Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the September edition of the EURAXESS Links Japan Newsletter.

This newsletter looks at the latest developments and funding opportunities in and between Europe and Japan.

This month features some comprehensive information about the EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2014, which now on rails with open submissions for contestants and attendees, a tentative schedule, VIP visits, a selected jury and with a new, fresh website: scienceslamjapan2014.splashthat.com (share it, it's free!). Find also an exclusive interview with Mugiko KOMATSUDA, last year’s winner, who gives us her insights on the role of communication for scientists in our times. If you are not one of the brave who’ll present in front of a full room, you are still warmly welcome to attend the event on 10 November at Tokyo Tech. Mark your calendars for what promises to be a nice, relaxed networking and fun science moment with food and drinks!

In this issue we go through some of the numerous news and developments in recent policy for research; with a particularly dense section on Japan in coherence with the important announcements made by the government and MEXT in late August and early September.

Following the news section, you will find, as usual a wealth of Grants and Fellowships, with many JSPS deadlines coming soon; job offers; and events of interest both in Europe and Japan.

Finally, this month’s EU insight features the report “Gender Equality Policies in Public Research” released by the European Commission in the beginning of September.

Enjoy the reading and have a successful month!

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1 EU Insight – Gender Equality Policies in Public Research

Since 2012, gender equality has been one of the five key policy areas for achieving the objective of a common research area in Europe. Therein, the Commission invites Member States to create legal and policy environments to incentivize the removal of legal and other barriers to the progression of women’s careers in research while fully complying with EU gender equality legal provisions. Addressing gender imbalances in decision-making and strengthening the gender dimension in research programmes are some of the key issues.

The report “Gender Equality Policies in Public Research” provides an up to date overview on the situation of gender equality policy implementation in public research in the European Research Area (ERA).

The report is based on a survey conducted among the members of the Helsinki Group, the Commission’s advisory group on gender, research and innovation. The study covers both EU Member States and other European countries associated to the EU research programme. Gender equality in the European Research Area (ERA) pursues three objectives: the equal participation of women and men both in scientific careers and in decision making, as well as the inclusion of gender analysis in research content and programmes.

Both, the ERA Communication of July 2012 to Member States, research performing organisations (RPOs) and funding organisations (RFOs) as well as the ERA Progress Report 2013 find that there is a clear need for more EU-wide coordination of gender equality policies through the regular exchange of experiences and progress reporting against equality indicators. The first steps in this direction have been taken in the form of the ERA-Net Gender-NET, a pilot transnational research policy initiative funded in the ERA-Net scheme of the European Commission to address the common challenges still facing European research institutions in achieving gender equality in research and innovation.

Career access, development and environment

Gender-related targets have been reported from several proactive countries, especially with regard to vertical segregation and the share of women in decision-making committees. Compared to 2008, the number of countries with some type of target or quota regulation (fixed quota, cascade model or flexible quota) has increased from eight to 18 countries today. Besides the use of quotas and targets, in a total of 19 countries, policies are in place to establish clear rules for the composition of selection panels, including roles and gender balance.

Provisions for maternity and parental leave, and in some cases for other care work, are actively implemented across ERA. However, beyond respecting general anti-discrimination provisions, very few countries have reported implementation of funding for proactive re-entry measures during or after leaves of absence.

**GENDER-NET** is the first European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) to be dedicated to the promotion of gender equality through structural change in research institutions, as well as to the integration of sex and gender analysis in research. It brings together a balanced partnership of twelve national programme owners from across Europe and North America – i.e. ministries, national research-funding agencies or national organisations – with a shared commitment to gender equality and synergistic expertise in gender and science issues.
Institutional change versus individual measures

In the past five years, the number of countries where research institutions modernised their management through more comprehensive gender equality plans has only risen modestly - from 12 to 15. Positive developments are observed in the few countries which have legal provisions that require or stimulate research institutions, including universities, to set up gender equality plans and adapt their practices.

Gender in research programmes and training

In principle, two key ways have been established to consider gender in research funding organisations, programmes and projects. Firstly, as part of an equal opportunities policy to establish gender balance in access to research funding, decision-making on funding, etc. Secondly, with regard to research quality and relevance of the research itself by advising or requiring grant applicants to consider gender and sex analysis in the content of their research.

In the She Figures 2012, 17 out of 22 countries reported higher success rates for men in research funding. About two thirds of the countries (19 out of 31) surveyed for the “Gender Equality Policies in Public Research” indicated that the consideration of gender equality is not explicitly required or an eligibility criterion in national research funding programmes.

Sources:
The information for this EU Insight has largely been taken from the Executive Summary of the Report “Gender Equality Policies in Public Research”. The full report can be found here:


We must do better. We need joined up policies that will achieve real change on gender equality across Europe. That means equal opportunities; equal treatment and more attention to gender in research itself.

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
2 EURAXESS Links Japan Activities

2.1 EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2014

The EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2014 will take place on Monday, 10 November 2014 at the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

This will give researchers (young and less young!) of any nationality based in Japan the chance to showcase their work and talent for giving a lively and interesting presentation.

Each presentation will be performed in English in less than 10 minutes and can be supported by video, audio material, slides or any other kind of media, as well as by scientific equipment.

The event is open to researchers from all fields of research.

The winner will win a 4 days trip to Bonn, in the heart of Europe, have the opportunity to participate in a science communication workshop, and meet with a research institution of his/her choice within the European Research Area!

Check our website here for more information!

2.1.1 Who will be presenting?

Participants of a total number of 5 (or up to) will be selected and announced later. You can be a candidate if you’re a PhD student or higher (no upper limit: Professors welcome!) of any nationality, active in Japan. You can find more information on the submission procedure right below!

2.1.1 How to participate as a competitor?

Please create a 3-minute sample video of the talk you intend to give at the EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2014 event. Don’t forget, this has to be scientific (of course), synthetic (better be!), but also creative and fun! Then post it to your Youtube account and post a link to your video in the comment section of EURAXESS Links Japan’s video trailer for the event here.

Alternatively, you can also have a 3-minutes live presentation through EURAXESS Links Japan’s Skype account.

Contributions will be reviewed by a our panel and 5 competitors will be selected for the finals in Tokyo!

Please fill in the contribution form here!!

Deadline for contributors is 20 October 2014
2.1.2 I just want to attend the event. What's in for me?

Some really fun Science moment, the opportunity to listen to presentations from other scientific fields, to actively participate in one of the four voting pools and to decide of this year’s winner, the chance to do some networking in a relaxed atmosphere and to taste our fine foods and drinks!

What would you need more?

Don’t wait! Attendees can already register here.

2.1.3 VIP and Review Panel Members

The President of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Dr. Yoshinao Mishima, and the new Counsellor for S&T Affairs to the EU Delegation in Japan, Dr Leonidas KARAPIPERIS should be present at the event and have a few words during the Welcome Address.

The Review Panel and Jury Members are:

Anna PINSKY British Chamber of Commerce/Waseda University

Anna is Vice President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan and a specialist in Organisational Development. She is also a Visiting Research Fellow at Waseda University's Institute of Transnational HR Management, and delivers career development workshops for international students at the University of Tokyo's International Center.

Dimitri PERRIN RIKEN/Sciencescope

Dimitri is a researcher at RIKEN in Kobe. His work focuses on computational modelling and on analysis of complex datasets (genomics, bioimaging, etc.), with an emphasis on biomedical and social applications. He is also President of Sciencescope, the society for French-speaking researchers and students in Japan.

Guy FAURE CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research)

Guy is a Senior Research Fellow working on Asian Politics at CNRS. Previously, he headed the Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies (2008-2010) at the ENS Lyon; and the Institute for Research on Contemporary Southeast Asia in Bangkok (2004-2008). He is presently based in Tokyo as the CNRS Representative for North Asia, covering Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Laura INOUE Japanese Society for the Study of Russian History

Laura was previously a teacher of presentation skills to graduate students at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Keio University and Yokohama National University. Her background is in Russo-Japanese history in which she still does some research, and she has degrees from Oxford University, and Sophia University, Tokyo.
Matthieu PY  EURAXESS Links Japan

Matthieu has a background in materials science and was a researcher at CEA-Leti (France) and Kyoto University (Japan). He is involved in international relationships for S&T since 2013 and is the EURAXESS Links Japan Country Representative in Japan since August 2014.

Mugiko KOMATSUDA  University of Tokyo

Mugiko is in her second year as a Ph.D student majoring Veterinary Medical Science in University of Tokyo. She’s working on physiological control of appetite and treatment for overeating in animals. She won the first-ever EURAXESS Science Slam Japan in 2013.

Regine DIETH  DWIH (German Research and Innovation Forum) Tokyo

Regine is Director of the German Research and Innovation Forum (DWIH) Tokyo, a project promoting German-Japanese exchange in science and innovation as well as industry-academia cooperation. She has a background in Japanese and Chinese Studies and Art History.

Tom HOPE  Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tom is a sociologist and Associate Professor in the International Student Center of Tokyo Institute of Technology. His research consists of analysis of group interaction with mobile computing and examines the development and maintenance of contemporary forms of community.

Tom KUCZYNSKI  EU Delegation to Japan, S&T division

Tom is a Science and Technology Advisor at the Delegation of the European Union to Japan. He earned his PhD in Economics and Finance at the Hiroshima University in 2006.

### 2.1.4 Event schedule*

Registration will start about 30 minutes in advance. Please feel free to come from 5PM!

- 17:25 - Opening Address
- 17:35 - About the Science Slam and EURAXESS
- 17:40 - Reviewing the Applications
- 17:45 - Presentations and voting
- 19:00 - Final vote and Price Announcement
- 19:15 - Networking Reception
- 20:30 - Finish

Venue: Tokyo Institute of Technology Ookayama Campus**

Overall directions [here](#)
Conference room in front of Ookayama station exit: 東工大蔵前会館

*This schedule may be updated without prior notice

2.1.5 Paper Flyer Available! Just ask for it!

This year again, we have materials to advertise for the event, both in electronic and paper versions. You want to help us diffusing the information in your lab, university, institution, organisation? You’re welcome! Please ask for them by e-mail: japan@euraxess.net!

2.2 EURAXESS Links Japan on Twitter

EURAXESS Links Japan has a twitter account @euraxess_japan. Prime information: news, fundings, events, calls and opportunities are advertised there. We tweet, retweet and comment news and developments of interest for all of you, so please follow us!
Meet the Researcher: Mugiko Komatsuda, EURAXESS Science Slam Japan 2013 Winner

- You have won last year's Science Slam in Japan, Congratulations! First can you tell us a little bit about your experience at the Slam, how was it?

It was very exciting! I enjoyed trying to present my work to people outside my field: this was very challenging and forced me to reconsider my thinking and to arrange my Slam in a way that’s easily understandable to most people.

I also liked listening to the other presentations. As specialised scientists we only have rare occasions to learn about research in other fields and Science Slam is one of those occasions.

- How did you find out about the event? Did you know there were similar events organised all over the world (US, ASEAN, Brazil etc)?

I had friends in other universities whom we share the hobby of video-making and Science Communication as a whole, since they learned about the Science Slam through advertisement we decided to apply. They helped me a lot during preparing presentation and video-making. I was the only one to be selected as a finalist though (laughs)!!

- That’s because you’re a very good communicator, maybe!?

Well I can’t say that for myself! I did not perform a lot of editing and video work for my submission but I tried to think things differently and to present them in a funny and creative way, and I guess that was rewarded!

I didn’t know about other events, actually I did not even know about EURAXESS before, but now that I’ve understood the interest for researchers like me I’m often looking at the news and other contents you provide.

- So, what was your impression of last year’s event? What was the outcome of the event for you?

First as I already said it forced me to think about my research work under a different light, and this is interesting because it is the only way to make people understand what you are doing and the importance of it. I also got a lot of questions and comments which I do not get from my usual audience (i.e. specialists) and this led to constructive discussions afterwards.
- You went to Europe with EURAXESS as part of your prize. How was it, what did you learn/earn from this trip?

There were two parts in this trip, a conference (Raising Researchers' Voices) on career improvements for foreign researchers in Europe, which was slightly off-beat for me since I'm working in Japan but maybe it'll come to help if I continue my career in Europe.

The second part featured presentations from of EURAXESS Science Slam winners from other areas, which were full of originality and ingenuity! Singing, rapping and dancing... there was no limit in their creativity. I got many new ideas for making appealing presentations.

Then there were a few days I used to visit Brussels, have nice food and drinks and see the beautiful townscape for the first time of my life!

- Did you know that this year the trip will be to Bonn, in Germany, and that aside from participation to a conference on Science communication, the winner may also be allowed to visit and have meetings at an European research centre of his/her choice in order to, maybe, start joint projects and/or start discussions towards a job/fellowship at this institute?

Yes, I know! I saw it on the website and the Newsletter! That's wonderful, I wonder if I'll be allowed to be a contestant again this year!

- You can't! You'll be part of the Jury that'd be an easy win!! Now onto communication for science. You're a good communicator obviously. How much do you think communication skills are important for a researcher and how did you, personally, understand this was important?

First I'm interested in Science as a whole: I read books and such since my youngest days. For me Science is an amusement before being my job. Knowing and exploring new things is a lot of fun. I just want to share this amusement with other people.

- Would you have any advice for your colleagues, students, researchers who may have some reservations about communication?

I think maybe some people are just afraid that what they say might not be fully understood or might be distorted, so they prefer strict scientific communication towards their own community, but that's a shame because making your work accessible is also part of a scientist's job.

- How about communication in English: that's a rather important and delicate matter in Japan, right?

I personally did not follow any specific English course, but I just want my research and my work to be understood by the largest number. I do not care much about failing or making mistakes: I'm using English for what it is: a tool! The important thing here is to be willing to pass a message to your listeners.
and see! Last year, I was the only Japanese among the finalists, I hope more Japanese young scientists will take the challenge this year.

- Aside from the Slam, how do you expect these communications skills to come into handy for your career and your research?

Today researchers need to be good presenters in order to get understanding from their team but also to get funding, to explain their work at conferences and workshops and to have the opportunity to create new bonds there. I really want to link the people in my field because I feel that’s one key to producing better research. So I’m also interested in Science Diplomacy and such.

- You’re now a PhD candidate at the University of Tokyo, could you tell us a little bit more about your background and about your research?

I pretty much come from a family of scientists (my father works on plants genetics at NIAS) so I was used from my very early days to Science and to logical thinking, so it’s very natural for me. I am now in my second year as a PhD student at the University of Tokyo, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Science. My subject is appetite and overeating, its causes and factors. I’m working a lot on the physiological aspect (mainly with lab rats), but also, going more and more into details in the brain, to the peptide, mRNA level and such...I’m the only researcher working on this subject at my lab so it’s a lot of responsibilities! I’m also working as a Teaching Assistant and I applied for a Japanese grant from the JSPS called Research Fellowships for Young Scientists. I should have the results in October this year, I hope they will be good!

- Do you have interaction (cooperations) going on with actors abroad? In EU?

Not now, not yet! But I’d very much like to. There are a lot of centres in Europe working on the same subject, and they are very active.

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

I am reflecting on my career after PhD because right now, in Japan it is very difficult to obtain a position in academia, so knowing about the funding schemes helps, for sure! I’d like to go to Europe, although it is still far away from me in time: I still need to work on my diploma!

- Now to finish, if you were given a chance to perform again in a Science Slam, would you do it?

Of course, If I’m given a chance to join! Even just attend to the event would be nice, because I would have the opportunity to see new ideas on how to present my own work!!

- You will be one of the reviewers of the panel and present at the event this year 10 November at Titech. Do you have any tips for the contestants?

Speak clearly, work on your message (make it as simple as possible), and try to do something different and fun that really speaks to people’s hearts and minds!

- Thank you very much!!
4 News & Developments

4.1 EU, Member States and Associated Countries

4.1.1 ERC grants open again to Switzerland-based researchers

On 15 September the European Commission has published an update regarding association of Switzerland to parts of the Horizon 2020 programme, including access to the European Research Council (ERC) funding.

Pending the finalisation of required procedures on the EU and Switzerland's side, it is expected that the Agreement associating Switzerland to parts of Horizon 2020 could be signed later this year and will produce effects from 15 September 2014.

Under this assumption the ERC candidates of any nationality with a host institution based in Switzerland can now apply for the ERC competitions with deadlines from 15 September 2014. The ERC 2014 Proof of Concept call (deadline 1 October 2014) and the 2014 Advanced grants call (deadline 21 October 2014) are hence open to them.

Further information via Participant Portal or through the agreement's summary.

4.1.2 Extra ERC funding to test market potential of 50 research projects

Developing therapies for children with congenital heart defects, monitoring water quality in real-time, improving the nutritional qualities of potatoes or making the best informed choices when buying a new house. These are some of the issues to be tackled by 50 outstanding scientists who are receiving ‘Proof-of-Concept’ grants of up to €150,000 each from the European Research Council (ERC). This ‘top-up’ funding is designed to help researchers who already hold an ERC grant, to test the market potential of their frontier research.

With a very limited part of the ERC budget, the 'Proof of Concept' scheme can help ERC grant holders unleash considerable innovation potential. The grant covers costs related to activities such as establishing intellectual property rights, investigating commercial and business opportunities or technical validation.

ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented: "The ERC 'Proof of Concept' scheme makes it possible for ERC grant winners to get some extra support to investigate the innovation potential of their good ideas." He added: "More ERC grant winners apply for this call every year, which is a remarkable trend. It means that they see how their frontier research can be pushed beyond its initial frame and how their results can also be translated into marketable products and services. For them, this opens the way to a broader impact on society."
A total of 182 proposals were submitted to the first round of this call, and the success rate is around 28%. Grants are being awarded to researchers based in 12 EU and associated countries in the European Research Area.

You can check the list of the 50 selected researchers by country of host institution and their research topics [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).

Source: [ERC](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)

### 4.1.3 EU Science and Technology Flagships pick up steam

The [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) published on 16 September a [report](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) on its ambitious Science and Technology Flagships. The report draws the lessons from setting up the first two such Flagships, **Graphene** and the **Human Brain Project**, each representing an investment of EUR 1 billion. It also sets out the future working arrangements for the two Flagships underway.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: "The Human Brain Project and the Graphene Flagships have the potential to revolutionise science, boost industry and improve peoples’ lives with new products and medical treatments. No funding agency, no scientific community, no company, no Member State can achieve this alone: we need to find the best way to join forces and the Flagship model is here to stay."

Today's report represents a [strong affirmation of the Commission's long-term support for the Flagships](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess). While resources will continue to be pooled from public and private sources across Europe, the Commission stands firm in its engagement to anchor the endeavour by supporting each Flagship's core over a decade.

The report's material on the lessons drawn from the long process that preceded the start of the first Flagships is essential for any similar effort in the future.

Source: [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)

### 4.1.4 Erasmus Impact Study: Key findings

On 22 September, the [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) released the [Erasmus Impact Study](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess) (EIS), aiming to analyse the effects of Erasmus student mobility in relation to studies, employability and institutional development; and to examine the effects of Erasmus teaching assignments/staff training on individual competences, personality traits and attitudes, as well as the programme's impact on the internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Here we will highlight some of the results of this study.

Over 90% of the mobile students wished to experience living abroad, to develop skills such as adaptability and to improve their language abilities. Just after comes the wish to enhance employability abroad for more than 85%.

The share of employers who considered experience abroad to be important for employability has nearly doubled between 2006 and 2013, from 37% to
64%. In addition, 92% of the surveyed employers confirmed the importance of the six personality traits with regard to employability: tolerance of ambiguity, curiosity, confidence, serenity, decisiveness and problem-solving skills. Erasmus students showed higher values for the six personality traits than non-mobile students - even before going abroad. **After returning from their Erasmus experience, they increased their advantage over the non-mobile students by 42%.**

However, more important than absolute values, the most significant conclusions from such analysis relates to the trends observed when comparing groups before and after mobility. After their stay abroad, the average Erasmus student showed higher values than 70% of all students. Moreover, 51% of all mobile students and 52% for Erasmus students increased their employability skills.

**More than 90% of the students reported an improvement in their soft skills,** such as knowledge of other countries, their ability to interact and work with individuals from different cultures, adaptability, foreign language proficiency and communication skills.

More than one in three students who did an Erasmus work placement was offered a job by their host company. The experience also seems to foster entrepreneurship: almost 1 in 10 students on a job placement started their own company, and more than 3 out of 4 plan to.

**Student mobility also promotes job mobility in the future.** Of the mobile alumni, 40% had moved country at least once since graduation compared with 23% of non-mobile alumni. In addition, 93% (compared with 73% of the non-mobile students) could envisage living abroad. Former Erasmus students are also more than twice as likely to change their employer as non-mobile alumni. More than 80% of the Erasmus students felt a strong bond with Europe.

Find the whole study [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).

Source: [European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).

4.1.5 **EU 'single market for research' now depends on national reforms, study finds**

The ERA partnership between Member States, research stakeholders and the Commission has made **good progress in delivering ERA.** The conditions for achieving a **European Research Area (ERA),** where researchers and scientific knowledge can circulate freely, are in place at the European level. **Reforms must now be implemented at the Member State level** to make ERA work.

This is the main conclusion of the latest **ERA progress report**, presented on 16 September by the European Commission. The report presents individual country reports that give a snapshot of implementation on the ground, notably at the level of research organisations.

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "**We have made good progress on the European...**
Research Area in recent years. It is now up to Member States and research organisations to make good on their commitments and put in place the necessary reforms. The Commission will help where it can, including with the €80 billion investment from our new research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. In particular, national and EU research efforts need to be much more closely aligned if we are to increase impact at EU level."

The following initiatives announced in the ERA Communication have been firmly established:

- **Member States are increasingly adopting measures** in support of ERA, and reflecting them in their national reform programmes;
- **The EU provides substantial funding for ERA measures**, for instance promoting open recruitment, open access to publications and data as well as gender equality through Horizon 2020;
- **Research organisations** such as funders and research-performing institutions have shown strong support for the ERA agenda;
- An **ERA Monitoring Mechanism has been set up** and is delivering increasingly strong data to evaluate performance at the Member State and institutional level.

The analysis confirms that the conditions for the completion of ERA that the Commission identified in 2012 are in place.

At the same time differences still remain at Member State and institutional level. For example, while competitive project-based funding occurs in all Member States, the extent of it varies significantly between countries.

Source: European Commission

4.1.6 **Snail-inspired pollution test wins 2014 EU young scientist award**

Two young Portuguese scientists have scooped a first prize at the EU young scientist awards for their work on how the eggs of pond snails can be used to measure the amount of pollutants in water.

Mariana De Pinho Garcia and Matilde Gonçalves Moreira da Silva, both 16, have designed a method of isolating eggs from the Lymnaea stagnalis pond snail and testing them for toxicity, which provides an indication of whether the water they live in is polluted.

Their project was one of three to win a first prize of EUR 7,000 each at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) in Warsaw, Poland, where over 30 additional awards were given to Europe’s young scientists, including a week at CERN, the European Nuclear Research Centre, and a visit to the European Southern Observatory in Chile.

João Pedro Estácio Gaspar Gonçalves de Araújo, also from Portugal, was awarded for his work in the mathematical field of semigroup theory, while Luboš Vozdecký from the Czech Republic was recognised for his experiments
to characterise rolling friction, the force that resists the motion when an object rolls on a surface.

Source: Horizon magazine

4.1.7 EU Research Highlights – Life-saving ultrasound device could prevent heart attacks and strokes

European scientists have developed a revolutionary new ultrasound device capable of identifying patients at imminent risk of a heart attack or stroke. The technique, which is the subject of a patent application, was developed by the SUMMIT project, which is supported by the Innovative Medicines Initiative.

Atherosclerosis occurs when plaques of fatty material build up on the inside walls of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart and brain. If a plaque breaks up, the resulting blood clot could block the blood vessel and so cause a stroke or heart attack.

Both are leading causes of death; according to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease kills 17 million people globally every year, with many of these deaths being due to heart attacks and strokes.

Currently, detecting plaques that are at risk of breaking up involves expensive, risky, often painful procedures as medical devices are inserted into the blood vessels themselves.

The new technique developed by SUMMIT, dubbed Ultrasound-based Plaque Structure Analyses (UPSA), is non-invasive, requiring neither x-rays, needles, nor magnetic fields. In fact, it can be used at the patient’s bedside, just like the ultrasound machines used on pregnant women. Designed to be user friendly, the new technique will allow clinicians to easily identify patients at an increased risk of heart attack or stroke and follow them up appropriately.

Source: European Commission

4.1.8 EU Research Highlights – Maximising air quality data to better forecast climate change

Climate forecasts depend in particular on precise information - not only to estimate how living conditions on Earth may change, but also how humanity will have to adapt to these changes. A EU funded project, MACC, has developed an innovative system to collect and coordinate precise information to aid in these climate forecasts.

A wide range of indicators – from greenhouse gas and ozone levels, to air quality and the presence of aerosols (combinations of particles and gases) in the atmosphere – go into estimating how the Earth’s atmosphere has changed in recent years due to man-made and natural emissions. The MACC research team collected data from satellites as well as ground-based and airborne sensors and made it available to the scientific community and decision-makers, as well as key institutions such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
Change. The team developed a first-of-its-kind system to compile crucial data that gives those involved in climate and air quality policies a complete picture of weather and pollution trends.

Source: European Commission

4.1.9 EU-funded driving system to boost electric cars

Six partners from Germany, France, Austria and Spain have cut the consumption of electric vehicles with a new intelligent energy management and recovery system. The OpEneR team developed new functions and connected better the components and systems, allowing the driver to receive braking tips based on traffic flows and advice on the best route to limit energy use. **Up to 30% of energy can be saved** without losing much time on the way. The new solutions will be progressively commercialised and integrated into production of new models, making electric cars even greener.

After three years of intense collaboration and with €4.4 million of EU investment, the project team presented two demonstrator electric vehicles in Spain this summer.

Engineers and researchers have worked to improve the electrical powertrain, the regenerative braking system, the navigation system and the surround sensors. They have developed a networked architecture with various functions that connect these elements with each other.

For example, the "eco-routing" function considers the specific needs of an electric vehicle when calculating the most energy efficient route. An adaptive cruise control guarantees an economical semi-automated driving style. It is based on radar and video systems supported by enhanced map data including information on inclines, declines and speed limits. Car-to-infrastructure communication provides information about traffic light status. User-friendly signals appear on the large display as part of the dashboard, so that you know when to lift the pedal as you approach traffic lights, city boundaries, speed limits or other vehicles.

Source: European Commission
4.2 Japan

4.2.1 RU11’s Policy Proposal on Strengthening of the Basis for Research

Research Universities 11 (RU11) is a consortium which was established in November 2009 consisting of 11 of the top Research Universities in Japan, out of which 9 are national and 2 are private universities.

RU11’s standpoint is that Japan must have pre- eminent world-class research universities. They advocate for investment in top level research universities in order to promote their development through mobility of human resources and joint research projects.

RU11’s main missions are:

- Discussing measures for enhancement in order to strengthen RUs
- Improving cooperation between the RUs and pooling of information

In this frame, the presidents of the universities in this consortium released on 26 August a proposal on "The Fundamental Strengthening of the Basis for Research: Japan’s Responsibility in the Age of Globalization".

This proposal, also a kind of manifesto, starts from the standpoint that Western countries, followed recently by some asian strongholds such as China or Singapore, always backed research by countious, stable or even growing funding along the years. In Japan, basic funding of national universities (i.e. outside of project-based funding) has continuously decreased for more than ten years; while private universities see subsidies diminishing due to the declining and ageing population, both of these seriously compromising the education of the next regeneration of researchers and lowering Japan's global level in R&D.

| Comparative research performance and research budgets between 2000 and 2011, in % |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                               | Japan    | US       | Germany  | UK       | China    | Korea    |
| Change in share of top 1% papers              | -28      | -25      | +6       | -11      | +242     | +67      |
| Government S&T budget change                  | +12      | +84      | +44      | +17      | +752     | +248     |
| Change in Universities funding                | -9       | +96      | +55      | +93      | +678     | +204     |
| Change in researcher numbers affiliated to universities | -9       | –        | +27      | –        | +34      | +57      |

RU11 therefore appeals to a necessary consensus at the national scale on a long term vision for education, S&T and innovation policies to the benefit of the whole society. Diversity, quality, added-value and knowledge circulation should be the key-words within this consensus, says RU11.
To achieve this their recommendations are the following:

i/ **Strengthen the financial structure supporting research universities**

- Stabilisation and optimisation of basic funding policies in order to encourage and allow implementation of autonomous reforms within universities for them to better perform in competitive funding calls.

- Optimise and expand funding available to fill in the gap between fundamental research and production for better societal acceptation.

ii/ **Improvement of the research environment** (for researchers)

- Fundamental reform of the personnel policy: better stability (tenure tracks), mobility and implementation of a policy for career paths in research at a national scale. Gender and nationality diversity should be encouraged and supported.

- Improvement of employment possibilities for young researchers and of research career promotion to graduate students.

Source: [RU11](#) (Japanese only)

### 4.2.2 An Introduction and Description of Japan’s Comprehensive STI Strategy

To follow up the *Comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy* established under the Abe Administration in JFY2013, Prime Minister Abe announced a new plan for allocation of the STI budget for JFY2014.

The new strategy has **three pillars**. Two of them are the cross-ministerial and high-risk & high-impact programs known as **SIP** and **ImPACT**, respectively, both led by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (**CSTI**, Council formed of experts under the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office and overlooking all of the nation’s S&T; formulating comprehensive and basic policies and conducting their coordination)). The third pillar is the **STI Budget Strategy Committee** that was set up in 2013 for CSTI to preliminarily review all the STI budget requests individually made by the STI ministries before the STI ministries submit their requests to the Ministry of Finance. This enables CSTI to check duplication of efforts at an early stage of the STI budget-making process and comprehensively view the Japanese government R&D efforts.

The **JFY2014 priority STI areas** of Energy System; Long and Healthy Life; Next-generation Infrastructure; New Industry Creation by Use of Local Area Resources; and Recovery from the Great North-east Earthquake are the same as in JFY2013.

The strategy recognizes that holding the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games in Japan is a good opportunity for Japan to promote industrialization of technologies by 2020 and demonstrate the new technologies at the internationally visible event.
Also emphasized in the strategy is the importance of fostering an environment for innovation that facilitates the nurturing and kick-off of commercialization.

To realize this, the strategy identifies three approaches: establishment of innovation hub by industry-university-government collaboration; creation of an environment for young and women researchers, small- and medium-sized companies, and ventures to be competitive; and reform of universities, state-run research institutions, and competitive funding systems.

Lastly, the strategy reiterates the importance of CSTI’s role as the “control tower” of Japan’s STI policy. In concrete terms, the strategy expects CSTI to lead the STI budgets, improve the environment to create innovation, invest in innovative research, and realize innovation by reforming state-run research institutions.

Source: NSF Tokyo Office Weekly Wire

4.2.3 New S&T minister in the ABE government

First Minister Shizo ABE proceeded to several changes in his ministerial team on 3 September. It is the first change he operates since his access to the position in December 2012.

Six of the previous members were retained in the new list. Mr Hakubun SHIMOMURA, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (also in charge for now of the 2020 Olympic Games organisation) is one of them.

The former Minister of State for S&T Policy, Space Policy and Information Policy, Mr Ichita YAMAMOTO, leaves his position to Mr Shunichi YAMAGUCHI, who also gains two new functions: Minister in charge of “Challenge Again” Initiative and Minister in charge of "Cool Japan” Strategy".

Mr YAMAGUCHI, 64, is a former Vice-Minister of Finance. He studied literature at the Aoyama Gakuin University and went abroad to study at Paris IV University within his cursus. His trip to Paris revealed his interest for politics; and he then abandoned his studies to focus on his political career.

The first visit of Minister YAMAGUCHI was OIST (Okinawa) on 10 September.

Source: Cabinet Office

4.2.4 MEXT and S&T related budget request for JFY2015

The Japanese ministries’ budgetary requests for each fiscal year, beginning here in April, is usually made public around end of August – beginning of September.

This year, the total budget requested by MEXT is JPY 5,903 trillion , a 10.1% increase compared to 2014. Please note that this budget covers MEXT’s whole spectrum of action, that is: Education (roughly 75% of the
requested budget), Culture (2%), Sports (1%) and S&T (22%). Please also note that budget requests are usually slightly higher than the actual received budget, finalised around December-January.

The specific budget for S&T is fragmented within several ministries, making it more difficult to evaluate. However, the CSTI summarises S&T related budget request for FY2015 as follows: entire S&T related request stands at JPY 4,029.7 billion, with MEXT occupying 64.8% of it (a 1% increase from last year's actual budget), followed by METI at 16.2% (+1.3%).

MEXT sees particularly the 2020 Olympics as an “important turning point for Japan”, and will work towards a society where “all children, youth and adults who have the capability and willingness to learn can receive high quality education, regardless of their financial situation”. MEXT also hopes to “revitalise Japan thorough education, culture, sports, and S&T innovation.”

Whithin MEXT’s budget requests, there are 3 new items particularly highlighted, in line with Japan’s STI Comprehensive Strategy:

- Creation of an S&T innovation friendly environment (establishment of innovation hubs with MEXT R&D institutions): JPY 5 billion
- Backing of new industries that utilise local resources (local revitalisation initiative) based on Japan’s research capabilities: JPY 7 billion
- Quick revitalisation from the Tohoku earthquake (R&D relevant to decommissioning of Fukushima Daichi): JPY 8.1 billion

Also of interest, as relayed by local media, are the set up of a new base for space exploration (JPY2 billion) and the budget request decrease by 20% for Riken, the first decrease since its institutionalisation (see more here and here).

Source: MEXT (Japanese only), CSTI (Japanese only)

Note that other ministries also unveiled their budget requests: METI (Economy, Trade and Industry; here), MIC (Internal Affairs and Communication; here) and MLIT (Land, Infrastructure and Transport; here).

4.2.5 MEXT’s new guidelines towards handling of fraud and misconduct in research activities

Facing criticism with the recent Obokata scandal, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology (MEXT) released on 26 August a revised version of its guidelines towards handling of fraud and misconduct in research activities, which hadn’t been reviewed since 2006.

The two main points of revision are:

- The guidelines are reviewed and approved by the MEXT Acting Minister (as opposed to: by a special experts committee in the old version)
- The responsibility for fraud and misconduct, which was traditionally (up to now) mainly bestowed upon the individual researchers will now be considered as shared by the host universities or research institutions, which will have to implement clear measures to prevent such problems.

While still relying on first degree on the individual researchers and their research community, the moral and financial responsibility for fraud and misconduct is in this new version seen as belonging to the organisation as a whole.

For MEXT, the following new measures need to be implemented in each university and research institutions:

- Revision of project management systems and more particularly of joint research projects management, with the setup of clearer definition of roles in research teams, compulsory nomination of a third party for communication reviewing, reinforced mentoring of young scientists, etc.

- Setup of research ethics education courses for students, setup of workshops or information events for researchers and dispatch of research ethics responsible in each department.

- Compulsory conservation of research activity records for a given time.

- Public disclosure of the measures and practices of each institution towards preventing and handling of fraud and misconduct.

- If the measures implemented seem insufficient or the protocols deficient, MEXT may ask the institution to change its structure to match the needs. If even after this step deficiencies may be found, MEXT can reduce the fundings received by this institution.

- If after a particular case of fraud or misconduct the investigations seems slow, MEXT may again reduce the fundings received by this institution.

Source: MEXT (Japanese only)

4.2.6 MEXT unveils its roadmap for large-scale research projects

MEXT unveiled on 26 August its renewed roadmap for large scale research infrastructure projects. In this version, 10 new projects are added to the already existing 18, with time spans to realisation and exploitation phase varying from 10 to 14 years and individual overall budgets varying from JPY 5 billion to JPY 86 billion (EUR 36 million to EUR 620 million).
These 10 new projects are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Time span (project realisation phase)</th>
<th>Time span (exploitation phase)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Life Sciences**             | Brain project:                                                       | Collection of clinical data and bio-samples  
Development of seamless brain analysis techniques  
Development of common biomarkers for man and animals | JPY 35 billion (EUR 250 million) | 2014 - 2016 | 2017 - 2023                        |
|                               | Development of innovative prevention and treatment development bases of psychiatric and neurological disorders based on the functional network analysis |                                                                                                                                             |                     |                                      |                                |
|                               | Creation of a research centre on infectious diseases with a high security laboratory (BSL-4) as core | Creation of a BSL-4 facility  
Research and education on highly infectious diseases | JPY 10.5 billion (EUR 75 million) | 2014 - 2019 | 2020 - 2023                        |
|                               | Creation of a research centre in genomics medicine | Integration of clinical research and genomics  
Creation of standards in genome diagnoses techniques for clinical purposes | JPY 17.3 billion (EUR 125 million) | 2014 - 2020 | 2014 - 2020                        |
| **Energy – Environment – Earth Sciences** | Creation of a fundamental research network on the Earth-Sun system | Observation (radar) from multiple point at the equator and the poles of the two sources of energy from the sun at their maxima: radiation (equator region) and solar winds (poles) | JPY 12 billion (EUR 86 million) | 2014 – 2015 | 2016 - 2023                        |
|                               | Attosecond laser science research facility | Produce 4 exploitable lines of attosecond bunched soft X-rays (10^{-18}s)  
Develop attosecond resolved spectroscopy and microscopy techniques  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding (JPY)</th>
<th>Funding (EUR)</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physics - Engineering</strong></td>
<td>All-nation cooperative research network on extreme non-equilibrium plasmas</td>
<td>JPY 11.9 billion</td>
<td>EUR 86 million</td>
<td>2014 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create a new academic field based on the extreme non-equilibrium plasmas common theories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work towards application in nuclear fusion, new energy sources and innovative materials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cooperative research network on spintronics</strong></td>
<td>Creation of a cross-area, cross-institutional network in spintronics for education, fundamental research, and R&amp;D for storage, memory and logic applications</td>
<td>JPY 5 billion</td>
<td>EUR 36 million</td>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Space Sciences</strong></td>
<td>LiteBIRD</td>
<td>JPY 7 billion</td>
<td>EUR 50 million</td>
<td>2014 - 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Realisation and exploitation of LiteBIRD, astrophysics satellite for observation of microwave background radiation polarisation induced by early post big-bang universe inflation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2020 - 2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPICA</strong></td>
<td>Observation and analysis of the ageing of the universe with the large scale, cryogenically cooled, high resolution mid-to-long range infrared telescope on-board SPICA satellite</td>
<td>JPY 86.8 billion</td>
<td>EUR 625 million</td>
<td>2014 - 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information Sciences</strong></td>
<td>SINET (Science Information NETwork)</td>
<td>JPY 85.7 billion</td>
<td>EUR 615 million</td>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fund the new generation (SINET 5) of this network acting as backbone network for more than 700 universities and research institutions with over 2 million users</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 - 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support its use for international research collaboration through international lines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information, the already existing 18 projects cover the fields of humanities and social sciences (2 projects, total funding of JPY 13.8 billion –EUR 99 million, until 2023); of life sciences (4 projects, total funding of JPY 118 billion – EUR 850 million, until 2023); of energy, environment and earth sciences (3 projects, total funding of JPY 250 billion – EUR 1.8 billion, until 2023); of material
analysis (1 project, total funding of JPY 54 billion – EUR 39 million, until 2021); of physics and engineering (6 projects, total funding of JPY 260 billion – EUR 1.85 billion, until 2037); of space sciences (1 project, total funding of JPY 21 billion – EUR 151 million, until 2018) and of information sciences (1 project, total funding of JPY 10 billion – EUR 72 million, until 2018).

Source: MEXT (Japanese only)

4.2.7 Kyoto University professor wins U.S. Lasker Award

Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Science (GSS) professor Kazutoshi Mori won along with a fellow U.S. researcher Peter Walter the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award – the most prestigious medical award in the United States.

Mori and Walter shared the award for their groundbreaking work on cellular processes that contribute to a range of diseases. They have indeed identified core components of the unfolded protein response process and unveiled unexpected aspects of its mechanism.

The Lasker Awards, often dubbed “America’s Nobels” as 86 out of 363 Lasker laureates have received the Nobel Prize since the awards’ inception in 1945, recognize the contributions of scientists, physicians, and public servants who have made major advances in the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, cure, and prevention of human disease.

Japan now has seven Lasker laureates. Five of them are Kyoto University alumni and/or faculty members: Mori himself, Shinya Yamanaka (awarded 2009), Yoshio Masui (1998), Yasutomi Nishizuka (1989) and Susumu Tonegawa (1987). Yamanaka and Tonegawa also won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine soon after receiving the Lasker Award.

Source: Kyoto University

4.2.8 University of Tokyo researchers develop innovative running robot

Scientists at the University of Tokyo announced in September that they have developed a bipedal robot that can run like a human. Led by Pr Masatoshi Ishikawa, the team of researchers created the "Achilles" robot, which is capable of running at 4.2 kph, while having legs measuring only 14 centimeters long.

Conventional bipedal robots, such as Honda Motor Co.’s ASIMO, can walk, but are unable to run because they walk by moving only their legs. Achilles can run because it can pivot its hip forward, intentionally losing its balance and then swing one of its legs forward to kick the ground. This method of running is basically the same as a human being.

This achievement could be reached through the use of a high-speed image processing system (600 fps) that enables Achilles to determine when it is about to fall, and a compact, lightweight actuator lets the robot swing its leg.
forward just in time. This simple control method, based on high-speed performance of sensory-motor system, is interesting as it represents an alternative to more conventional, computationally expensive – so-called „ZMP“ – method.

In the near future, the team plans to develop a robot with a camera on its head that can jump over obstacles and play soccer.

Watch the Youtube video demonstration here

Original story: Asahi Shimbun

Source: University of Tokyo

4.2.9 World’s 1st iPS cell implant surgery on human

Japanese researchers conducted the world’s first surgery to implant induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells into a human body, representing a major step forward for regenerative medicine. In the clinical test, a sheet of retinal pigment epithelium cells created from iPS cells was implanted into a female patient with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), an intractable disease that can lead to blindness in older people.

It is the first time that iPS cells have been implanted in a human body since they were first developed in 2007. The operation brings iPS cell technology closer to clinical application. The patient is in a stable condition and is expected to leave the hospital in about a week, researchers from the two institutions involved in the project said.

The clinical trial, conducted on Sept. 12, was led by Masayo Takahashi, an ophthalmic researcher at Riken’s Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe. It was aimed at confirming the safety of iPS cell surgery. The team plans to conduct similar surgeries on five more patients.

Original story: Asahi Shimbun

4.3 Cooperation EU - Japan

4.3.1 Evaluation of EU-JAPAN Joint ICT call and talks to join forces in 5G telephony

EU-Japan STI cooperation in ICT is starting to accelerate. For the second time in two years, a jointly funded call between DG Connect, Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) was issued.

The call, which beneficiates of a total budget of around EUR12 million, is named EU-Japan Research and Development Cooperation in Net Futures.
Paco Ibañez, Maria Tsakali, Paco Guirao Moya, and Mario Scillia together with 7 experts came to Tokyo to evaluate the 26 submitted projects on the latest hot trends in the information and communications world, embracing ‘big data and the internet of things in the cloud’; ‘optical communications’; ‘access networks for densely located users’; and ‘federated test beds’.

Talks with MIC also led to a high potential opening to EU-Japan co-operation on 5G for mobile telephony and other devices. This could develop rapidly and lead to a mutual agreement as already achieved with South Korea. The distance between ICT research communities in Europe and Japan begins to narrow.

Source: International Research Update

Further information on the call status here

4.3.2 European Science Counsellors exploring the potential of Ocean Development Studies in Japan

On 6 June, the EU Delegation to Japan together with S&T counsellors from Member States visited CHIKYU, the only riser drilling vessel in the world, operated by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) in Shizuoka, on the coast south of Tokyo.

The visit follows a series of successful exchanges including the signing of a MoU between ECORD (the European Consortium of Ocean Research Drilling, a former ERA-NET that has become independent) and JAMSTEC at the Tokyo Delegation in February this year. Presentations on CHIKYU and its unique capability to bore holes deeper than any other vessel to 7,500m below the sea floor were given by JAMSTEC, followed by presentations by the Delegation on Horizon 2020 and its potential.

Discussions confirmed the interest from both sides to engage in international collaboration. Charged also by the political initiative of the Abe administration to promote ocean development, momentum is building towards future EU-Japan collaboration in this field, or joining existing global networks.

Source: International Research Update
5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 European Union

5.1.1 Guide to Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever. Almost €80 billion of funding is available over seven years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private and national public investment that this money will attract. This new guide explains the Horizon 2020 programme in more detail. Download it for free here.

5.1.2 Open calls under Horizon 2020

Access all 42 open calls on the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal. Note that they are allocated to the three pillars of Horizon 2020:
- Excellent Science programme
- Industrial Leadership
- Societal Challenges

5.1.3 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions:

As of January 2014, with the move to Horizon 2020, the Marie Curie Actions are now called the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA).

MSCA support research training and career development focused on innovation skills. The programme funds worldwide and cross-sector mobility that implements excellent research in any field (a "bottom-up" approach).

5.1.3.1 Pocket guide and Flyer

A new flyer called "Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions in brief: your next career move!" has been released, providing a general overview of the MSCA 2014-2020. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian language versions will be made available shortly.

A new pocket guide entitled "Your passport to a successful research career" has also been published, giving in-depth information on MSCA funding opportunities for researchers from all over the world.

Are you considering a doctoral degree? Looking for partnerships between academic and non-academic organisations or staff exchanges? Keen on outreach activities? MSCA fund all kind of opportunities for researchers from Europe and beyond. This starter booklet gives you the needed information to make the right first choice.

Guide and flyer available here and here.
5.1.3.2 **Web-streamed video training session**

The European Commission (DG EAC, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Unit) organised a **web-streamed training** on 10 June 2014, in collaboration with the Research Executive Agency (REA).

The training **focused on the two 2014 calls IF (Individual Fellowships) and Cofund.**

The three hour long video and all slides are **available on-demand** [here](#).

**Next MSCA calls:**
- International Training Networks (13 Jan 2015)
- Individual Fellowships (12 Mar 2015)
- RISE (6 Jan 2015)
- COFUND (14 Apr 2015)

5.1.4 **European Research Council grants**

European Research Council (**ERC**)'s mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence.

Being 'bottom-up', in nature, the **ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions** in any field of research, rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. It is a **highly competitive funding scheme** (10% of success rate on average for Starting and Consolidator grants, 14% for Advanced grants).

**Researchers from anywhere in the world can apply** for a European Research Council (ERC) grant to go to Europe and conduct research (for at least 50% of their working time). Currently over 300 ERC grantees out of nearly 4,000 are non-Europeans. Research teams set up by ERC grantees are highly international – an estimated 20% of team members are non-Europeans.

**Open Calls:** [Advanced Grant](#) (deadline 21 October 2014)

5.1.5 **European Respiratory Society**

5.1.5.1 **Short-Term Fellowships**

The European Respiratory Society (**ERS**) provides **Short-Term Research Training Fellowships** to allow young scientists and clinicians in the **early stages of their research career in respiratory medicine to visit a Host Unit in a European country. Short-term stays of 1-3 months** are supported.

**Deadline:** 1 October 2014

Further information [here](#)
5.1.5.2 ERS/EU RESPIRE 2 Post-doctoral Research Fellowships

RESPIRE 2 Fellowships are established to enable promising researchers to carry out advanced research projects (24 months). The Fellowships are open to all nationalities but need to be undertaken in a European country within a certified RESPIRE 2 Host Centre.

This Programme targets experienced investigators, clinicians & respiratory professionals with a PhD or at least 4 years full-time research experience. Applicants are also required to have at least 1 first author publication in an international peer-reviewed journal at the time of application.

Deadline: 31 October 2014

Further information here

5.1.6 EMBO Fellowships

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) groups more than 1500 leading researchers within 27 Member states and promotes excellence in the life sciences.

Young scientists actively seek EMBO Long-Term Fellowships for postdoctoral research to fund and support their internationally mobile careers. Hundreds of scientists also benefit each year from EMBO Short-Term Fellowships, returning to their home laboratories with new skills as well as contacts for future collaborations.

The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe. International exchange is a key feature in the application process.

Short-Term Fellowships fund research visits of up to three months to laboratories in Europe. The aim is to facilitate valuable collaborations with research groups applying techniques that are unavailable in the applicant's laboratory.

Deadlines: 13 February 2015 (Long-Term), rolling basis (Short-Term)

Further information here

5.1.7 European University Institute programmes

5.1.7.1 Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Max Weber Programme is the largest international postdoctoral programme in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe. It offers around 50-55 fully funded Fellowships to qualified researchers from anywhere in the world.

The Programme is open to applicants who are within 5 years of the completion of their PhD. The language of the programme is English and
therefore applicants’ expected level of English proficiency is level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Only native English speakers and candidates who have written their doctorate in English are exempted of the requirement to provide a relevant certificate.

The majority of Max Weber Fellowships are for one year.

**Deadline: 25 October 2014**

Further information [here](#).

### 5.1.7.2 Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers **one-year Jean Monnet Fellowships** (renewable for one more year) to scholars who have **obtained their doctorate more than 5 years prior to the start** of the fellowship. The Fellowship programme is open to post-docs, tenure track academics of all nationalities. The Centre offers up to 20 Fellowships a year.

The research proposal should fit well with one of the Centre’s main research themes:

- Integration, Governance and Democracy
- Markets and Governing Money
- 21st Century World Politics and Europe

**Deadline: 25 October 2014**

Further information [here](#).

### 5.1.8 Erasmus Mundus - GEM PhD School Call for Applications

The Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programme on “Globalisation, the European Union and Multilateralism” ([GEM PhD School](#)) is a **transnational PhD training covering most disciplines within Social Sciences**, set up with the support of the European Commission. It aims to foster first-rate Social Science doctoral research by offering a pan-European learning environment.

The GEM PhD School brings together **10 leading global institutions** based in Belgium, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Japan, the Peoples’ Republic of China and Mexico.

Up to **10 Erasmus Mundus Fellowships** are annually awarded by the GEM PhD School. These Fellowships include a monthly salary, a mobility fund and all participation costs for a **3 year long period**.

Applications are reviewed in February.

**Deadline: end of December**

Further information [here](#).
5.1.9 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 portals:

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

5.2 EU Member States and Associated Countries

5.2.1 Austria

5.2.1.1 Lise Meitner Programme for Scientists from Abroad

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

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

Applications continuously reviewed.

Further information here.

5.2.1.2 IIASA’s Young Scientists Summer Program

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) conducts policy-oriented research into problems of a global nature that are too large or too complex to be solved by a single country or academic discipline.

IIASA proposes each year a three month summer programme for young scientists, which offers research opportunities to talented young researchers whose interests correspond with IIASA’s ongoing research on issues of global environmental, economic and social change.

As Japanese organisations fund this programme, Japanese students are given priority (among others).

Applicants should be advanced post graduate students (about 2 years prior to receiving their PhD).

Next Summer Programme: June to August 2015.

Applications open on 1 October 2014, close on 12 January 2015

Further information here.
5.2.2 Belgium

5.2.2.1 BEWARE Fellowships

To promote the mobility of foreign researchers towards Belgium (the only condition being to have spent less than 12 months over the last three years in Belgium), two funding schemes have been launched under the BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS (BElgium WALLonia REsearch) programmes.

The first scheme is BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS Industry. This incoming fellowship programme will grant 57 mandates over 5 years, in order to enable SMEs or accredited research centres to benefit from the expertise of highly qualified foreign researchers (or Belgian expatriates).

The second one is BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS Academia. This program focuses on technology transfer. It also runs over five years and will fund a total of 80 mandates for foreign researchers to perform a research stay in a French-speaking university, in partnership with a Walloon company. Over the period covered by the mandate (18-36 months), six months must be spent in the company.

Deadline for both calls: 15 October 2014

Further information [here](#) (Industry) and [here](#) (Academia).

5.2.3 Denmark

5.2.3.1 Industrial PhD Programme

The Industrial PhD programme is funded by the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI). An Industrial PhD project is a three-year industrially focused PhD project where the student is hired by a company and enrolled at a university at the same time. The company receives a monthly wage subsidy while the university has its expenses for supervising covered. The PhD student works full time on the project and divides his/her time equally between the company and the university.

Deadline: 13 October 2014

Further information [here](#)

5.2.3.2 DFF Call for Proposals Autumn 2014 and Spring 2015

The Danish Council for Independent Research (DFF) funds specific research activities, within all scientific areas that are based on the researchers’ own initiatives and that improve the quality and internationalisation of Danish research. Individual Postdocotral Grants, Mobility Grants, Sapere-Aude Starting and Advanced Grants and many more research project and mobility funding schemes are available.

Two annual deadlines: late April and late October

Further information [here](#) and [here](#)
5.2.4 Estonia

5.2.4.1 Government Scholarships

The Estonian Government offers a number of scholarships intended for university students, researchers or lecturers for studying and doing research at Estonian public universities and institutions. Most scholarships are for master's degree and doctoral degree, but some bachelor degree scholarships are also possible. Most universities in Estonia propose scholarships for international degree programmes which might be combined with other international scholarships.

Further information here and here

5.2.4.2 Estophilus Scholarship

The Estonian Institute offers scholarships to holders of a doctoral degree or Master’s or Doctoral students who are citizens of a foreign state and are studying at a university abroad, to write a research paper on an Estonia-related topic or to gather material for it. The scholarship is designated to cover subsistence expenses, tuition fees and costs directly connected with the research; it may be granted for a period ranging from five to ten months. The scholarship for a five-month period is € 2500.

Knowledge of Estonian is an advantage but not a requirement.

Two annual deadlines: 1 March, 1 October

Further information here

5.2.5 Finland

5.2.5.1 CIMO Fellowships

The CIMO Fellowships programme is open to young Doctoral level students and researchers from all countries and from all academic fields. Master level studies or post-doctoral studies/research are not supported in the programme. The primary target group in the CIMO Fellowship programme are doctoral level students who will be doing their doctorate (or double doctorate) at a Finnish university.

There are no annual application deadlines in the CIMO Fellowship programme. However, please note that applications should be submitted at least 5 months before the intended scholarship period. The scholarship period may vary from 3 to 12 months with a monthly allowance of € 1500 to cover living expenses in Finland.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Further information here
5.2.5.2 AF-Tekes-JST Joint Project: Information Systems for Accessibility and Support of Older People

The Academy of Finland, JST and Tekes has opened a call for joint projects with a view to promoting Finnish-Japanese research collaboration in analysing and solving the issues and challenges of information systems for accessibility and support of older people. Researchers are free to choose their research approach. The joint research plan must be carried out by research teams from both countries. Three 3-year projects may be funded to a maximum of € 125 000 per year.

Deadline: 7 October 2014

Further information here and here (search for “Information Systems for Accessibility and Support of Older People” in text)

5.2.6 France

5.2.6.1 PhD students mobility support for short-term stays at or from Université de Lyon

The Avenir Lyon Saint-Étienne Programme (PALSE) supports the international mobility of PhD students in "Sustainable Development Science and Engineering" and "Global Health and Society".

Incoming mobility assistance is destined for PhD students registered at a foreign institution who would like to carry out, as part of their doctoral work, a research stay at a Université de Lyon member institution's research unit.

Outgoing mobility assistance is destined for PhD students registered at a Université de Lyon doctoral school who would like to carry out, as part of their doctoral work, a research stay at a research unit located abroad.

Both programmes fund 3- to 6-month stays that must start in 2015. The calls are open to PhD students of all nationalities but the Lyon university has preferential partnerships with several universities around the world, among which the University of Tokyo and the University of Tohoku.

The calls for applications were launched on 30 June 2014. Consult the application deadlines (usually in October) published on the website of the concerned doctoral school.

Further information here (incoming) and here (outgoing)

5.2.6.2 IHÉS Call for Visitor Researchers

The Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS) encourages theoretical research in mathematics, physics and human sciences methodology. It is a reference point for excellence in the international scientific community, with significant achievements in mathematics and theoretical physics.

Each year, IHÉS welcomes some 200 mathematicians and theoretical physicists from all over the world (post-doctorants and senior researchers) for
periods ranging from a few days to one year (maximum two in exceptional cases).

IHÉS visitors are given complete freedom in their research, allowing them to change fields if they so desire. IHÉS offers invited researchers a per diem, office space in the scientific building and free accommodation in its nearby housing estate.

The sole criteria for selection is scientific excellence.

Deadline: 14 November 2014

Further information here

5.2.7 Germany

5.2.7.1 DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

DLR – DAAD Research Fellowships is a new programme implemented by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

This special programme is intended for highly-qualified foreign doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as senior scientists. Proof of English proficiency is necessary, knowledge of German is a plus.

DLR-DAAD Fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each Fellowship announcement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit. There are currently fellowship offers in Aeronautics; Space; Transportation; Energy. The application deadline depends on the offer.

List of open calls here

Further information here

5.2.7.2 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards

Scientists and scholars, internationally renowned in their field, who completed their doctorates less than 18 years ago and who in future are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements which will have a seminal influence on their discipline beyond their immediate field of work, are eligible to be nominated for a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.

The Humboldt Foundation grants up to 25 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards annually.

Direct applications are not accepted. The award is currently valued at € 45000.

Nominations may be sent at any time but Selection Committee meetings are held twice a year – currently at the beginning of spring and in early autumn.

Further information here
5.2.7.3 DFG-JSPS German-Japanese Graduate Externship Programme

A cooperation agreement signed between the German Research Foundation (DFG) and JSPS aims at the promotion of academic exchanges between the two countries. Under this agreement a Japan-Germany joint graduate externship programme has been implemented.

This programme plans for symmetrical exchanges of PhD students (at least 6 per year for a maximum of 10 months abroad each) and plans to dispatch postdoctoral or junior researchers (at least 5 per year) between research units in Germany and in Japan over a five-year period starting in April 2015. All fields of study are concerned.

Funding of two proposals will be ensured by the JSPS on the Japanese side for approximately € 110,000 per year. Funding on the German side is ensured by the DFG under its International Research Training Groups (ITRG) scheme.

Application period: from 27 October to 31 October 2014

Further information and application here (Japanese only)

5.2.8 Ireland

5.2.8.1 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Industry Fellowship Programme 2014

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has launched the Industry Fellowship Programme 2014 to develop and support academic partnerships with industry.

The purpose of the Industry Fellowship Programme is to facilitate exchanges between academia and industry to stimulate excellence through knowledge transfer and training. Fellowships can be awarded to academic researchers wishing to spend time in industry worldwide and to individuals from industry anywhere in the world (including Ireland) wishing to spend time in an eligible Irish Research Body.

Fellowships can last from 1 to 12 months if full time or up to 24 months if part time. The maximum Industry Fellowship award amount is € 120,000 direct costs.

Deadline for next assessment round: 10 December 2014

Further information here

5.2.9 Lithuania

Lithuanian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowships

Researchers from Lithuania and abroad who have been awarded a Ph.D. degree within a period of 3 years can apply for Postdoctoral Fellowships. Any higher education institution, research institute, research centre or other
research establishments and enterprises in Lithuania can act as a Host Institution.

Next call is planned for the first quarter of 2015.

Further information here.

5.2.10 Luxembourg

**ATTRACT 2015 Call for Proposals**

The ATTRACT programme is funded by Luxembourg's National Research Fund (FNR). It aims to support the Luxembourgish research institutions to expand their competences in strategic research areas by attracting outstanding young researchers.

The programme is designed for foreign researchers not yet established in Luxembourg. It offers them the opportunity to set up an independent research team within a public-sector research institution.

Research proposals should be submitted jointly by the candidate and the host institution. Projects should be innovative and of high scientific quality. Applicants must have 2 to 8 years of research experience after completion of their PhD.

Selected projects may have a lifespan of five years and receive up to EUR € 1.5 million or € 2.0 million for the “Starting Investigators” or “Consolidating Investigators” respectively.

**Deadline: 12 January 2015**

Further information here.

5.2.11 Netherlands

5.2.11.1 NWO’s Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Vidi

The Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Vidi is a grant scheme funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), targeting experienced researchers of any nationality wishing to develop their own innovative lines of research and to lead their own team at a research institution in the Netherlands.

Researchers with less than 8 years of experience after their PhD can apply for a maximum grant amount of € 800,000.

**Deadline: 2 October 2014**

Further information here.
5.2.11.2 The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) Visiting Professors Programme

The Visiting Professors Programme (VPP) enables outstanding foreign researchers from any field of study to spend time working in the Netherlands. The programme acts as an incentive for Dutch science and scholarship. It covers a research budget and the Visiting Professor’s travel and accommodation expenses. The applicant must find a Dutch university to act as his/her host organisation.

Deadline: 1 November 2014

Further information here

5.2.12 Norway

5.2.12.1 High North Programme 2013-2018

The High North Programme supports collaboration between higher education institutions in Norway and institutions in Canada, China, Japan, Russia, the Republic of Korea and the United States in order to increase knowledge about the High North. It provides funds to support student or staff mobility, intensive courses, joint teaching and supervisions, study programmes or degrees.

The programme is open for all disciplines and all levels of education, as well as multidisciplinary projects and professional studies but must be related to one or several of the Norwegian Governments' High North strategy items and cross-border topics such as climate change, the environment, resources, transport/logistics, economy and issues relating to indigenous peoples.

Accredited Norwegian higher education institutions, public and private, may apply to the programme in one of these three categories:

- Long-term project cooperation (four year projects up to NOK 2 million — approx. € 240,000 — per project)
- Limited cooperation activities (two year projects up to NOK 300,000 — approx. € 36,000 — per project)
- Preparatory visits for projects with a main partner in China, Japan or the Republic of Korea (up to NOK 70,000 — approx. € 8,500 —)

Deadline: 5 November 2014

Further information here

5.2.12.2 RCN's Personal Visiting Researcher Grant

The objective of this grant is to help strengthen Norwegian research groups by offering visiting foreign researchers (post-doctorate level or higher) the opportunity to perform research in Norway. It may cover stays for visiting researchers from one to 12 months. The applicant must be a Norwegian research institution.
Next deadlines: 15 October, 26 November 2014

Further information here

5.2.13 Poland

IDEAS FOR POLAND

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

Subsidies can be granted directly after winning an ERC grant and during the project. The maximum subsidized period is 3 years.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

Further information here

5.2.14 Slovakia

5.2.14.1 National Scholarship Programme (Incoming and Outgoing)

The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (NSP) supports study/research/teaching/artistic mobility of foreign students, PhD students, university teachers, researchers and artists toward higher education institutions and research organisations in Slovakia. The scholarship shall cover scholarship holders’ living costs during their 1 to 12 months stay in Slovakia with an allowance between € 350 and € 1,000 per month.

NSP also supports outgoing mobility of students and PhD students studying at Slovak higher education institutions with a permanent residence in Slovakia toward higher education institutions and research organisations abroad.

Deadline for all applications: 31 October 2014

Further information here (Incoming and Outgoing), here (incoming PhD students) and here (incoming university teachers, researchers, artists)

5.2.15 Sweden

5.2.15.1 STINT Postdoctoral Transition Grants

The aim of the Postdoctoral Transition Grants for Internationalisation programme is to support promising young researchers in Sweden after a postdoc period which included at least one year abroad.
Projects may last for up to three years. The funds are to be used for mobility, stays abroad or foreign researcher’s stays in Sweden. Applicants should be employed by and active at a university in Sweden and have obtained their PhD.

Deadline: 1 October 2014

Further information [here](#)

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**5.2.16 Turkey**

**5.2.16.1 „2216“ - Research Fellowship Programme for International Researchers**

TÜBİTAK grants fellowships for international highly qualified PhD students and young post-doctoral researchers to pursue their research in Turkey in the fields of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

The program aims to promote Turkey’s scientific and technological collaboration with countries of the prospective researchers. Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate the potential to contribute significantly to Turkey’s goal of international cooperation in scientific and technological development.

Fellowship may cover monthly stipend, travel costs and part of the research costs of the successful candidates.

Deadline: 31 October 2014

Further information [here](#)

**5.2.16.2 „2221“ - Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave**

TÜBİTAK grants fellowships for foreign researchers who would like to give workshops/conferences/lectures or conduct R&D activities in Turkey in the fields of Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Three types of visits are granted within this program: Short-term (up to 1 month), Long term (up to 12 months) and Sabbatical Leave (from 3 months to 12 months). All types of grants cover monthly stipend and travel costs.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Further information [here](#)
5.2.17 United Kingdom

5.2.17.1 Royal Society’s International Exchanges Scheme

The Royal Society’s International Exchanges Scheme is designed for collaborative projects between British and Japanese researchers in the field of science. They are funded by the Daiwa Foundation and administered by The Royal Society.

This scheme is for scientists in the UK who want to stimulate new collaborations with leading scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel.

Eligible projects should include two teams or individuals: one based in the UK and the other based in Japan. A relationship between both parties should already be established prior to making an application and the collaboration should involve bilateral visits between the British and Japanese collaborators.

Funding of up to £ 6,000 (€ 7,500) per year for two years is provided to cover travel, subsistence and research expenses. Approximately 3 projects receive funding each year.

Deadline: 21 October 2014

Further information [here](#)

5.2.17.2 BBSRC David Phillips Fellowships

These Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) fellowships are for scientists who have demonstrated high potential and who wish to establish themselves as independent researchers.

Applicants should have no less than 3 years and no more than 10 years in active postgraduate research studies and postdoctoral research employment. They must be resident in the UK at the time of application or in the process of moving to the UK to take up an already agreed contract at an eligible organization such as Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or Research Council Institutes (RCIs).

Proposals in any area of Biosciences are welcome but proposals that are aligned with BBSRC’s overarching strategic priorities are particularly encouraged (i.e. plants, microbes, animals and tools for biological research).

Awards are for 5 years, up to 5 are available, and include personal salary and a significant research support grant.

Deadline: 5 November 2014

Further information [here](#)

5.2.17.3 BBSRC Japan Partnering Awards

These awards aim at supporting the set up of partnership links between UK and Japanese laboratories, at promoting the exchange of researchers (particularly in their early career) and at promoting access to facilities.
Typically they amount up to £50,000 (€62,500) which may only be used over a 4-year period for travel, subsistence and workshops or exchange activities. Further funding may be obtained either through JST or JSPS for the Japanese counterparts of the partnerships.

**Deadline: 13 November 2014**

Further information [here](#)

### 5.2.17.4 Chevening Scholarships and Partnerships

Chevening Scholarships are the UK government’s global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations. The programme provides full or part funding for full-time courses at postgraduate level, normally a one-year Master’s degree, in any subject and at a UK university.

Chevening Japan Scholarships and Partnerships welcome applications in the field of Finance, Climate Change and Energy, Defence and Security and Science and Innovation.

Apply to a Partnership may grant Japanese students the right to pick one of the 8 UK universities having privileged agreements for this particular programme. Should they be unsuccessful they may still be able to apply for a scholarship at another UK university.

Scholarships and Partnerships cover tuition fees, travel expenses and provide a monthly stipend.

**Deadline: 15 November 2014**

Further information [here](#)

### 5.2.17.5 Sasakawa Foundation Butterfield Awards

These awards are intended to encourage and facilitate exploratory exchanges and collaborations between Japan and the UK in any of the scientific, clinical, social and economic aspects of medicine.

Preference will be given to projects involving new collaborations, and applications from early stage researchers are particularly welcomed.

A few awards of a maximum amount of £5,000 (€6,250) are offered annually.

**Deadline: 15 December 2014**

Further information [here](#)

### 5.2.17.6 University of Cambridge, Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Gates Cambridge Scholarships are highly competitive, full-cost scholarships. They are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge.

**55 Scholarships are awarded each year** to students from all over the world (except Us and UK).
Deadline: 2 December 2014
Further information here

5.3 Japan

5.3.1 JSPS New Core to Core Programme

Since 2012, the JSPS has implemented a newly-revised Core-to-Core Programme, comprising two components: (1) Advanced Research Networks and (2) Asia-Africa Science Platforms. This programme is designed to create top world-class research centres in Japan that partner with other core research institutions around the world over the long-term.

The Advanced Research Networks component of the Core-to-Core Programme supports bi- or multi-lateral cooperation in cutting-edge fields of science between institutions in Japan and with the US, Canada, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Australia and New Zealand.

This programme may fund cooperative projects in any field, provided they are „scientifically cutting-edge, and strategic from an international point of view“.

Accepted projects may start as soon as April 2015 and may last a maximum of five years during which they may receive an annual stipend of JPY 20 million (€ 146,000) from JSPS which must be balanced with allowance from the other foreign institutions participating to the project.

Approximately 10 projects should be accepted under this programme for this round.

Applications must be submitted by a Japanese research institution.

Applications can be submitted between 4 September 2014 and 2 October 2014.

Further information here (English translation) and here (Japanese official version and application forms)

5.3.2 JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research „Kakenhi“

Grants-in-Aid are the major research support grants scheme in Japan.

They aim to promote creative and pioneering research across a wide spectrum of scientific fields, ranging from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences. Grants are awarded to projects organized by individual researchers, research groups at Japanese universities or research institutes engaged in basic research, particularly research in critical fields attuned to advanced research trends.
These grants are divided in several categories with different intents which fund projects for periods between 1 and 6 years with yearly allowances between JPY 1 million and JPY 600 million (€7,000 to €4.2 million) depending on the scale, the level of scientific advancement and the international counterpart of each project. More information on the different types of grants can be found here.

Deadline: 8 November 2014

Further information here

5.3.3 Invitation Fellowships Programmes for Research in Japan

The JSPS carries out programs that provide overseas researchers who have an excellent record of research achievements with an opportunity to conduct collaborative research, discussions, and opinion exchanges with researchers in Japan. These programmes are intended to help advance the overseas researchers' research activities while promoting science and internationalization in Japan.

This program is designed to enable Japanese researchers to invite their foreign colleagues to Japan to participate in cooperative work. Researchers of all countries having diplomatic relations with Japan and of any field of study are eligible.

Applications must be submitted to JSPS by the inviting researchers who wish to host foreign researchers in Japan, through an overseas nominating authority. A list of nominating authorities in partner countries such as France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden (for Europe) are listed here.

Various fellowship categories are provided: three for postdoctoral fellowships and three for invitation fellowships (researchers). Approximately 320 postdoctoral fellowships and 290 invitation fellowships should be awarded for 2015 through 2 to 4 calls (see here for further details on the different categories).

Next application rounds: 6-10 October 2014 (Short-term postdoctoral) (see here for a list of the future calls)

Further information here

5.3.4 NICT's invitations to foreign researchers

In order to support research in the area of telecommunications, the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) proposes each year a small number of grants covering travel and stay expenses for foreign researchers to come to Japan for short trips, courses or workshops.
Any Japanese institution performing research and/or activities in telecommunications can apply. Subjects of invitation can be researchers of any level (even PhD students), the sole criteria for selection being excellence.

8 grants approximately will be available this year.

**Deadline: 21 November 2014**

Further information [here](#) (Japanese only)

### 5.3.5 Osaka University Institute for Protein Research: Call for International Collaborative Research

The **Institute for Protein Research** (IPR), Osaka University, invites applications for **international collaborative research**.

The research projects should be conducted in the form of a collaboration including at least one of the Principal Investigators at IPR Alternatively or it should necessity the use of particular experimental facilities at IPR.

**Up to 10 projects** may be selected and be awarded up to JPY 400,000 (€ 2,900) for short stays between April 2015 and March 2016.

**Deadline: 1 December 2014**

Further information [here](#)

### 5.3.6 SHIONOGI Science Programme 2014 Call for Proposals

**Shionogi & Co., Ltd.** is a Japanese **pharmaceutical company** which was established in 1879. This Programme is part of an effort to **identify research seeds** and to develop them into consumer products. Shionogi started this academia and industry collaboration program in FY2007.

**Target countries** are Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK and Japan.

Research subject must fit with the company’s priorities: **research for novel target molecules**, **novel biomarkers** or **technologies** for drug discovery or production.

The selection criteria include originality of research; rationality; future potential; the possibility of commercialization and match with the needs of the company.

Research projects may **last up to 5 years** and annually receive JPY 5 million to JPY 15 million (€ 36,500 to € 110,000).

**Application Period: 1 October to 31 October 2014**

Further information [here](#)
6 Jobs

6.1 EURAXESS Jobs

There are currently 5658 jobs and fellowships advertised on the EURAXESS Jobs webpage. They can be viewed by country, level of seniority, field or research or via free text searches. Please also note that these jobs include doctoral fellowships.

All the positions can be viewed at the EURAXESS Jobs page.

You can also advertise for Jobs and Fellowships at your organisation, free of charge, on the EURAXESS Links Japan website!

Research organisations (public and private) can upload their job vacancies located in Japan.

6.2 Jobs in Europe

6.2.1 Joint Research Centre

The European Commission’s Joint Research Centre is currently advertising the following vacancies:

- 4 Grantholder positions (climate and development; nuclear fuels)
- 6 Trainee positions
- 2 Auxiliary Contract Staff Members

Deadlines: Various

Further information: JRC

6.2.2 CERN

CERN advertises for a number of research positions in physics and materials science on its job portal.

Among those are also PhD and Postdoc fellowships such as the Non-Member State Postdoc Fellowship Programme in Theoretical Physics and the Fellowship and GET Programmes.

6.2.3 ESO International Staff and Fellows

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) advertises for positions in Astronomy and Astrophysics either as International Staff Member of Fellow on its recruitment portal.

These offer young outstanding scientists opportunities and facilities to enhance their research programmes in close contact with the activities and staff at one of the world's foremost observatories. Positions are available at both ESO centres in Germany and in Chile.
6.2.4 Institut Pasteur International PhD positions

The French research institute for health and disease prevention Institut Pasteur enrolls PhD students at one of its 120 laboratories.

Applicants must have a master degree or an equivalent university degree in science, medicine or related fields and have fluent English (TOEFL recommended but not compulsory).

Successful applicants are expected to start working for a three-year period at the Institut from October 2015. Monthly stipend of € 2,200 gross will be provided to cover daily expenses.

The call for 2015 features now 39 offers.

Deadline: 7 November 2014

Further information here

6.2.5 European 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/
- Career.edu: http://www.career.edu/index.php
- Academic Jobs EU: http://www.academicjobseu.com
- Euro Science Jobs: http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/
- Careers with the European Union: European Personnel Selection Office
- Careers with the European Union (EPSO), Non-permanent Positions
- EuroBrussels: http://www.eurobrussels.com/

6.2.6 Jobs and Call Portals in Member States and Associated Countries:

- Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants: http://www.grants.at/home/EN/
- Cyprus’ Research Promotion Foundation Database: http://www.research.org.cy/EN/user_info/useful_websites.html
- Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science Funding Guide:
EURAXESS LINKS JAPAN


- Estonian Research Portal:

- France PhD portal:
  http://www.phdinfrance.net/

- CNRS external examination portal:

- DAAD’s Research in Germany Portal:

- Max Planck Society’s job portal:
  http://www.mpg.de/jobboard

- Helmholtz Association’s job portal:
  http://www.helmholtz.de/en/working_at_helmholtz/job_vacancies/

- Irish Research Council Funding Portal:
  http://www.research.ie/funding-opportunities

- Italian National Research Council vacancies:
  http://www.eitictlabs.eu/nc/about-us/vacancies/

- BBSRC vacancies (UK):
  http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/vacancies.aspx

- Science and Technology Facilities Council vacancies (UK):
  http://www.topcareer.jobs/

6.3 Jobs in Japan

6.3.1 JREC-IN

The Japanese job portal for researchers, JREC-IN, is currently advertising 2,695 positions in Japanese, and 265 positions in English.

All the positions can be viewed at the JREC-IN portal in English or in Japanese.

6.3.2 Careers at Japanese Research Institutes

All the main Japanese research institutes show active recruitment policy of international researchers and thus propose numerous positions (usually „on-project“) advertised in English in the following links.
For a better insight on the full recruitment campaigns please check the Japanese version of their website.

6.3.2.1 Applied Sciences:

Ψ AIST:
http://www.aist.go.jp/aist_e/humanres/

Ψ JAEA:

Ψ JAIST:
http://www.jaist.ac.jp/english/information/index.html#employment.html

Ψ JAXA:
http://global.jaxa.jp/about/employ/index.html

Ψ NICT:

Ψ NII (Japanese only):
http://www.nii.ac.jp/about/recruit/

Ψ NIFS:

6.3.2.2 Life Sciences and Clinical Research:

Ψ Kanagawa Cancer Center (Japanese only):
http://kcch.kanagawa-pho.jp/medical/recruit.html

Ψ NARO (Japanese only):
http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/acquisition/index.html

Ψ NIBB:
http://www.nibb.ac.jp/en/about/recruit/

Ψ NIRS:

Ψ OIST:
http://www.oist.jp/careers
6.3.2.3 Mathematics and Fundamental Sciences:

- ISM:
  http://www.ism.ac.jp/jobs/index_e.html
- Kamioka Observatory:
  http://www-sk.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/index-e.html
- KEK:

6.3.2.4 Natural Sciences:

- IMS (Japanese only):
  http://www.ims.ac.jp/recruit/
- JAMSTEC:
  http://www.jamstec.go.jp/e/about/recruit/
- NAOJ:
- NIES:
  http://www.nies.go.jp/osirase/saiyo/index-e.html
- NIMS:
  http://www.nims.go.jp/eng/employment/
- RIKEN:

6.3.2.5 Social Sciences and Humanities:

- GRIPS:
  http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/job_openings/
- IRCJS:
- NINJAL:
  http://www.ninjal.ac.jp/english/newsyears/2014/
6.3.3 Careers at Japanese Universities

All the main Japanese universities are very proactive towards recruitment of international staff. They often propose number of positions (Postdoctoral, project-based, tenure-track) advertised in English in the following links.

For a better insight on the full recruitment campaigns please check the Japanese version of their website.

Ψ Hokkaido University:
https://www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/about/jobs-at-hokkaido-university/

Ψ Keio University:
http://www.keio.ac.jp/en/jobs/

Ψ Kyoto University:
http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/profile/acceptance/other

Ψ Kyushu University:
http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/g30/employment.html

Ψ Nagoya University:
http://en.nagoya-u.ac.jp/employment/index.html

Ψ Osaka University:

Ψ Tohoku University (Japanese only):
http://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/2014/cate_recruit/

Ψ Tokyo Institute of Technology:

Ψ Tokyo University:
http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/news/jobs01/

Ψ Tsukuba University:
https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/english/update/jobs.html

6.3.4 Careers at Japanese WPIs

The World Premier International Research Centre Initiative (WPI) was launched in 2007 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to build research centres that boast a very high research standard and outstanding research environment.

These centres are given a high degree of autonomy, allowing them to innovate compared to conventional modes of research operation and administration in Japan.
They advertise for various temporary and permanent positions.

- **AIMR**: http://www.wpi-aimr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/staff/
- **ELSI**: http://www.elsi.jp/en/about/recruitment/
- **I2CNER**: http://i2cner.kyushu-u.ac.jp/en/recruit/recruit.php
- **iCeMS**: http://www.icems.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/career/
- **IIIS**: http://wpi-iiis.tsukuba.ac.jp/position/
- **ItbM**: http://www.itbm.nagoya-u.ac.jp/en/career/
- **IPMU**: http://www.ipmu.jp/job-opportunities

### 6.3.5 Professor position in astrophysics at JAXA

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) seeks to **recruit a professor** at its Department of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics, Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS).

The applicants should have profound academic knowledge, experience and achievement in **optical and infrared astronomy**. The successful candidate will be expected to lead future projects in optical and infrared astronomy from space including **SPICA** (SPace Infrared telescope for Cosmology and Astrophysics).

Based on the understanding that ISAS/JAXA acts as inter-university research system, the successful applicant will conduct research in collaboration with the researchers from other universities and be engaged in teaching and directing graduate students.

**Deadline: 15 November 2014**

Further information [here](http://www.nims.go.jp/mana/siteinfo/employment2013.html)
6.3.6 Still open positions

- Postdoctoral position in XMASS at the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (see August newsletter) [here](#)

- Visiting Research Scholar positions in Japanese Studies at the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies (see August newsletter) [here](#)
7 Events

7.1 Events in Japan

7.1.1 ICSTI Annual Conference: Information and Infrastructure for Innovation

The International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) organises with JST its annual conference: Information and Infrastructure for Innovation - New Approaches for Knowledge Platforms -.

Topics include: Open Platform for Data Sharing, STI related Technologies and Analysis and Evaluation for Innovation based on STI.

Free participation

Date: 20-21 October

Venue: Miraikan, Tokyo

Deadline for registration: 6 October

7.1.2 Europe-Japan Space Forum

The Europe-Japan Space Forum will bring together policymakers and the Japanese and European industry and research community, to explore opportunities for closer cooperation in space.

It will look at the scientific, business and policy perspective for the partnership between Europe and Japan on space. Where have the European Union and Japan succeeded? How can they strengthen the cooperation in the areas of exploration and access to space; in Earth observation and related applications. What is the industry perspective? What are the space security challenges? The Forum will examine the potential and the future directions for Europe-Japan space cooperation.

Free participation

Date: 8 October

Venue: Delegation of the European Union to Japan

Registration required at: GnssJapan@eu-japan.gr.jp

7.1.3 Other events in Japan

Non-exhaustive list of scientific or research-related events in Japan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese-German Symposium: The Role of Universities in the Age of Globalization</td>
<td>8 Oct.</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>German Research and Innovation Forum Tokyo, German Rectors’ Conference and University of Tokyo</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th NIMS Forum (Japanese only)</td>
<td>9 Oct.</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>NIMS</td>
<td>Material Sciences</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAXA’s New Technology Presentation Meetings</td>
<td>27 Oct.</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>JAXA</td>
<td>Space Sciences</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a> (Japanese only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th International Symposium on Surface Science</td>
<td>02-06 Nov.</td>
<td>Matsue (Shimane Pref.)</td>
<td>The Surface Science Society of Japan</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances in Live Single-Cell Thermal Imaging and Manipulation</td>
<td>10-12 Nov.</td>
<td>Okinawa</td>
<td>OIST</td>
<td>Biophysics</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISBM 2014 – Fall Session</td>
<td>12-14 Nov.</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Meiji University</td>
<td>Economy / Policy</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFR 2014</td>
<td>21 Nov.</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Sciencescope</td>
<td>Science Communication</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)
7.2 Events in Europe

7.2.1 The Future of Europe is Science – high-level conference

This two-day conference will be opened by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission.

Bringing together actors from the world of science, industry and society, the conference aims to take stock of European achievements in science over the past 10 years. World-class scientists will debate with industrialists and political figures on the role that science, technology and innovation can play in societal well-being.

Lisboa, Portubal, 6-7 October

Registrations open until 30 September

Further information here

7.2.2 JEUPISTE Innovation Workshops

7.2.2.1 Workshop No.1

The JEUPISTE project and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) will co-organise the JEUPISTE Innovation Workshop No.1 in Brussels on “Smart Communities” in a broader term to share ideas and experiences towards strategic partnership building on 13 October 2014.

In this workshop, policies related to smart communities of Europe and Japan will be summarized and strategic partnership will be sought through shared ideas and experiences, current collaboration status and future perspectives.

Target audience: up to 60 managers both from academia and industry and multipliers including policy makers.

Date: 13 October 2014, 14:00 – 18:00

Venue: Room JDE 63, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Brussels

Language: English, without simultaneous interpretation

Further information and registration here

7.2.2.2 Workshop No.2

The JEUPISTE project and its partner the International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (INSME) will organise the JEUPISTE Innovation Workshop No.2 in Turin on “Smart Communities” in a broader term to share ideas and experiences towards strategic partnership building on 13 November 2014.

This second innovation workshop will look at the downstream side of the innovation value chain, getting funding and bringing research results into market, especially in the ICT related fields.
Target audience: 50 managers both from academia and industry and multipliers including policy makers.

**Date:** 13 November 2014, 09:00 – 13:30

**Venue:** Lingotto Fiere, Turin, Italy

**Language:** English, without simultaneous interpretation

Further information and registration [here](#)

### 7.2.3 Other Events in Europe

Non exhaustive list of scientific or research related events in Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Kobe University Brussels European Centre Symposium</td>
<td>14 Oct.</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>Centre for EU Studies</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroMed 2014</td>
<td>3-8 Nov.</td>
<td>Limassol, Cyprus</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage Research</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th European Innovation Summit</td>
<td>17-20 Nov.</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>Knowledge4Innovation</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGRES 2014</td>
<td>18-19 Nov.</td>
<td>Trento, Italy</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Mobility / Research Schemes</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA Conference</td>
<td>27-28 Nov.</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>JRC</td>
<td>Technology &amp; Innovation Systems</td>
<td><a href="#">here</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About EURAXESS Links Japan

EURAXESS Links Japan is a networking tool for European researchers active/seeking activity in Japan and for Japanese researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe.

EURAXESS Links Japan provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-Japan and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility.

Membership is free.

Visit us at japan.euraxess.org and click on the Join the EURAXESS Links Japan community hyperlink on the right-hand side of the page.

EURAXESS Links networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, the ASEAN hub (encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam) and Brazil.