

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 4
2016



euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS China

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 4th issue of our quarterly newsletter, the final issue of 2016.

In our **[“Briefing”](#)**, we want to share with you our results mapping Europe-China collaborative research through joint structures (labs, institutes, research centres), recently gathered into a directory by EURAXESS.

In this edition’s **[“In Focus”](#)**, we focus on **the Czech Republic**. With the help of EURAXESS Czech Republic we provide you with a comprehensive overview of the Czech research and funding landscape and Sino-Czech opportunities.

In our **[“Meet the Researcher”](#)** interview, we interview Prof Manfred Horvat, a distinguished expert on innovation policies and international collaboration with China for decades. We are very glad we had the opportunity to interview him at a recent visit to China.

Finally, the new EURAXESS portal went live – read how you can benefit from its improved functionality in **[“In case you missed”](#)**.

We also want to note a personnel change on the team: The EURAXESS China Country Representative Andrea Střelcová is leaving and from 2017, the new representative will be our long-term support officer, Mr Halldor Berg.

Best regards

EURAXESS China team

1 Briefing

This autumn, EURAXESS China together with EU Delegation and European embassies, mapped joint research structures established in China between Chinese and European research organisations.

Our long-term members might remember a series of workshops in 2012-2013 devoted to this topic. Since many new additions have emerged, we decided to trace more current information about Europe-China joint research structures including simple stats about their type, fields of collaboration and size.

Altogether, we have information about **144 joint research structures in China with partners from 14 European countries**. These include long-term well-established institutions (e.g. [CAS-MPG Institute for Computational Biology](#)), newly founded labs [hiring group leaders](#) ([CEPAMS](#), [CAS-JIC Centre of Excellence in Plant and Microbial Science](#)) and virtual structures.

To follow up on this we will be offering the new directory of the **joint research structures** early in the new year on [our website](#). We hope that this non-exhaustive overview will serve you as a starting point and source of information about **Sino-European research partnerships and joint research structures**, trends **that fuel researchers' mobility** and **Sino-European collaboration**.

Since [new additions keep coming on board](#), let us know if you want your lab/centre to be added in the directory, change or add information. Just contact us on china@euraxess.net and we will update the directory.

2 EURAXESS Members in Focus: Czech Republic – Land of extraordinary possibilities





- In the Czech Republic, we are building on the outstanding accomplishments of great Czech scientists while striving toward the next ground-breaking discoveries.
- The Czech Republic is home to some of Europe's oldest and largest universities.
- Czech R&D is not driven only by the country's history of excellent science, but also by extensive state support. Financial aid comes from national and European resources and is administered by a number of mostly national institutions (Czech Science Foundation, Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Czech ministries; with the exception of Horizon 2020).

2.1 R&D Funding in the Czech Republic



- **Czech Science Foundation** (www.gacr.cz)
- **Technology Agency of the Czech Republic** (www.tacr.cz)

2.2 Research Excellence in the Czech Republic

New European Centres of Excellence focus mainly on international collaboration and contribution to applied results.

- **The Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC)** is a multidisciplinary science centre focused on life sciences and advanced materials and technologies whose aim is to establish itself as a recognised centre for basic as well as applied research (www.ceitec.cz).
- **Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI)** is part of a new generation of large European research facilities with the main goal of creating laser equipment with unique parameters (www.eli-beams.eu)
- **CzechGlobe - Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences** is a public research institution and European Centre of Excellence investigating the ongoing global climate change and its impact on the atmosphere, biosphere and human society through the use of the latest techniques and instrumentation (www.czechglobe.cz).
- **The IT4Innovations national supercomputing center** conducts research and provides state-of-the-art technologies and services in the fields of high performance computing and embedded systems (<http://www.it4i.cz>).

2.3 Where can I find out more?

Government Office for Science, Research and Innovation

The main objectives of the Section are as follows: science policy unification; setting up of the rules for transparent funding of institutions engaged in science, research and innovations; identification and support of excellence in science and the expansion of international scientific cooperation. <http://www.vyzkum.cz/>

The Czech Academy of Sciences

The Czech Academy of Sciences (the CAS) is set up as a complex of 54 public research institutions. The Academy employs over 8,000 employees, more than a half of whom are researchers with university degrees. <http://www.avcr.cz/en/>

Czechinvest

The main objective of The Business and Investment Development Agency CzechInvest, is to advise and support existing and new entrepreneurs and foreign investors in the Czech Republic. <http://www.czechinvest.org/en>

EURAXESS Czech Republic

EURAXESS Czech Republic provides information and assistance to researchers who are coming to work in the Czech Republic. EURAXESS help researchers and their families to plan and organize their move to a foreign country, providing assistance in all matters related to mobility. www.euraxess.cz

2.4 Czech Republic and China: Success story

Nafigate Corporation is a Czech R&D company focusing on electro spun nanofiber applications and biotechnology. Its nanofiber research covers areas of water purification, air filtration and battery applications. Project Hydal, which processes used cooking oil into high quality PHA bioplastic has received significant international recognition, such as the prestigious Frost and Sullivan Award and most recently also “Top 10 Product Award” in High Tech Fair in Shenzhen. Nafigate Corporation is active in China through its joint business and research activities. More info on <http://nafigate.com/en>, or contact East Asia Representative, Jan Petrásek on jan.petrasek@nafigate.com.



Nafigate’s representatives displaying “Top 10 Product Award” at Shenzhen HiTech fair in November 2016 which they won for nano-fiber application which processes cooking oil into bioplastic.





3 Meet the researcher: Prof Manfred Horvat

Since the beginning of 1990s, he has been member of several programme committees for European education and RTD programmes – COMET, TEMPUS and EU RTD Framework Programmes. He served as member and chairman of many research and innovation expert panels appointed by the European Commission for monitoring and evaluating the Framework Programme, Specific Programmes, as well as instruments and schemes such as Networks of Excellence, ERA-NETs and COST.

He has particular experience in the area of international STI cooperation in capacities such as chairing the first five-years assessment of the EU INCO Programme (2000) and reviewing the STI cooperation with China (2008), USA (2009) and Mexico (2010).

He is external expert for the OECD Innovation Policy Review for Kazakhstan and he is member of the team of experts assessing the implementation of the Knowledge Triangle in KICs of the EIT. In addition, he acts as advisor in several other actions addressing international STI cooperation with China.

For more information, see: <http://www.manfredhorvat.at/>

Prof Manfred Horvat is an independent expert for international research and technology policies, programmes and instruments and their evaluation and impact assessment. He is honorary professor at Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) in Austria and Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) in Russia.

Prof Manfred Horvat was responsible for the operational implementation of the EU Framework Programmes in Austria from 1993 to 2006 as director for European and international research and technology cooperation first in the BIT and since 2004 in the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).

Since 1981, he coordinates the [Conference of Rectors and Presidents of European Universities of Technology](#). Currently he serves the [Joint Programming Initiative \(JPI\) Urban Europe](#) as Senior Advisor for International STI Cooperation with a specific focus on China. He chairs the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for International Cooperation and is member of the Advisory Groups for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and for Gender.

Professor Horvat, what brings you to China this time?


I have been invited to conduct a series of public lectures researchers and experts in public policy about the EU's research and innovation policy at CASTED and Renmin University of China as well as in innovation centres in Chengdu and Mianyang. The EU Public Lectures in China are organized by AETS (France) with the guidance of the Delegation of the European Union to China along with the cooperation of local partners, such as EUPIC, Renmin University of China (RUC) and China National Research Centre for Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), and local government.

The topic is on the evolution of research and innovation policy in Europe. I took the decision to not just talk about what is happening in Europe right now, but also let people understand how research, technology as and innovation policies emerged and changed with an enlarged Europe from its beginnings in the 1950's.

What do you hope to achieve or can achieve in the Chinese audience?

The public lectures are important to improve the audience's understanding of EU policies and increase the visibility of Europe in China. For non-Europeans, it is not easy to understand that we are a group of 28 independent countries, member states with their own policies and programmes.

Europe is an area developing in a complex framework, on its way to convergence which is a positive process. It takes time – I have been witnessing the process since the 1980's - but it is undergoing. I was responsible for the implementation of the Framework Programme in Austria where I started from zero involvement of Austrian researchers; I worked also with Poland, Romania and the Western Balkans Countries where I was involved to train people from the ministries and



contact points preparing them for their participation in EU research and technology cooperation. In my view, the development has been very positive.

What is your advice to Europeans who want to follow Chinese development in STI?

I have been coming to China since my first visit in May and June 1989. Since then I have followed the country's development with great interest and great admiration. These are extremely important developments for the world. China is now a global player that makes huge progress in research and innovation. Science, technology and innovation are high on the government agenda which is an excellent basis for strengthening EU-China collaboration.


We have many challenges in the world to be addressed through science, and many of these problems should be tackled through collaboration. That's why we must take advantage of the huge scientific potential that has been developing in China - it is for great benefit for the whole world. Many Europeans still think of China in terms of copycat culture, but that doesn't hold anymore. China has developed specific approaches e.g. in innovation which we can learn from.

As an example, I was involved in a joint study¹ between CASTED and the Austrian Institute of Technology to compare Austrian competence centres an internationally well-known approach to university/industry cooperation approach with the Chinese Industrial Innovation Strategic Alliances. Such Chinese collaborative innovation centres, bearing some similarities with the European Institute of Technology, are not well known in Europe. We should exchange experience on that also in other areas and seize opportunities to join forces in such initiatives to create joint networks and joint centres.

In short, we should collaborate with China much more than we currently are. There have been 130,000 participations in FP7, both teams and individuals, out of which only 674 Chinese. That is a very low number, especially since participation means that in a big European consortium, there is usually only one Chinese partner.

Participation in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action paints another picture about the state of EU-China mobility. We've had a large number of Chinese going to Europe but almost no European individual fellows coming to China. However, we need more Europeans with work experience in China. We need to stimulate the mobility of researchers. Europeans should understand the situation in China, and get rid of existing prejudices and biases. At this point, sadly very few Europeans have insight into the Chinese situation in science, technology and innovation. I want to encourage European researchers to go out and discover emerging scientific powerhouses such as China.

¹ Organizational Models for Cooperation between Enterprises, Universities and R&D Institutions in China and Austria. Study by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) and China Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED) for the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). October 2010



To stay competitive, researchers must stay mobile. Has physical mobility become less important with increased online connectivity?

Mobility is becoming even more important than it has ever been. There are statistics measuring mobility through co-authored and co-applications. For example, a study² in the field of economic geography concluded that the average distance of co-authors increased from 334 km in 1980 to 1,553 km in 2009. This indication gives you an idea about the development of regional, national and international cooperation and transnational co-authorship.

Mobility is important for different aspects. Firstly, other concepts and other approaches to research exist across institutions in different countries. This helps you widen your perspective, with regards to core issues of research. Yet another is personal development. When you are alone and you are exposed to another research environment, it increases your personal confidence. The other important aspect is building your network, especially as a young researcher. We need to build global collaborative networks.

Our EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Mr Carlos Moedas, recently put forward the idea of the Global Research Area. This is a good idea - it doesn't mean we will forget about competition but we need to find the balance between competition and collaboration, making optimal use of both.

Tell us about your involvement in forming gender policy in H2020 and ERA?

The gender issue is close to my heart, especially in engineering. We must do our best to have women in research and innovation, and not just at the entry level but also at all further levels of research careers, up to the top. The percentage of women goes down with the career level, and that is an issue we need to do something about. We saw many European universities are now doing affirmative policies, but the changes are very slow. The EU publishes She Figures³, and gender is an important cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020.⁴ I myself was involved in a large-scale study on gender equality at 48 European universities of science and technology two years ago.⁵ Universities should learn about each other's approaches to support women, how to successfully attract them and retain them throughout their career.

Professor Horvat, thank you for your time!

² L. Waltman, R.J.W. Tijssen, N.J. van Eck: Globalisation of science in kilometers. *Journal of Infometrics* 5 (2011) 574-582

³

https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub_gender_equality/she_figures_2_015-final.pdf

⁴ See more our special EU Insight on Gender in our [March 2016 EURAXESS China Newsletter](#).

⁵ See: Gender Equality (October 2015): <http://www.cesaer.org/en/publications/>

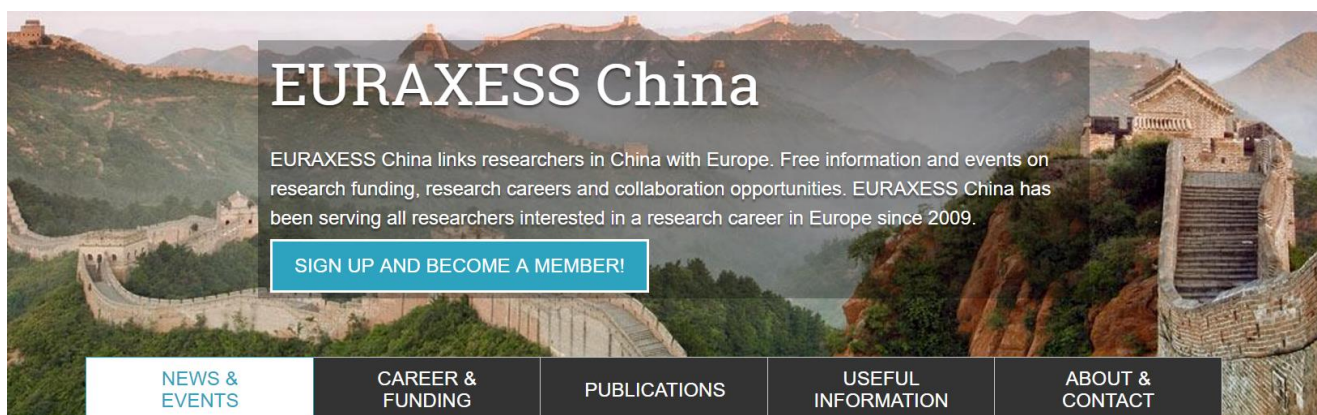
4 In case you missed....

4.1 Event Outlook

Name	Field	Date	Location	Website
1. European Research Council: 10 th Anniversary	All fields	Mid-March 2017	All around the world including China	Watch our website for news

4.2 Don't miss...

EURAXESS [has launched a new portal](#). We are proudly introducing you its improved functions through an interview with its technical coordinator, **Mr Notis Pikros**.



EURAXESS China

EURAXESS China links researchers in China with Europe. Free information and events on research funding, research careers and collaboration opportunities. EURAXESS China has been serving all researchers interested in a research career in Europe since 2009.

[SIGN UP AND BECOME A MEMBER!](#)

NEWS & EVENTS | CAREER & FUNDING | PUBLICATIONS | USEFUL INFORMATION | ABOUT & CONTACT

Notis, you and your team have been working very hard to design the new [EURAXESS portal](#) that has recently been launched. In a nutshell, which are the most important features of this new portal?

Job opportunities, funding as well as personalised services and training are known to be fundamental to a successful research career. At EURAXESS we have adapted to the ever-growing needs of the research landscape by redesigning the EURAXESS portal, a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses to interact with each other.

On the new EURAXESS portal, researchers, research institutions and companies will be pleased to find a consistent palette of new and improved functionalities designed especially for them. To mention a few, we have a responsive design:

the EURAXESS platform will adapt to any type of device from mobile to tablet and desktop. The portal will also address to two new target groups: entrepreneurs and businesses.

Another very important aspect of the revamped portal will be a new type of offer. Aside from job opportunities, visitors to the portal will be able to search for funding, hosting, internship and training offers! Moreover, the new EURAXESS dashboard/private area has been especially designed to match registered users with the best collaboration, job and hosting opportunities. The search functionality has been improved to allow for both free text and pre-defined search, all this in order to guarantee a better search experience.

Last but not least, the brand new collaboration tool called “[Partnering](#)” will help people and organisations connect, while the Science4Refugees Research Buddy Programme will support refugee scientists in finding European researchers to discuss problems, find solutions and study together, by matching their research field, scientific studies and interests.

In a nutshell, it has been quite a ride! We've surely enjoyed the process, we've gained a lot of experience along the way and we are now extremely proud to have launched this portal. [Read more...](#)



Jobs and Funding Offers
a searchable database for you
to find the funding programme
or job.

Spread the word and let us
turn the portal into the
number one information and
networking tool for mobile
researchers!



EURAXESS Service
Centres Search
Helpful information about living
and working in Europe



Partnering Tool
Set up a EURAXESS account
and search for research
collaborators - individuals,
organisations, or businesses.

About us

EURAXESS China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. **Membership is free.**

Visit us at china.euraxess.org and [Join](#) the EURAXESS China community.

EURAXESS Worldwide networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, in ASEAN (currently focusing on Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia) and Brazil.



EURAXESS China wishes you a merry Christmas and a New Year filled with fruitful Europe-China international collaboration projects!

Andrea & Halldor