

# EURAXESS Japan Quarterly Newsletter

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EURAXESS Japan Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Japan.

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Please email us for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter.

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# 1 EURAXESS Members in Focus: Spain

## 1.1 Spain's RDI system in figures

The Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation encompasses internationally recognised institutions where scientists and entrepreneurs are able to enjoy a variety of funding opportunities.

In 2014, Spanish institutions published 77,013 publications (3.19% of the total world production), ranking 10<sup>th</sup> in the world. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications-top 10%), energy and veterinary medicine were the top research areas. The international collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: up to 44.69 % of all Spanish documents in 2014 were co-authored with a foreign institution. The number of European patents with a Spanish origin in 2014 was 467.

Spain is a very active participant in European research projects. At the moment, around 9% of H2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions. Some of the areas which can be highlighted are: Energy, NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing -see the JST co-funded H2020 call below- and the SME instrument.

Source: [INE](#), [ICONO](#), [Spanish Strategy for STI](#)

## 1.2 Research Excellence in Spain

The "[Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence](#)" programme for independent research centres and the "Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence" programme for smaller unit recognises institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at world standards. The awarded centres and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all foreign, highly respected researchers, including Nobel laureates.

## 1.3 National Recruitment Opportunities

Aside from H2020 recruitment opportunities (Spain hosts more than 300 European Research Council grants in more than 50 host institutions and is also very attractive for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions fellows), there are numerous national (Spanish state) recruitment opportunities.

### [RAMÓN Y CAJAL CONTRACTS](#)

#### Important information for incoming researchers:

The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national EURAXESS coordinator.

There are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. All the information can be found at [www.euraxess.es/eng](http://www.euraxess.es/eng)

FECYT also publishes every two years a very exhaustive up-to-date information about the labour situation, everyday life, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in Spain:

<http://www.euraxess.es/eng/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain>

In Spain can be found a number of so-called "[Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures \(ICTS\)](#)" composed of facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics/ engineering, distributed throughout the Spanish territory and areas and devoted to cutting edge research and the highest quality technological development.

MSCA: How to participate in MSCA in Spain: [Spanish MSCA National Contact Points](#).

ERC: How to participate in ERC in Spain: [Spanish ERC National Contact Points](#).



Contact: Subdirectorate General of  
Human Resources for Research  
([ramonycajal@mineco.es](mailto:ramonycajal@mineco.es))

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers with an outstanding research career, either coming or returning to Spain.

Description: The 5 year duration grants co-fund the recruitment of doctors at public and private research centres. The aim is to promote the incorporation of national and foreign researchers with outstanding careers as well as their stabilisation in Spain. The grants (EUR 33,720 per year), are allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Entities will receive an additional allocation of EUR 40,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses. Lastly, institutions which at the end of the "Ramón y Cajal" contract period hire the beneficiaries on a permanent basis, will receive a grant totalling EUR 100,000

### **JUAN DE LA CIERVA –INCORPORATION**

Contact: Subdirectorate General of  
Human Resources for Research  
([cierva.formacion@mineco.es](mailto:cierva.formacion@mineco.es))

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers

Description: The two-year grant addresses young PhDs who have completed their post-doctoral education and meet the scientific criteria requested and have proven scientific leadership. Within this grant, EUR29,000 per year is allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Entities will receive an additional allocation of EUR 6,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses.

### **JUAN DE LA CIERVA TRAINING**

Contact: Subdirectorate General of  
Human Resources for Research  
([cierva.formacion@mineco.es](mailto:cierva.formacion@mineco.es))

Recipients: Foreign and national early stage researchers who wish to get post-doctoral training in a university or research centre different from the one where their PhD was obtained.

Description: The grants, in the amount of EUR 25,000 per year, are allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security.

### **INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES**

Contact: Subdirectorate General of  
Human Resources for Research  
([predoctoral@mineco.es](mailto:predoctoral@mineco.es))

Recipients: These grants co-fund the contracts of national and foreign pre-doctoral researchers, who aim to develop their PhD in industry.

Description: Company beneficiaries of this grant need to co-fund the contract of the pre-doctoral researcher. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to co-funding salaries and social security contributions, will be EUR21,800. The grant is EUR 2,400/researcher and is aimed at stays in other institutions, together with EUR 1,500 to fund the expenses associated with the doctorate programmes.

### **PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS-TRAINING DOCTORS**

Contact: Subdirectorate General of  
Human Resources for Research  
([predoctoral@mineco.es](mailto:predoctoral@mineco.es))

Recipients: National and foreign bachelors holders admitted or enrolled in a doctorate programme at the moment of signing the grant.

Description: Grants devoted to the training of pre-docs in universities, research centres, etc., in any discipline. The grants, in the amount of EUR 20,600 per year, are allocated to co-fund the salary and employer's contributions to social security.



Contact: Subdirectorato General of Training and Mobility of Professors and Teaching Innovation.  
([solicitantes.fpu@mecd.es](mailto:solicitantes.fpu@mecd.es))

## PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS. TRAINING OF TEACHERS

Recipients: Bachelors aiming to earn their PhD admitted and/or enrolled in a doctoral programme during 2015 or enrolled in a programme that allows them to access a doctoral programme in 2016.

Description: The is grant aimed at fostering the training of pre-docs in high quality doctorate programmes. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to cofund salaries and social security contributions will be EUR17,768.16 for the two first years of the grant and EUR20,333.76 for years three and four.

## TORRES QUEVEDO CONTRACTS

Contact: Subdirectorato General of Human Resources for Research  
([torresquevedo@mineco.es](mailto:torresquevedo@mineco.es))

Recipients: Doctors who wish to be employed by companies which perform R&D&I to develop experimental and innovative research projects.

Description: Grants for permanent contracts for doctors in the private sector. The amount of the grants will be determined in accordance with the eligible budget and the type of project and company. However, the annual eligible budget will only cover gross annual remuneration equal to or more than EUR18,000, and may not exceed EUR 55,000. The grants must co-fund the salary and the employer's contribution to social security for the researchers recruited.

## 1.4 Regional Recruitment Opportunities

### IKERBASQUE

Contact:  
<http://www.ikerbasque.net/>

Recipients: High level researchers interested in pursuing careers at research institutions in the Basque Country.

Description: Ikerbasque offers two types of grants: **Research fellows grants:** contract positions for postdoctoral researchers; **Research professors contracts:** permanent contracts for experienced researchers. Only high level researchers with a solid track record in research and international research experience will be considered.

### ICREA

Contact:  
<https://www.icrea.cat/Web/SectionVierer.aspx?section=260>

Recipients: Researchers from all over the world.

Description: The selected researchers are given a permanent position, ICREA Research Professorship (equivalent to tenure) and become ICREA employees. ICREA researchers go through an evaluation process (promotion) at regular intervals throughout their entire career

### ARAID

Contact:  
<http://www.araid.es/en/content/international-call-recruitment-researchers-2015>

Recipients: Researchers of any nationality with excellent research record and leadership capabilities interested in coming to the region of Aragon.

Description: The successful candidates will become permanent staff of ARAID. The scientific performance of researchers is periodically subjected to external



evaluation. ARAID will assist foreign researchers with their visa and work permit procedures.

### OPORTUNIUS

Contact:

<http://gain.xunta.es/artigos/456/oportuni>  
us ([xestion.gain@xunta.es](mailto:xestion.gain@xunta.es))

Recipients: ERC Grant holders.

Description: Oportunius offers ERC Grant holders a permanent contract with the Galician Innovation Agency (GAIN), and is subject to evaluations every 5 years by an external committee. It also provides specific support for young scientists with the potential to obtain one of the prestigious ERC Grants.

### FUNDACIÓN SÉNECA

Contact:

<https://www.fseneca.es/>

Recipients: Junior and senior researchers interested in pursuing their career in the region of Murcia.

Description: Research internships will be funded for researchers with proven experience. Séneca holds two different calls: **Senior researcher:** researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least ten years and, **Junior researcher:** researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least five years.

R&D funding programs information:

<http://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=7&MS=563&MN=3>

CDTI External network: present in 27 countries offers support to those Spanish entities which are interested in developing technological cooperation projects with companies in other countries, facilitates the identification of technological opportunities outside the EU and promotes technology transfer.

<http://www.cdti.es/index.asp?MP=8&MS=155&MN=2>

## 1.5 Opportunities for Research, Technology Development, Innovation

The Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology - CDTI - Spain's National Innovation Agency, is a public entity promoting private RDI, thus, raising the technological level of Spanish companies' by funding their R&D projects, both at national and international level. CDTI is also the public agency that funds industry-driven R&D projects.

CDTI manages the participation of Spain in Horizon 2020 and multilateral programmes, promoting Industrial R&D cooperation within EUREKA, IBEROEKA and EUROSTARS. CDTI has agreements with several R&D funding agencies in Asia and developed industrial R&D funding programmes with Japan (NEDO), which were aimed at promoting and financing industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects/collaborations.

Contact:

<https://acejapon.wordpress.com>

## 1.6 ACE-Japón researchers association

ACE-Japón, the Association of Spanish scientists in Japan, is an initiative of the Spanish scientific community resident in Japan. Its members are from diverse disciplines and stages of scientific life.

Its objectives are to create a network of Spanish scientists in Japan to facilitate the integration of its members, and to share both professional and personal experiences; creating an agency to serve as backup and to support to its members, so that they can carry out their scientific activities productively, helping them to adapt to the Japanese environment and increase social perception of science and technology. Public outreach by organising activities of

interest to both parties and facilitates partnerships between organisations related to R&D in Japan and Spain.



## 2 Hot topics: EU-Japan Research Cooperation and Researcher Mobility through Horizon 2020, and beyond

### Horizon 2020

The EU has supported research and innovation since 1984 through a series of Framework Programmes. The latest one, [Horizon 2020](#), covers the period 2014-2020, and is the largest ever with close to EUR 80 billion that will be allocated through a competitive call process to support scientific excellence, boost industrial leadership and competitiveness, and tackle societal challenges.

It is very important to note that researchers in any part of the world may participate. Cooperation with Japan is a strategic priority for the EU. Both share many of the same research priorities and societal challenges, and Japanese participation in Horizon 2020 projects is most welcome.

### 2.1 Cooperation mechanisms in Horizon 2020 (and beyond)

European and Japanese researchers can work together in a variety of ways:

- Through the regular **Horizon 2020** calls for proposals, where Japanese participants can join projects in any area.
- Through "**coordinated**" or "**joint**" calls for proposals issued by the EU and counterpart ministries and agencies. Here, each side makes available an equal amount of funding to support their researchers in joint projects in areas of common interest. In recent years such calls have been issued in photovoltaics, superconductivity, aeronautics, critical raw materials, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- Individual researchers can take part in **mobility programmes** under the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie scheme \(MSCA\)](#). Japanese researchers may also apply for the [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) grants, which are for the most ambitious and highest quality researchers.
- And in many other less formal ways! Please refer to EU Delegation S&T website: <http://www.euinJapan.jp/en/relations/science-research/>

See the page of the [Delegation of the EU in Japan, S&T Section](#) for a more comprehensive list of interaction opportunities.

Also check [Horizon 2020's participant portal](#) for a complete list of calls.

Our partners at JEUISTE built a complete list of:

- Coordinated calls with Japan
- Calls where funding of Japanese participants is ensured (co-funding calls with JST)
- Calls where Japan is mentioned as a potential partner.

Please [check it here](#) and take a few minutes to visit [JEUISTE](#)'s website!



## 2.2 JST co-funding scheme

There are opportunities for financial support by successful Japanese participants in open calls for proposals in Horizon 2020, provided by JST under a new co-funding scheme. This scheme started in October 2015 and currently covers two topics under the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017:

- [NMBP-02-2016](#): *Advanced Materials for Power Electronics based on wide bandgap semiconductor devices technology*
- [NMBP-03-2016](#): *Innovative and sustainable materials solutions for the substitution of critical raw materials in the electronic power system*

**Deadline EU side: 8 Dec 2015 (first stage, passed), 24 May 2016 (second stage)**

**Deadline Japanese side: 25 May 2016**

In these topics, Japanese participants may apply for funding from JST. JST will carry out its own evaluation of Japanese applicants prior to the EC's evaluation.

The JST co-funding scheme is one of the support schemes put in place by EU international partner countries to enable a stronger and more balanced collaboration between their universities, research institutes and enterprises with European ones under Horizon 2020.

Further information for Japanese applicants: [JST](#).

More detailed information about available programmes/funds in Japan that could provide support to Japanese Horizon 2020 participants can be found [here](#).

## 2.3 Other currently open calls with support for Japanese researchers

### Coordinated call in ICT

Through the Horizon 2020 work programme 2016-2017, the third coordinated call for ICT was launched with MIC and NICT. This time, four topics were available for joint projects, out of which only one call is still open:

[SC1-PM-14-2016](#): *Novel ICT Robotics based solutions for active and healthy ageing at home or in care facilities*

**Deadline: 12 April 2016 (European and Japanese Participants)**

Further information [here](#) (English) and [here](#) (Japanese)

More info for Japanese applicants on the page of [MIC](#) and [NICT](#).

### Horizon 2020 Calls for Cooperation Between Research Infrastructure Communities (funding available for Japanese institutions)

Researchers need effective and convenient access to the best research infrastructures in order to conduct research for the advancement of knowledge and technology. The aim of these calls is to bring together, integrate on a European and global scale, and open up key national and regional research infrastructures to researchers from both academia and industry, ensuring their optimal use and joint development.

'Advanced Communities' are scientific communities whose research infrastructures show an advanced degree of coordination and networking at present, attained, in particular, through Integrating Activities awarded under FP7 or previous Horizon 2020 calls.

On the other hand, 'Starting Community', are interactions which have never been supported for the integration of its infrastructures under FP7 or Horizon 2020 calls.

- [INFRAIA-01-2016-2017](#): *Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities*

**Deadline: 30 March 2016**

- [INFRAIA-02-2017](#): *Integrating Activities for Starting Communities*

**Deadline: 30 March 2016 (first stage), 30 March 2017 (second stage)**

In these calls, funding will be provided to support the transnational and virtual access provided to researchers, the cooperation between research infrastructures, scientific communities, industries and other stakeholders, the improvement of the services the infrastructures provide, the harmonisation, optimisation and improvement of access procedures and interfaces.

Japan is amongst the countries whose researchers are eligible for EU funding under this action.

## 2.4 ERC-JSPS initiative

In May 2015, an Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) was signed, which enables young JSPS fellows to join European Research Council Principal Investigators in Europe.

The JSPS Fellows who will join these scientific visits in Europe will continue to receive remuneration from JSPS. The first initiative of this kind was signed in July 2012 with the US, followed by similar agreements with Korea in November 2013 and with Argentina in March 2015.

For further information, please consult the following web pages: [here](#) (ERC, English) and [here](#) (JSPS, Japanese)

## 2.5 European Interest Group (EIG) CONCERT-Japan

This project supports cooperation between Japan and France, Germany, Spain and Turkey.

EIG CONCERT-Japan is a follow-up of an ERA-NET project (CONCERT-Japan) funded by the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) from 2011 to 2014. It is now in its second phase, as an independent activity of the European Interest Group (EIG) for Japan.

EIG CONCERT-Japan has launched their 3rd Call, on "Food Crops and Biomass Production Technologies".

**Deadline: 28 April 2016**

Further information [here](#) (English) and [here](#) (Japanese)



## 3 Meet Lucy LAHRITA, PhD candidate at Hokkaido University

- *Lucy, can you introduce yourself to our readers?*

I am a professional pharmacist, currently pursuing doctoral studies at Hokkaido University (Hokudai) in Sapporo. I chose this institution because it has a number of world class professors whose academic expertise align with my research interests.

- *You managed to participate in last year's Science Slam finals and eventually earned third place, congratulations! Can you tell us a little bit about your experience at the Slam?*

Frankly speaking, I enjoyed my Slam experience in communicating science in simple and understandable language to the general public and non- specialists. This valuable experience helped me to re-think how to communicate clearly with my readers through a research article in a way that is easy to follow and understand.

- *How did you prepare for it, and what was the outcome of the event for you?*

I summarised important keywords of the talk so that my key messages could be clearly conveyed to the audience. For example, to emphasise the importance of non-fossil fuels, I said "Imagine life without electricity" and purposefully dimmed the lights during my Slam. I also rehearsed several times to meet the harsh time limit of 10 minutes. I now feel more confident when people ask me about my research. I am now able to convey my messages in simple and understandable language to my colleagues, whose research areas are different from mine. I believe that this confidence can be attributed to my Science Slam experience.

- *How important do you think communication with the general public is and will be in your research career?*

Science is inevitably intertwined with society. Researchers should be capable of communicating their work to society, regardless of the audience and/or readers' educational background. One way to do so is by translating scientific words into common language. Just like Albert Einstein stated, 'Let us make science as simple as possible, but not simpler.'

Communication skills are very important for young scientists like me. We need to present our research progress periodically to our laboratory colleagues. In addition, we also disseminate our research findings to international audiences to get constructive feedback. Without mastering communication/presentation skills, it is difficult for young scientists to climb up the research ladder. In this

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Lucy's research project mainly deals with living cells for various purposes of application in the nexus of food, health, and energy to jointly tackle global challenges, thus promoting sustainable development.

Lucy participated in the EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2015 finals and won third prize.



regard, mentorship is an effective way to enhance communication capability, in which established scientists nurture youth talents.

*- Do you think that being a Science Slam participant will have an influence on your ability to gain an appointment at your institution of choice?*

It will, definitely! In the case of competitive selection for a faculty member position, a shortlisted candidate needs to make a comprehensive presentation before the selection committee panel, who will evaluate his/her suitability for the advertised post. This Science Slam experience has trained and sharpened my communication skills to convey my key message clearly to audience, whether they are specialists or the general public.

*- The EURAXESS Science Slam is also about expanding one's research horizons from Japan to Europe. Are there interactions (cooperations) at your lab, or within your research project, going on with actors abroad? In the EU?*

Currently, our laboratory has an on-going research cooperation with other institutes in the Southeast Asian region. Within Horizon 2020, we explore opportunities to undertake research collaboration with EU partners, whose research interests are relevant to our work. If there is a field where people can think globally and act locally, it is science. More things can be achieved in science when people work together than when they work alone, because in the end, research tends to be an interdisciplinary process that requires collaboration amongst colleagues within an institute or with other institutes beyond national borders. With Horizon 2020 mobility offers, young scientists have the opportunity to work in the EU, independently of their country of origin.

*- What would you wish for your career as a researcher? Do you have plans to go abroad, maybe to Europe?*

Upon completing my PhD at Hokkaido University, I plan to continue my academic career in Germany or in other EU countries. As I observed, the strength of science and technology in the EU is attributed to its excellent research landscape. There is close cooperation between universities, international research institutes and industries not only in operations, but also in applying innovations. This fosters transfer of knowledge and technology from university laboratories to industries efficiently and effectively, making innovation in the EU possible. There is enormous opportunity for international research cooperation, resulting from this close-knit system, particularly for researchers from developing countries and emerging markets. I will make the most of this invaluable opportunity to expand my research experience from Japan to EU.



## 4 EURAXESS Japan activities

### 4.1 Upcoming EURAXESS events

#### EURAXESS Share Tohoku 2015

Networking event for PhD candidates, post-docs, researchers, research administrators; all nationalities and all disciplines!

LEARN AND DISCUSS ABOUT EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR

RESEARCH COOPERATION  
& RESEARCHERS' MOBILITY

at the

EURAXESS SHARE



TOHOKU 2016

The next edition of our EURAXESS Share networking event series will take place on **25 April at the Tohoku Forum for Creativity, Sendai**. This event is focused on providing you with an **opportunity to connect with colleagues** working in the same region and with similar interests in international cooperation or mobility opportunities to Europe.

This event is **open to all PhD students, postdocs, researchers and administrators without limitations on nationality, discipline** (social sciences and humanities included!), **or career level**.

We look forward to meeting you there!

**Date and time: 25 April 2016, 17:30-20:30**

Venue: Tohoku Forum for Creativity, Sendai

**Further information, programme and registration:**

<http://euraxesstohoku2016.splashthat.com>

**MSCA and ERC segment:** as much as possible, we would like to have Japanese grantees or alumni currently based in Japan or planning a trip to Japan at the time of the event (participants from Europe through video-conference are welcome too), with a particular focus on the RISE and IF schemes take part in the event.

**Kakenhi segment:** as much as possible, we would like to have as speakers, European researchers based in Japan in particular to cover the range of grants, 'Young Scientist' (A and B); 'Research Activity Start-up'; 'Scientific Research' (S, A, B or C); 'Specially Promoted Research'; 'Exploratory Research' and 'Research on Innovative areas' take part in the event.

#### Call for speakers at event: MSCA, ERC, Kakenhi Grants in Practice

We, EURAXESS Japan, are planning an event in late July in Tokyo where:

- Japanese researchers will learn, in detail, about the ERC and MSCA grants;
- European and foreign researchers based in Japan will be able to learn about the famous JSPS Grant-In-Aid, 'Kakenhi', funding scheme.

Aside from detailed presentations of the grants and selection process provided by professionals, we will feature several alumni/current grantees talks, where the audience would learn about personal insights and tips to success.

Interested researchers, whether a member of the community or not, are welcome! Please contact us at [japan@euraxess.net](mailto:japan@euraxess.net)



**Seize your chance and be featured  
in our next Quarterly Newsletter!**

A lottery will be performed amongst  
survey responders; the lucky  
researcher who ends up getting  
selected will be interviewed in our  
'Meet the Researcher' section next  
time!

## 4.2 EURAXESS Survey of European Researchers in Japan

**Dear colleagues, dear European researchers based in  
Japan: This is your last chance to make your voice heard!**

This survey, an initiative of EURAXESS Links Japan, intends to draw a precise picture of the community of European researchers based in Japan through a series of questions focused on the researchers' current professional situation and expectations for cooperation with or through mobility opportunities to Europe.

The survey also aims to achieve a better understanding of the community through exploration of the following questions:

- What brought/attracted researchers to Japan;
- How do Europe and Japan compare and contrast as research locations from the researcher's point of view;
- What would make Europe an attractive area for research upon return from Japan; and
- Which support tools would researchers need the most in order to either facilitate their return or to engage in collaborative activities with Europe.

Based on the results of this survey, we hope that European researchers based in Japan will benefit from a better understanding of their situation and needs by decision makers, which may lead to new measures!

**Researchers from the 42 countries included in European research policies and based in Japan can participate.** (EU-28 and: Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYRO Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, and Tunisia)

We are looking forward to your input!

**Online survey (open until 30 April 2016): [EURAXESS Japan](#)**