Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present you the 40th edition of the EURAXESS Links ASEAN e-newsletter.

This month’s EU Insight focuses on the European Commission’s reflection on the success of the Innovation Union initiative. Published in early June this year, “State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014” provides a first review of what is one of seven flagship initiatives in the Europe 2020 strategy to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Preparations for our own flagship event – the EURAXESS Science Slam – are well under way. Researchers from across ASEAN are invited to submit their video entry until 15 September.

Wishing you a great month ahead!

Your EURAXESS Links ASEAN team
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1 EU Insight – Innovation Union Status Report

In September 2013, the EU Insight section in our monthly newsletter introduced the Innovation Union - one of the seven flagship initiatives in the Europe 2020 strategy to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This initiative places innovation as overarching policy objective and as the best means of successfully tackling major societal challenges, such as climate change, energy and resource scarcity or health and ageing. On June 10th, 2014, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation published the 2014 Staff Working Document “State of the Innovation Union – Taking stock 2010-2014”.

The report and Innovation Union achievements so far

Four years after the launch of the Innovation Union, the report takes stock of how the initiative has been implemented so far. The assessment systematically follows the key messages and 34 commitments (so-called “action points”) made under the “Innovation Union” initiative and analyses the progress made, the measures implemented as well as the challenges and gaps remaining. Overall, the document concludes that “the Innovation Union is succeeding in building momentum around innovation, mobilizing stakeholders and mainstreaming innovation in key European, national and regional policies”.

Substantial progress has been made, for example,

(1) in promoting excellence in education and skills development, the European Research Area (ERA) and in supporting business-academia collaborations;

(2) towards the creation of a genuine single European market for innovation and the stimulation of private sector investment for a more innovation-friendly business environment in Europe;

(3) towards the maximization of regional and social cohesion to improve the innovation performance across European regions and Member States, without compromising on excellence;

(4) in establishing European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) as a new approach of bringing together public and private actors at EU, national and regional levels. Since 2015 five EIPs have already been launched in key areas, namely active and healthy ageing, agricultural productivity and sustainability, smart cities and communities, raw materials, and water;

(5) in making Europe more attractive as a research destination.

To monitor the Innovation Union and progress at EU and Member State’s innovation performance, several instruments and indicators have been put in place, including the Innovation Union Scoreboard, the Innovation Output Indicator, the Innovation Union Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) or peer review exercises.
Challenges ahead and gaps remaining

While progress can be reported in all areas, the report also identifies several challenges ahead to fully reach the goals set under the Innovation Union strategy until 2020. For instance, it detects the inconsistencies of rules and practices despite the progress made in the development of a single market. These inconsistencies are still remaining and are recognized as an obstacle to the development of high growth innovative firms. Better coordination between policies at the European and Members States level would be highly profitable, notably with regards to researchers’ mobility, open recruitment and uptake of the Innovative Doctoral Training Principles. Furthermore, the skills shortage is still evident despite great progress made through the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the Knowledge Alliances and other skills development schemes. The document highlights the need to involve the society in all phases of the innovation cycle to foster a wider innovation culture in Europe, to make innovation more relevant and acceptable and to improve its uptake, and concludes that the peer review exercises or the SAT have also only been requested or used by a small number of countries. As an increasingly recognized key driver of innovation, the public sector’s role in promoting innovation through regulation, fiscal policies, standard setting, procurement and supply-side policies has been tested in the past. While there is still room for an increased uptake of such tools in the future and for a better mix of supply and demand policies – its capacity to innovate itself so as to become more user-friendly, efficient and effective should be further explored.

All of the Innovation Union commitments are currently on course, setting the building blocks for increased growth and jobs. To continue to reap the fruit of all the measures that the Innovation Union has put in motion, it is now essential to ensure their full roll-out and use as well as to anticipate, where possible, further actions to optimise their impact, based on the lessons learnt during the first years of implementation.

Sources and further information:


[2] Innovation Union website
2 EURAXESS Sciene Slam 2014 – searching for ASEAN’s Best Science Slammer

The search for ASEAN’s best science slammer is well underway – universities and research institutes across the ten ASEAN member states have been invited by EURAXESS Links ASEAN to alert their respective research communities to the unique opportunity of gaining a spot on the live slam finals which will be held on 13 November. Up for grabs is a free trip to Europe together with the best EURAXESS Science Slammers of Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America. The five slammers will head to Europe for a unique networking opportunity and science communication training specially tailored to their needs.

If you have a great idea that you would like to share on stage with your academic peers then submit your video entry until 15 September. This contest is open to researchers of any nationality and any discipline currently conducting research in ASEAN.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Step 1: Get creative and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world: Tap dancing, singing, old-school presentation, scientific equipment – all is allowed.

Step 2: Make a 3 minute video of your presentation with your camera phone (or equivalent). Make sure the presentation is in English.

Step 3: Post your video on the EURAXESS Links ASEAN Facebook site or send us the link to your video at asean@euraxess.net.
About the EURAXESS Science Slam:

→ EURAXESS Science Slam ASEAN 2014 is part of the EURAXESS Science Slam series that takes place annually in the EURAXESS Links locations ASEAN, Brazil, China, India, Japan, and North America.
→ The event gives young researchers in ASEAN the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.
→ A jury of experts will select 5 finalists from the video submissions. Each of the 5 finalists will present a topic related to their research to an audience of non-experts at the final slam to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 13 November 2014.
→ Economy return flights (1 ticket per person) and hotel accommodation (2 nights) will be booked and paid for by EURAXESS Links ASEAN for the 5 finalists not resident in Bangkok, Thailand.
→ The slam will be given in English in less than 10 minutes and can be supported by video and audio material, ppt. slides and any other kind of media available, as well as by scientific equipment.
→ The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury based on conceptualization, style and originality.
→ The winner will be awarded a round trip to Europe where he or she will attend a scientific meeting along with the winners of the other EURAXESS Science Slams organized in the US and Canada, Japan, India, China and Brazil.
→ The event is open to researchers of all nationalities currently based in ASEAN active in all fields of research.

For full details on the terms and conditions please visit the EURAXESS Science Slam website.

*Should the political situation in Thailand not have stabilised until November the slam finals will be moved to a different location in ASEAN.
3 Spotlight: SUSTAIN EU – ASEAN project at 9th ASEAN Science and Technology Week 2014

The ASEAN Science & Technology Week is a two-week long combination of scientific conferences, policy meetings and technology exhibitions. A flagship project of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) it seeks to showcase major S&T achievements and potential generated both in the 10 ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners which are relevant to the region’s needs and goals.

The event offers opportunities for researchers and policy-makers to network and to expand their S&T cooperation. Titled “Innovations from the most dynamic region to earth”, the 9th ASEAN Science & Technology Week will take place in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia in mid-August.

Actively participating in this event will be the FP7-funded SUSTAIN EU-ASEAN Project, which aims at establishing a more sustainable and integrated research and innovation cooperation between the EU and the ASEAN region in the areas of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials. SUSTAIN will be present with a scientific workshop, cluster meetings, and an internal consortium meeting. In addition, SUSTAIN will provide the first, of a total of three media training workshops for up to 15 invited projects. The media workshop aims towards helping scientists and researchers to have an impact outside of the academic world by helping participants to build their skills to inform and influence policy makers and the media representatives by employing techniques and tools for delivering effectively key messages about their research findings.

For more information on the EU-ASEAN SUSTAIN project please click here.

For more information on the 9th ASEAN Science & Technology Week please click here.
4 News & Developments

4.1 European Union

4.1.1 Exceptional inventors honoured with European Inventor Award 2014

On 17 June, the EPO presented the European Inventor Award 2014 to outstanding inventors or teams, honouring their contribution to social, economic and technological progress. "Innovation is absolutely essential for Europe to generate growth and prosperity and secure its position among the leading industrial regions," said EPO President Benoît Battistelli at the award ceremony in Berlin. "All of the inventors we are honouring here today have introduced game-changing technological innovations in their respective fields [...] Their ingenuity and creativity are indicative of Europe's position as a leading technology region. And patents play a major role in protecting this status on a daily basis."

Source: EPO

4.1.2 EU and EIB Group join forces to support up to €48 billion in R&I investment

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group (EIB) launched on 12th June a new generation of EU financial instruments and advisory services to help innovative firms access finance more easily. Over the next seven years, it is expected that the "InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators" products will make available more than €24 billion of financing for research and innovation (R&I) by small, medium and large companies and the promoters of research infrastructures. This finance is expected to support up to €48 billion of final R&I investments.

"InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators" will consist of a range of tailored products – from guarantees for intermediaries that lend to SMEs to direct loans to enterprises - helping support the smallest to the largest R&I projects in the EU and countries associated to Horizon 2020, the new EU research programme for 2014-20. InnovFin builds on the success of the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility, developed under the seventh EU framework programme for research and technological development (FP7), which helped provide over €11 billion of finance to 114 R&I projects worth more than €30 billion.

The EIB Group consists of the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF). The European Investment Bank will provide loans to medium to larger companies, or guarantees to banks lending to them. The EIF will provide guarantees to banks lending to small and medium-sized firms and – at a later stage – invest in venture capital funds providing start ups and fast-growing firms with equity.

The launch took place at a two-day conference, organised by the Greek Presidency of the EU, to discuss how to improve access to finance for research
and innovation.

InnovFin guarantees and loans will be backed by funds set aside under Horizon 2020 and by the EIB Group for the purpose of supporting R&I investment, which by nature is riskier and harder to appraise than tangible investments. All are demand-driven instruments, with no prior allocations between sectors, countries or regions. These debt instruments will be complemented in the near future by a suite of equity instruments managed by the EIF. In total, some €2.7 billion of Horizon 2020’s near €80 billion budget will support these financial instruments.

Source: European Commission

4.1.3 European Commission points to innovation reforms to sustain economic recovery

The European Commission has highlighted on 10th June the importance of research and innovation (R&I) investments and reforms for economic recovery in the European Union, and made proposals to help EU Member States maximise the impact of their budgets at a time when many countries still face spending constraints. Increasing R&I investment is a proven driver of growth, while improving the efficiency and quality of public R&I spending is also critical if Europe is to maintain or achieve a leading position in many fields of knowledge and key technologies. The Commission has pledged support to Member States in pursuing R&I reforms best suited to their needs, including by providing policy support, world-class data and examples of best practice. The Communication published by the Commission highlights three key areas of reform:

Improving the quality of strategy development and the policy-making process, bringing together both research and innovation activities, and underpinned by a stable multi-annual budget that strategically focuses resources;

Improving the quality of R&I programmes, including through reductions of administrative burdens and more competitive allocating of funding;

Improving the quality of public institutions performing research and innovation, including through new partnerships with industry.

The Commission has also called on Member States to prioritise R&I, as public authorities regain margins for growth-enhancing investment. With current R&I spending across the public and private sector worth just over 2% of GDP, the EU remains well behind international competitors like the United States, Japan and South Korea, with China also now very close to overtaking the EU (see graph). Increasing R&I spending to 3% of GDP therefore remains a key target for the EU, but the Communication today shows that improving the quality of public spending in this area is also essential in order to increase the economic impact of investment. The Communication points equally to the need for the EU needs to put in place the right framework conditions to encourage European companies to innovate further.

Source: European Commission
4.1.4 Research meets diplomacy: Europe as a Global Actor

On 5th June the European Commission’s Directorate General for Research and Innovation, in cooperation with the FLASH-IT project, organized a conference on “Research Meets Diplomacy: Europe as a Global Actor”. This conference was on the one hand intended to take stock of the rich research financed under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities programme under the 7th Framework Programme. On the other hand, through an exchange between researchers and EU foreign policy-makers, ideas were discussed on future topics for research on the EU as a global actor under Societal Challenge 6 “Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies” of Horizon 2020.

The debates concentrated on three major themes:

- the EU’s capacities as a global actor,
- the EU’s neighbourhood with an emphasis on the Mediterranean, and
- the EU’s role in the wider world and key global challenges, focussing on two regions that have been less in the spotlight: Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The event brought together over 120 participants from the public and private sector, including many academics and policy-makers.

Source: European Commission

4.1.5 EU launches world’s largest civilian robotics programme – 240,000 new jobs expected

The European Commission and 180 companies and research organisations (under the umbrella of euRobotics) launched on the 3rd June the world’s largest civilian research and innovation programme in robotics. Covering manufacturing, agriculture, health, transport, civil security and households, the initiative – called SPARC – is the EU’s industrial policy effort to strengthen Europe’s position in the global robotics market (€60 billion a year by 2020). This initiative is expected to create over 240,000 jobs in Europe, and increase Europe’s share of the global market to 42% (a boost of €4 billion per year). The European Commission will invest €700 million and euRobotics €2.1 billion.

Robotics enables companies to continue manufacturing in Europe, where they might otherwise move operations to lower-cost countries. But the potential of robotics goes far beyond the factory: from helping nurses in hospitals to inspecting dangerous power plants and tedious farm work. Autonomous cars and drones are other examples of robots. (see: What robots can do for you).

Source: European Commission

4.1.6 More than €3 billion invested in European smart grids projects

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) recently published its 2014 edition of the "Smart Grid projects outlook", which presents the most comprehensive
database of smart grid and smart metering initiatives up until the first quarter of 2014 across the European Union, Switzerland and Norway. The results can also now be visualised using new interactive, freely available web tools. In this update, more than 450 smart grid projects were identified, accounting for a total investment of €3.15 billion.

Although the work from the preceding reports cannot be directly compared with this inventory a positive trend can be confirmed. The previous edition of this study reported 281 projects and a €1.8 billion budget.

With its 135 projects, Germany has the largest number of initiatives, while France and the United Kingdom have invested the most, at €500 million each. In both countries €5 million is on average pumped into a project. Denmark has the highest investment in smart grids per capita and per national electricity consumption followed by Slovenia, which together with the Czech Republic, is one of the leading countries within the newer Member States in establishing a strategy for smart grid testing and implementation. However, Eastern European countries only account for less than 1% of the total budget.

EU-15 organisations still manage the bulk of the investments in smart grid projects, of these, 90% are supported by some form of public funding. Private capital investment amounts to 49%; the rest comes from EC (22%), national (18%) and regulatory funding (9%), and the remaining 2% is unclassified. Several types of organisations, such as universities and distribution system operators – which together manage more than half of the budget –, transmission system operators, manufacturers and ICT companies participate to significant degrees in smart grid projects. Around 200 million smart electricity meters in Europe (ca. 72% of EU customers) are expected to be deployed by 2020 with an estimated investment of €35 billion. In EU Member States where the roll-out of smart metering is positively assessed, the expected penetration rate for electricity may even exceed the EU target of 80% by 2020.

Together with this study, several interactive visualisation tools were launched, allowing the user to generate customisable maps, graphs and charts to track the progress on the European smart grid projects.

Source: Joint Research Centre

4.1.7 Samos 2014 Summit on ICT-enabled Governance

More than 80 high-level experts in electronic governance from 20 countries will participate in the 5th International Samos Summit on “ICT-enabled Governance”. The key issues for this year’s summit are Open Data, powered by the SHARE PSI 2.0 project and Global Systems Science, an attempt to enable policy makers with scientific method and tools for evidence-based decision making.

The Summit will present the new approaches and guidelines for internet technologies in the context of the Digital Agenda 2020 and the new HORIZON 2020 framework for research and development in the European Union. More than 15 international research projects will present their proposals for new
electronic services and tools for policymakers, citizen participation in decision making, open governance and effective management through open data initiatives at national and local level, including the CONSENSUS, e-POLICY, e-GOVPOLINET, GEN6, PERIKLIS and POLICY COMPASS projects.

The involvement of the younger generation of scientists takes place through the organization of the 2nd Summer School on “Open and Collaborative Governance”.

More information here.

4.1.8 SMEs participating in EU R&D funding programmes fare better than others

A report published in May 2014 by the EU reveals that its research funding programmes have a considerable impact on participating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Employment, remarkably, increased almost five times faster in the evaluated SMEs as compared to a control group of companies not having taken part in European projects. Two European programmes including several sub-schemes, the cooperation programme and Research for the Benefit of SMEs were also evaluated for their capacities to increase SMEs’ turnover and exports. Small businesses capacity to innovate and the added value of European collaboration in research were also positively evaluated.

The increase in turnover is estimated by the SMEs surveyed as between 16% and 22%. More than 67% of all SMEs reported having implemented an innovation and 59% increased their involvement in collaborative research with access to technological knowledge from abroad being the most important reason for collaboration.

Source: EUREKA

4.1.9 Open Access to Publications and Data in Horizon 2020

All projects receiving Horizon 2020 funding will have the obligation to make sure any peer-reviewed journal article which they publish is openly accessible, free of charge.

This fact sheet is written as a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document, in order to answer queries received from Horizon 2020 applicants. This fact sheet should be read in parallel with the "Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020".

Source: European Commission

4.1.10 ERC brochure “Engaging Scientists with Frontier Research” published on the occasion of ESOF

This brochure presents a selection of the remarkable ERC-funded projects showcased this year at ESOF. They are investigating how to assess childhood...
risks of developing cancer; the usefulness of climate information for policymakers; the design of spaces for disabled people; how fossils can uncover the evolution of life; the ecosystems and environmental management; the interdependence between species in nature and the prediction of epidemics.

The ERC is the first pan-European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research and stimulate scientific excellence across Europe. It aims to support the best and most creative scientists to identify and explore new directions in any field of research (Physical Sciences and Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences and Humanities) with no thematic priorities. In particular, the ERC encourages proposals which cross disciplinary boundaries, address new and emerging fields and introduce unconventional and innovative approaches.

Since 2007, the ERC has funded over 4,000 researchers.

Source / Publication: ERC

4.1.11 European researchers among Thomson Reuters list of the World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014

Thomson Reuters has released its analysis announcing "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds: 2014," listing the top researchers in science around the globe. Those named have earned their distinction by publishing the highest number of articles that rank among those most frequently cited by fellow researchers. The report is based on two separate studies. The first analysis, an annual study performed by Thomson Reuters, spotlights the scientific community's emerging trends and the innovators behind them by ranking the scientists, or hottest researchers, who recently published at least 15 papers with notably higher levels of citations. The 2014 list of the hottest researchers was identified by tabulating citations that were recorded during calendar year 2013 for papers published between 2011 and 2013.

The second, longer-range study updates the world's most influential researchers listing, also known as the most Highly Cited Researchers. There are upwards of 3,200 researchers from around the world recognized in this study. This compilation attests to the power and scope of citations in determining influential research across disciplines.

Source: PRNewswire

4.1.12 ASEAN

4.1.13 Bridging the Gaps in Asian Vaccine development

Aware that vaccines are desperately needed for diseases endemic to Asia but currently overlooked by major pharmaceutical companies, many Asian governments have sought to enhance the ability of local manufacturers to meet domestic needs. Representatives from Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Singapore and Australia shared their perspectives on the regional challenges
faced in the vaccine industry at the World Vaccine Congress Asia, held at Singapore Suntec Convention & Exhibition Center from 9-12 June 2014.

**Full article: Asian Scientist Magazine**

### 4.1.14 A New Species a Day in the Mekong

367 new species discovered in the Mekong region between 2012-2013 which are described in the WWF’s new report, *Mysterious Mekong*. Among them is a new species of flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus laoensis*). It was discovered based on a single animal collected from a bush meat market in Laos. With its distinctive red and white fur, the Laotian giant flying squirrel is also the first record of the genus from Southeast Asia.

**Full article: WWF**

### 4.1.15 Singapore and France strengthen research ties

France and Singapore have signed several new agreements on 30 May to take research collaboration between the two countries up another notch. Among them are agreements that elevate two joint research projects at NUS into full-scale international laboratories with French national research centre Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

One of the new labs, the Merlion MajuLab at NUS, will have groups from NUS, CNRS and Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU) joining hands in interdisciplinary research that spans quantum physics, nanoscale physics and quantum computing. The lab is led by Professor Christian Miniatura from CNRS, who is also Visiting Research Professor at the Centre for Quantum Technologies at NUS and the NUS Department of Physics. A French university, Nice Sophia Antipolis University, and NUS’ Graphene Research Centre will also be involved in the projects.

The second new lab is the BioMechanics of Cellular Contacts Lab, which will be headed by CNRS Associate Professor Virgile Viasnoff. He also holds two appointments at NUS in the Department of Biological Sciences and the Mechanobiology Institute. This lab will use an interdisciplinary and multiscale approach to understand the coupling between the mechanics, the spatial organisation of proteins and the biological properties of cell contacts.

Officials from France and Singapore have also signed a national-level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Agence Nationale de la Recherche and the National Research Foundation, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore. This MOU establishes a joint funding of French-Singapore collaborative research projects. Under the joint grant call, research projects selected for funding must reflect a high degree of collaboration between both the French and Singaporean partners in planning, development and execution. The joint call will run for three cycles, with the inaugural grant call focusing on areas such as materials, nanotechnologies and nano systems-starting in the second half of 2014. The inaugural grant call, which is expected to fund two to
three projects each cycle, will provide funding of up to S$1 million per project for a maximum of three years.

As another sign of French commitment to Singapore, the CNRS Representative Office for Southeast Asia will also be relocated to Singapore from Hanoi. It will be sited at Biopolis and will serve as a hub for CNRS' French partners seeking to establish contacts here.

Source: NUS

4.1.16 German company partners with Singaporean research institute to innovate manufacturing processes

Singapore’s A*STAR Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences (ICES) has partnered German company Hellma Analytics (Hellma) to co-develop next generation manufacturing technologies for the pharmaceutical and specialty chemicals sectors. Hellma has joined the A*STAR consortium on Innovative Processing for Specialties and Pharmaceuticals (iPSP) to drive innovative manufacturing solutions aimed at achieving cost, quality, process and environmental improvements.

Mr. Lutz Mayer, General Director of the Hellma Group, said: "With the spirit of a pioneer, Hellma Analytics launched the first optical immersion probes in 1995 to make process control more efficient and safe. For us, this was the start of a process-revolution to decrease costs, improve manufacturing performance and create responsiveness in production and processes. Together with industry partners, we work today at the leading edge of the development of innovative processing for pharmaceutical and specialties chemicals manufacturing."

Source: A*STAR
5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 National EURAXESS portals

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

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

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

5.2 H2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders of any nationality and any age to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains.

The ERC Advanced Grant funding targets researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders in their own right.

ERC Advanced Grants in brief

- Research field: any field of science, engineering and scholarship
- Researchers: any nationality, any age. Applicants must be scientifically independent and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research
- Sole evaluation criterion: scientific excellence of researcher and research proposal
- Host Institution: research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries
- Funding: up to € 2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)
- Duration: up to 5 years

Deadline: 21 October 2014
Details here.

5.4 Results of the CONNECT2SEA call for proposals / EU-Southeast Asia cooperation in ICT

The FP7-funded CONNECT2SEA project funded by DG CNECT organised the call for proposals to initiate and broaden ICT R&D collaboration between teams from Europe and South East Asia.

The call was open from 31st March 2014 to 31st May 2014 and was published on the web site of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

55 applications with involvement of over 130 participating organizations across Europe and Southeast Asia have been received.

Applicants and their team members come from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, German, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom in Europe and from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam in South East Asia.
More than **350 000 euros** were requested for travel and event cooperation grants, for a maximum available sum of up to **100 000** euros.

The success of this call for proposals shows the high interest for such “light” support schemes and ICT EU-SEA R&D collaboration in general.

The evaluation of the applications has started; results are expected before the end of July 2014.

*For more information:* [http://www.connect2sea.eu](http://www.connect2sea.eu)

5.5 **International Call for Proposal in PRR Asia – Institut Pasteur Cambodia**

The new Regional Research Platform-Asia (PRR-Asia) located in the Institut Pasteur's research environment, aims to become a center of excellence for infectious and emerging diseases in Southeast Asia through international research programs. The PRR-Asia is pleased to launch its first call to host and nurture regional projects to be implemented in Southeast Asia. Through this call the PRR-Asia will offer its infrastructure and valuable scientific environment to a selection of projects. Priority will be given to projects with a specific focus on infectious diseases though projects on non-transmissible diseases will be eligible too. Moreover projects that include teaching and training components will have an advantage.

**Deadline:** 1 September 2014

*Details* [here](#)

5.6 **European University Institute Florence (Italy) – Fellowships in Social Sciences and Humanities**

Max Weber Fellowships for junior post-docs in economics, law, history, social and political sciences, or a related field.

*Details* [here](#).

Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships to carry out research at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS).

*Details* [here](#).

**Deadline:** 25 October 2014

5.7 **European Fellowships Open to Participation by Researchers from ASEAN**

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

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

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

**Deadline for application: 11 September 2014**

Further [details](#).

### 5.8 Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Germany – New Call For Sofia Kovalevskaja Award

This award offers 8 young researchers up to 1.65 million EUR in funding to develop their own working groups at a research institute of their choice in Germany over a five-year period. During this time these junior researchers can conduct their own research projects in Germany, independently and free from administrative constraints, and put innovative ideas into practice.

With this award, the Humboldt Foundation singles out outstanding research talents and innovative research methods. The award is one of the best-endowed science awards in Germany. Applications may be submitted by distinguished junior scientists and scholars from abroad in any discipline. Applicants must have completed their doctorate less than six years ago.

**Deadline: 1 September 2014**

Details [here](#).
5.9 CERN Fellowship Programme

Fellowship and Graduate Engineering Training (GET) targeting researchers in physical sciences and engineering graduates for senior and junior nationals of a CERN Member State.

**Deadline:** 1 September 2014

**Details:** [CERN](#)

Doctoral incoming student programme to spend 6 to 36 months doing thesis research at CERN. Open to CERN member states nationals, Romanian, Serbian and researchers residing in a member state for the last 5 years.

**Deadline:** 31 October 2014.

**Details** [CERN](#)

5.10 European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme

The European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme is an international researcher mobility programme offering 10-month residencies in one of the 16 participating Institutes: Berlin, Bologna, Budapest, Cambridge, Delmenhorst, Edinburgh, Freiburg, Helsinki, Jerusalem, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Uppsala, Vienna, Wassenaar, Zürich.

EURIAS Fellowships are mainly offered in the fields of the humanities and social sciences but may also be granted to scholars in life and exact sciences, provided that their proposed research project does not require laboratory facilities and that it interfaces with humanities and social sciences. The diversity of the 16 participating IAS offers a wide range of possible research contexts in Europe for worldwide scholars.

Applicants may select up to three IAS outside their country of nationality or residence as possible host institutions.

The Programme welcomes applications worldwide from promising young scholars (postdoc) as well as from leading senior researchers.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, EURIAS offers 44 fellowships (22 junior and 22 senior positions). All IAS have agreed on common standards, including the provision of a living allowance (in the range of € 26,000 for a junior fellow and € 38,000 for a senior fellow), accommodation (or a mobility allowance), a research budget, plus coverage of travel expenses.

**The deadline for application is June 5th, 2014.**

Further [details](#).
6 Jobs

There are currently 6967 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe and partner countries and in all disciplines) accessible via the EURAXESS Jobs database.

AUSTRIA (Vienna): Postdoc position in the Computational Physics Group, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna

Details

DENMARK (Odense): PhD Scholarship in Statistics, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Southern Denmark

Details

FINLAND (Turku): 3 tenure track Assistant Professorships or Professors of computer science in the fields of Machine Learning, Language Technology, and Interaction Design, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Turku

Details

FRANCE (Reims): PhD in Planetary Science, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne

Details

Examples of Jobs supported by Marie Curie Actions Research Fellowships

→ PhD positions at the research group Neuroplasticity at the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology in Magdeburg, Germany

Details

→ Post doc position in the MEDOW (Multi-terminal DC grid for offshore wind) Marie-Curie Initial Training Network at Cardiff School of Engineering, UK

Details

→ Post Doc position in Bio-photonic research and development in laser dentistry at the University of Leeds, UK

Details
7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Partners with FP7 Funded INCO Project in Series of Horizon 2020 Info Days Across Southeast Asia

EURAXESS Links ASEAN is partnering with the FP7 funded SEA-EU-NET (www.sea-eu.net) and INCONTACT (http://www.ncp-incontact.eu) projects to organize two Horizon 2020 Info Days in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 & 8 July and Danang, Vietnam on 10 July 2014 to inform researchers from across ASEAN about funding and mobility opportunities under Horizon 2020, and to facilitate their participation in European collaborative projects.

In addition to giving a general overview of Horizon 2020, these Infodays will provide specific information on upcoming Calls for Proposals, in particular those open to Thai and Southeast Asian researchers. There will be a session dedicated to the researcher mobility opportunities offered under Horizon 2020.

In Thailand the event will be hosted by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), and will include a second day of workshops how to write a successful European proposal as well as on the technical and financial management of EU funded projects.

In Vietnam, the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (NASATI), an agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), will host the Info Day.

Presentations from both events will be posted on the EURAXESS Links ASEAN website.

For more information:

National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
www.nstda.or.th
### 7.2 EURAXESS Links ASEAN Events June – October 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Event/Activity</th>
<th>Date/Venue</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>EURAXESS Science Slam</td>
<td>Submission of video entries is open between 1 June and 15 September (finals to be held on 13 November 2014 in Bangkok)</td>
<td>Researchers of all nationalities and all academic disciplines currently conducting research in ASEAN</td>
<td>To give researchers in ASEAN the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 Info Day and Workshops - co-organised by NSTDA, EURAXESS Links ASEAN and the SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT projects</td>
<td>7 – 8 July, NSTDA, Bangkok, Thailand <a href="http://www.nstda.or.th">www.nstda.or.th</a></td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Thai funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Horizon 2020 Info Day and Workshops - co-organised by NSTDA, EURAXESS Links ASEAN and the SEA-EU-NET and INCONTACT projects</td>
<td>9 - 10 July, NASATI, Danang, Vietnam</td>
<td>Researchers, research administrators and Vietnamese funding agencies</td>
<td>Introduce EURAXESS - overview of the MSCA and ERC opportunities under H2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Laos

**SEA-EU-NET Alumni Network Meeting**

14 – 15 July, Vientiane, Laos PDR

Regional European alumni groups, researchers and policy makers

Discuss role of regional alumni groups in supporting EU-ASEAN researcher mobility

### August

**ELA @ 9th ASEAN S&T Week**

20 – 24 August, Bogor, Indonesia

Policy-makers & practitioners from across ASEAN

Introduce the EURAXESS Links ASEAN initiative

### October

**Voice of the Researcher Conference**

16 October, Singapore, Marina Mandarin Hotel

European researchers at private and public research institutions

Dialogue on the global position of Europe as a research destination

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### 7.3 Czech Republic: 4th International Conference on Environmental Pollution and Remediation (ICEPR), 11 – 13 August 2014

ICEPR is a series of international conferences which are held yearly. These conferences focus on all aspects of Environmental Science, Engineering, and Technology. The aim of ICEPR’14 is to bring together the Canadian and international community working in the field of environmental sciences, engineering, and technology, and to foster an environment conducive to present advances in this field.

Further [details](#)

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### 7.4 France: World e-ID Congress, 23 – 25 September 2014

ow in its 10th edition, World e-ID Congress gathers the electronic ID community around world's most inspiring large scale rollouts and next generation technologies. From September 23 to 25, 400 e-ID programs managers, government officials and technology experts will share lessons, see new perspectives and opportunities concerning their own e-ID plans, whether in public or private sectors.

This all-in-one event combines high-level conference, large exhibition and side events to learn, meet, experience and network on a single platform.

Among the 2014 hot conference themes: e-ID goes mobile and Cloud, Emerging countries with the World Bank,
Global view of national e-ID deployments, EU funding projects: the road ahead, e-ID for Business.

Held in conjunction with three complementary conferences within World Smart Week and the 50-booth "Smart Solutions Show", World e-ID Congress will also provide rich opportunities to network with 1700 expected participants overall.

Further details

7.5 Thailand: International Conference on Water, Energy, and Food Nexus for Sustainable Development, 19 – 21 November

The conference aims to link scientific understanding and progress with policy and decision making to implement a water, energy and food nexus for sustainable development. Furthermore it targets to develop partnerships and networks between interested individuals and institutions with expertise in the water, energy and food sector.

Further details

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

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

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

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