Dear Colleagues,

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

This month’s EU insight will focus on the issue of innovation in the Union, in particular the introduction of two new measures to support SMEs and the speed with which new ideas are brought to market.

We have compiled expert advice on the do’s and don’t of ERC grant application. Calls for proposal for ERC Starting Grants and Consolidator Grants, Europe’s most prestigious research grants, are currently open.

We would like to use the opportunity to invite you once again to a public lecture by ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon in Singapore on 11 February. Prof Bourguignon will be speaking on the role of the European Research Council in promoting cutting-edge research in Europe and abroad.

Do mark your calendars for the EURAXESS Links ASEAN events we have planned for you this year! We look forward to meeting you there!

We hope you do enjoy reading our newsletter.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Contents

1 EU Insight – Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU ............ 4
2 European Research Council Grants – Increasing Opportunities for Excellent Researchers in ASEAN .......... 6
3 The Do’s and Don’ts of an ERC Grant Application .......... 9
4 Hear it from the expert - Twelve tips on how to prepare an ERC grant proposal ............................................. 11
5 Four Steps For Effective Science Communication ......... 15
6 News & Developments ........................................... 18
   6.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries .............. 18
       6.1.1 Europe’s Framework Programmes – a key element of research policy in Europe ........................................ 18
       6.1.2 Framework Programmes have shown the vanity of borders 19
       6.1.3 The researchers who crossed borders for science .......... 20
       6.1.4 Final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme ........ 21
       6.1.5 European Research Area Progress Report 2014 ............ 22
       6.2 ASEAN......................................................... 22
           6.2.1 UK launches Newton Fund with Thailand ............... 22
           6.2.2 Singapore-based scientists discover gene critical for proper brain development ...................................... 23
           6.2.3 Sir Timothy Hunt on how to win a Nobel Prize .......... 23
7 Grants & Fellowships ............................................ 24
   7.1 In Focus: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) .......................... 24
   7.2 H2020 .................................................................... 25
   7.3 European Research Council (ERC) Grants .................... 26
       7.3.1 ERC Starting Grants .......................................... 26
       7.3.2 ERC Consolidator Grants .................................... 26
   7.4 EMBO Courses and Workshops .................................. 27
   7.5 National EURAXESS portals .................................... 28
   7.6 HFSP Frontier Research Grants .................................. 28
7.7 Austria: Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad ..................28
7.8 Belgium: Federal Science Policy Office – Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers .................................................................29
7.9 France: LE STUDIUM® Research Fellowship ..................................29
7.10 Franco-Thai Scholarship Program 2015 .............................................29
7.11 Germany: Free University Berlin - 20 Incoming Postdoc Fellowships 30
7.12 Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES) ..................................................30
7.13 Germany: DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research .................31
7.14 Germany: DAAD offers research grants and fellowships for PhD studies and research stays in Germany .............................................32
7.15 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND ..........32

8 Jobs ........................................................................................................33

9 Events .....................................................................................................34

9.1 Celebrating bi-regional scientific cooperation: ASEAN-EU-STI Days 2015 ......................................................................................34
9.2 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events January to May 2015 ....................35
9.3 Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together – Milan (Italy), 14 – 16 October 2015 .................................................................36

10 Resources ..............................................................................................37
1 EU Insight – Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU

As one of the central objectives outlined by the European Union, innovation plays a major role in assuring the Union’s continued growth and well-being. This fact is underscored by its prominent inclusion in Horizon 2020, the current framework programme for research and innovation in Europe (2014-2020), as well as through the numerous actions and initiatives designed to ensure its fostering and support. The recent introduction of two new measures aimed at bolstering innovation—the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) initiative and the release of additional grants under the SME Instrument—demonstrate the depth of this commitment.

Accelerating the Pace

On 9 January 2015, the European Commission, operating under the premise of speeding up the time it takes to bring original and unique ideas to market, launched its new Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot initiative. European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas outlined the initiative as focused on “help[ing] highly innovative businesses in Europe reach the finish line faster, [by] attracting more private investors to European research and innovation...”.1,2 As a component of Horizon 2020, and while firmly rooted in the Societal Challenges priority area of the framework programme, FTI supports a broad spectrum of innovative actors (especially those stemming from industry) to come together, regardless of topic, with the aim of bringing mature, innovative concepts to market as quickly as possible. Scheduled to run over two years (2015-2016), FTI is supported by a budget of EUR 200 million, with continuation of the initiative after this period contingent upon evaluation of initial outcomes.

Similar to other Horizon 2020 initiatives, the pilot will be implemented via a single, continuous open call with three cut-off dates occurring over the course of the initiative.3 Projects eligible for funding must be “business driven” and those comprised of “mature innovative concepts that have been tested in an

---

3 The three announced cut-off dates for proposal submissions are: 29 April 2015, 1 September 2015, and 1 December 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
operational environment”, notably those concerning “systems validation in real working conditions, testing, piloting, business model validation as well as standard setting and pre-normative research” are particularly welcome.

Along with the FTI initiative, innovation within the Union will be supported by an additional EUR 117 million in new grants under the preexisting SME Instrument programme. Just as with the FTI initiative, money offered through this programme is specifically allocated for the operation of businesses, small and medium-sized in nature to help “finance innovation activities…, the development of their business plans or feasibility studies” associated with their projects. In total, 275 SMEs, identified for their high growth potential have been selected to benefit from this grant money following the end of the second phase.

Through the SME Instrument, the European Union wants to finance the most innovative small companies with the potential for high growth. The Instrument itself is worth approximately EUR 3 billion over seven years. Furthermore, investment-ready concepts can benefit from business development advice and other services.

Application for grants available under the SME Instrument programme is easy, but only the very best projects will receive funding. Eligible topics are listed under the Horizon 2020 Work Programme on ‘Innovation in SMEs’. SMEs stemming from EU Member States or Associated Countries (ACs) are eligible to apply. More than 1,300 projects are expected to be funded over two years, beginning in 2014 and ending in 2015.

---

5 Ibid.
7 To date, the full amount of funding allocated to the SME Instrument launched under Horizon 2020 is €3 billion. With the addition of the most recent grants, the total amount of funding specifically destined for “innovative” companies is €125 million, a cumulative total based on the first two stages of the programme.
8 The SME Instrument programme went into effect on 1 January 2014.
2 European Research Council Grants – Increasing Opportunities for Excellent Researchers in ASEAN

The European Research Council (ERC) promotes high quality research in Europe. With up to €3.5 million, an ERC grant is Europe’s highest research funding for individuals. Increasing the number of grantees from ASEAN is at the core of a recent support scheme developed by the ERC and the bi-regional cooperation project SEA-EU-NET.

The ERC is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run five-year projects based anywhere in Europe.

The ERC currently funds four researchers from ASEAN; three Singaporean nationals and one Malaysian researcher. One of the ERC Scientific Council’s goals for the future is to increase the number of excellent researchers from outside the European Research Area applying for ERC grants (be they of European origin or not).

A related measure was devised recently by SEA-EU-NET, an international cooperation network funded by the European Commission to facilitate the bi-regional science and technology dialogue. Together with the ERC, SEA-EU-NET developed and implemented “The International European Research Council Starting Grants Support Scheme” in autumn of 2014. The objective was to support Southeast Asian researchers in ERC proposal preparation so as to increase their chances of being awarded an ERC grant. The project focused on the ERC Starting Grants which opened for application in October 2014 with a closing deadline of 3 February 2015. The selected outstanding Southeast Asian researchers were given the opportunity to visit potential host institutions in Europe and to prepare their grant proposals.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN met with SEA-EU-NET project partner Mr Patrick Ziegler (German Aerospace Center, DLR) to find out more.

Mr Ziegler, can you tell us a bit about this scheme?

The International European Research Council Starting Grants Support Scheme supported promising young researchers with an ASEAN nationality, currently working for an ASEAN research institution to apply for an ERC Starting Grant by providing them with the budget to travel to Europe for two weeks and to visit potential host institutions. They also received training on how to write a successful grant proposal.
What was the motivation behind this initiative?

The International European Research Council Starting Grants Support Scheme was developed by the EU-FP7 project SEA-EU-NET based on the fact that the numbers of applicants from Southeast Asia for ERC grants were, compared to the high standards of research in the region, extremely low. So, we thought about the reasons for this and ways to change it. What we came up with was this little support programme that enables colleagues from Southeast Asia to identify the right host institution in Europe, to gain more knowledge on the European Research Area and its framework conditions.

What has been the response from the ASEAN research community? Have you received a lot of applications?

The response from the ASEAN research community differed very much from country to country. Most interest came, of course, from the countries with strong research systems and from people who had a prior experience in working with Europe. Unfortunately, a lot of interested colleagues were not eligible as they were not ASEAN citizens; this was an eligibility requirement of the scheme. While the number of applications we received was relatively low, they were of high-quality – this is a very good outcome for any type of funding scheme as it shows that we managed to guide interested colleagues successfully.

What is the follow-up support you are providing?

From the project side, the follow-up support is not so much about the ERC Grant but more about facilitating opportunities for networking and future cooperation. We include the successful participants in project activities and try to strengthen their networks to Europe. Under the scheme it is mandatory for the grantees to provide us with their feedback on how they experienced the Starting Grant application procedure. We will forward this feedback to the European Research Council in order to raise awareness of any special requirements international applicants may have. Hopefully, this will raise the ERC’s international visibility and attractiveness even further.

Are similar schemes planned in future?

It is a bit too early for us to decide whether this exercise will be repeated. We will take that decision after we have evaluated the scheme in spring 2015. So far, the feedback has been far better than we had hoped, so chances are that we might do it again!

Thank you Mr Ziegler!
ERC Opportunities in Brief

The ERC supports **excellence** in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based worldwide competition.

The ERC provides **support to individual scientists**, not research networks or institutions and covers **all scientific disciplines**.

Grants are awarded for up to 5 years with maximum proposal budgets ranging from €1.5 million to €3.5 million.

Researchers from anywhere in the world can apply for ERC grants provided the research they undertake will be carried out in an **EU Member State** or **Associated Country**.

There are 3 main types of ERC grants:

- **Starting Grant** (StG) for researchers 2-7 years after award of PhD.
  
  **Call now open. Deadline: 3 February 2015**

- **Consolidator Grant** (CoG) for researchers 7-12 years after award of PhD.
  
  **Call now open. Deadline: 12 March 2015**

- **Advanced Grant** (AdG) for established research leaders.
  
  **Currently no open call.**

- Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding (**Proof of Concept Grant**: PoC) to explore the innovation potential of their research results.
  
  **Call now open. Deadlines: 5 March 2015, 28 May 2015, 1 October 2015**

Important information on ERC grants is found in the **ERC Work Programme 2015**, **ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation** and on the **ERC Website**.
3 The Do’s and Don’ts of an ERC Grant Application

With an average success rate of 12%, securing an ERC grant is far from easy. Each competition attracts a large number of proposals from promising research talents across the globe. Excellence is the sole criterion for selection. There are neither thematic priorities, nor geographical quotas for funding. The aim is to recognise the best ideas, and confer status and visibility to the best research in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad.

EURAXESS Links ASEAN invited Mr Massimo Gaudina, Head of the Communication Unit of the European Research Council (ERC) Executive Agency, to share his expert advice on how to prepare for an ERC grant application.

Mr Gaudina, can you briefly explain what the European Research Council is all about?

The ERC is a funding agency set-up in 2007 by the EU which supports high level researchers willing to work for a five-year project in Europe. It provides selective, substantial grants (up to 3 million US $ each) to top researchers of any nationality, research area or age, based on annual competitions. In these eight years, the ERC has already gained worldwide recognition and European universities are now competing to attract the best candidates to its calls.

What makes this programme so special?

First of all, it is a fully "curiosity-driven" programme, financing the best ideas and the best researchers without any pre-defined priority, from any scientific area, including social sciences and humanities. Secondly, the programme is very selective and very rewarding: getting an ERC grant is seen as a label of scientific excellence for both the researcher and the institution hosting her/him.

But probably the most exceptional feature of the ERC is its evaluation process: grantees are chosen by a simple application scheme and a thorough peer-reviewed evaluation, performed by 26 high level international panels. These evaluators are chosen by the ERC Scientific Council, a group of 22 eminent scientists themselves: the ERC is an organisation for scientists run by scientists.

Have researchers from Southeast Asia benefited from the ERC in the past?

Of course, as the ERC grant calls are open to researchers of any nationality, regardless of their current place of work in the world, provided that they are ready to spend at least 50% of their working time on their ERC project in a European country (EU Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country).
For the moment, the figures are still rather low, as the programme is very young and not yet widely known outside Europe: up to this date, sixty ASEAN nationals have applied for our schemes and four of them have achieved a grant. These successful research projects are on the fields of Neurobiology, Nano Medicine, Computer Science and Plant Biology.

The competition for an ERC grant is very tough. What would you say are the most common mistakes applicants make?

The most important thing that applicants should bear in mind is that the ERC is funding top researchers who put forward new ambitious projects, which are both high-risk and high-gain. Consequently, the ERC does not look for safe or "incremental" research, but seeks "ground-breaking unique ideas at the frontiers of knowledge."

What would be your top tips that every applicant should consider?

They should consider that ERC grant winners are selected based on the scientific quality of their project and the evidence they bring that they will be able to carry it out; both the ambition and originality of the research project proposed and the track record of the researcher are of importance.

It is crucial for applicants to understand that the only way for becoming an ERC grantee is to convince a panel that your project will be successful and will have a significant scientific impact. Besides, the ERC aims to fund researchers working at the forefront of their field, making possible new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries - the kind that can bring our understanding of the world to a new level, form the basis of new industries, markets, and give rise to major social innovations of the future.

It might also be useful to know that multidisciplinary projects are very welcome.

Is there any support available to potential applicants from ASEAN?

First of all, there is a section of the ERC website for the non-European applicants. Then, once they have chosen a "host institution" in Europe, applicants can contact the corresponding ERC National Contact Point (NCP) for help. NCPs are set up across Europe (in all Member States and Associated States) to inform and advise on ERC funding opportunities. These offices offer specific support in the preparation, submission and follow-up of an ERC grant application.

There are also specific programmes to help ASEAN nationals with their application. It is the case of the SEA-EU-NET 2 project that aims to strengthen the policy dialogue on research and innovation between EU and associated states and the countries of Southeast Asia. And of course Euraxess is another important service supporting researchers who are willing to apply to the ERC or to other components of the Horizon 2020 programme.

Thank you Mr Gaudina!
4 Hear it from the expert - Twelve tips on how to prepare an ERC grant proposal

Prof Andreas Zeller, a professor for Software Engineering at Saarland University in Germany, received an ERC Advanced Grant in 2011. Here, he shares his advice on how to be successful in the competition for one of Europe’s most prestigious research grants.

This article has been taken from Prof Zeller’s blog with his kind permission.

In 2011, I have been lucky to obtain an ERC Advanced Grant. The European Research Council (ERC) is a EU institution that promotes high quality research in Europe. It funds individual investigators in any field of research – and it does so substantially: With up to 3.5 million euros, an ERC grant is Europe’s highest research funding for individuals – and a very coveted prize: Only about 12% of proposals get funded, so competition is fierce.

Since I got my grant, other applicants have asked me again and again for hints and samples on how to prepare a proposal. Of course, there is no single recipe for success, but there were a few points which I found useful in preparing my proposal. While specific for ERC proposals (and from a computer scientist perspective), these tips should generalize for several other high-profile funding programs.

The Process

1. Understand the process.

The ERC publishes a Guide for Applicants as well as a Guide for Reviewers. Both should be your bible; at all times, ask yourself how your proposal will stand according to the criteria and the process listed. Find out what your panel is, who the chair will be, and which past members have been on the panel. Your proposal will need to win all of them.

2. Start many, many months before the deadline.

Unless your story is a winner straight from the inception, you will need lots of time for refining and revising the main idea and the many problems. In my case, I started writing the proposal 18 months before the deadline; although 6 months would have been okay, too, refining for another 12 months helped the proposal a lot.
3. **Reserve several weeks for writing.**

You will need lots of time for collecting data, shaping the story, and checking the references. Consider a 2–3 week retreat for the writing alone, plus appropriate time for polishing. Let your friends and family know when you'll be back.

4. **Get plenty of feedback.**

Your proposal will first be reviewed from people in your discipline, but not necessarily from people in your speciality. It may also be that your proposal will have to stand against proposals from totally different disciplines. Hence, your story must appeal to readers **no matter what discipline and speciality they're from**. Discussing your ideas and your proposal with as many people as possible and as diverse as possible will help. In my case, I had the proposal reviewed by 12 internal and 12 external people, and used every possible invited talk to present some sketches of the main ideas. (Such presentations not only help you to make your ideas explicit, but will also lobby for your ideas, and get feedback from the audience.)

5. **Rely on local expertise.**

ERC projects are huge, and thus involve substantial budget and resource planning. If your university has support for EU and/or ERC proposals, rely on their expertise. (If you have a colleague who is already funded by the ERC, check with her or him as well, of course!)

**Your Achievements**

6. **Sell yourself.**

Your proposal will be assessed on two criteria. 50% is your project, and it will be up to you to come up with a great idea. 50%, however, is your past achievements, and you will have to work hard on these. What you need is irrefutable evidence for impact and excellence. That is, facts on awards, services, papers, talks, students, tools; lasting impact in academia and industry; your quality as networker and advisor; and, last but not least, your ability to shape and create research fields. Play by numbers: acceptance rates, citations, downloads. Check the list of past grantees, their numbers and achievements to get an idea of what you're up against.

6. **Have unique selling points.**

"So, you're Brad Pitt? That don't impress me much." When you're surrounded by supermen (and you will be), just being another superman is not enough. So:
Don't just say: "I am an ACM Fellow". But say: "I am the first ACM Fellow from Spain", or "I am the youngest European ACM Fellow in concolic testing". Replace "European", and "concolic testing" by the most general feature you can find; and replace "ACM Fellow" by your most prestigious designation. (Hint: In my case, 6 out of 7 reviews began with "The applicant is an ACM Fellow", as if this would disperse all doubts on my abilities; so go for such designations as you can.)

Don't just say: "Best Paper Award". But say: "First Best Paper Award for a Debugging Paper written on a one-legged stool". Exercise: generalize as above.

Don't just say "700 citations". Also say: "Most cited testing paper since 1999".

Avoid any claim that cannot be independently verified.

Coming up with such selling points is hard work; bibliographic query tools are your friends. Again, reserve lots of time for this work. (I spent two days googling and digging through the CVs of all European ACM Fellows, for instance; and a successful colleague of mine even has managed to get temporarily banned from Google Scholar.) Selling yourself this way is hard; if you need to take a shower by the end of the day, that's fine. But remember that every selling point you can come up with this way makes it harder for detractors to dismiss your achievements, and it makes it easier for champions to sell them to others. In the end, it will have to be clear that you are the only person on earth who can save the world from this terrible, important problem.

Your Project Plan

8. No risk, no fun.

The ERC funds high-risk, high-gain projects. This means that there have to be substantial risks of failure (otherwise, others would have done this before). However, your specific research plans should help to mitigate these risks and thus bring the high gains promised. Focus on novelty (why is this new?) and potential impact (why is this needed?). Avoid standard cliches from your discipline ("If only everybody had used this formal method from the start, the Ariane failure could have been prevented..."); come up with fresh, real stories and insights instead.


The reviewer should get interested in your proposal after a short glimpse of ten seconds. The message has to be in the title, in the abstract, in the figures, in the diagram, in the examples. (Yes, please have a diagram that conveys the approach! And please have an example, too! All these are weapons in the hands of your champions.) If you fear the message could be too complex, try again. If you think the message sounds too trivial to you, it could start to be
understandable for the rest of us. (If, after simplification, your approach no longer sounds as cool as before, don't hide this with words, but go back to the drawing board.)

10. Have a clear structure and plan.
You're a seasoned researcher, so you know how to organize things, don't you? Now all you need to do is to put this in writing: tasks, dependences, milestones, evaluations, and measurable success criteria. The point of this exercise is not for the ERC to ask you to follow the plan by the letter once the project starts; the point of this exercise is for the reviewers to see that you can organize things.

11. Get to the point.
The length of an ERC proposals is clearly limited, and that's a good thing. Get to the point quickly. Use a clear language: No buzzwords, no yada yada, no lingo. If your project on “Examining the security interoperability of cloud business process models” cannot be motivated in plain English, don't expect the computer science panel chair to pitch it against "Curing cancer once and for all".

And polish again. With an ERC grant, you're applying for the highest individual funding one can get in Europe. Do your homework.
None of these tips guarantees success. What they do, though, is to prevent misunderstandings. If the reviewer does not get the point about you and your proposal, you will lose despite being great, and that sends you back to the drawing board. If the reviewers do get the point about your project and your past achievements, though, then it's a fair game: If you are better than the others, you win; and if you are not, you lose. Even if you're Brad Pitt, it's perfectly okay to lose against George Clooney. If you win, though... well, that's great and totally worth it, as I can tell from first-hand experience :-)}
5 Four Steps For Effective Science Communication

Scientists should adopt a systematic approach to explaining what they do, and do not, know, says Baruch Fischhoff in an article for SciDevNet. The original piece can be found here. This is a reprint.

Science can provide the best evidence on many questions: how likely is a disease to spread? How likely is a new seed to produce greater yields? How likely is a training programme to produce better jobs?

However, that evidence is always incomplete. Indeed, scientists keep doing research because they know that they don’t know everything. The value of their work depends on how well they communicate not just their best guess about the state of the world, but also the strength of their evidence supporting it. [1]

Why does the strength of the evidence matter? There are two main, contrasting reasons. If people overestimate how much scientists know, then they risk being too bold, unwittingly gambling on uncertain strategies while paying too little attention to signs that things might be going wrong. Think of patients who expect too much from a new medical procedure or farmers who pin too much hope on a new seed.

On the other hand, if people underestimate how much science knows, then they risk being too hesitant — wasting time and resources looking for better evidence while hoping for greater certainty than science can provide. Think of people who insist on absolute proof of climate change or vaccine safety.

But scientists often struggle with how to communicate how much they know, without making unsupportable claims, on the one hand, or making science seem like guesswork, on the other. Achieving that balance begins by identifying the uncertainty that matters to their audience, and then conveying it in a credible, comprehensible way.

Causes of scientific uncertainty

The sources of scientific uncertainty are familiar to anyone. Scientists may not have studied a specific topic, creating gaps in their knowledge. Their knowledge may be undermined by a changing world — for example, how climate change might affect local rainfall patterns. Their measurements may be less precise than they would like, due to the limitations of their instruments or the resources for deploying them. Their theories may not (yet) work very well.

In some sense, people know that science is incomplete in all these ways. The challenge is to explain how these general problems emerge in specific settings. For a financial decision, that might mean conveying how much is known about the black economy and how it affects a given industry. For a medical decision,
that might mean getting across how well a drug has been tested, and how confidently a patient can expect results similar to those seen in tests.

Scientists can usually explain these uncertainties to people without technical expertise if they have enough time to interact with them. They do that when they are teaching and when they discuss their work with friends and family.

Communication is tough, though, when the audience is unfamiliar and distant, which makes it hard for scientists to see how well they are doing. Here, a scientific approach to science communication can help. [2,3]

**The secret is listening**

Scientists, like everyone else, tend to overestimate how well they are understood and how well they understand others. As a result, effective communication requires them to create the respectful two-way conversation needed to correct any misunderstanding.

That might involve one-on-one discussions, an advisory committee or research, with behavioural scientists doing the listening through surveys or interviews. Whatever the forum, non-scientists must feel that they are being served, not tested — and that the goal is making science useful to them.

The first step in the communication process is letting people talk about the decisions that they face, until scientists can paraphrase what people say well enough to be told: “Yes, you understand us.”

The second step is stepping back to analyse the science to identify the few facts that non-scientists most need to know, from among the many facts that it would be nice to know. It wastes people’s time — and trust — to tell them things that they already know or to treat their requests for help as a ‘teachable moment’ for talking about basic science.

The third step is to consult the science communication research literature for how best to communicate the kinds of facts that people need. [4] That research finds, for example, that it is better to use numbers than words when expressing probabilities (for example, to say a “30 per cent chance of rain” rather than it “might rain”). It also finds that when small risks mount up over time, one should do the maths for people (for instance, calculating the lifetime probability of road accidents or the expected spread of invasive species).

And it finds that people often need to be reminded of the opportunity costs of waiting for better evidence — for example, the risks of postponing action on climate change because forecasts are still uncertain.

The fourth step is to draft messages, and then ask people to think aloud as they read those drafts, making it clear that it is the messages being tested, not the readers. When problems arise, as is inevitable with initial drafts of any message, it needs to be revised and tested again — until people understand it well enough to make sound, if still uncertain, choices.

Scientists cannot fulfil their duty to inform without the two-way conversation needed to understand their audience’s information needs, and their success in filling them. That dialogue will keep scientists from losing faith in the public,
because they can’t get their message across, and keep the public from losing faith in scientists, because their messages aren’t serving its needs.

Baruch Fischhoff is professor in the departments of Engineering and Public Policy and of Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. He can be contacted at: baruch@cmu.edu

References

Research has a long history in Europe, but the emergence of what is now the European Union has created a novel concept of European research. Over recent decades, it has gradually acquired the sense of deliberate collaboration between European countries linking first their research activities, then their policies in this field.

This wasn’t always the case. In the 1950s, early EU research funding was limited to a few industrial sectors: coal, steel and atomic energy. In the decades that followed, separate research programmes were launched in energy, environment and molecular biology.

When Étienne Davignon became the European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and Energy in 1981, he decided to rationalise these initiatives by putting them together in a single coherent framework. From its debut in 1984, the Framework Programme has expanded in scope and scale – matching the evolution of the EU itself. Its legal basis was strengthened and its objectives were refined and extended. In 1986, the Single European Act included for the first time a specific chapter on research.

As the EU enlarged, candidate countries had the chance to participate in research collaborations through the Framework Programmes, sometimes years before they became members. That process culminated in the opening of all EU research programmes to the participation of teams from non-EU countries. In recent years, the Framework Programmes have also pioneered the creation of large joint undertakings that bring public and private actors together in subject-specific partnerships. Schemes for collaboration between public national research organisations and programmes have also been set up.
As they have evolved, the Framework Programmes have enabled better coordination of research between the European Commission and national governments. Member States have gradually increased the level of research coordination and the growing scale and scope of the Framework Programmes has been instrumental in this. A key step in this respect was, in early 2000, the launch of the European Research Area (ERA) initiative.

The impact of the Framework Programmes is clearly visible in 30 years of cross-border collaborations between Europe’s scientists, in the rise in research activity across Europe – particularly in the newer Member States – and in the emergence of an increased reflex for cooperation among researchers and heads of research organisations in Europe.

After 30 years of development, the EU’s Framework Programmes have become a key element of research policy in Europe.

Source: Horizon Magazine

6.1.2 Framework Programmes have shown the vanity of borders

The Framework Programmes have given Europe a leading role in science, showing that more things can be achieved by countries working together than alone, according to Étienne Davignon, European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and Energy 1981-1985 and a former vice-president of the Commission, who introduced the First Framework Programme in 1984.

- When you look back over the last three decades, what were the crucial turning points in the development of the Framework Programmes?

‘The crucial points came in the early years. The first is the acceptance by the scientific community of the utility of a European programme, and I think this is important because if you don’t have the support of those who are active, then you don’t have the legitimacy of your ambition. The second is overcoming the reluctance of Member States to understand why European programmes are useful for them.’
- When you look at Europe today, what part of it has been shaped by the Framework Programmes?

‘The Framework Programmes are still a small percentage of the totality of research funding which is being spent, so you can’t say that they have been a fundamental shaping factor. But, on the other hand, they have clearly demonstrated the vanity of national borders and, in that sense, they have not shaped but simply confirmed that you can do things better together than alone, and I think it was an important statement to re-make. It is also an element which gives credibility to the fact that scientifically, Europe is strong. With globalisation there is a lot of feeling that Europe is on the losing side. The Framework Programmes have shown that a lot of important things can be done.’

Source: Horizon Magazine

6.1.3 The researchers who crossed borders for science

In recent decades, researchers have travelled abroad in greater and greater numbers, and it’s helped a generation of scientists learn from each other.

‘In terms of research it is quite important that you are exposed to different ways of working, different people and different cultures, because in the end research is highly collaborative and interdisciplinary,’ said Spanish neuroscientist Dr Xoana Troncoso. ‘If you stay in the same place throughout your career you are going to miss things that you didn’t even know existed.’

Dr Troncoso first travelled from Galicia in Spain to the UK to complete her PhD studies, and then went to the United States where she held two postdoctoral research positions. In 2012, she received a Marie Curie award to come back to Europe to study how the human brain uses vision to interpret motion at France’s national science centre CNRS. Her research forms part of the EU’s Future Emerging Technologies project BrainScaleS.
The EU has been helping researchers like Dr Troncoso since the early days of the Framework Programmes. Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions have been designed to promote excellence in research by giving grants to scientists who needed to move country to further their careers.

This programme allows researchers at any stage of their career – irrespective of their age or nationality or field of work – to gain experience in laboratories, universities, and non-academic settings provided that they are internationally mobile. Mobility is a crucial requirement for scientists given the hugely collaborative nature of science itself. Working in a research institution in another country can enrich a researcher’s career although it is not always easy on a continent of such varying languages and cultures.

Still, along with its predecessor, the MSCA programme has helped so far some 80,000 researchers overcome these barriers. During the Seventh Framework Programme alone it funded 10,000 PhDs, being now a benchmark of excellence.

Source: Horizon Magazine

6.1.4 Final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme

Eurostars is a programme that supports research-performing small and medium enterprises. Eurostars does this by providing funding for transnational innovation projects; the products of which are then rapidly commercialized. The Eurostars programme is publicly financed with a total budget of EUR 1.14 billion and is supported by 34 EUREKA countries and the European Union.

The final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme for the period 2008-2013 shows that R&D-performing SMES benefitted from the funding and support offered to them in many ways:

- For such companies, the employment growth rate was twice as high as that of similar non-funded companies. This resulted in the creation of approximately 8000 jobs;
- Participating SMEs showed significantly increased innovative outputs, as measured by patent filings - 42% higher;
- Almost 80% of awardees indicated that the Eurostars grant had a high importance with respect to increased recognition or reputation of their firm.

A total of 783 funded projects stemmed from 11,733 applicants in the programme’s 10 calls - an unexpected and blasting success for one of the first experiments in joint programming between the EU and national governments.

The success of the programme was such that the European Commission together with 34 EUREKA countries participating in the Eurostars programme committed €1.14 billion for the funding and operation of the Eurostars-2 SME programme under Horizon 2020. This budget is about three times higher than the original financial plan outlined for Eurostars under the Framework Programme Seven.
The two first calls of Eurostars-2 have already taken place in 2014 and the currently running call will end on 5 March 2015, allowing European R&D SMEs to continue reaping the benefits of one of the best innovation support tools currently available to them.

Read the full evaluation report here.

Source: EUREKA Network

6.1.5 European Research Area Progress Report 2014

The conclusions of the European Research Area (ERA) Progress Report 2014 stress the remaining efforts to be made towards the completion of the ERA, which remains a gradual process. The EU Council urges Member States and research stakeholders to implement the necessary reforms to make the ERA fully operational.

An ERA Roadmap at European level is due to be developed by mid-2015. The document will outline a shared understanding of the ERA principles and concrete measures to implement them. It will define a set of tools and best practices in order to support Member States in implementing the ERA.

The Council also calls for the synchronisation of future ERA reforms with other underlying changes in European research: its internationalisation and the development of joint programming. Eurostars, one of the first and most successful joint programmes, is a good example of how joint efforts between the EU and the governments can improve the coordination of national research.

The Council encourages the strengthening of the internationalisation of research activities outside of Europe, calling for a strategic redefinition of internationalisation as ‘a specific priority of the ERA.’

Read the full report here.

Source: EUREKA Network

6.2 ASEAN

6.2.1 UK launches Newton Fund with Thailand

Through the Newton UK - Thailand Research and Innovation Partnership Fund, the UK and Thailand will build strong, sustainable, systematic relationships that enable research and innovation to contribute to Thailand’s economic development and social welfare.

The UK announced the Newton UK - Thailand Research and Innovation Partnership Fund with support of up to £10 million over five years, for science and innovation partnership with Thailand.

Further details.
6.2.2 Singapore-based scientists discover gene critical for proper brain development

Scientists at A*STAR's Institute of Medical Biology (IMB) and Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology (IMCB) have identified a genetic pathway that accounts for the extraordinary size of the human brain. The team led by Dr Bruno Reversade from A*STAR in Singapore, together with collaborators from Harvard Medical School, have identified a gene, KATNB1, as an essential component in a genetic pathway responsible for central nervous system development in humans and other animals.

Source and further details: A*STAR

6.2.3 Sir Timothy Hunt on how to win a Nobel Prize

Speaking at the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS@one-north 2015), which took place at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University from 18-23 January 2015, the 2001 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine told a 300-strong crowd of aspiring young scientists what it took him to win a Nobel Prize: aptitude, the right environment and a little lady luck.

Full story: Asian Scientist Magazine
7 Grants & Fellowships

7.1 In Focus: Marie Skłodwoska-Curie Actions – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

What Is the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

The RISE is one of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon 2020, the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

What is the aim of RISE?

The RISE aims at international and inter-sector collaboration through promoting research and innovation exchanges of staff. RISE will support short-term mobility of research and innovation staff at all career levels, from the most junior (post-graduate) to the most senior (management), including administrative and technical staff.

Who can apply?

RISE is open to partnerships of universities, research institutions, and non-academic organisations both within and beyond Europe. Universities, research institutes can apply, not individuals. ASEAN universities, research institutes, and companies are eligible [institutions in Singapore are not automatically eligible for funding].

Why should I apply?

You can expand and strengthen your network and gain new expertise. You and your European partners can share knowledge and skills, and broaden the career development of your staff, and you can strengthen your institutional links with Europe.

Which research topics are supported?

Any research field may qualify for RISE funding, apart from areas covered by the EURATOM Treaty.

How does it work?

A RISE partnership is composed of at least three independent participants established in three different countries. An ASEAN university, research institute or company would need to partner with organisation in at least 2 European countries to propose a joint research and innovation project. Proposals should highlight networking opportunities, sharing of knowledge and the skills development of staff members.
What does the funding cover?

The funding covers secondments of staff members from one month to one year as well as funding to support research, training and networking activities. Funding for a RISE project can last up to four years.

How can I apply?

Inform yourself about the application timeline and familiarise yourself with the most important documents (Guide for Applicants and Work Programme).

When can I apply?


More information here

7.2 H2020

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

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

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

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

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

International researchers are also invited to join the database of independent experts for European research and innovation. Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.
7.3 European Research Council (ERC) Grants

7.3.1 ERC Starting Grants

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 research in Europe. The scheme targets promising researchers who have the 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 € 1.5 million (in some circumstances up to € 2 million)
- Duration: up to 5 years
- Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
- Calls for proposals: published once a year

**Deadline:** 3 February 2015.

Further details

7.3.2 ERC Consolidator Grants

ERC Consolidator Grants are designed to support researchers at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme. The scheme will strengthen independent and excellent new individual research teams that have been recently created.

**ERC Consolidator Grants in brief**

- For researchers of any nationality with over 7 and up to 12 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 € 2 million (in some circumstances up to € 2.75 million)
• Duration: up to 5 years
• Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
• Calls for proposals: published once a year.

Deadline: 12 March 2015.
Further details

Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding (Proof of Concept Grant; PoC) to explore the innovation potential of their research results.

Call now open.
Deadlines: 5 March 2015, 28 May 2015, 1 October 2015

7.4 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 to organize conferences, EMBO | EMBL Symposia, workshops, EMBO | FEBS Lecture Courses, 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.
7.5 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.

7.6 HFSP Frontier Research Grants

The HSFP is a program of funding for frontier research in the life sciences. It is implemented by the HFSP Organization, of which the EU, several of its Member States, and SINGAPORE among others are Supporting Parties.

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) supports novel, innovative and interdisciplinary basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organism. A clear emphasis is placed on novel international collaborations that bring biologists together with scientists from other fields to focus on problems at the frontier of the life sciences.

Guidelines for 2016 Program Grants and Young Investigator Grants applications are now available. Applications have to be made via the HFSP extranet website, which will be operational from mid-January 2015. Successful projects may receive up to USD 450,000 (EUR 350,000) per year.

The Principal Applicant representing the international team must be located in one of the member countries, but participants can be located in any country.

Application deadline: 19 March 2015

Further details

7.7 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.

7.8 Belgium: Federal Science Policy Office – Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers

The stimulation of international mobility and the attraction of researchers from abroad is one of the priorities of the European Research Area. In this context, and intending to stimulate S&T cooperation, the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) implements a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e., postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

More information here.

7.9 France: LE STUDIUM® Research Fellowship

LE STUDIUM® Loire Valley Insitute for Advanced Studies finances several programmes to welcome foreign researchers in the “Region Centre” for a one-year residency. One of the programmes is open to foreign researchers who would like to propose a research project to conduct research at a high level host laboratory located in the region Centre of France.

Successful applicants will enjoy an attractive research fellow’s salary, scientific animation and accommodation. The organizers will also deal with all logistics and administrative aspects (visa, residence permit, registration to social agencies, medical coverage, school for children, diverse activities…) to welcome the researcher and his family.

To be eligible for a fellowship, applicants must identify a research team in region Centre that will host them for your one-year residency. If necessary, assistance can be obtained from LE STUDIUM®. For further information, please contact Aurélien Montagu at: aurelien.montagu@lestudium-ias.fr

Deadline: 16 February 2015

Details here

7.10 Franco-Thai Scholarship Program 2015

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
The Franco-Thai Scholarship Program is directed to Thai students under the age of 35 who intend to study in French universities or Higher Education Institutions, at Master's degree or Ph.D. level. Further The Franco-Thai Scholarship Program is directed to Thai people under the age of 35 who intend to study in French universities or Higher Education Institutions, at Master's degree or Ph.D. level.

**Deadline: 19 February 2015**

Further details

---

### 7.11 Germany: Free University Berlin - 20 Incoming Postdoc Fellowships

Starting in November 2015, each research fellowship will be awarded for 18 months. Applicants have to submit a project plan based around the research fields/ key topics of the participating Excellence Projects or Focus Areas.

List of participating Excellence Projects or Focus Areas [here](#).

**Deadline for applications: 13 March 2015**

Further details

---

### 7.12 Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Georg Forster Research Fellowship (HERMES)

Top opportunities for researchers from developing countries who fulfil the following criteria:

- Researchers with above average qualifications in a developing or transition country (see [list of countries](#)),
- Intention to carry out long-term research of own choice (6 to 24 months) at a research institution in Germany together with a chosen academic host,
- Research outline includes aspects that are important for the continued development of applicant's home country or region of origin and
- Desire to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and methods between Germany and country of origin.

**AvH offers**

- a monthly fellowship of 2,650 EUR for postdoctoral researchers (doctorate completed within the last four years) or 3,150 EUR for experienced researchers (doctorate completed within the last 12 years),

Further details
• a flexible starting date and - for experienced researchers - the option of splitting the fellowship up into a maximum of three stays,

• individual mentoring during the sponsorship period,

• intensive German language course for fellows and their marital partners prior to the fellowship,

• additional financial support for accompanying family members, for example, or for items like travel expenses or pension plans and

• comprehensive alumni sponsorship once the research stay has come to an end, such as a Return Fellowship or further stays in Germany.

As many as 80 Georg Forster Research Fellowships can be granted annually. In the last few years, about one third of applications were successful (see also positive selection decisions since March 2013).

In addition, the Humboldt Foundation grants up to four Georg Forster Research Awards every year to leading researchers from developing countries.

Further details

7.13 Germany: DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

‘DLR – DAAD Research Fellowships’ is a new programme implemented by the ‘Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt’ (DLR) and the ‘German Academic Exchange Service’ (DAAD).

DLR is Germany’s national research center for aeronautics and space. Its extensive research and development work in Aeronautics, Space, Transportation and Energy is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures.

This special programme is intended for highly-qualified foreign doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as senior scientists. DLR-DAAD Fellowships offer outstanding scientists and researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at the institutes of the DLR in Germany.

DLR-DAAD Fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each Fellowship announcement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit. The current offers are published under ‘DLR-DAAD Fellowships - Current Offers’ on the homepages of the DAAD and the DLR.

Varying application deadlines.
7.14 Germany: DAAD offers research grants and fellowships for PhD studies and research stays in Germany

The German Academic Exchange Service offers funding opportunities for researchers of all disciplines and at various career stages including funding for PhD studies and research stays at a research institute or university in Germany. Deadlines vary. The funding database can be accessed [here](#).

7.15 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 program 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](#).
8 Jobs

There are currently 6373 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

**AUSTRIA** (Graz): Technical University Graz, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Economic Sciences, is inviting applications for an Endowed Professorship in Computational Fluid Dynamics.

[Details](#)

**Denmark** (Copenhagen): PhD position on compilation techniques for flow-based microfluidic biochips at the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen.

[Details](#)

**GERMANY** (Dresden): The Soil and Land-use Management section at UNU-FLORES is looking for a Research Assistant.

[Details](#)

**ISRAEL** (Rehovot): Postdoctoral position is available in a project on cryopreservation of ovarian tissues and improvement of cryopreservation by antifreeze proteins at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

[Details](#)

**NORWAY** (Stavanger): The University of Stavanger invites applications for a doctorate scholarship in enhanced oil recovery at Department of Petroleum Engineering.

[Details](#)

**Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships**

25 Postdoctoral Fellowships in any field at the University of Liege in Belgium.

[Details](#)

15 doctoral research positions in European research-training network MetaRNA (Biological sciences) in the Netherlands.

[Details](#)

15 PhD positions in biological sciences in the European training network EUROLEISH-NET in Barcelona, Sain.

[Details](#)
9 Events

9.1 Celebrating bi-regional scientific cooperation: ASEAN-EU-STI Days 2015

The ASEAN-EU STI Days bring together researchers, scientists, science policy-makers, innovative companies, and other stakeholders from ASEAN and EU countries for an annual three-day conference on science, technology, and innovation issues and bi-regional co-operation in these fields.

The ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015 will take place in Paris, France on 17 to 19 March 2015. This year’s edition will focus on presenting ASEAN research excellence to European stakeholders as well as on raising awareness of current developments in science and technology in the most dynamic regions in the world. There will be a number of scientific workshops and expert sessions on various topics including infectious diseases; the water, food, energy nexus; metrology; the ASEAN Economic Community 2015; and innovation. The expected number of participants is 300 from Southeast Asia and Europe. The STI Days are an ideal occasion for networking and exchange of ideas in thematic areas like Health, Environment, Water, Food Security & Safety or Innovation. A Brokerage Event connected to the previously mentioned topics, field visits to research facilities in and around Paris as well as a paper and poster competition will make the programme even more attractive. The STI Days are generally visited by policy-makers, company representatives, researchers and research administrators from both regions.

Background of the STI Days

The ASEAN-EU STI Days are a forum style event, initiated by the FP7 funded INCO-NET project: SEA-EU-NET II. The first event of this kind was organised in Bangkok, Thailand on 21-23 January 2014 and was hosted by the National Science & Technology Development Agency Thailand (NSTDA). The event had a great success with more than 500 participants from both regions. The focus has been on providing insight into the European research and innovation landscape in Southeast Asia. It also served as the official launch of Horizon 2020 in the ASEAN region. For results from the ASEAN EU-STI Days 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand please the visit the STI Days archive.

Programme

The ASEAN-EU STI Days are a flexible forum for STI related activities from the two regions, including:

- **Scientific workshops** and **expert sessions** on infectious diseases; water, innovation etc.
- Activities, organised by various projects targeting ASEAN countries or the Societal Challenges Health, Food, Water
- Brokerage Events connected to the main scientific topics of the STI Days

For details please visit the [full schedule of the ASEAN-EU STI Days 2015](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).
EURAXESS LINKS ASEAN

- Exhibition: Showcase Innovation
- Meeting and training of National Contact Points
- Field visits at research facilities in and around Paris
- Paper and poster competition

9.2 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events January to May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Inauguration of Mobility Ambassadors for Southeast Asia</td>
<td>May 2015 Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>Southeast Asian researchers that have benefited from the Marie Curie Actions and ERC Grants</td>
<td>To establish a regional alumni network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Advancing Your Research Career in Europe: Funding and Fellowship Opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers</td>
<td>May 2015 Bangkok, Thailand &amp; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
<td>Southeast Asian researchers, research administrators, policy-makers</td>
<td>Information event offering detailed information on European funding opportunities for Southeast Asian Researchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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
9.3 Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together – Milan (Italy), 14 – 16 October 2015

Conference on the occasion of World EXPO 2015. The conference will focus on two major themes:

- Assessment Science and
- Science, Innovation and Society

Register on-line by 15 May 2015 or Submit an abstract for the poster session by 3 April 2015!

Further Details

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

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

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

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

About EURAXESS Links ASEAN
EURAXESS Links ASEAN is a network of 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 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.