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EURAXESS LINKS NORTH AMERICA

Dear colleagues!

Welcome to the first issue of the EURAXESS Links North America Newsletter in 2015. First of all let us wish you a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year! We will continue bringing the latest calls for proposals, fellowships, grants and many interesting news, events and developments from Europe as well as North America.

This newsletter is also intended as a **communication tool with you all**, so please **do not hesitate to contact us** at northamerica@euraxess.net for comments, corrections or if you want to advertise for a particular funding scheme or event.

As always, also in this issue you can find over 50 open calls for proposals in more than 20 European countries. Our news and development section includes recent and very interesting news from the European Research Area, Canada and the United States.

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

EURAXESS Links North America will be organizing events, information sessions and attending conferences in order to reach out to as many researchers and research organisations as possible across the whole region. Don't forget to look at our website where you can find all the upcoming activities and follow us on social media to get the latest updates.

We are very much looking forward to also collaborating with you this year!

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

Your EURAXESS Links North America Team





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EURAXESS Links North America News is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links North America, which provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers in the US who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to the US.

Editor: Viktoria BODNAROVA
and Stephanie JANNIN,
EURAXESS Links North
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1 EU Insight – Fast-Tracking Innovation in the EU

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

Accelerating the Pace

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

Similar to other Horizon 2020 initiatives, the pilot will be implemented via a single, continuous open call with three cut-off dates occurring over the course of the initiative.³ Projects eligible for funding must be “business driven” and those comprised of “mature innovative concepts that have been tested in an operational environment”,⁴ notably those concerning “systems validation in real working

¹ Ready, set, innovate: Commission steps up support to innovative companies [Press release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/moedas/announcements/ready-set-innovate-commission-steps-support-innovative-companies_en

² Building a new innovation fast track to bring ideas to market quicker [Press Release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115>

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

⁴ Building a new innovation fast track to bring ideas to market quicker [Press Release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115>



conditions, testing, piloting, business model validation as well as standard setting and pre-normative research”⁵ are particularly welcome.

Along with the FTI initiative, innovation within the Union will be supported by an additional EUR 117 million in new grants⁶ under the preexisting SME Instrument programme.⁷ Just as with the FTI initiative, money offered through this programme is specifically allocated for the operation of businesses, small and medium-sized in nature to help “finance innovation activities..., the development of their business plans or feasibility studies” associated with their projects. In total, 275 SMEs, identified for their high growth potential have been selected to benefit from this grant money following the end of the second phase.⁸

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

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

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Commission supports innovative SMEs with €117 million in new grants [Press release]. European Commission, (9 January 2015); <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-090115-2>

⁷ To date, the full amount of funding allocated to the SME Instrument launched under Horizon 2020 is €3 billion. With the addition of the most recent grants, the total amount of funding specifically destined for “innovative” companies is €125 million, a cumulative total based on the first two stages of the programme.

⁸ The SME Instrument programme went into effect on 1 January 2014.



2 EURAXESS Links North America Activities

2.1 EURAXESS Links Satisfaction Survey 2014

Dear EURAXESS Links community members!

EURAXESS Links would like to hear from you how we can further improve our services to keep you updated about research mobility opportunities.

We would appreciate you taking the time to please take our brief user survey, which is designed to help us to better understand what you need. The survey should take between 3-5 minutes to complete.

Link to survey: <https://secure.pt-dlr.de/pt-survey/index.php?sid=79264&lang=en>

Thank you very much for your feedback!

Your EURAXESS Links Team

2.2 EURAXESS at Destination Europe Events in San Jose on 12 February and in Boston on 20 February

We would like to inform you of the two upcoming Destination Europe events: in San Jose, California, USA on 12 February 2015 and in Boston, Massachusetts, USA on 20 February 2015.

As always, the events will showcase research career and funding opportunities in Europe for researchers at all stages of their careers. Since Destination Europe was launched in 2012, almost 1500 people have attended Destination Europe conferences and have been very enthusiastic in their feedback on the events.

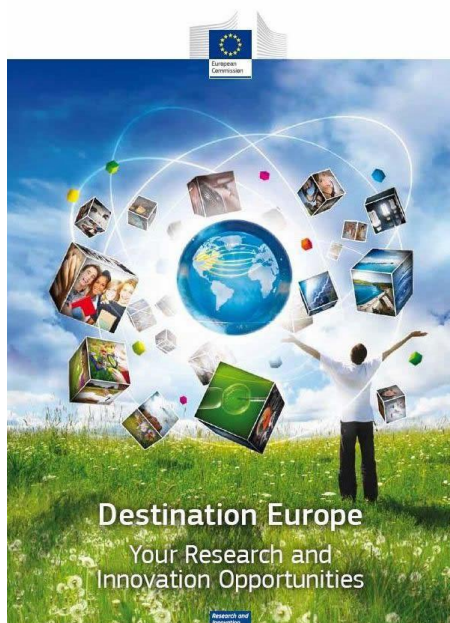
Participation is free but prior registration is essential.

For the event in San Jose, the programme and registration details are available here: <https://destinationeurope-sanjose.teamwork.fr/en/>

Please forward this invitation to your colleagues and friends who might be interested to attend. The second Destination Europe Event of 2015 will take place in Boston Massachusetts on 20 February.

The draft programme for Boston is available on the [Destination Europe website](#) where you will also find details of previous Destination Europe events. Registration for Boston is open until 12 February 2015.

Thank you and we look forward to meeting you in San Jose or Boston!





3 News & Developments

3.1 EU and Member States

3.1.1 Europe's Framework Programmes – a key element of research policy in Europe



The First Framework Programme for research funding started in 1984.

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

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

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

As the **EU enlarged, candidate countries had the chance to participate in research collaborations** through the Framework Programmes, sometimes years before they became members. That process culminated in the **opening of all EU research programmes** to the participation of **teams from non-EU countries**. In recent years, the Framework Programmes have also pioneered the creation of large joint undertakings that bring public and private actors together in subject-specific partnerships. Schemes for collaboration between public national research organisations and programmes have also been set up.

As they have evolved, the **Framework Programmes have enabled better coordination of research between the European Commission and national governments**. Member States have gradually increased the level of research coordination and the growing scale and scope of the Framework Programmes has been instrumental in this. A key step in this respect was, **in early 2000, the launch of the European Research Area (ERA) initiative.**

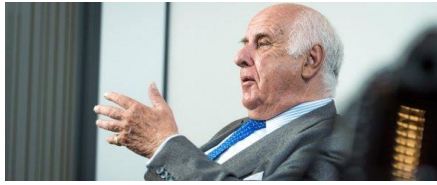
The **impact of the Framework Programmes** is clearly visible in 30 years of cross-border collaborations between Europe's scientists, in the **rise in research activity across Europe** – particularly in the newer Member States – and in the emergence of an **increased reflex for cooperation among researchers**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

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

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)



3.1.2 Framework Programmes have shown the vanity of borders



Etienne Davignon, European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and Energy 1981-1985 and Vice-President of the Commission, played a key role in setting up the Framework Programmes.

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

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

'The crucial points came in the early years. The first is the acceptance by the scientific community of the utility of a European programme, and I think this is important because if you don't have the support of those who are active, then you don't have the legitimacy of your ambition. The second is overcoming the reluctance of Member States to understand why European programmes are useful for them.'

- When you look at Europe today, what part of it has been shaped by the Framework Programmes?

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

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)

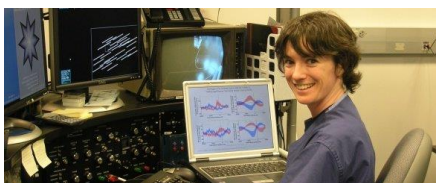
3.1.3 The researchers who crossed borders for science

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

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

Dr Troncoso first travelled from Galicia in Spain to the UK to complete her PhD studies, and then **went to the United States** where she took two postdoctoral research positions. In 2012, **she received a Marie Curie award to come back to Europe** to study how the human brain uses vision to interpret motion at France's national science centre CNRS. Her research forms part of the EU's Future Emerging Technologies project BrainScaleS.

The EU has been helping researchers like Dr Troncoso since the early days of the Framework Programmes. **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions** have been



Dr Xoana Troncoso has worked in Spain, the UK and the US in her field, neuroscience.
Image ©Marie Curie Actions.



designed to **promote excellence in research by giving grants to scientists** who needed to **move country to further their careers**.

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

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

Source: [Horizon Magazine](#)

3.1.4 Final evaluation of the Eurostars Joint Programme



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

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

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

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

The success of the programme was such that **the European Commission together with 34 EUREKA countries participating in the Eurostars programme committed to €1.14 billion for the funding and operations of the Eurostars-2 SME programme under Horizon 2020**. A budget about **three times higher than the original financial plan** outlined for Eurostars under the Framework Programme Seven.



The two first calls of Eurostars-2 have already taken place in 2014 and the currently running call will end on 5 March 2015, allowing European R&D SMEs to continue reaping the benefits of one of the best innovation support tools currently available to them.

Read the full evaluation report [here](#).

Source: [EUREKA Network](#)

3.1.5 European Research Area Progress Report 2014

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

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

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

The Council **encouraged the strengthening of the internationalisation of research activities outside of Europe**, calling for a strategic redefinition of internationalisation as 'a specific priority of the ERA.'

Read the full report [here](#)

Source: [EUREKA Network](#)

3.2 Canada

3.2.1 Government of Canada Supports Agri-Business Accelerator in Guelph - Bioenterprise will help innovative agri-businesses grow and prosper in Ontario

The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, on behalf of the Honourable Ed Holder, Minister of State (Science and Technology), and Michael Chong, Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, announced this month the Government of Canada's investment in Bioenterprise Corporation (Bioenterprise), through the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP).

With CAIP's investment, Bioenterprise will receive up to \$2.5 million in funding over the next five years. This funding will help provide Canadian entrepreneurs with the resources and expertise needed to develop their business plan and cultivate new international markets for products and services.





The CAIP helps Canada's innovative businesses to grow, prosper and create jobs. This organization plays an important role in preparing early stage companies for successfully accessing investment capital, and serves as an invaluable resource for entrepreneurs in developing products for a competitive global marketplace.

The Government's commitment to investing in Science and Technology will strengthen Canada's position as a global leader in scientific research while looking to harness greater Canadian innovations that create jobs, increase prosperity, and improve the quality of life of Canadians.

[Read more](#) (Source: National Research Council Canada)

3.2.2 Harper Government invests in weather infrastructure to improve forecasts, warnings - Canadians to benefit from more accurate and timely weather forecasts

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council, announced a major investment to improve the quality of weather forecasts and weather warnings to Canadians. Through this investment, Canadians will have access to more reliable and accurate weather forecasts based on the most modern technology available.

This \$134 million investment will allow Environment Canada to make significant upgrades to the monitoring networks and to the weather warning and forecast systems. With these upgrades, Environment Canada will communicate weather warnings even more accurately and with more lead time to Canadian citizens and weather sensitive business sectors, such as agriculture, tourism and transportation, enabling them to be better prepared.

The weather, water and climate data used by Environment Canada to produce warnings and forecasts is provided by a set of observing networks across the country that includes:

- weather radars;
- land-based and marine surface weather and climate stations;
- upper air stations (balloon-borne instruments called radiosondes);
- the Canadian Lightning Detection Network; and,
- satellite ground receiving stations that receive Canadian and international satellite data.

[Read more](#) (Source: Environment Canada)

3.2.3 CNSC invites comments on technical assessment of HEUNL transport package design

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is asking the public for their comments on the technical assessment report on the package design for the transport of highly enriched uranyl nitrate liquid (HEUNL).

In 2012, the CNSC received an application for certification of package design for the transport of HEUNL. Following a thorough assessment of the application,



CNSC staff are satisfied it meets all Canadian and international regulatory requirements and will ensure the protection of the public and the environment.

HEUNL is a liquid by-product of medical isotope production of at the [Canadian Nuclear Laboratories \(CNL\)](#) in Chalk River, Ontario. HEUNL derives from a solid form produced in the United States and transported to Canada for use in the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor. In March 2012, Prime Minister Harper announced that Canada and the U.S. were expanding their efforts to repatriate additional inventories of highly enriched uranium, including those in liquid form.

The scope of this technical assessment is for the certification of the package design only. The CNSC has not yet received an application to transport or export HEUNL to the U.S.

The public is invited to comment on the report until February 9, 2015. To review and comment on the report, visit the CNSC's webpage on [Highly Enriched Uranium in Canada](#).

[Read more](#) (Source: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission)

3.2.4 Harper Government Accelerating Global Development Through Science, Technology and Innovation

Minister Paradis announces creation of Expert Working Group on Science and Technology for International Development



This month, at the 2015 Engineers Without Borders National Conference, the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, emphasized the importance of finding new ways of integrating science, technology and innovation into Canada's development efforts to maximize results for those most in need. To help achieve this, Minister Paradis announced the creation of the Expert Working Group on Science and Technology for International Development.

"Canada recognizes the transformative role science, technology and innovation can play to alleviate poverty, accelerate economic growth and improve the lives of people in developing countries," said Minister Paradis. "Given Canada's expertise and reputation both in science and technology and in international development, we must be a world leader in this area."

After considering the many aspects of the role of science and technology (S&T) in foreign assistance, the mandate of the Expert Working Group will be to provide expert advice on specific programmatic, organizational, and personnel reforms that would make Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada a world leader in the effective use of S&T in international development.

The members of the Expert Working Group will be appointed by the Minister of International Development for their expertise in the field of science, technology and innovation. Through partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, they will gather knowledge to support Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada in the development of strategic policies and innovative programming to leverage S&T for development.



“Innovative approaches that bridge across sectors and continents are essential to help tackle poverty and inequitable development,” said Boris Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Engineers Without Borders. “We’re excited about the greater impact Canada can have in accelerating global development through innovation.”

Canada is committed to working with a diversity of partners, including the private sector, civil society, diaspora groups, and the S&T community to seek out innovative solutions to tackle the most pressing development challenges.

[Read more](#) (Source: Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada)

3.3 United States of America

3.3.1 Chemists work up new formulas for greener plastic

The Center for Sustainable Polymers focuses on economical, bio-based sources for plastics



Plastics are a miracle of modern science and are now fundamental to our everyday lives. Of course, they are also a constant reminder of our throwaway society. With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), chemist Marc Hillmyer of the University of Minnesota and a team at the [Center for Sustainable Polymers](#) (CSP) are dedicating their research to transforming the way plastics, or "polymers," are made and unmade.

The Center's vision is to design, demonstrate and develop economically competitive and environmentally friendly polymers that may even outperform their traditional counterparts. To accomplish the goal, these chemists are working on new strategies using renewable feedstock chemicals, such as sugars, plant oils and other naturally sourced starting materials.

The CSP is one of the [NSF-funded Centers for Chemical Innovation \(CCI\)](#), which are focused on major, long-term fundamental chemical research challenges. CCIs are producing transformative research that is leading to innovation and attracting broad scientific and public interest.

[Read more](#) (Source: National Science Foundation)

3.3.2 Bigger is better for brain tissue understanding

Chemicals commonly used in diapers enable brain samples to be physically enlarged with water, allowing researchers to see nanoscale details



The Center for Brains,
Minds & Machines

While most efforts to understand the brain focus on new technologies to magnify small anatomical features, engineers at the MIT-based [Center for Brains, Minds and Machines](#) have found a way to make brains physically bigger.

The technique, which the researchers call expansion microscopy, uses an expandable polymer and water to swell brain tissue to about four and a half times its usual size, so that nanoscale structures once blurry appear sharp with an ordinary confocal microscope.



Credit: Copyright AAAS 2015. Photo: Coke Smith

Expansion microscopy enables researchers to resolve details down to about 70 nanometers, while 300 nanometers was the previous limit with a conventional microscope.

Development of the novel process, which is detailed in the Jan. 15 issue of [Science](#), was partially funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), including support via an NSF [early faculty career development award](#) and an NSF [graduate research fellowship](#).

The Center for Brains, Minds and Machines is an [NSF science and technology center](#) funded in 2013 as part of NSF's continuing support for the advancement of fundamental brain research.

[Read more](#) (Source: National Science Foundation)

3.3.3 Belief in "raw brilliance" may decrease academic diversity

Messages about hard work rather than innate skill could level out gender representation in academia

When academic communities send the message that raw brilliance, or a high level of innate intellectual aptitude, is required for success, these messages combine with cultural stereotypes to decrease that community's diversity.

That's what Sarah-Jane Leslie, a professor of philosophy at Princeton University, and Andrei Cimpian, a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, want faculty to know from their newly published research on gender imbalance in STEM subjects--science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In a paper published this month in the journal *Science*, Leslie and co-lead investigator Cimpian conclude that women and minorities often are underrepresented in certain academic fields because of a mix of oversimplified, stereotyped images of brilliance and field-specific beliefs concerning performance expectations.

Women are not underrepresented in all STEM disciplines; and the problem is not unique to STEM fields. For example, women made up 54 percent of U.S. Ph.D.'s in molecular biology in 2011 compared to only 31 percent in philosophy.

Leslie and Cimpian became very interested in how performance beliefs held by people in academic fields were able to predict gender gaps across both STEM and humanities disciplines.

They derived a "field-specific ability beliefs hypothesis" and tested whether it could predict gender differences in academic disciplines. They based the hypothesis on prior research regarding stereotyping that shows children begin to believe people who share membership in an ethnic or gender group are similar to each other and are different from members of other groups.

[Read more](#) (Source: National Science Foundation)



Cultural attitudes impact gender distribution among academic fields.
Credit: Thinkstock



3.3.4 Citizen Science Contributes to Advances in Scientific Understanding

Every day, citizens like you help career scientists advance scientific discovery and understanding of the world around us. Two recent success stories demonstrate the enormous value of citizen science contributions.

Discovering New Targets for Future Planet Hunting Missions



[Disk Detective](#) is a NASA-sponsored crowdsourcing project designed to aid the search for potential debris disks and protoplanetary disks surrounding young stars. This project recently [announced](#) an important milestone: In less than a year, roughly 28,000 volunteers have collectively made 1 million classifications of [Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer](#) (WISE) data. These classifications have yielded 478 objects of interest, providing a crucial set of targets for future planet-hunting missions. [...]

Increasing Scientific Understanding of Seasonal Variation in Plants and Animals



Last year was a banner year for [Nature's Notebook](#), a citizen science project hosted by the [USA National Phenology Network](#) and primarily funded by the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) (USGS). In 2014, 1,800 citizens throughout the nation contributed 1.5 million digital records of leafing, flowering, reproduction, and migration events for over 10,000 unique plants and animals. "These observations are contributing to our understanding of how plants, animals and their habitats vary seasonally across the nation and over time," explains Jake Weltzin, a USGS ecologist and Executive Director of the USA National Phenology Network. "Further, their findings are used to support scientific discovery and resource management decision-making in protected areas such as National Parks."

[Read more](#) (Source: Office of Science and Technology Policy)

3.3.5 President Obama Launches Competitions for New Manufacturing Innovation Hubs and American Apprenticeship Grants

Last month, at a meeting of the President's Export Council (PEC), President Obama announced nearly \$400 million to help improve the competitiveness of American businesses and workers by spurring new manufacturing innovations and giving America workers additional opportunities to improve and expand their skill sets for middleclass jobs.

To help support new advancements in manufacturing, the President announced more than \$290 million in public-private investment for two new Manufacturing Innovation Hub Competitions. Last month's announcement fulfilled the President's 2014 State of the Union pledge to launch four new institutes this year, for a total of eight institutes launched so far, and puts the Administration past the halfway mark on the President's original goal of creating 15 manufacturing innovation institutes supported through executive action.

In addition, the President announced \$100 million to expand apprenticeships for American workers - a proven training strategy for workers to learn the skills that employers need for American businesses to grow and thrive in a competitive



global environment. Apprenticeships are also a path to the middle class – 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs and the average starting wage for apprenticeship graduates is over \$50,000.

[Read more](#) (Source: Office of Science and Technology Policy)

3.4 Cooperation EU/Canada – EU/USA

3.4.1 Invitation to ERA-Can+ Webinars January-February 2015



The ERA-Can+ project is pleased to invite you to its next webinar series for Canadians on Horizon 2020 (H2020), taking place on January 27 and 29 and February 05, 2015, 11.00 EST.

The webinars will be hosted by PT-DLR and target Canadian researchers who have already a knowledge about the new EU Framework Programme in support of Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020. If you are not yet familiar with Horizon 2020, please watch the previous webinar 'Introduction to H2020', available on the website <http://www.era-can.net/news/era-can-webinar-on-horizon-2020> or follow this link directly: <https://webconf.vc.dfn.de/p39onein2oe>

1. International Calls on Social Sciences and Humanities in H2020

Christina Bitterberg from the National Contact Point for Social Sciences and Humanities at PT-DLR will present the H2020 Calls on Social Sciences and Humanities that are open for Canadian collaboration. Luc Lebrun and Adam Yake from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) will present the Funding Opportunities for Canadian Researchers to leverage with these H2020 calls. The panelists will also be available to answer questions raised by the audience.

2. International Calls on ICT in H2020

Morten Møller, Head of Programme Coordination Unit. DG CONNECT ICT Research and Innovation will present the H2020 Calls on ICT that are open for Canadian collaboration. Canadian ICT and NCP Coordinator Debbie Kemp, Deputy Director, Innovation Outreach, DFATD will give an overview of Canadian Participation in European Framework Programmes. Kevin Fitzgibbons, Associate Vice President at the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Canada (NSERC) will present the Funding Opportunities for Canadian Researchers to leverage with these H2020 calls. The panelists will also be available to answer questions raised by the audience.

3. Legal and Financial Issues of H2020

Nina Schüle, Administrator at PT-DLR, will present legal and financial issues of H2020 covering therewith Rules for Participation, Funding Conditions and Agreements as well as Financial Management & Payment Modalities, Financial Rules and Reporting/Audits. The panelist will also be available to answer questions raised by the audience. This webinar is organized in cooperation with BILAT USA 2.0.

To register for one of the webinars, please follow the link: <http://www.era-can.net/other/webinar-registration-janfeb/>



[Read more](#) (Source: ERA-Can+)

3.4.2 More ERA-Can+ Information Sessions coming up in Canada early February

The Canadian partners to ERA-Can+ invite you to learn about Horizon 2020, a European funding opportunity that is accessible to Canadians working in science, technology and innovation as well as the social sciences and humanities.

You are invited to attend the upcoming information sessions on Horizon 2020 opportunities for Canadians. These sessions will explain the structure of research funding in Europe and provide information on upcoming funding opportunities and the mechanisms by which Canadians can participate.

Regina – Feb. 2, 8:00am-10:45am

Innovation Place

140 – 10 Research Drive, Regina

[For more information and to register](#)

Vancouver – Feb. 3, 8:00am-10:45am

BCTIA Innovation Hub, 1st floor

Suite 101, 887 Great Northern Way, Vancouver

[For more information and to register](#)

For further information, please contact dbiss@aucc.ca.

[Read more](#) (Source: ERA-Can+)

3.4.3 ERA-Can+ Event Series in Tromsø, Norway

21st January Priority setting workshop – Trilateral Workshop EU-CAN-USA in the field of Arctic

This Trilateral Workshop aims at exploring potential areas of trilateral scientific cooperation in the field of Arctic and among the similar fields of activity that each of the bilateral Working Groups has identified so far in their Statements of Purpose.

23rd January Infosession on Opportunities for Europeans in Canada and in H2020

During the Arctic Frontiers conference, Era-Can+ organises an infoday to present the opportunities for Europeans to accede to Canadian programmes and within Horizon 2020. Download Agenda [here](#).

For details please contact Martina Desole desole@apre.it

[Read more](#) (Source: ERA-Can+)

3.4.4 BILAT USA 2.0 held workshop on enhancing innovation collaboration through policy measures

The activity has come out of a previous event entitled 'Accelerating EU-US business collaboration in Health/e-health Research & Innovations'.

As part of the activities to foster innovation collaboration, the European [BILAT USA 2.0](#) project, which Biocat is a partner in, held an event entitled [Towards](#)





[enhanced EU-US innovation collaboration through policy measures](#) on 14 January in Brussels.

One of the main goals of this workshop was to provide policy-makers with feedback from companies, highlighting the hurdles, challenges and best practices in companies involved in transatlantic collaboration. Additionally, it also aimed to allow for exchange of recommendations on policy measures that would help companies overcome these hurdles and improve collaboration in Research, Technology, Development and Innovation (RTDI) between the European Union and the United States.

This event is a policy workshop that was a precursor to the conference on innovation entitled [How to integrate the innovation dimension in the EU-U.S. S&T Agreement](#) also being held by the BILAT USA 2.0 project on 14 and 15 January in Brussels. The goal of this conference was to share the good Practices and promote the integration of innovation between the European Union and the United States.

[Read more](#) (Source: biocat)

4 Grants & Fellowships

4.1 Europe

4.1.1 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, named after the double Nobel Prize winning Polish-French scientist famed for her work on radioactivity, support researchers at all stages of their careers, regardless of nationality. Researchers working across all disciplines, from life-saving healthcare to 'blue-sky' science, are eligible for funding. The MSCA also support industrial doctorates, combining academic research study with work in companies, and other innovative training that enhances employability and career development.

In addition to generous research funding, scientists have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers. More information about various funding schemes and requirements for applying is available [here](#).

Open call:

- [H2020-MSCA-RISE-2015](#) – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

Deadline: 28 April 2015



4.1.2 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Pocket guide



Considering a doctoral degree? Looking for partnerships between academic and non-academic organisations or staff exchanges? Keen on outreach activities? There is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie action for you.

The EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions 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 available for downloading or on-line reading [here](#).

4.1.3 Fulbright-Schuman Program

The Fulbright-Schuman Program, administered by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Belgium, is jointly financed by the U.S. State Department and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. The program funds graduate and post-graduate study, research, and lecture proposals in the field of US-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions for interested American and EU citizens.

[More information](#)



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission
**Supporting top researchers
from anywhere in the world**

4.1.4 European Research Council 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 call:

- [ERC Starting Grant](#) | ERC-2015-StG

Deadline Date: 3 February 2015

- [ERC Consolidator Grant](#) | ERC-2015-CoG

Deadline Date: 12 Mar 2015

- [ERC Proof of Concept](#) | ERC-2015-PoC

Deadline Dates: 5 Feb 2015, 28 May 2015 and 1 Oct 2015

More information: [European Research Council](#)

4.1.5 Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships

About [ERC](#)

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the [European Research Council](#) is the first pan-European funding organization for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

It funds young, early-career top researchers ('[ERC Starting grants](#)'), already independent excellent scientists ('[ERC Consolidator Grants](#)'), and senior research leaders ('[ERC Advanced Grants](#)').

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one or two-year fellowships to postdocs in an early stage of their academic career. Priority will be given to proposals that fit well with one or more of the Centre's core research themes: European Institutions, Governance and Democracy, Migration, Economic and Monetary Policy, Competition Policy and Market Regulation, Energy Policy and Climate Policy, Global Governance & International and Transnational Relations of the EU.

[More information](#)



About [EMBO](#)

Incoming / outgoing

Long term: the receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from one of the [EMBC Member State](#).

Short-Term Fellowships are awarded for exchanges between two laboratories in different countries, one of them being an [EMBC Member State](#). On completion of the fellowship applicants must return to their home laboratory for at least six months.

4.1.6 EMBO: Fellowships

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) brings together 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. 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.

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. They 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 home laboratory.

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

4.1.7 European Respiratory Society/EU RESPIRE2 postdoctoral Marie Curie Fellowship

ERS/EU RESPIRE2 postdoctoral Marie Curie Fellowship opportunities in the broad field of respiratory science, co-funded by the European Union. The programme is aimed at experienced researchers from any discipline and will help fellows to become the future leaders in respiratory research.

Next deadline: 31 July 2015

[More information](#)

4.1.8 Erasmus+ joint Master Degrees

Scholarships for 116 different Joint Master Degree programmes starting in September 2015. Between 13 and 20 student scholarship holders and 4 invited scholars/guest lecturers per intake can take part. Find out more about Joint Master Degrees [here](#) as well as the list of participating universities [here](#).

4.1.9 2015 Erasmus+ call for proposals

Open to any public or private body active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport may apply for funding within the Erasmus+ Programme. **See the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) for the 2015 General Call for Proposals for detailed conditions for participating in the call for proposals, as well as information on the priorities for funding. It constitutes an integral part of the [2015 Erasmus+ Call for Proposals](#).** Depending on the action and thematic line, deadlines vary from **4 February 2015 to 1 October 2015**.



4.1.10 National EURAXESS portals

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

[Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Faroe Islands](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [FYRoMacedonia](#), [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](#).

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

4.2 EU Member States and Associated Countries

4.2.1 Austria: CeMM PhD Program

CeMM is an international, independent and interdisciplinary Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. "From the clinic to the clinic": Driven by medical needs, CeMM integrates basic research and clinical expertise to pursue innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches focused on cancer, inflammation and immune disorders.

The PhD Program will train a new generation of researchers based on a novel, post-genomic, molecular understanding of biological and pathological systems and will thereby contribute to shaping the predictive, preventive and personalized (also termed "precise") medicine of the future. To reach this goal, students will be made familiar not only with biomedical technologies, but also with the basic principles of cell- and molecular biology and the application of this knowledge for a molecular understanding of diseases and targeted therapeutic concepts. The PhD students will also learn how to navigate the complexity of translationally-minded multidisciplinary biomedical projects at the level of communication and management.

The next call for applications opened on **9th January 2015**.

[More information](#)

4.2.2 Austria: DART – Doctoral Program in Accounting, Reporting, and Taxation

DART, the program in Accounting, Reporting, and Taxation. DART is a doctoral program of excellence in accounting, located in Graz and Vienna, Austria. Its main activity is PhD level education. DART faculty members are very well connected within the international accounting community. DART offers a stimulating learning and research environment plus financial support to outstanding students from around the world. DART graduates can look forward to a rewarding career at leading academic institutions and in specialist areas of accounting practice.

The deadline for applications is **March 31st, 2015**.

[More information](#)

Ce-M-M-

Research Center for Molecular Medicine
of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

DART.

Doctoral Program
in Accounting, Reporting,
and Taxation

www.dart.ac.at



4.2.3 Austria: Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide

The Ernst Mach Grants are named after the famous Austrian physicist and philosopher Ernst Mach (1838-1916). The grant program is financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMFWF). Students and young researchers from foreign universities are invited to apply for this grant to come to Austria for a research or a study stay. Every year a board of representatives of the Austrian Ministry awards the Ernst Mach Grants based on the results of an expert examination procedure. Age limit for this grant program is 35 years at the time of the application.

Deadline: **March 1st, 2015** for stays during the following academic year.

[More information](#)

4.2.4 Austria: Franz Werfel Grant

Franz Werfel, who was born 1890 in Prague and died 1945 in California, is one of the most famous representatives of Austrian Literature. Therefore the Franz Werfel Grant addresses itself to young university teachers whose work focuses on Austrian Literature. The grant programme, which was initiated in 1992, is open to applicants from all over the world. Recipients of Werfel grants can work as visiting researchers at university departments and carry out specialist studies in libraries, archives or at research institutions.

This grant does not only offer material support for up to 18 months but through follow-up support also guarantees sustainability.

Closing date for application: March 1st and September 15th (new)

[More information](#)

4.2.5 Austria: Lise Meitner Program for Scientists from Abroad

Target group: Highly qualified scientists of any discipline who could contribute to the scientific development of an Austrian research institution by working at it. Requirements: completed doctoral studies, international scientific publications, no age limit, invitation from an Austrian research institution.

No deadline – call constantly open.

[More information](#)

4.2.6 Austria: IST FELLOW*: Call for Postdoctoral Fellows

Are you a talented, dynamic, and motivated scientist looking for an opportunity to conduct research in the fields of BIOLOGY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, or NEUROSCIENCE at a young, thriving institution that fosters scientific excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration?

Apply to the IST Fellow program

Applications are accepted at any time for the IST FELLOW program, but fellows will be selected twice a year in October and April. The application deadlines for each selection are the **15th of September** and the **15th of March**, respectively.





* IST FELLOW is partially funded by the European Union

[More information](#)

4.2.7 Austria: The Austrian Science Fund and funding categories



The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organization for basic research.

The purpose of the FWF is to support the ongoing development of Austrian science and basic research at a high international level. In this way, the FWF makes a significant contribution to cultural development, to the advancement of our knowledge-based society, and thus to the creation of value and wealth in Austria. One of the FWF's most important goals is to promote the internationalisation of basic research in Austria by taking special organisational measures, creating suitable framework conditions, and offering concrete funding instruments for this purpose.

[More information](#)

4.2.8 Austria: Richard Plaschka Scholarship

The grant is named after the Austrian historian, who died in 2001 and who worked at the University of Vienna as a university professor for Eastern European history from 1967 to 1993. In 1981/1982 he was the rector of the University of Vienna. Moreover he was the head of the Austrian East and Southeast Europe Institute from 1958 to 1988. Throughout his life Richard Plaschka committed himself to a cross-border and joint way dealing with the history in the eastern and south-eastern European area. The grant recipients should place emphasis on cross-border collaboration in their scientific activities.

Applications are open to university lecturers of history whose main focus of academic interest is Austrian history. Recipients of Plaschka grants can work as visiting researchers at university departments and carry out specialist studies in libraries, archives or at research institutions.

Grants are awarded for up to 18 months; follow-up support is scheduled for grant recipients who have consumed at least 12 scholarship months.

Deadline: March 1st and September 15th (new)

[More information](#)

4.2.9 Austria: Vienna Graduate School of Economics



The grant of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) allows VGSE to offer attractive fellowships to the best applicants. VGSE is highly selective with all types of students. Students who receive a full fellowship scored highest on the selection criteria. The criteria we use to select students can be found under [application](#). The application for the program automatically includes the application for a fellowship.

Deadline: January 31st and April 30th

[More information](#)



4.2.10 Belgium: Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique Brief Outgoing Fellowships

This funding is devoted to researchers working in a university of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation who would like to go abroad for a short stay to acquire new knowledge. Various research fields. All nationalities. **Deadline/Request 3 months prior to the stay outside Europe.**

[More information](#)

4.2.11 Belgium: Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (F.R.S.-FNRS) - Post-doctoral temporary fellowship

This funding aims to finance a research fellowship (up to 3 years) for a non-Belgian PhD holder coming from abroad to work for a research programme financed by F.R.S.-FNRS. Various Research Fields.

[More information](#)

4.2.12 Belgium: Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) International Mobility



The FWO encourages mobility among researchers and international contacts between research groups. For this purpose, FWO offers different possibilities to researchers to go abroad and to build international networks.

[More information](#)

4.2.13 Belgium: Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) - PhD and Postdoctoral fellowships

The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) is the main funding agency for basic, frontier research in Flanders. This kind of research is very often performed at the universities in Flanders. The FWO is very keen to promote international collaborations as a driving force for excellence. The candidates must submit a proof that the university trustees grant him or her permission to prepare a PhD thesis (for PhD fellowships) or that he has a PhD or equivalent degree.

PhD Fellowships: these fellowships are also open to non-EU candidates but they must have a basic master's degree from one of the countries within the European Economic Area (+Switzerland).

Postdoctoral fellowships: no nationality requirements

Duration: PhD fellowships: 2 years, renewable once; Postdoctoral fellowships: 3 years, renewable once

Deadline: 1 February

More information: [PhD fellowships](#), [Postdoctoral fellowships](#)

4.2.14 Belgium: BEWARE Fellowships

These funding schemes, launched in Wallonia/Federation Wallonia-Brussels, are devoted to attract highly-skilled researchers to Belgium. Recipients may decide to be hosted in a university (BEWARE "Academia") or in a research centre/SME





(BEWARE “Industry”) for a period ranging from 18 to 36 months.

The new calls will be launched in January 2015 (deadline for submission of applications in April 2015).

Mobility criterion: all nationalities, including Belgian, the condition is to have spent less than 12 months over the last three years in Belgium.

[More information](#)

4.2.15 Czech Republic: Office of Naval Research: Visiting Scientist Program (VSP)

VSP is designed to facilitate visits by foreign technologists with Department of the Navy counterparts for the purpose of collaboration. The visits are typically to the United States, but can be to non-U.S. locations of special interest to the Department of the Navy science and technology community. Along with Liaison Visits, the Science & Technology Insertion Program is part of a process to develop international collaborations. Requests should be received at least eight weeks in advance of the proposed visit.

[More information](#)

4.2.16 Denmark: Ministry of Higher Education and Science: PhD scholarships outside the universities

The Danish Council for Independent Research invites proposals for PhD scholarships to be carried out at Danish research institutions outside the universities.

[More information](#)

4.2.17 Estonia: 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. Mostly scholarships are for the master's degree or doctoral degree, but some bachelor degree scholarships are also possible.

[More information](#)

4.2.18 Estonia: EMBO Installation Grants

European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Installation Grants offer benefits not only to talented scientists but also to the countries where they establish laboratories. The aim is to support the development of the local research cultures and infrastructures. EMBO Installation Grants help scientists relocate and set up research laboratories in Czech Republic, Poland, Portugal, and Turkey. Successful applicants receive an annual support of 50,000 euro and benefits similar to those of the EMBO Young Investigator Programme.

The deadline for applications is **15 April of each year**.

[More information](#)





4.2.19 Estonia: Scholarships for visiting PhD students (Activity of ESF DoRa programme)



The DoRa programme activity 5 „Facilitating international research cooperation by supporting short-term research projects of visiting doctoral students in Estonia“ supports the short-term study and research activities of visiting PhD students in Estonian universities. The support scheme is aimed at supporting the active participation of universities in the international exchange of knowledge and to make Estonian universities and doctoral studies more international.

[More information](#)

4.2.20 Finland: CIMO Fellowships



The CIMO Fellowships programme is open to young doctoral level students and researchers from all countries and from all academic fields. Master's level studies or postdoctoral studies/research are not supported in the programme.

There are no annual application deadlines in the CIMO Fellowship programme. Applications may be considered at all times. However, please note that applications should be submitted at least 5 months before the intended scholarship period. Decisions will be made within approximately 3 months after receipt of application.

[More information](#)

4.2.21 France: Overview of research exchange programs US – France

The Office for Science and Technology (OST) located in the French Embassy to the United States (Washington D.C.) regularly updates an overview of research exchange programs addressing all categories of researchers in various areas. A specific section of the OST website contains current calls for proposals, career opportunities, and information on French higher education programs.

Download the [USA to France Research Exchange Programs booklet in PDF format](#).

Open Calls for Proposals [here](#):

- [ANR-NSF Partnership for International Research and Education \(PIRE\) Joint Call for proposal](#)

Deadline: May 15, 2015



The French National Research Agency (ANR) cooperates with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to finance the French teams selected by the two countries as part of the PIRE "Partnerships for International Research and Education" call for proposals issued by the NSF. The PIRE program is a (...)



- [France-Stanford : 2015-2016 call for proposals](#)

Deadline: March 16, 2015

The France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, founded in partnership with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to bridge the disciplines of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering, Business and Law, addressing historical and contemporary issues of significance (...)

- [Call for Partner University Fund \(PUF\) Grants: 2014-2015](#)

Deadline: February 15, 2015

Established in 2007 as a collaboration between the French government, American private donors, and the FACE Foundation, the Partner University Fund (PUF) supports research partnerships in all disciplines between two or more American and French (...)



- [Hello Tomorrow Challenge 2015](#)

Deadline: February 15, 2015

Hello Tomorrow is a global not-for-profit initiative whose mission is to promote entrepreneurship in science and technology, and empower those who dare to solve today's most challenging problems. In 2015, the challenge has an increased number of categories (6) and semifinalists (30), and the (...)



4.2.22 France: 15 Postdoctoral Fellowships on Biology and Information Technologies

Call for applications launched by the French Atomic and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA).

WHAT? 2 years post-doctoral fellowships on:

- Genetics and Personalized Medicine
- Functional Imaging of Plants
- 3D cell culture Imaging
- Engineered Protein based Materials

Working language is English and knowledge of French language is not necessary. The host Institutes are located in Grenoble, Cadarache and Paris-Saclay.

WHO? open to PhD in physics, informatics, biology, chemistry or engineering of all nationalities

No specific deadline: The positions are open until they filled by appropriate candidates. Applicants are selected in a competitive process.

[More information](#)





Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation



DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

4.2.23 Germany – Canada: Joint Funding Opportunity by the Canadian Space Agency and the German Aerospace Center

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) announced an opportunity in their Earth Observation Applications Development Program. Follow the links for

[funding information at the Canadian Space Agency](#)

[funding information at the German Space Administration \(in German\)](#)

4.2.24 Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: German Chancellor Fellowships for Prospective Leaders

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers prospective leaders from Brazil, China, India, Russia and the USA the opportunity to conduct a project as guests of the partner of their choice in Germany.

With the support of their hosts, the fellows can spend a year concentrating on a project of their choice and give their career a boost. German Chancellor Fellowships are open to an array of sectors such as politics, public administration and business, as well as society and culture.

Next deadline: **15 March 2015**

[More information](#)

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

DLR- DAAD Research Fellowships is a new programme implemented by the 'Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt' (DLR - German Aerospace Center) 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**. DLR-DAAD Fellowships offer outstanding scientists and researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at the institutes of the DLR in Germany.

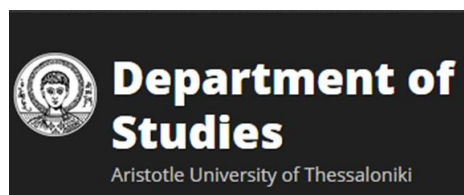
DLR-DAAD Fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship announcement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit. The current offers are published under [DLR-DAAD Fellowships - Current Offers](#) on the homepages of the DAAD and the DLR. Currently there are open positions in Aeronautics; Space; Transportation; Energy. **The application deadline depends on the offer.**

[More information](#)

4.2.26 Greece: Summer Intensive Course in Modern Greek - Language Scholarship - Aristotle



University of Thessaloniki – Department of Studies



A number of monthly scholarships are awarded to foreign undergraduate or postgraduate students of universities abroad for the purpose of attending the Summer Intensive Course in Modern Greek Language that takes place every year between mid August to mid September.

The scholarship covers the registration and tuition fees of the Course and - depending on approval of the relevant funds- may also award a 450 Euro living sustenance as partial reimbursement for whatever personal expenses during attendance. The grant is payable following completion of the Course, whenever this becomes available within the same fiscal year and provided that grantees meet all their obligations to the programme.

Calls are published online. Applications are submitted from October onwards until **February 28th**. Results in June (preliminary list) until mid July (alternates)

[More information](#)

4.2.27 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 center or other research establishments and enterprises in Lithuania can act as a host institution.

[More information](#)

4.2.28 Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) - AFR Grant Scheme

The FNR's AFR Grant Scheme (Aides à la Formation-Recherche) provides funding for PhD and postdoctoral research training projects in Luxembourg and abroad, up to 4 years for PhDs and up to 2 years for postdocs.

The AFR scheme has two strands:

- AFR PhD provides funding for doctoral candidates in Luxembourg and abroad.
- AFR Public Private Partnerships (AFR PPP) provides funding for doctoral and postdoctoral candidates collaborating with an accredited company based in Luxembourg.

The FNR contributes to the improvement of working conditions and career perspectives for researchers, on the one hand by enabling employment contracts between AFR beneficiaries and their host institutions and on the other hand by raising awareness of researchers' rights and responsibilities at an early career stage. The forthcoming Call AFR PHD 2015-1 will be launched in Mid December 2014. **The deadline for the submission of proposals will be 17 March 2015**, with a communication of the funding decisions in Mid June 2015.

[More information](#)





4.2.29 Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) - INTER Mobility Call for Proposals 2015

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote the scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and research groups abroad in order to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and support the exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how.

Next deadline: **30 June 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.30 Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) - Grants for NASA-ARC

The National Research Fund Luxembourg (FNR) intends to strengthen the cooperation between Luxembourg and NASA's AMES Research Centre (NASA-ARC) in order to support the thriving national aerospace sector.

First of all, the FNR earmarks two grants for PhD candidates or postdoctoral researchers allowing them to undertake their research activities at NASA-ARC. Research projects can be done in cooperation with a Luxembourg based public or private research institution or full-time at NASA-ARC. Funding will be granted up to 4 years for PhD candidates and up to 2 years for postdoctoral researchers according to the rules of the AFR grant system.

The Call for Proposals is also open to researchers based in Luxembourg companies who have spent at least 5 years in Luxembourg and envisage undertaking a PhD or Postdoc project in collaboration with NASA-ARC.

[More information](#)

4.2.31 Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) Awards

Read more about the different types of awards [here](#).

Next deadline: **1 April 2015**

4.2.32 Malta: University of Malta: Junior Research Fellowships

Junior Research Fellowships are available as part of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellowships. Open to doctoral students and recent Ph.D. recipients who are U.S. citizens.

[More information](#)

4.2.33 Netherlands: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO): Visitor's Travel Grant

Researchers in the Netherlands can apply for a visitor's grant for highly qualified senior researchers from abroad who hold a PhD. With this grant these researchers can stay in the Netherlands for a maximum of four months.



Next deadline: **Continuous application**

[More information](#)

4.2.34 Netherlands: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO): Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW)

The best PhD students from NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) can do 3 to 12 months of research abroad thanks to GROW.

GROW is a collaboration between the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the United States and 12 partner countries.

[More information](#)

4.2.35 Norway: Fulbright Norway: The US-Norway Fulbright Grant Program

The U.S.-Norway Fulbright Foundation offers a range of mobility scholarships to students and researchers for stays with Norwegian and American host organizations.

[More information](#)

4.2.36 Norway: NORAM Scholarships: Scholarships for Americans

The purpose of the scholarships are to provide financial support for Americans coming to Norway to conduct post-graduate study or research in areas of mutual importance to Norway and the United States. By awarding scholarships to american students or researchers, knowledge and understanding will increase, and it will strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

Next deadline: **1 April 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.37 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND



The objective of the 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 for the ERC competition. The program is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world-class quality research.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

[More information](#)



4.2.38 Slovakia: Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA): USA – The Fulbright Specialists Program (Teaching/research stays for 2-6 weeks)

Next deadline: **rolling basis**

[More information](#)

- 4.2.39 Slovakia: Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA): National Scholarship Program of the Slovak Republic – study/research stay for PhD students (1-12 months)

More information about the deadline and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Next deadline: **30 April 2015**

- 4.2.40 Slovakia: Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic – study/research stay for PhD students (5 months)

More information about the deadline and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Next deadline: **31 May 2015**

- 4.2.41 Slovakia: Scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic – teaching/research stay for university teachers and researchers (3 months)

More information about the deadline and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Next deadline: **31 May 2015**

- 4.2.42 Spain: Institute for Theoretical Physics (IFT) UAM-CSIC: “la Caixa” - Severo Ochoa International PhD Programme

The Institute for Theoretical Physics UAM-CSIC, Severo Ochoa Center of Excellence, and the Autónoma University of Madrid open three fellowships for exceptional candidates to carry out a PhD thesis at the IFT.

Next deadline: **31 March 2015**

[More information](#)

- 4.2.43 Sweden: VINNOVA: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowship

The purpose of this call is to support experienced researcher careers through mobility and international collaborations.

Next deadline: **17 March 2015** (call opened on 17 September 2014)

[More information](#)

- 4.2.44 Sweden: Swedish Research Council: Marie Skłodowska Curie International Career Grant

International Career Grant is aimed at researchers who are at the beginning of their career, with a Degree of Doctor that are between two and seven years old. The purpose of the grant is to enable you as a researcher to develop both in your research and as a research leader, by working for a longer period at a university



in another country. For the university, the grant opens up possibilities for strategic recruitment and the further training of researchers.

Next deadline: **26 February 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.45 Sweden: Swedish Research Council: Visiting Professorships

- [Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professorship](#) (social sciences, humanities, theology and science of law)
- [Olof Palme Visiting Professorship](#) (social sciences, humanities, theology and science of law)
- [Tage Erlander Visiting Professorship](#) (natural and engineering sciences)

Next deadline: **12 March 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.46 Sweden: Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare: COFAS 2

You are now welcome to submit applications for postdoc grants within the international postdoc programme COFAS 2. The programme offers two types of grants: [Forte Outgoing International Postdoc fellowships \(FOIP\)](#) and [Forte Incoming International Postdoc fellowships \(FIIP\)](#).

Next deadline: **3 March 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.47 Turkey: TÜBİTAK: Research Fellowship Program for International Researchers

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (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.

Application period: **16 March 2015 – 20 April 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.48 Turkey: TÜBİTAK: Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave

In order to contribute to the improvement of human resources and the research in Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Medical Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities (*) at universities, research institutions and in industry in TURKEY, eminent scientists/researchers are supported to visit to Turkey by giving seminars/conferences/lectures, or doing R&D activities.





Next deadline: **applications are accepted on a rolling basis**

[More information](#)

4.2.49 United Kingdom: The Royal Society: International Exchanges Scheme

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.

Next deadline: **10 February 2015**

[More information](#)

4.2.50 United Kingdom: The British Academy and the Royal Society: Newton International Fellowships

The Newton International Fellowship scheme will select the very best early stage post-doctoral researchers from all over the world, and offer support for two years at UK research institutions. The long-term aim of the scheme is to build a global pool of research leaders and encourage long-term international collaboration with the UK.

The next round for applications opened on **7th January 2015** and closes on **25th February 2015**.

[More information](#)

4.2.51 United Kingdom: BBSRC: International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)

The aim is to help scientists add an international dimension to their BBSRC funded research by making and establishing new contacts with international counterparts.

Next deadline: the call is currently OPEN – **apply any time**

[More information](#)

4.2.52 United Kingdom: RCUK & NSF/SBE: Co-lead Agency Agreement PILOT

The Arts and Humanities Research Council of the UK and the US National Science Foundation have been collaborating in support of research of mutual interest for several years. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place to encourage interdisciplinary research and facilitate the peer-review and joint-funding of USA-UK collaborative research in areas at the intersection of the two agencies' missions.

Next deadline: **See agreement for details**

[More information](#)



4.3 Databases and Further Information

4.3.1 Austria: Database of scholarships and research grants available

Austria's most comprehensive database for scholarships and research grants in German and the English language offers an overview of about 1,200 funding opportunities for incoming and outgoing researchers, graduates and students.

[More information](#)

4.3.2 Austria: Information from the Office of Science & Technology in Washington D.C.

"Building bridges of knowledge and expertise between Austria and North America" - this is the mission of the Office of Science & Technology ([OST](#)) at the Embassy of Austria in Washington, D.C. The OST is the strategic interface in the sciences, research, and research policy between Austria and North America. OST staff can inform you on most relevant funding opportunities in Austria.

4.3.3 Belgium: a comprehensive webportal

Calls for proposals are published all through the year on the Belgian Federal portal for research and innovation.

[Further information](#)

4.3.4 Canada: ERA-Can+ Project - Promoting Canada-EU research

The ERA-Can+ project helps you to identify funding opportunities in Canadian Programs, as well as funding opportunities in Europe for Canadian researchers.

[More information](#)

4.3.5 Canada: Government of Canada - International scholarship

Canada is committed to participation in international study and research partnerships, which build understanding among peoples, develop global citizens and leaders, and contribute to the development of nations.

[For Canadians](#): Learn about opportunities for graduate study and research abroad.

[For Non-Canadians](#): Learn about opportunities for study and research in Canada.

4.3.6 Cyprus: the Research Promotion Foundation

The Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) promotes the development of scientific and technological research in Cyprus. The RPF has established a list of research stakeholders, some offering funding opportunities.

[More information](#)



4.3.7 Denmark: Funding programmes for research and innovation and Danish Innovation Centre in the USA

The Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education has published an exhaustive [guide](#) to Danish funding programmes. Innovation Centre Denmark, Silicon Valley, provides you with information about Danish research environment and funding opportunities.

[More information](#)

4.3.8 Estonia: Estonia Research portal

Estonian Research Portal is the public section of the Estonian Research Information System. It gives an overview on various aspects of Estonian R&D including funding opportunities.

[More information](#)

4.3.9 Finland: Key links to Finnish funding agencies and opportunities

Funding for scientific research in Finland comes predominantly from private companies and the government. Other important sources of funding include various funds and foundations. Here are some of the biggest [funding agencies](#).

4.3.10 France: Find your PhD with the new website "PhD in France"

This website presents French PhD offers on one platform and is open to all foreign students.

This site aggregates the offers of the laboratories and universities in France. It helps in making research simple for all foreign and English-speaking students wishing to pursue a PhD in France.

For the majority of the scientific doctorates, the student gets a 3-year employment contract for a gross amount of approximately EUR 1,700 / month (1300 EUR net).

[More information](#)

4.3.11 Germany: Funding and resources opportunities for graduate and doctoral students, postdocs and faculty and researchers

The German Center for Research and Innovation based in New York compiles all existing funding and resources opportunities for graduate and doctoral students, postdocs and faculty and researchers.

[More information](#)

4.3.12 Ireland: Research opportunities

The Irish Research Council (IRC) manages a suite of inter-linked research schemes, funding scholars at various career stages, from postgraduate study to senior research project-based awards. For early stage researchers these include the Gov. of Ireland Postgraduate scholarships and Gov. of Ireland Postdoctoral



Fellowships, which fund research at pre- and postdoctoral levels, and the Research Project Grants Scheme, which allows researchers and research teams to expand their activities into new research areas by way of stimulus project grants and knowledge transfer initiatives. The IRC manages and monitors all awards funded under these schemes on a bi-annual basis.

[More information](#)

4.3.13 Netherlands: EURAXESS Jobs portal: Overview of Dutch Fellowships and Grants

[More information](#)

4.3.14 US: National Science Foundation - Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI)

Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI) is a mechanism to facilitate collaboration among teams of NSF-supported U.S. scientists and engineers and their international partners who have complementary strengths and common interests and who wish to form virtual institutes to foster enhanced research collaboration; data sharing; networking; and technical exchanges of students, postdocs, and junior faculty across borders.

[More information](#)

See the list of the International Funding Opportunities at NSF:

<http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/ise/index.jsp>

5 Jobs

5.1 EURAXESS Portal

There are currently about 6,200 research jobs and fellowship programmes (all over Europe, but also in other countries such as in the USA/Canada, and in all disciplines) accessible via the [EURAXESS Jobs](#) database.

Check out the latest jobs offered on the portal or search positions by keyword, research profile, country or field.

[Online Jobs and Fellowships](#) on the EURAXESS Links North America website. Research organisations (public and private) can upload their job vacancies located in Canada and the US. It is free of charge.

5.2 Other Research Career Sites

5.2.1 Canada

Career opportunities in Canada: [National Research Council Canada](#) and [careers](#)

5.2.2 Europe

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/>

The European Job Mobility Portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

Careers with the European Union: [European Personnel Selection Office](#)
(EPSO)

Careers with the European Union (EPSO), [Non-permanent Posts](#)

EuroBrussels: <http://www.eurobrussels.com/>

5.2.3 USA

AAAS support: [Science careers from the Science journal](#)

The Chronicle of Higher Education Careers Service: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/>

NSF guidance of funding opportunities for [Graduate students](#)

NSF guidance of funding opportunities for [Postdoctoral fellows](#)

Funding opportunities at researchusa.com



6 Events

6.1 Europe: Forthcoming events

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link to the event
International Convention of Psychological Science	12-14 March 2015	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Association for Psychological Science	Link
ELECspin 2015: "Intl Workshop on Organic and Graphene ELECTronics and SPINtronicS"	12-13 March 2015	Barcelona, Spain	Nanoscience Cooperative Research Center	Link
2 nd HBP Education Workshop: "Future Medicine"	15-18 March 2015	Lausanne, Switzerland	Human Brain Project	Link
Global science conference on climate-smart agriculture 2015	16-18 March 2015	Montpellier, France	Cirad	Link
EXPO Milano 2015	1 May – 31 Oct 2015	Milan, Italy	Expo 2015	Link
Nanotech Europe 2015 & EuroNanoForum 2015	10-12 June 2015	Riga, Latvia	University of Latvia, SPINVERSE	Link
65 th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting	28 June – 3 July 2015	Lindau, Germany	Lindau Institutions	Link

6.2 North America: Forthcoming events

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link to the event
ERA-Can+ Information Sessions	2-3 February 2015	Regina, SK and Vancouver, BC, CANADA	ERA-Can+ project partners	Link
Destination Europe Conference	12 February 2015	San Jose, CA, USA	European Commission, Member States	Link
AAAS Annual Meeting	12-16 February 2015	San Jose, CA, USA	American Association for the Advancement of Science	Link
European Student Conference 2015	13-14 February 2015	Yale University, CT, USA	Erasmus+	Link
Internationalizing the University: Globalizing Research and Innovation via US-	19 February 2015	George Mason University, VA, USA	George Mason University	Link



EU Transatlantic Cooperation: AIE Thematic Forum				
Global Innovation Week + Summit	16-20 February 2015	Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA, USA	Global Innovation Summit Team	Link
Destination Europe Conference	20 February 2015	Cambridge, MA, USA	European Commission, Member States	Link
MIT European Career Fair	21 February 2015	Cambridge, MA, USA	MIT European Club	Link
2015 Annual Meeting	13-15 March 2015	Baltimore, MD, USA	National Postdoctoral Association	Link
ACS 2015 Spring Career Fair	22-24 March 2015	Denver, CO, USA	American Chemical Society	Link

About EURAXESS Links North America

EURAXESS Links North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS Links North America, please visit: <http://northamerica.euraxess.org>.

To sign up for membership in our network, and in the virtual SINAPSE community of researchers abroad, please go to our website and click on the Join the EURAXESS Links North America community hyperlink on the right-hand side of the [page](#). Membership is free!

Editors: Viktoria BODNAROVA and Stephanie JANNIN, EURAXESS Links North America, Regional Representatives

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