout the day.

More information and the agenda will follow. Compulsory registration for the event will open in September.

Further information here.

3.1.11 Saving solar energy for a rainy day through hydrogen conversion

While solar energy is renewable and abundant enough to meet Europe’s growing energy demand, sunny days are not always guaranteed. Finding a cost-effective means of storing solar energy for a ‘rainy day’ would go some way to solving this problem. This was the challenge addressed by the COCHALPEC project, part-funded through an EU Marie-Curie Intra-European Fellowship (IEF) grant, which officially ended in May 2015.

The project’s success could help Member States in their obligations to fulfil the Renewable Energy Directive, which requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, ranging from a low of 10% in Malta to a high of 49% in Sweden.

The COCHALPEC (Development of electrodes based on copper chalcogenide nanocrystals for photo-electrochemical energy conversion) project’s starting point was to develop – in an efficient and cost-effective manner – solar panels capable of generating an electrical current to split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen (hydrogen has been shown to be a viable form of solar fuel). While the concept is simple, the cost of water-splitting technologies has – until now – been too expensive to commercialise.

In response to this challenge, the COCHALPEC team found a way of making efficient, low-cost solar panels that are capable of directly producing solar hydrogen. The key to this solution was the adoption of so-called 2-D materials – sometimes referred to as single layer materials – which consist of a single layer of atoms. Perhaps the best-known 2-D material is graphene, a single-layer of graphite that, like other potential 2-D materials, offers extraordinary electronic properties.

Read more (Source: CORDIS)

3.1.12 Helping the public sector get innovative while saving money

Public organisations in Europe (ministries, local authorities, universities, hospitals, public utility companies etc.) could be buying better and more innovative products and services that are based on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), thanks to a new three-year EU-funded initiative.
Innovation procurement is a public procurement practice according to which public authorities request businesses to develop or buy innovative products or services that fit these organisations' specific needs. For example, it could help hospitals use e-health tools allowing doctors to monitor their patients' condition from a distance; it could allow local authorities to improve traffic management in their region, hence reducing congestion and pollution, improving road safety and using the road network effectively; it could also help cities better manage street lighting to make roads safer and more attractive, while increasing energy efficiency; it could help public administration improve efficiency through the use of cloud solutions. Public Procurement in Europe represents 19% of GDP in Europe - or around EUR 2.400 billion a year. Innovation procurement also helps boost smaller, more innovative companies, as it means using public procurement funds to buy products or services also from smaller suppliers who are trying to find new ways of dealing with specific needs.

The European Assistance for Innovation Procurement (EAFIP) initiative will help those in charge of public procurement design and implement processes to access such services.

EU-funded innovation procurement projects are already helping public organisations solve problems with the help of ICTs. According to the first results, these public organisations are already buying R&D solutions 50% cheaper than they would have to pay otherwise; they are already creating jobs at home by encouraging 100% of the solution to be developed in Europe; and they are already opening up opportunities for innovative companies to sell across borders (3 times more contracts than normal are awarded to companies from another EU country).

Read more (Source: European Commission)

3.1.13 Trending science: Study reveals dramatic differences in rates of ageing

Have you noticed how some people appear to nimbly defy the ageing process while others are quickly subjected to its ills? This isn’t merely an illusion: according to a recently published study on almost 1.000 38 year olds, we are actually ageing at starkly different rates and this can be tracked even before we hit mid-age.

The study, led by researchers at Duke University School of Medicine, North Carolina in the US, found that young individuals of the same chronological age varied in their ‘biological ageing’ (declining integrity of multiple organ systems). And already, before midlife, those who were ageing more rapidly were less physically able, showed cognitive decline and brain ageing, self-reported worse health, and looked older.

The team developed and validated two methods by which ageing can be measured in young adults, one cross-sectional and one longitudinal. The longitudinal method measured physiological deterioration across multiple organ systems including pulmonary, periodontal, cardiovascular, renal, hepatic, and
immune function. They applied these methods to assess biological ageing in participants who had not yet developed age-related diseases.

The results showed that for some, the past dozen years had taken no obvious toll on their body’s biology. However others were not so fortunate: ‘A good many participants had biological ages in the 50s, while one, described by scientists as an “extreme case”, had a biological age of 61 years old. That meant that for every birthday over the past dozen years, their body had aged three years.’

Further information here.

3.2 ASEAN

3.2.1 Singapore Becomes First Non-European EMBC Member

AsianScientist (15 July 2015) - The Government of Singapore, the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and its intergovernmental funding body, the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC), have signed a research agreement between Singapore and Europe. This milestone agreement marks the first time a non-European nation has become an EMBC Associate Member State. As an EMBC Associate Member State, Singapore gains access to all of EMBO’s activities, providing its scientists with the opportunity to interact with and benefit from the best scientists in Europe. The agreement brings together major players in Singapore’s biomedical research scene, namely the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Read more from Asian Scientist Magazine here.

3.2.2 Newton Fund a boon to researchers in Thailand

Launched last year, Britain’s Newton Fund has already benefited 71 Thai universities and supported more than 460 research projects.

"We build links that are crucial, so they [researchers] can go on," Dr Claire McNulty, director of Science British Council UK, said during a recent interview at the British Embassy.

"It has been shown that research, which is internationally mobile, is more productive, which is good for Thai and UK researchers," she added.

The £375 million Newton Fund seeks to allow Britain to share its research and innovation knowledge to promote economic development and social welfare with 15 other partner countries including Thailand over a five-year period starting from 2014.

Marcus Winsley, director of Trade and Investment at the British Embassy, said
the fund had brought together British and Thai researchers through academic institutions and research departments.

"At the moment, the Science Ministry has networked with 14 other countries. We have started a number of projects from space all the way down to Earth's said.

More information [here](#).

### 3.2.3 EUR 1.4 Million For geoscience scholarships in Singapore

The Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has received S$2 million (~US$1.47 million) to set up a postgraduate scholarship fund, to boost research in earth sciences. The endowment comes from a S$1 million (~US$0.73 million) gift from the Stephen Riady Group of Foundations, which will receive one-to-one government matching. The Stephen Riady Geosciences Scholars Fund will be used to aid in the education of students pursuing PhD geoscience degrees at NTU. Read [here](#).

### 3.2.4 New university will add another chip to Thailand's emerging 'Silicon Valley'

PTT, one of Thailand's largest energy conglomerates, is looking at establish a Bt10 billion endowment fund to support long-term operations of the Rayong Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Thailand's first S&T research-intensive university designed to leapfrog the Kingdom into a new technological frontier.

Modelled on the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Dr. Pailin Chuchottaworn, president and chief executive of the energy conglomerate, said RAIST, scheduled to be formally inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn next July, would also fulfil a vision to turn Thailand's eastern seaboard area into a "Silicon Valley" of the Kingdom. More [here](#).

### 3.2.5 EU Delegation Vietnam hosts award ceremony for an online Climate Change Quiz 2015

On 26 June, the five winners of the online quiz on climate change were announced at an Award Ceremony held at the EU Delegation to Vietnam. The
EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

quiz, which ran on the Facebook page of the EU Delegation for five weekdays between 18 and 24 June 2015, received extensive participation nationwide.

The quiz was part of a series of events organized by the EU Delegation to Vietnam in collaboration with EU Member States’ Embassies of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom to mark the European Climate Diplomacy Day 2015 on 17 June. The initiative’s impact on our environment, promote the 2015 Paris Climate Conference and the collective actions of the EU and its Member States in the fight against climate change in Vietnam. As Vietnam is among the countries which are most vulnerable to climate change, the quiz’s objective was also to promote practical ways every Vietnamese can contribute to fighting climate change by changing one’s daily habits. More here.

3.2.6 European Commission releases biennial report on the protection and enforcement of IPRs in third countries

On 8 July, the European Commission published its biennial report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries. Indonesia and the Philippines were moved from priority category 'II' to 'III', signifying their progress in protecting and enforcing IPRs.

3.2.7 France part of multinational Southeast Asia expedition to assess tsunami risks and impact

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) scientists at its Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) will be leading an international team to Sumatra, Indonesia to investigate the cause of tsunamis. This month-long expedition aims to assess the risk of tsunamis caused by earthquakes in the region by mapping the ocean floor where the tectonic plates meet each other.

The research project is done in partnership with the Schmidt Ocean Institute on board its research vessel Falkor, and is jointly led by NTU’s EOS, France’s Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP), and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). More here.

3.2.8 UK research industry promoted on SE Asian trade delegation

UK — FreshMinds CEO Caroline Plumb is on a trade delegation to Southeast Asia led by David Cameron.
Cameron will also reportedly look to jump start negotiation talks on a free trade agreement between the EU and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Plumb is representing FreshMinds and the UK research industry as a whole on the trip.

“British companies like FreshMinds are flying the flag and unlocking the economic potential of the fast growing economies of Southeast Asia,” said Cameron. “I’m delighted that they have joined me on my first trade mission of this government and I hope that we can work together to create jobs and growth for the UK.” More here.

3.2.9 Developing nations urged to spend big on science

Few countries are close to meeting UNESCO’s target for science, technology and innovation spending of 3.5 percent of their GDP. Science, technology and innovation (STI) can be a “game changer” for development efforts, the UN secretary-general’s Scientific Advisory Board says in recommendations presented on 9 July in New York, United States. The board, set up in 2013 to advise Ban Ki-moon on sustainable development, focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “Closing the development gap will depend on closing the existing STI investment gaps,” the advisors write. They add that, although many governments perceive a target of spending one percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on research and development (R&D) as being high, countries with strong and effective science, technology and innovation systems invest up to 3.5 percent of their GDP in R&D. More here.

4 Grants & Fellowships

4.1 Merlion Programme supports researcher mobility between Singapore and France

The PHC Merlion Programme is a joint French-Singaporean collaboration, managed by the Institut Français de Singapour, in partnership with Singaporean institutions to encourage and support new scientific research development between French and Singaporean laboratories, through funding the scientists’ trip exchanges. There are three different funding opportunities:

Merlion Project:

- Funding of missions between France and Singapore for researchers, post-doctoral and doctoral students involved in a joint research project. Up to EUR 30,000 over two years

Merlion Workshop:
Co-organising a workshop based on a common theme, to be held in either France or Singapore, with the aim of eventually leading to a bilateral research agreement. Up to EUR 30,000

Merlion Ph.D:

- Funding of stays in France of up to 6 months per year (maximum 3 years) for Ph.D students from a Singaporean partner laboratory and up to 3 years. Up to EUR 23,000 over three years

Eligibility and composition of the team:

1. A research team affiliated with a research organisation in France;
2. A research team affiliated with one of the following Singaporean partners: Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
3. Optional : An industrial partner to form a tripartite collaboration.

The 2015 Call is now open!

Further information can be accessed here. Please do contact Mr Florent Beau (florent.beau@diplomatie.gouv.fr) if you require assistance.

4.2 Singapore-Israel Joint Research Programme Call

The Israel Science Foundation (ISF) and the National Research Foundation of Singapore (NRF) are launching a new programme of joint funding for research proposals based on cooperation between Israeli and Singaporean researchers. and Singaporean scientists. Each foundation will finance the principal investigator of its country according to its rules. Grant budget will be equivalent or up to US$100,000 per year for three years for each of the principal investigators (Singaporean and Israeli). More information here.

4.3 Southeast Asia - Europe Pilot Joint Call for Mobility to be published soon!!

Europe-Southeast Asian mobility projects with at least 2 partners from both regions in the fields of Environmental (climate change, water resource management, smarter cities, biodiversity & drug resistance) or Food (agricultural productivity, sustainability and standards, value chain) research to establish new and strengthen existing networks with multidisciplinary approaches between both regions.
Applications may be submitted by academics, higher education institutions or non-university research establishments and SMEs. Countries contributing to the Call are: Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, France, Germany, Lao PDR, Myanmar, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Poland & Thailand. The call will be open soon.

4.4 **UK Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants Open to Researchers in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines**

Newton Institutional Links aims to build UK-partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to social welfare and economic development. This programme is designed to establish links beyond the level of the individual researcher and innovation practitioner, opening up opportunities for more sustainable, solution-oriented collaborations between academic groups as well as with the private and third sector (e.g. SMEs, NGOs, technology transfer offices and other not-for-profit organisations).

**Size of grant:** £50,000 - £300,000  
**Priority areas:** Partner countries may specify priority areas and will only accept applications within these. Priority areas are listed in the Guidelines document (Downloads section).  
**ODA requirement:** All applications must meet the required relevance to economic development or social welfare (see Guidelines for further information) of the partner country.

In 2014, 89 of 242 eligible applications (37%) to Newton Institutional Links were funded.  
More information [here](#).

4.5 **Newton Advanced Fellowships Open to Thai and Malaysian Scientists**

Newton Advanced Fellowships provide established international researchers with an opportunity to develop the research strengths and capabilities of their research group through training, collaboration and reciprocal visits with a partner in the UK.

Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent research experience and hold a permanent or fixed-term contract in an eligible university or research institute, which must span the duration of the project. Applicants should have no more than 15 years of postdoctoral experience. Collaborations should focus on a single project involving an overseas-based scientist (“the Applicant”) and a UK-based scientist (“the Co-applicant”).
4.6  **Newton Fund: UK-China-Philippines-Thailand-Vietnam call for collaborative research proposals in rice research**

The UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), in UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

- Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)
- Thailand National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
- Thailand Agricultural Research and Development Agency (Public Organisation) (ARDA)
- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development and Department of Science and Technology (PCAARRD DOST)
- Philippine Rice Research Institute, Department of Agriculture Philippines (DA PhilRice)
- International Cooperation Department Ministry of Science and Technology Vietnam (MOST)

are pleased to announce a call for collaborative proposals. The purpose of this call is to build on the combined strengths of academic research groups within China, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and the UK to work together on collaborative interdisciplinary research that will underpin the long-term sustainable production of rice. Deadline 13 August 2015. More information [here](#).

4.7  **EMBO Long Term Fellowships Open to ASEAN Researchers**

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) brings together more than 1,500 leading researchers from 27 Member States and promotes excellence in the life sciences. The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe and the world*. International exchange is a key feature in the application process. Deadline 14 August 2015. More info [here](#).

4.8  **EMBO Short-Term Fellowships Open to Researchers in ASEAN. Three-month research visits to labs in Europe.**

EMBO Short-Term Fellowships fund research visits of up to three months to laboratories in Europe and elsewhere in the world. The aim is to facilitate valuable collaborations with research groups applying techniques that are
unavailable in the applicant's laboratory. Applications are accepted throughout the year. More info here.

4.9 EMBO Courses and Workshops

EMBO offers the largest number of life science events in Europe. EMBO Courses & Workshops funds approximately 80 events attracting more than 8,000 participants every year. Funding is available for Global Exchange Lecture Courses and practical courses, as well as for keynote lectures. Travel grants support the attendance of participants from countries with less-developed scientific infrastructures. EMBO assists the organizer with the design of a poster, set-up of a website and registration system, and with promotion of the event.

The consistent high quality and novelty of EMBO Courses & Workshops is ensured through a committee of EMBO Members, which selects the events that EMBO funds. Dedicated scientific organizers guarantee the long-term success of the programme to share research results and train scientists at all career stages.

Further details.

4.10 Germany - Georg Forster Research Fellowship - Excellent Opportunity for Researchers from ASEAN

If you are a researcher with above average qualifications, and would like to carry out long-term research of your choice (6 to 24 months) at a research institution in Germany together with an academic host you have chosen yourself, consider the Georg Forster Fellowship. As many as 80 Georg Forster Research Fellowships can be granted annually. In the last few years, about one third of applications were successful. Applications are accepted year-round. More information here.

4.11 Germany - George Forster Research Award - Open to ASEAN scientists

The Georg Forster Research Award is granted in recognition of a researcher’s entire achievements to date to academics of all disciplines whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond and who are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges facing transition and developing countries.

Nominees must be nationals of a developing or transition country (excluding People’s Republic of China and India; cf. detailed list of countries). Furthermore, at the time of nomination, they must have had their main residence and place of work in one of these countries for at least five years.
The deadline for nominations is **15 January** of each year; the selection meeting is scheduled for summer. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation particularly encourages the nomination of qualified female researchers. More information here.

### 4.12 European University - Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships Deadline 25 October 2015

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one-year Jean Monnet Fellowships (renewable for one more year) to scholars who have obtained their doctorate more than 5 years prior to the start of the fellowship, i.e. 1 September 2015 for the academic year 2015/16. The Fellowship programme is open to post-docs, tenure track academics and those wishing to spend their sabbatical at the Robert Schuman Centre. We invite you to become part of a lively and creative academic community. The Centre offers up to 20 Fellowships a year.

More [here](#).

### 4.13 Austria: Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad

This programme targets highly qualified scientists of any discipline who could contribute to the scientific development of an Austrian research institution by working at it. It funds 12 or 24 month postdocs with an annual personal allowance between EUR 62,500 and EUR 68,700.

Requirements: completed doctoral studies, record of international scientific publications, invitation from an Austrian research institution and co-application with an Austrian researcher. No age limit.

Applications continuously reviewed.

Further information can be found [here](#).

### 4.14 Austria: ISTFELLOW Postdoctoral Fellowships

ISTFELLOW is a programme open to applicants from all over the world who are interested in spending the postdoctoral stage of their scientific research career at the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria). Core research preference to scientists who have a strong interest in cross-disciplinary approaches. The ISTFELLOW programme funds approximately 40 fellows per year for a two year stay, which may be extended under favourable conditions.

**Next deadline: 15 September**

Further information here: [here](#)
4.15 **Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND**

The objective of the programme is to encourage young, brilliant researchers from all over the world to choose Poland as the place to carry out their research projects submitted for the ERC competition. The programme is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world-class quality research.

**Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Details [here](#).

4.16 **CERN Postdoctoral Fellowships**

CERN offers the CERN’s Non-Member State Fellowship Programme in Theoretical Physics (except nationals of CERN member countries). Eligible applicants must hold a PhD in theoretical physics and a maximum of 10 years of postdoctoral experience. The fellowships cover monthly stipend and travel expenses, are granted for a two-year period and can in exceptional cases be extended to a third year.

**Deadline: 15 October**

Further information [here](#).

4.17 **Turkey: TÜBİTAK Fellowships for Visiting Scientists**

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) grants fellowships for international scientists/researchers who would like to give workshops/conferences/lectures, or conduct R&D activities in Turkey. Three types of visits are granted within this programme: Short-term (up to 1 month), Long-term (up to 12 months) and Sabbatical Leave (from 3 months to 12 months). All types of grants cover monthly stipend and travel costs.

**Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

Further information: [here](#).

4.18 **H2020 – 2016 Calls soon to be announced.**

The European Commission will soon launch the 2016 calls under Horizon 2020. The three key pillars of Horizon 2020:
• **Excellent Science**: Around EUR 3 billion, including EUR 1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists, and EUR 800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers.

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

• **Societal Challenges**: EUR 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, and about the 2016 Calls, please visit the [European Commission’s Participant Portal](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020) where all calls will be published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts for European research and innovation](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020). 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.

4.19 **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions– Call for Individual Fellowships** is open to researchers in ASEAN.

Are you an experienced researcher thinking about your next career move? Individual Fellowships fund researchers looking to enhance their career development and prospects by working abroad. These Fellowships offer ASEAN researchers an opportunity to spend up to two years working at a university, research institute or company in Europe.

More info [here](https).

4.20 **The European Research Council (ERC) Work Programme includes the 2016 Indicative Call Dates**
4.21 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants to be announced soon. Open to ASEAN researchers

ERC Starting Grants aim to support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent proven potential of becoming independent research leaders. It will support the creation of excellent new research teams.

**ERC Starting Grants in brief**

- For researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD (or equivalent degree) and scientific track record showing great promise
- An excellent research proposal
- Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member State or Associated Countries.
- Funding per grant: up to EUR 1.5 million (in some circumstances up to EUR 2 million)
- Duration: up to 5 years

Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal

More information here.
4.22 Video "Step by step guide to ERC grants"

Watch here the European Research Council animation video giving tips & tricks to researchers interested in applying to an ERC grant.

4.23 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 Jobs

There are currently 6054 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database

AUSTRIA (Leoben): Montanuniversität Leoben has a vacant position for full-time Senior Scientist at the Department of Economic and Business Management (Chair of Economic and Business Management) expected from June 2015 in a permanent employment relationship.

Details

DENMARK (Copenhagen): University of Copenhagen. The Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, invites applicants for a position as Associate Professor in the field of Development and Resource Governance, Institutions and Conflict.

Details

NORWAY (Oslo): The Norwegian PSC Research Center (NoPSC) at the Oslo University Hospital (OUH) and the University of Oslo (UiO) offer a postdoctoral position in genomics or computational genomics.

Details
United Kingdom (Bedford): Cranfield University is seeking a postdoctoral Research Fellow to undertake research in environmental and chemical risk assessment as part of an EPSRC multidisciplinary grant that will involve coordinating input from a number of different academic institutions.

Details

Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships

12 Early Stage Researcher (ESR) positions are available in Marie Curie European Training Network (ETN) PredictAble in Barcelona, Spain.

Details

PhD position at The Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry and Molecular Imaging (LBCMI) at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.

Details

Early Stage Researcher post Marie Skłodowska Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) MEDICIS PROMED “MEDICIS-produced radioisotope beams for medicine” in Manchester, UK.

Details

6 Events


To learn from current practices and prepare for the future urban centers, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in collaboration with Institute of Technology Cambodia (ITC), Cambodia, and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore is organizing a two-day international expert workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia under the theme "Towards Urban Water Security in Southeast Asia: Managing the Risk of Extreme Events". This event is being supported through the FP7 funded SEA-EU-NET project. More info here.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Not listed are presentations on EURAXESS Links and European mobility schemes at research institutions held by the Regional Representatives upon invitation across ASEAN. If you would like for our team to visit your research organisation please email us at: asean@euraxess.net

7 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
Research Jobs in Germany: Research-in-Germany.de
Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Brainpower Austria: http://www.brainpower-austria.at/

About EURAXESS Links ASEAN
EURAXESS Links ASEAN is a network of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars working in or commuting to ASEAN. This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they
remain in ASEAN or return to Europe. For further information and to sign up for membership in our network, as well as in the virtual SINAPSE community of European and non-European researchers abroad, please go to our website and click on the Join the EURAXESS Links ASEAN community hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page.