

2014 September Issue 76

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EURAXESS LINKS NORTH AMERICA

Dear colleagues!

Welcome to the September issue of the EURAXESS Links North America Newsletter. We are very pleased to provide you with 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.

We have closed the video submission for the Science Slam finals. From many videos received, our committee chose 5 candidates who will travel to Toronto on 22 October 2014 to compete for a very attractive first prize: FREE TRIP TO EUROPE!!! Here are the lucky finalists:

- 1. Kurtis BAUTE from the University of Guelph, ON, CAN
- 2. Elpis PAVLIDOU from Yale University, CT, USA
- 3. Iris LAVI from UC Berkeley, CA, USA
- 4. Emily DABE from University of Florida, FL, USA
- 5. Robert JONSSON from University of Waterloo, ON, CAN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!! If you are not among the slammers this year but will be in the Toronto area on Wednesday evening, come and join our audience by registering here. A nice complementary cocktail reception will follow.

We would like to remind you that this newsletter is dedicated for you – researchers of any nationality, research field and profile. Therefore, your comments and suggestions are always very welcome at northamerica@euraxess.net.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

Yours,

the EURAXESS Links North America Team



Contents

1	EU Ir	nsight – Gender Equality Policies in Public Research7
2	EUR	AXESS Links North America Activities9
		URAXESS at the Austrian Research and Innovation Talk 2014 – oston, MA - October 10 - 11, 20149
		URAXESS at the Destination Europe Conference – Atlanta, GA – October 17, 20149
		URAXESS Science Slam - Toronto, Canada - October 22, 2014 om 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (EDT)9
Ne	ws & l	Developments10
	2.4 E	U and Member States10
	2.4.1	EU 'single market for research' now depends on national reforms, study finds10
	2.4.2	EU SME Instrument: first 155 winners of grants announced11
	2.4.3	Faster, more accurate flood warnings through EU research11
	2.4.4	Innovative textiles to boost EU seaweed farming12
	2.4.5	EU project hunts for natural substitutes to synthetics13
	2.4.6	Better volcano forecasting boosted by EU funding14
	2.4.7	Almost all Europeans say protecting the environment is important to them15
	2.4.8	European Researchers' Night 201417
	2.4.9	Ice buckets pour new attention on little-known area of research18
	2.4.10	Commission says OECD findings confirm importance of investment in education for EU growth and jobs19
	2.5 C	anada19
	2.5.1	Government of Canada supports research partnerships across Canada
	2.5.2	Government of Canada Renews Support for Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre
	2.5.3	Harper Government Invests in Research for Ginseng Sector to Improve Yields
	2.5.4	Harper Government Invests in Canada's Bioproducts Sector21
	2.5.5	Minister Glover Announces Support to Help Innovative Canadian Businesses Grow and Prosper in Manitoba22

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



2.5.6	NRC makes world-first demonstration of pilot-scale boron nitride nanotube production - Advanced materials to drive Canadian manufacturing	23
2.6 U	nited States of America	24
2.6.1	National Science Foundation awards \$9.47 million for research on coupled natural and human systems	
2.6.2	NSF expands the National Innovation Network with two new I-Corpodes - New awards to university consortia in Texas and California to help accelerate technology commercialization	а
2.6.3	NSF announces the Community College Innovation Challenge	26
2.6.4	Unemployment for doctoral scientists and engineers below national average in 2013	
2.6.5	Princeton University launches NSF-funded initiative to study Southern Ocean's role in global systems	28
2.6.6	2011 data show U.S. business R&D highly concentrated by state and metropolitan location - Companies in five states paid for nearly half of R&D performed in 2011	•
2.6.7	Racing ahead of disease outbreaks: \$12 million in new research grants	30
2.6.8	New grants fund cross-lifespan services research for autism spectrum disorder	31
2.7 C	ooperation EU – Canada	31
2.7.1	Prime Minister to host Canada-European Union Summit	31
2.7.2	Minister Blaney Visits Israel to highlight co-operation on National Security and Cyber Protection	32
2.7.3	ERA-Can+ publication: Guide to Horizon 2020 for Canadian Researchers	33
2.7.4	M2M Summit, October 20-21, 2014- Düsseldorf, Germany	33
2.8 C	ooperation EU – US	34
2.8.1	CLIMATE-KIC: US START-UP TOUR 2014 KICKS-OFF IN CALIFORNIA	34
2.8.2	The EU has a presence in many U.S. states through their EU Centers of Excellence, Member State Consulates, and more	35
2.8.3	NSF and USAID announce global research collaboration awardees	
	(a. 0. Fallandairea	
	ts & Fellowships	
	urope	
3.1.1	Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	37

3



3.1.2	Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Pocket guide	.37
3.1.3	Fulbright-Schuman Program	.37
3.1.4	European Research Council Grants	.37
3.1.5	Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships	.38
3.1.6	EMBO: Fellowships	.38
3.1.7	European Respiratory Society/EU RESPIRE2 post-doctoral Marie Curie Fellowship	
3.1.8	National EURAXESS portals	.38
3.2 E	U Member States and Associated Countries	.39
3.2.1	Austria: Lise Meitner Program for Scientists from Abroad	.39
3.2.2	Austria: IST FELLOW*: Call for Postdoctoral Fellows	.39
3.2.3	The Austrian Science Fund and funding categories	.39
3.2.4	Austria: Marietta Blau Outgoing Grant	.39
3.2.5	Belgium: Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) International Mobility	.40
3.2.6	Belgium: Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers	.40
3.2.7	Czech Republic: Office of Naval Research: Visiting Scientist Program (VSP)	.40
3.2.8	Denmark: Ministry of Higher Education and Science: PhD scholarships outside the universities	.40
3.2.9	Estonia: Scholarships	.40
3.2.10	Finland: CIMO Fellowships	.41
3.2.11	Finland: Säätiöiden post doc - pooli - the Foundations' Post Doc Pool	.41
3.2.12	France: Overview of research exchange programs	.41
3.2.13	Germany: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: German Chancel Fellowships for Prospective Leaders	
3.2.14	Germany: DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research	
3.2.15	Ireland: Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Industry Fellowship Programme 2014	.42
3.2.16	Lithuania: Lithuanian Research Council: Postdoctoral Fellowships	43
3.2.17	Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR): ATTRACT 2015	.43
3.2.18	Malta: University of Malta: Junior Research Fellowships	.43



3.2.19 Netherlands: The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW): Visiting Professors Program (VPP)44				
3.2.20 Norway: Fulbright Norway: The US-Norway Fulbright Grant Program				
3.2.21 Norway: The American Scandinavian Foundation: Fellowship/Grants to study in Scandinavia44				
3.2.22 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: START Program44				
3.2.23 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: KOLUMB – supporting grants44				
3.2.24 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: IDEAS FOR POLAND45				
3.2.25 Slovakia: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic: National scholarship program of the Slovak Republic – Study/Research Stay for PhD Students (1-12 months).45				
3.2.26 Slovakia: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic: National scholarship program of the Slovak Republic – Teaching/Research/Artistic Stay for University Teachers, Researchers and Artists (1-12 months)				
3.2.27 Sweden: Swedish Research Council – Grants for international recruitment of leading researchers45				
3.2.28 Sweden: VINNOVA: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowship .45				
3.2.29 Turkey: TÜBITAK: Research Fellowship Program for International Researchers46				
3.2.30 Turkey: TÜBITAK: Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave46				
3.2.31 United Kingdom: The Royal Society: International Exchanges Scheme46				
3.2.32 United Kingdom: BBSRC: United States Partnering Awards46				
3.2.33 United Kingdom: BBSRC: International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)47				
3.2.34 United Kingdom: BBSRC: David Phillips Fellowships47				
3.3 United States of America47				
3.3.1 International Collaborative Research Grants -The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc47				
3.4 Databases and Further Information48				
3.4.1 Austria: Database of scholarships and research grants available48				
3.4.2 Austria: Information from the Office of Science & Technology in Washington D.C48				
3.4.3 Belgium: a comprehensive webportal48				



	3.4.4	Canada: ERA-Can+ Project - Promoting Canada-EU research	48
	3.4.5	Canada: Government of Canada - International scholarship	48
	3.4.6	Cyprus: the Research Promotion Foundation	49
	3.4.7	Denmark: Funding programmes for research and innovation and Danish Innovation Centre in the USA	49
	3.4.8	Estonia: Estonia Research portal	49
	3.4.9	Finland: Key links to Finnish funding agencies and opportunities	49
	3.4.10	France: Find your PhD with the new website "PhD in France"	49
	3.4.11	Germany: Funding and resources opportunities for graduate and doctoral students, postdocs and faculty and researchers	50
	3.4.12	Page 1 Ireland: Research opportunities	50
	3.4.13	B UK: EURAXESS Jobs portal: Individual Fellowship Opportunities.	50
	3.4.14	US: National Science Foundation - Science Across Virtual Institut	
4	Jobs		51
	4.1 E	URAXESS Portal	51
	4.2 C	other Research Career Sites	51
	4.2.1	Canada	51
	4.2.2	Europe	51
	4.2.3	USA	51
5	Even	ıts	52
	5.1 E	urope: Forthcoming events	52
	5.2 N	lorth America: Forthcoming events	52



1 EU Insight – Gender Equality Policies in Public Research

(2

For information on the Gender Summit please refer to the <u>EU Insight from July</u> 2014! 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.

GENDER-NET is the first European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) to be dedicated the to promotion of gender equality through structural change research institutions, as well as to the integration sex and gender analysis in research. It together brings 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 science gender issues.

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.



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 <u>She Figures 2012</u>, 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.

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

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:

- [1] Gender Equality Policies in Public Research
- [2] <u>Press release: Progress on gender equality in public research slow and uneven across Europe</u>
- [3] Gender-NET ERA-Net



2 EURAXESS Links North America Activities

2.1 EURAXESS at the Austrian Research and Innovation Talk 2014 – Boston, MA - October 10 -11, 2014

The next Austrian Research and Innovation Talk for US and Canada-based Austrian scientists and innovators will take place on October 11, 2014 in Boston, MA. The conference provides participants with an opportunity to learn about recent R&D policy developments in Austria, career and funding opportunities, and facilitates the establishment of research collaborations between North America and Austria. The conference will also provide a platform for discussion, interaction and an opportunity for networking. For a look at the full details, visit the event page here.



AUSTRIAN

2.2 EURAXESS at the Destination Europe Conference– Atlanta, GA – October 17, 2014

'Destination Europe' events showcase the vibrant and exciting research and innovation culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers, from anywhere in the world, interested in working in Europe. It is a joint initiative of the European Union and its Member States.

The next conference will be hosted by GeorgiaTech in Atlanta, GA on the 17th of October 2014. Registration is now <u>OPEN</u>. You will be able to hear a presentation on EURAXESS during the plenary and visit us at our stand for further information and material.



2.3 EURAXESS Science Slam – Toronto, Canada -October 22, 2014 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (EDT)

Come and join this great contest where scientists will talk about their projects in an entertaining way. 5 finalists from all over North America will compete for the first prize: FREE TRIP TO EUROPE!!! The audience together with the jury will decide who the winner will be thus your participation is important!

Refreshments will be available and <u>registration</u> is free of charge! Let's get together and have fun:-)





News & Developments

2.4 EU and Member States

2.4.1 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 <u>European Research Area (ERA)</u>, 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 <u>ERA progress report</u>, presented today by the European Commission. The report updates last year's overview (<u>IP/13/851</u>), and 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 has embedded ERA in the European semester. It also 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 research 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 <u>identified</u> 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. And while more than half of the Member States have initiatives in place supporting gender equality in research, the pace of real change is too slow. While the report concludes that there is no single path to achieving ERA, it is also clear that ERA is most effective and beneficial when national measures are in place.





Member States are due to put forward 'ERA Roadmaps' by mid-2015, which will outline their next steps towards ERA implementation. The Commission, research stakeholder organisations and Member States will meet in Brussels in March 2015 to take stock.

Source: European Commission

2.4.2 EU SME Instrument: first 155 winners of grants announced

The European Commission has today published a <u>list</u> of the 155 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that will be first to benefit from its new €3 billion SME Instrument. 155 SMEs from 21 countries will each receive €50,000 to finance feasibility studies for their projects, and they can also benefit from up to three days of business coaching. After that, their projects may be considered for further financial support from the Commission worth up to €2.5 million.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, said: "Innovative SMEs will help get the European economy back on track, creating lasting employment and great products and services. This new instrument is aimed at projects that are truly innovative, with a strong business opportunity and a solid concept to bring them to the market."

The SME instrument was launched under Horizon 2020, the EU's new €80 billion research funding programme, to help innovative small firms get innovative projects from the lab to the market. SMEs from EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 can apply.

The response to the first round of selection was remarkable, with 2662 proposals from the countries participating in Horizon 2020 (IP/14/876). Evaluation by independent experts showed that 317 of the proposals met the evaluation standard. Of those, 155, or 49%, have been selected for funding.

The selected SMEs are in a good position to succeed in the second phase of the programme, in which applicants can receive between €0.5 and 2.5 million to finance innovation activities such as demonstration, testing, piloting, scaling up, and miniaturisation. The beneficiaries will also develop their business plan.

Around 645 projects in total should be funded in 2014. This number will rise to 670 in 2015. The call for proposals is constantly open and the next deadlines for evaluation are 24 September and 17 December 2014 for Phase 1, and 9 October and 17 December 2014 for Phase 2.

Source: European Commission

2.4.3 Faster, more accurate flood warnings through EU research

Timely flood alerts and real-time monitoring of flood emergencies can save lives and prevent damage to property, infrastructure and the environment. Imprints, WeSenselt and UrbanFlood are just three examples of EU-funded projects that have developed unique forecasting and alert systems to warn communities of impending floods.



Flood management and prevention is at the heart of the <u>Imprints</u> project which has developed an early warning platform to cut responses to flash floods down to about two hours, and even less – potentially giving people more time to get out of harm's way. The platform is based on better rainfall predictions, using meteorological models and weather radar networks. The software is able to predict water flows on the ground and provide a full early warning system for flash floods, the amount of debris they might carry and any potential damage to local infrastructure.

Water services and hydro-meteorological operations in Spain, Switzerland and France are using these project's innovations to refine their own real-time forecasting systems. Furthermore, flash flood indicators, developed within this project, are used now in the operational <u>European Flood Awareness System</u>.

Meanwhile, <u>WeSenselt</u>, a project which ends in September 2016, makes good use of the power of human observation as an essential part of an early warning system. People contribute by taking measurements using new apps currently being developed by the project, and sending information and images by mobile phone. The new technologies and approaches are being tested in Italy, the Netherlands and the UK.

"We have developed mobile apps so that flood wardens in the UK can walk along river banks, and take tagged pictures if they think there is something of concern," says project coordinator Fabio Ciravegna from the University of Sheffield. In Italy, an evaluation involving some 500 volunteers simulating a flood in the city of Vicenza was completed at the end of March 2014.

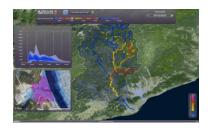
Dams and river embankments are at risk during a flood. The <u>UrbanFlood</u> project has developed sensors and related technology to monitor flood embankments and provide an early warning of their risk of failing. The underground sensors monitor the state of embankments and any changes to water levels, and other factors such as temperature, moisture and earth movements. The information is then assessed by the project's modelling software, which can trigger an alert if there is a problem. The software calculates how fast the site will be flooded if the dam fails, and even suggests the best ways to move citizens to safer areas.

Source: European Commission

2.4.4 Innovative textiles to boost EU seaweed farming

Seaweed is an important but under-exploited resource for food and feed ingredients, biochemicals and the production of biofuels. But it has been difficult to harvest efficiently on a large scale. Until now. The EU-funded AT~SEA project has developed advanced textiles that give high yields from floating seaweed farms and allow easy, mechanised cultivation.

Project coordinator Bert Groenendaal of Belgium-based Sioen Industries said that farming seaweed on the scale made possible by the new textiles can help create a multi-billion euro industry in Europe – boosting growth and jobs. Sioen is one of seven companies involved in the project, along with four research centres.



Imprints' early warning software provides a real-time overview of potential flash floods.



Caption: A diver inspects seaweed growing at AT~SEA's test site near Galway, Ireland.



He said: "The economic potential for seaweed is huge. Businesses are interested in seaweed for many different applications such as food and food additives, animal feed, chemicals and even fuel."

European Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "AT~SEA is just one example among many of how EU funding helps researchers and businesses collaborate to innovate. This research will allow EU businesses to farm a valuable resource efficiently, helping them compete in global markets. Horizon 2020, the EU's new €80 billion research programme supports companies and businesses in bringing new ideas from lab to market quickly and cost-effectively."

Tests of AT~SEA's textiles at trial sites in Solund, Norway, Oban, Scotland and Galway, Ireland have produced yields of up to 16 kg of wet seaweed per square metre – three to five times the yield of traditional seaweed farming,.

Currently, seaweed is obtained by harvesting wild seaweed or by rope-based cultivation. Neither of these scale up easily as both methods are labour-intensive with relatively low yields.

The project team developed textiles that can support large numbers of seaweed plants without breaking up or attracting unwanted plants or molluscs. Biosourced coatings on the textiles protect young seaweed and boost growth.

Source: European Commission

2.4.5 EU project hunts for natural substitutes to synthetics

The EU-funded AGROCOS project is foraging through the plant world for natural substitutes to synthetic ingredients currently used in cosmetics, and in agrochemical products such as insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

By analysing nature's molecules to discover a new generation of natural ingredients, <u>AGROCOS</u> aims to pave the way for innovative products that address consumers' concerns about the impact of synthetic ingredients on their health and the environment. It fits with the EU strategy to move to a society that relies more strongly on renewable, sustainable biological resources to satisfy the needs of both consumers and industry.

The project ends in September 2014 and the researchers have so far identified 30 promising molecules. These are being tested by the consortium's commercial partners – Korres, a Greek natural cosmetics company, and Germany's BASF, one of the world's largest chemical manufacturers.

Currently, Korres is testing five molecules with antioxidant properties in combination with an ultraviolet protectant and other compounds for preventing hyper-pigmentation, commonly known as age spots.

The company has produced compounds and standardised extracts on a pilot scale. Korres plans to launch a new product line based on AGROCOS' research in the next two years.

The project provided Korres an opportunity to access to a wide-range of expertise and potential ingredients, said Lena Korres, the company's brand



Caption: Xanthostemon
pubescens: A plant from New
Caledonia that was studied by
AGROCOS to discover novel
bioactive cosmetic ingredients. ©
Vincent Dumontet, CNRS.



development director. "For us, this will be fantastic because it will provide us not only with specific ingredients, but also with an extensive library of ingredients detailing the benefits of each and how they can help us in cosmetics," she added.

Meanwhile, BASF is testing compounds for insecticidal, fungicidal and herbicidal properties. The increasing demand for organic foods has created a pressing need for natural pesticides that can be used on crops certified as 'organic'. Natural substitutes for pesticides are also normally less toxic to people, the soil and the environment in general. They usually affect only the target pest and related organisms, without putting other animals at risk. And they tend to be biodegradable.

AGROCOS' research is based on 'bio-prospecting' a technique of searching through species for valuable compounds. For AGROCOS this means sifting through plant molecules to identify those with desirable properties for cosmetics or for pesticides.

Source: European Commission

2.4.6 Better volcano forecasting boosted by EU funding

Volcanic eruptions are notoriously difficult to predict. With increased seismic activity at Iceland's Bárðarbunga volcano, and lava flowing at nearby Holuhraun, experts are carefully monitoring and analysing large amounts of data being collected from the area.

Many Icelandic volcanoes are ice-covered, a factor that often contributes to explosive, ash-rich eruptions similar to Eyjafjallajökull in April 2010. Eyjafjallajökull spewed large ash clouds across northern Europe, leading airlines to make costly flight cancellations and disrupting travel for some 10 million people. Financial damage is estimated at up to €3.9 billion.

But this time there is a difference. In response to Eyjafjallajökull's eruption, the EU has been funding research to provide more accurate and timely warnings. The approaches being pioneered by such projects aim is to give civil protection authorities, and economically important commercial groups such as airlines, more time to react effectively – helping to protect lives and reduce damage to Europe's economy.

One example is <u>FUTUREVOLC</u>. Since October 2012, when FUTUREVOLC started, the researchers have added volcanic gas detectors, infrasound sensors, high resolution cameras, seismometers and sensors to detect ground movements across the most active regions of Iceland to complement the existing network. Many of these additional sensors are part of mobile networks, allowing them to be deployed at active sites as needed and to support the permanent network.

New monitors, such as the seismometers, can detect minute movements (seismic tremors), a possible indication of the movement of magma up towards the Earth's surface or of flooding caused by the extrusion of magma under the ice. These floods are a significant threat to local inhabitants and infrastructure.



Caption: Baldur Bergsson from the EU-funded FUTUREVOLC project takes gas measurements at the Holuhraun lava flow in Iceland.



Additional GPS instruments and satellite data can help detect minute changes. At Bárðarbunga these have been used to estimate the volume of magma intruded into the Earth's crust at up to 10 km below the surface.

The project is also focused on monitoring eruptions once they reach the surface – measuring dangerous gases and lava flow rates, for example. This information can indicate whether volcanic activity is likely to evolve into an eruption similar to that of 2010.

In July the team added three ground-based infrared cameras to Iceland's network to detect silicate particles in volcanic ash. The project has also tested a plane-mounted sensor that was able to detect ash collected from one of Iceland's volcanoes and dropped from the air over France's Bay of Biscay. The sensor, which uses multispectral cameras to distinguish silicate from ice particles, detected the ash from 60 kilometres away. IfBárðarbunga does erupt, the team could deploy the same sensor to monitor any release of ash.

When combined with meteorological data and advanced modelling techniques, FUTUREVOLC's results will help to improve ash dispersal forecasting, said project coordinator Freysteinn Sigmundsson of the University of Iceland.

FUTUREVOLC's research will feed into the <u>Group on Earth</u> <u>Observations</u> (GEO), part of Europe's contribution to a global effort to improve forecasts on volcanic activity.

European Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "Volcanic activity can affect thousands of Europeans, whether they live close to active volcanoes, or many kilometres away. Horizon 2020, the EU's new €80 billion research programme, will continue to support this type of research for the benefit of all Europeans."

Source: European Commission

2.4.7 Almost all Europeans say protecting the environment is important to them

Three years on from the most recent similar Eurobarometer survey, it is clear that, despite the economic crisis, Europeans' concern about the environment has not diminished. In an overwhelming consensus, 95 % of the 28.000 interviewed citizens said that protecting the environment is important to them personally and many think more can be done.

Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "It is good to see such solid and widespread support for the protection of the environment, even in difficult times. People are particularly concerned about air and water pollution, chemicals and waste, and they feel that more must be done by everyone to protect the environment."

Highlights:

Environmental protection makes economic sense

A strong majority of people share the view that the efficient use of natural resources (79 %) and the protection of the environment (74 %) can boost economic growth. While 80% consider that the economy influences their quality



of life, 75 % think the state of the environment has a similar impact and 77 % of EU citizens believe that environmental problems have a direct effect on their daily lives. They worry most about pollution – air (56 %) and water pollution (50 %) ranking highest – as well as waste generation and the depletion of natural resources.

An increasing number (59 %) believe that social and environmental factors should be as important as economic criteria in measuring progress in their country. In relation to the spending and investment of public authorities, 59 % are of the opinion that the public authorities of their country should favour environmentally-friendly considerations over cost.

Environmental responsibility on the rise

Even more citizens than in 2011 (75 %) say they are ready to buy environmentally-friendly products, even if it means paying a little more. A vast majority (93 %) think that big polluters should make good the environmental damage they cause. Introducing heavier fines for offenders was deemed the most effective way of tackling environmental problems.

85 % of Europeans believe they have a role to play in protecting the environment. Most are adopting environmentally-friendly actions and behaviour. Separation of waste for recycling (72 %), cutting down energy consumption (52 %) and cutting down water consumption (37 %) were the three most common activities. While more citizens feel well informed about the environment in general, 39 % feel they lack information about the health impact of chemicals used in everyday products.

A substantial majority of people feel that more can be done to protect the environment. 77 % feel that big companies and industry are not doing enough; 70 % think the same of their national government. 65 % believe that citizens themselves could do more. The top-priorities identified for citizens wishing to protect the environment were to sort waste for recycling (54 %), reduce home energy consumption (39 %) and use public transport (39 %).

Support for EU action

77 % of EU citizens agree that European environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in their country and six out of ten think that environmental decisions should be taken jointly within the EU. 79 % also think that the EU should be able to check that environmental laws are being applied correctly in their country. 84 % want more EU funding to be allocated to supporting environmentally-friendly activities. In addition, a majority of citizens (56 %) want the EU to do even more to protect the environment.

Background

The latest Eurobarometer survey on the environment comes three years after the previous report on the subject. It was carried out in the 28 Member States of the European Union between 26 April and 11 May 2014, to assess the perceptions, attitudes and practices of EU citizens towards the environment. 27,998 respondents from different social and demographic groups were



interviewed face-to-face in their mother tongue on behalf of the Directorate-General for Environment.

Further information

The Eurobarometer survey can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Source: European Commission

2.4.8 European Researchers' Night 2014

This year's European Researchers' Night will take place across several hundred cities all over Europe and beyond on Friday 26 September.

Labs and other science venues are bracing themselves for a huge influx of eager visitors next Friday night at European Researchers' Night. For one evening only they will open their doors for members of the public to enjoy anything from behind-the-scenes guided tours of research labs and interactive science shows to hands-on experiments and learning activities for children. Last year, over 1.2 million visitors across 300 cities in 33 countries joined Researchers' Night, and were treated to a host of science extravaganzas. In Düsseldorf researchers created a virtual device that turned visitors into opera stars. Meanwhile, researchers in Santander demonstrated how physics helps surfers catch the biggest waves. In Perugia, visitors met a portrait-making Lego robot named Le(g)onardo, while the public in Poznan set out to break a sound record with the loudest collective shriek.

The European Researchers' Night has taken place every year since 2005. This year, these popular science events are happening in around 300 cities located in 24 European and neighbouring countries. The popularity of Researchers' Night has grown enormously since its beginnings — the number of participating cities has trebled since 2006.

Supported by the European Commission as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the cross-country event is likely to appeal to anyone who is intrigued by how things work and by what science means for their lives. The initiative receives EUR 4 million a year in support from Marie Curie Actions, which promote international research careers. The aim is to highlight the important role research plays in our daily lives and science as a career and, in particular, to encourage more young men and woman to choose a career in research and science.

With this year's European Researchers' Night just around the corner, unsurprisingly it's a tad too late for scientists to organise an event for 2014. However labs and other science venues that are keen to get involved next year should keep an eye on the Research Executive Agency (REA) website for new opportunities. The events featured during Researchers' Night are selected through a competitive process following a call for proposals, and some of the past events have received impressive national prizes, such as the Focus award in Poland and the Eventia award in the UK.

For more information, please visit:





European Researchers' Night

http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersnight/index_en.htm

Source: Community Research and Development Research Information Service

2.4.9 Ice buckets pour new attention on little-known area of research

If you haven't had a bucket of iced water poured over your head recently, you probably know someone who has. The astonishingly successful <u>#icebucketchallenge</u> Facebook campaign, in which people agree to a chilled soaking to raise money for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), has generated unprecedented publicity for a previously little-known disease.

However, long before the campaign went viral, scientists across Europe have been working to combat ALS, which kills ten thousand people each year. Since 2007, the EU has invested over EUR 56 million into research to tackle the disorder, a type of motor neurone disease that paralyses and eventually kills people.

With the help of this funding, European scientists are gradually building a more comprehensive picture of the causes and progression of ALS, with the aim of one day finding a cure. Dr Caterina Bendotti, who is a lead researcher on the Euro-MOTOR project, said the mechanisms through which the disease progresses are still unclear.

'At the moment, we know many more genes linked to the disease but we still need to identify factors that help to make an early diagnosis of the disease,' said Dr Bendotti. 'It takes about one year to be diagnosed and at that point many motor neurons are lost.'

Researchers on the Euro-MOTOR project – who come from 15 different institutes in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – are constructing a large database of clinical and lifestyle information of people with ALS across Europe. By applying computational techniques to this data, they aim to build a model of the causes of ALS at a molecular level, which can then be used to provide targets for new therapies.

'We've made very good progress in understanding disease-modifying molecules,' said Dr Bendotti. 'This means that the protein or the gene can be targeted for slowing down significantly the progression of the disease.'

However, one of the complexities of ALS is that there are many different types; some with a genetic cause and some without a defined origin. Dr Stefania Corti from the University of Milan, Italy, said that scientists are closer to finding a cure for some genetic types of ALS than for sporadic forms – by using single strands of DNA or RNA, called oligonucleotides, to alter how information from the gene is used.

Dr Corti works on the EU-funded NO-MND project, which looks at the role that a particular type of cell in the brain and spinal cord – known as an astrocyte – plays in the onset of ALS. By understanding more about how these cells work



European researchers are working towards a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a type of motor neurone disease. Neuron illustration: Shutterstock/ Sergey



researchers hope to develop a new way of treating the disease, for instance by transplanting astrocytes.

Source: HORIZON The EU Research & Innovation Magazine

2.4.10 Commission says OECD findings confirm importance of investment in education for EU growth and jobs

The European Commission welcomes the launch today of *Education at a Glance 2014*, the annual report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on the state of play and challenges faced by national education systems. It highlights the growing importance of investment in education for future growth and employment in the EU and for more inclusive European societies.

Link to the full report Education at a Glance 2014

Source: European Commission

2.5 Canada

2.5.1 Government of Canada supports research partnerships across Canada

Federal investment at Brandon University to develop policy that better reflects realities of rural Canadians

The Honourable Ed Holder, Minister of State (Science and Technology) was at the Brandon University today to announce an investment of \$44 million to support social sciences and humanities researchers at postsecondary institutions across Canada. Administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Partnership Grants and Partnership Development Grants will support new research collaboration among private, public and not-for-profit sectors on issues that will advance our understanding of people and society.

Brandon University received one of 14 Partnership Grants for its Rural Policy Learning Commons initiative. Led by Dr. William Reimer, adjunct professor at Brandon University, this project involves multiple Canadian and international coapplicants, collaborators and academic, government and NGO partners. Together, international experts, scholars and policy-makers will aim to help improve the social and economic well-being of rural and northern regions in Canada. The project will employ distance learning activities, social media, publications, and a digital information hub to share information and strengthen collaboration between experts and communities, while training Canada's next generation of researchers and leaders.

Another example of a SSHRC research project, Strengthening Rural Communities, has brought together university experts, business students and entrepreneurs. This Partnership Development Grant supports community development organizations and governments to develop new revenue streams, create marketing strategies, and transform traditional industries. From the creative economy and tourism to green energy and sustainable agriculture, this





project is strengthening local economies, creating new jobs and building a new future for Canada's rural communities.

Quick facts

Today's announcement includes funding for 57 new Partnership Development Grants and 14 Partnership Grants.

Partnership and other SSHRC grants benefit rural communities in meaningful ways, including by contributing to all-important job creation and developing employable skills and talents among students and other collaborators.

SSHRC currently funds 233 multidisciplinary, intersectoral partnerships involving 50 postsecondary institutions across Canada and 1,352 partner organizations from 58 countries around the world.

SSHRC disburses nearly \$340 million in funding annually to support over 8,400 research projects.

Source: The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

2.5.2 Government of Canada Renews Support for Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre

Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre will continue to deliver resources aimed at fostering and supporting entrepreneurship

The Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre, an affiliate of Acadia University, has provided entrepreneurial programs for students, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and business professionals for over 25 years through advisory, training, and innovation and incubation services. The Centre offers programming such as the E-Certificate, Business Counselling Essentials and financial analysis. The Centre is dedicated to building links and fostering an entrepreneurial culture between Acadia University and the surrounding region. As well, as part of its effort to encourage entrepreneurship on the university campus, the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre manages Acadia University's Innovation and Incubation Centre, located at Patterson Hall.

The Government of Canada is investing \$350,000 in the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre through ACOA's Business Development Program, as announced today by the Honourable Rob Moore, Minister of State (ACOA), for operational funding and program implementation.

This investment will allow the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre to continue promoting entrepreneurship and delivering programming to stakeholders, including programs and activities related to Acadia's new Sandbox Initiative.

Part of a province-wide collaboration between universities, the Nova Scotia Community College and multi levels of government, the Sandbox will be hosted by the Centre on behalf of Acadia University. The initiative is designed to promote innovation and business start-ups on university campuses. Sandbox activities will include pitch competitions, summer accelerator programming, a speaker series and the Entrepreneurship Certificate.

Quick Facts:



The Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre was incorporated in 1989 and is a non-profit affiliated and based at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

The Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre Innovation and Incubation Services is home to the Atlantic Wine Institute, the Tidal Energy Institute and the Data Analytics Institute.

The Sandbox Initiative was announced earlier this year by the Government of Nova Scotia. Its department of Labour and Advanced Education has made a \$150,000 investment in this project.

Source: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

2.5.3 Harper Government Invests in Research for Ginseng Sector to Improve Yields

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and the Honourable Diane Finley, Member of Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk, today announced an investment of \$423,000 to the Ontario Ginseng Growers Association (OGGA) to help the industry boost productivity and profitability.

With this investment, the OGGA will address an industry priority: managing ginseng replant disease, which is the inability to grow a second, healthy crop of ginseng on land where it was previously produced. The OGGA will examine the factors that lead to the disease and study potential solutions to manage and/or reduce its effects. The focus will be on the evaluation of fungicides, the introduction of beneficial organisms and a comparison of replant and non-replant sites.

This project will complement work already underway through funding from Agriculture Canada's Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. That work is being conducted within the Department and is focussed on understanding factors which contribute to the disease, and on crop management practices.

Quick facts

Founded in 1989, the OGGA is a non-profit organization that supports research into new varieties of ginseng, new production methods and harvesting advances.

The Ontario ginseng industry exports an estimated \$220 million worth of unprocessed, dried ginseng annually.

This investment is made through the Industry-led Research and Development stream of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation Program, a five-year, up to \$698-million initiative underGrowing Forward 2.

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2.5.4 Harper Government Invests in Canada's Bioproducts Sector

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Member of Parliament Mike Wallace (Burlington) today announced an investment of \$7 million to Bioindustrial Innovation Canada for a first-of-its-kind national bioproducts cluster.



This cluster will help bridge the gap between research and market-ready products by connecting technology development projects from across Canada. The expected results will create opportunities for Canadian farmers and provide a more competitive future for Canadian agriculture by putting farm waste to profitable use.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists will work with industry partners on adding value to the agriculture sector and responding to global demand for environmentally-friendly bioproducts. This will be done by exploring the use of food by-products for the manufacture of gums and landscape products, and developing new varieties of wheat, rye and triticale that can be used to produce high-value biochemicals and bioenergy.

Quick facts

Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, located in Ontario, is focused on helping Canada become a globally recognized leader in bioindustrial products.

It is estimated that the global market for bioproducts will reach \$200 billion by 2030.

Participation in this cluster will allow EcoSynthetix to invest in additional product development talent at their Centre of Innovation in Burlington, Ontario.

This investment is made through the Industry-led Research and Development stream of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agrilnnovation Program, a five-year, up to \$698-million initiative under Growing Forward 2.

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2.5.5 Minister Glover Announces Support to Help Innovative Canadian Businesses Grow and Prosper in Manitoba

The Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages and Minister Responsible for Manitoba, on behalf of the Honourable Ed Holder, Minister of State (Science and Technology), today announced the Government of Canada's investment in the Manitoba Technology Accelerator (MTA), which will support Manitoba's innovative businesses, enabling them to grow, prosper and create jobs.

Through the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP), MTA will receive up to \$1.06 million in funding over the next five years, providing local entrepreneurs with the resources and expertise needed to develop their business plans, seek follow-on financing and new international markets for products and services. This organization plays an important role in the venture capital system, serving as an invaluable resource for entrepreneurs to make headway in a competitive global marketplace.

Quick Facts

On June 20, 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced fifteen incubators and accelerators chosen to advance in the selection process for CAIP, which is designed to help outstanding small and medium-sized Canadian enterprises to grow, prosper and create jobs.



Delivered by the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), CAIP provides support in the form of non-repayable contributions to a small and select number of best-in-class accelerators and incubators. Recipients will be required to demonstrate matching contributions on at least a 1:1 basis during the period of the contribution funding.

The MTA is a not-for-profit business accelerator located in Winnipeg. MTA provides commercialization support to help promising technology start-ups advance from "good idea" to "commercial success".

MTA adds value to its clients in three categories: (1) Facilities and Infrastructure; (2) Mentoring and Management; and (3) Finance and Investment Opportunities.

Source: National Research Council Canada

2.5.6 NRC makes world-first demonstration of pilotscale boron nitride nanotube production -Advanced materials to drive Canadian manufacturing

With the breakthrough demonstration of the world's first pilot-scale production of boron nitride nanotubes, the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) has unlocked an advanced material to drive high-value manufacturing in Canada.

The National Research Council's first target for boron nitride nanotubes (BNNT) is to integrate them into advanced engineered materials for defence and security applications such as light-weight ceramic and transparent armour for vehicles and personal protection. Boron nitride nanotubes have unique structural, electronic and optical properties. When integrated into composite materials and systems, these nanotubes enable entirely new classes of material performance across many industrial applications.

With this major advance, Canada now has the largest boron nitride nanotube production capacity in the world, and a production rate 100 times faster than any earlier technologies. Applications and product development previously limited by low production volumes can now be expected to grow rapidly.

Quick Facts

Other applications may include: transparent materials and ceramic parts for the aerospace sector; metallic and polymer composites for the automotive sector; sensors and other structural or multifunctional applications for the aerospace and energy sectors; fire retardant materials for the construction sector; and cancer and cellular regeneration therapies for the health sector.

Boron nitride nanotubes have a structure very similar to carbon nanotubes. They share the extraordinary mechanical properties and thermal conductivity of carbon nanotubes, but have the added advantages of optical and infrared transparency, greater thermal and chemical stability, neutron shielding,



electrical insulation, and the ability to generate electrical current when subjected to mechanical stress.

NRC's new process uses specialized equipment manufactured by Tekna Plasma Systems Inc., a Canadian company and a world leader in the development, design and construction of integrated plasma systems for nanoparticle synthesis and in the supply of high quality micropowders and nanopowders.

This nanotube work is part of NRC's Security Materials Technology program, a joint initiative between NRC, Canadian defence industry partners, and Defence R&D Canada (DRDC). The program will strengthen the global competitiveness of the Canadian armour industry while simultaneously providing world-class built-in-Canada gear to the Canadian Forces, police and first responders.

Source: National Research Council Canada

2.6 United States of America

2.6.1 National Science Foundation awards \$9.47 million for research on coupled natural and human systems

Studies will lead to better understanding of how humans and the environment interact

Mountain pine beetles, tiny bark beetles the size of grains of rice, have become widespread pests. The insects infest tree after tree in western North America, killing off entire swaths of forests during outbreaks.

The effects of climate change and other factors have led to the unprecedented epidemic. Tens of millions of acres of trees have been killed over the past 20 years.

Scientist Christopher Bone of the University of Oregon is using the power of computing to inform the response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) program.

The award addresses how humans and the environment interact--and where mountain pine beetles fit into the picture.

The grant is one of 11 NSF CNH awards made this year. Total funding for 2014 CNH grants is \$9.47 million; the program has made awards nearly continuously since 2001.

CNH is co-funded by NSF's Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO); Geosciences (GEO); and Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE).

"This year's CNH awards address, among other topics, how humans affect and respond to changing environmental conditions in large metropolitan areas, how natural predators combat disease, how noise from a range of sources affects



humans and wildlife, and the complex interactions between wind turbines and local environments," says Tom Baerwald, CNH program director for SBE.

"The project results will be useful for all of us," says Baerwald, "as we work to maintain and improve environmental quality over the long run."

This year's grantees will look at the way in which people deal with environmental processes in a range of settings, including cities, mountains, grasslands and forests.

Findings from the CNH projects, scientists believe, will enhance our understanding of, and increase our capabilities to improve, environmental quality and the well-being of people.

Among 2014 research subjects are the coupled health and human dynamics of schistosomiasis; feedbacks between local democracy and large-scale biodiversity conservation; bridging communities through mountain sustainability networks; the interactions among economic development, urbanization and forest degradation; drinking water quality and food security in arsenic-affected Southeast Asia; and increasing the resilience of grasslands in the Southern Great Plains.

"We now live in a world where wildlife and its habitats are strongly affected by human societies, but where societies still depend on nature--a world of coupled natural and human systems," says Peter Alpert, CNH program director for BIO.

"CNH is uniquely devoted to advancing our ability to understand this mutual dependence."

The CNH program considers humans and the environment as one interconnected system.

Research funded by CNH awards will provide a better understanding of natural processes and cycles and of human behavior and decisions--and how and where they intersect.

"Each of the new projects brings together teams of researchers from across the social and natural sciences," says Sarah Ruth, CNH program director for GEO, "to help us better understand how complex systems function, and ultimately, how we might best manage finite environmental resources."

CNH is part of NSF's Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) initiative.

Source: NSF

2.6.2 NSF expands the National Innovation Network with two new I-Corps nodes - New awards to university consortia in Texas and California to help accelerate technology commercialization

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded two major grants to further expand and support a national network of public-private partnerships to transition fundamental science and engineering discoveries to the marketplace under the Innovation Corps (I-Corps™) program.



The two grants, \$3.75 million each over three years, will support innovation education, research and infrastructure in Southern California and Texas. These new innovation hubs, or "nodes," will join five existing I-Corps regional nodes located in the Washington, D.C., New York City, Michigan, Northern California and Atlanta areas.

The Southern California node will be based at the University of Southern California (USC) and includes the University of California Los Angeles and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Yannis C. Yortsos, dean of USC Viterbi School of Engineering, is the grant's principal investigator.

The Texas node, known as the Southwest Alliance for Entrepreneurial Innovation Node, will be based at the University of Texas at Austin and includes Rice University and Texas A&M University. Juan Sanchez, vice president for research at the University of Texas at Austin, is the grant's principal investigator.

In 2011, NSF created the <u>I-Corps program</u> to train NSF-funded researchers to evaluate their scientific discoveries for commercial potential. Since then, more than 167 institutions have participated, and 319 teams, typically with three people each, have completed the intensive seven-week training. Those teams have launched more than 163 small businesses that are moving technologies born in academia into the marketplace.

The I-Corps <u>nodes</u> and <u>sites</u> function as the program linchpins, administering the I-Corps curriculum and activities to help support teams as they evolve their technologies beyond the lab.

"The universities that form the new nodes in Southern California and Texas have long legacies as incubators for great American innovations," said Pramod Khargonekar, NSF's assistant director for the Directorate for Engineering, which oversees the I-Corps program.

"Each node will bring its own unique contribution and expertise, strengthening the National Innovation Network of mentors, researchers, entrepreneurs and investors" said Suzi Iacono, NSF's acting assistant director for the <u>Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering Directorate</u>, which co-funds the program.

NSF also collaborates with other federal agencies, including the <u>National Institutes of Health</u> and the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency, to offer I-Corps training to their grantees.

Source: NSF

2.6.3 NSF announces the Community College Innovation Challenge

Students compete for cash prizes and professional coaching to develop STEM-based solutions for issues of local to global concern

Today, the National Science Foundation (NSF) launches its Community College Innovation Challenge. In this contest, NSF is challenging students enrolled in community colleges to propose innovative science, technology, engineering and



The Community College Innovation Challenge seeks to identify STEMbased solutions to society's greatest challenges.

Credit: Thinkstock

September 2014 | Issue 76 | Page 26 of 53

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mathematics (STEM)-based solutions to perplexing, real-world problems. An incentive: Teams submitting top ideas will receive professional coaching and cash prizes.

More than 40 percent of U.S. undergraduates are enrolled at community colleges. Groups underrepresented in STEM as well as first-generation college students make up a significant portion of students on community-college campuses. NSF-funded projects at community colleges support STEM students transferring to four-year colleges as well as receiving education and training to become part of the high-tech workforce--in fields as diverse as biotechnology, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing.

Knowing the creative potential of these students, NSF invites teams of community-college students to identify key problems and propose innovative solutions in areas with potential for solving some of America's most daunting challenges: big data, infrastructure security, sustainability (including water, food, energy, and environment), broadening participation in STEM, and improving STEM education.

"Engaging the talents of these students is a priority for us," said Susan Singer, who leads NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education. "Through this competition we would expect to not only identify innovators but also to see new ways for students, faculty, community and industry to work together."

Ideas may be submitted through Jan. 15, 2015 via NSF's <u>CCIC</u> website. Each team must consist of three to five students currently enrolled and in good standing at a two-year associate-degree-granting institution, as well as a faculty mentor and a community or industry partner. Up to 10 teams will be selected as finalists and invited to participate in a three-day Innovation Boot Camp. This professional development workshop on innovation and entrepreneurship, featuring experts in a variety of related fields, is designed to hone skills applicable to commercializing ideas, using technology for social applications, communicating with stakeholders and creating business strategies.

Final-round judging will take place in person on the last day of Innovation Boot Camp. Each student member of the first place team will receive a \$3,000 cash prize. Cash awards will also be distributed to team members on the second and third placed teams. Interested students may visit the challenge website for the full eligibility criteria, entry guidelines, timeline and prize information.

This challenge furthers NSF's mission by enabling students to discover and demonstrate their ingenuity to use science to make a difference in the world and transfer knowledge into action. It also furthers the benefit of incorporating research into the traditional teaching mission of the community college. Get updates on Twitter: #CCIChallenge.

Source: NSF

2.6.4 Unemployment for doctoral scientists and engineers below national average in 2013

An estimated 837,900 individuals in the United States held SEH research doctoral degrees in 2013



A new National Science Foundation (NSF) <u>report</u> says the 2013 unemployment rate for individuals with research doctoral degrees in science, engineering and health (SEH) fields was one-third the rate for the general population aged 25 and older--2.1 percent versus 6.3 percent.

According to the report, an estimated 837,900 individuals in the United States held SEH research doctoral degrees in 2013, and nearly 735,900 of them were in the labor force; this includes those employed full time or part time and unemployed individuals actively seeking work.

Statistics show that 25.5 percent of SEH doctoral degree holders in the labor force held a doctorate in the biological, agricultural or environmental life sciences; 18.5 percent held doctorates in engineering; 17.1 percent in physical sciences; 14.5 percent in psychology; 12.3 percent in social sciences; 4.6 percent in health; 4.5 percent in mathematics and statistics and 3 percent in computer and information sciences.

Meanwhile, women continue to represent a growing share of doctorate holders, rising from 30.2 percent in 2008 to 32.9 percent in 2013. The labor force participation rate among SEH doctorate holders was 89.1 percent for women in 2013, compared with 87.2 percent for men. Female SEH doctorate holders were less likely than their male counterparts to be employed full time in 2013 (72.7 percent of women, 77.5 percent of men) and more likely not to be seeking work (3.7 percent of women, 0.8 percent of men).

For more information on this report, please visit NSF's <u>National Center for</u> Science and Engineering Statistics.

Source: NSF

2.6.5 Princeton University launches NSF-funded initiative to study Southern Ocean's role in global systems

Eleven institutions participate in study of the ocean that surrounds Antarctica and plays key role in climate regulation

Scientists from 11 institutions across the United States will meet this week at Princeton University to officially launch a \$21-million, National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded, interdisciplinary initiative to study the Southern Ocean, the sea that surrounds Antarctica.

The Southern Ocean is thought to account for 30 percent of the world's ocean area and absorbs half of the human-produced carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling program, or SOCCOM, is a six-year initiative headquartered at Princeton. In addition to NSF, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also are contributing to SOCCOM.

"SOCCOM will enable top scientists from institutions around the country to work together on Southern Ocean research in ways that would not otherwise be possible," said SOCCOM director Jorge Sarmiento, Princeton's George J.



Icebergs in the Southern Ocean near NSF's Palmer Station Credit: Kelly Jacques, NSF



Magee Professor of Geoscience and Geological Engineering and director of the Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

"The scarcity of observations in the Southern Ocean and inadequacy of earlier models, combined with its importance to the Earth's carbon and climate systems, means there is tremendous potential for groundbreaking research in this region," Sarmiento said.

Through its Division of Polar Programs, NSF manages the U.S. Antarctic Program, which coordinates all federal research on the southernmost continent and in the surrounding waters.

"Continuously encircling the Antarctic continent, the Southern Ocean, connected to the atmosphere of the entire southern hemisphere, represents the Earth as a predominantly aquatic planet," said Peter Milne, Polar Programs' Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences Program director. "In many respects simpler, this representation still underlies how much remains to be understood of how our climate works."

SOCCOM will create a biogeochemical and physical portrait of the ocean by deploying roughly 200 floats outfitted with sensors that will provide almost continuous information related to the ocean's carbon, nutrient (nitrates, in particular) and oxygen content, both at and deep beneath the surface.

The floats are augmented biogeochemical versions of the nearly 4,000 Argo floats deployed worldwide to measure ocean salinity and temperature. They will be constructed at the University of Washington with sensors from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute; NOAA's Climate Program Office will provide half of the basic Argo floats.

Float deployment, observation analysis and data assimilation will be led by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. Researchers from Oregon State University and NOAA will develop the floats' carbon algorithms. In addition, NASA will support a complementary project involving researchers at the University of Maine and Rutgers University that will equip the floats with bio-optical sensors intended to gather data about biological processes in the water column.

Source: NSF

2.6.6 2011 data show U.S. business R&D highly concentrated by state and metropolitan location - Companies in five states paid for nearly half of R&D performed in 2011

According to a new National Science Foundation (NSF) report, nearly half of the research and development (R&D) paid for and performed by companies in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia in 2011 was performed in five states: California, Washington, Texas, Massachusetts and Michigan.

Overall, companies performed \$239 billion in R&D paid for by their own company expenses in the U.S. in 2011. Large companies performed the largest amount of research and development at their primary R&D locations in the San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia, and Los Angeles-Long



Report accounts for R&D performed by companies in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia in 2011.

Credit: Thinkstock

September 2014 | Issue 76 | Page 29 of 53

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Beach combined statistical areas (CSA). These are groupings of neighboring, geographic metropolitan regions.

R&D industries represented in these areas vary, with San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland dominated by computer and electronic products manufacturers and Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia dominated by information technology and aerospace companies. Although the Los Angeles-Long Beach CSA is home to many large-R&D companies, no single industry accounts for a disproportionately large share of its R&D performance.

The findings come from NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics 2011 Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS). BRDIS allows policymakers and industry officials to gain information about worldwide R&D expenses, R&D expenses by detailed business segments and the location by industry of where the R&D is performed along with other important data.

For more information on this report, please visit NSF's <u>National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics</u> (NCSES).

Source: NSF

2.6.7 Racing ahead of disease outbreaks: \$12 million in new research grants

NSF, NIH, partners support studies of how diseases spread among humans, other animals and the environment

Ebola, MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), malaria, antibiotic-resistant infections: Is our interaction with the environment somehow responsible for their increased incidence?

The joint National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID) program is providing answers.

The EEID program supports efforts to understand the ecological and biological mechanisms behind human-induced environmental changes and the emergence and transmission of infectious diseases.

Now NSF, NIH and USDA--in collaboration with the U.K.'s Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)--have awarded more than \$12 million in new EEID grants.

"Recent outbreaks such as the Ebola and MERS viruses, as well as growing threats such as Lyme disease, demonstrate the need for fundamental understanding of pathogen movement and evolution," says Sam Scheiner, NSF program director for EEID.

"This year's EEID awards will contribute to the broader understanding of these threats the program has provided. Because of this increasing body of knowledge, we're able to respond to these new threats more efficiently and effectively."

Now in its 14th year as an interagency partnership, the program has supported 124 research projects.



Interactions between the environment and humans may foster the spread of infectious diseases.



Projects funded through the EEID program allow scientists to study how largescale environmental events--such as habitat destruction, invasions of nonnative species and pollution--alter the risks of emergence of viral, parasitic and bacterial diseases in humans and other animals.

Source: NSF

2.6.8 New grants fund cross-lifespan services research for autism spectrum disorder

Developing effective, real-world-ready approaches to providing early diagnosis, treatment, and supportive services for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the goal of 12 research grants awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). These grants are part of a broad research effort to provide models for the delivery of needed services to children, youth, and adults with ASD, across different communities and care settings, appropriate to each age and individual. NIMH is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

While research has yielded much on understanding the biology of autism, access to effective treatment and services tailored to life stages remains a challenge for people with ASD and their families. In 2013, the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services federal advisory group, developed an updated Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research which identified access to services as a central concern of individuals and families affected by ASD. To foster research on these issues, NIMH solicited applications to study models for ASD service delivery in early childhood, during the transition out of high school, and in adulthood.

Source: National Institutes of Health

2.7 Cooperation EU - Canada

2.7.1 Prime Minister to host Canada-European Union Summit

Introduction

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced that Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, will travel to Ottawa and Toronto on September 26, 2014, to take part in a Canada-European Union (EU) Summit. The Prime Minister made the announcement during a roundtable meeting with members of the Ontario business community.

The Summit will mark the beginning of a new era in Canada-EU relations as the three leaders will celebrate the historic end of negotiations of the Canada-EUTrade Agreement as well as the Strategic Partnership Agreement. The leaders will also work to advance shared interests on key international peace and security issues such as the conflicts in Ukraine, Iraq, and Syria, as well as other matters of mutual interest.



Quick Facts

The Canada-EU Trade Agreement will provide Canadian businesses with preferential market access to more than 500 million consumers.

Canadian workers in every region of the country – including in sectors such as fish and seafood; chemicals and plastics; metal and mineral products; technology; forestry and value-added wood products; automotive; advanced manufacturing; and agriculture and agri-food – will see significant benefits from increased access to the EU.

The lucrative 28-country EU market currently generates almost \$18 trillion in annual economic activity.

Quote

"The Canada-EU Summit is an occasion to mark a pivotal moment in our strong and longstanding relationship, the end of negotiations of an historic free trade agreement. This Agreement is deeper in ambition and broader in scope than any other trade agreement in Canadian history. It will reshape our commercial relationship with the world's largest market and create thousands of jobs for Canadians."— Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Source: Office of the Prime Minister

2.7.2 Minister Blaney Visits Israel to highlight cooperation on National Security and Cyber Protection

The Honourable Steven Blaney, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, issued the following statement after returning from a visit to Israel and the West Bank where he spoke at Israel's Fourth Annual International Cyber Security Conference and met with senior Israel and Palestinian officials on public safety matters of mutual interest.

"During my visit to Israel, I attended a major cyber conference in Tel Aviv that attracted experts in the field of cyber security from around the world. I spoke about our Government's ongoing efforts to protect Canadians from cyber threats and our commitment to work with our allies to collectively strengthen the resilience of global critical cyber infrastructure.

Also while in Tel Aviv, I met with Israel's Minister of Finance, Yair Lapid, and signed a <u>Declaration of Intent</u> to begin negotiations on a customs Mutual Recognition Arrangement which will enhance border and trade chain security.

I had the pleasure to meet with Yitzhak Aharonovitch, Minister of Public Security, to discuss our ministries' on-going engagement on public safety issues pursuant to the <u>Canada-Israel Declaration of Intent</u>. I also met with Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Intelligence, and Moshe Yaalon, Minister of Defence, to discuss the security situation in Israel and the broader Middle East region.

In the West Bank, Major-General Haj (Ismael) Jabir, National Security Advisor to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and I discussed the development of the Palestinian Security Forces and the Palestinian Civil Police. Brigadier



General Yousef Al-Hilou, Commander of the General Military Training Commission, provided me with a tour of the Presidential Guard Training Centre.

Our Government is committed to building a safe and secure Canada. We have been clear in our support of Israel as a great friend and ally and we look forward to working together with Israel to help protect each of our great countries from cyber threats."

Source: Public Safety Canada

2.7.3 ERA-Can+ publication: Guide to Horizon 2020 for Canadian Researchers

This guide is intended to help Canadian researchers and innovators find and take advantage of opportunities to collaborate with European colleagues in Horizon 2020, the latest Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union. It describes the program architecture, identifies specific opportunities for Canadians, Europe explains the rules and the norms in for participation and funding, how to prepare an application, negotiate grant and consortium agreements, manage a project and protect intellectual property rights.

Download links:

Online version English [~500 KB]

Online version French [~500 KB]

Source: ERA-Can+

2.7.4 M2M Summit, October 20-21, 2014- Düsseldorf, Germany

Held annually, the M2M Summit is the key German event for the Machine-to-Machine (M2M) subsector. It attracts all of the significant M2M players in the German and German-speaking markets of Austria and Switzerland including the M2M divisions of the telecommunications service providers such as Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone Germany and Swisscom.

Canada was "partner country" in 2011 and has had in cooperation with Wavefront, the Vancouver-based Centre of Excellence for Wireless Commercialization and Research, a national stand for the past 3 years. Wavefront in cooperation with the Trade Commissioner Service is planning another Canadian stand in 2014 encompassing 6 exhibitors. Canada's presence at the M2M Summit will be part of a week-long mission to Germany and two additional European markets as part of the Wavefront Global Market Linkages Program.

Cliff Singleton (cliff.singleton@international.gc.ca), Trade Commissioner responsible for the telecommunications sector in the German market, will be present at the event to support Canadian exhibitors in establishing contact with the relevant market players. He will be promoting the Canadian presence in advance of the event and be working with exhibiting companies in preparing for



their market entry. Services from the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) are offered free of charge to Canadian companies and organizations.

For more information, please consult the TCS website: http://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/eng/document.jsp?did=148130

M2M Summit: http://www.m2m-summit.com/index.php?article_id=116&clang=1

2.8 Cooperation EU – US

2.8.1 CLIMATE-KIC: US START-UP TOUR 2014 KICKS-OFF IN CALIFORNIA

Climate-KIC has today kicked off its 2014 US Start-up Tour where 13 of Europe's most promising start-ups will get a crash course in cleantech entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley and Boston.

Yesterday, most start-ups already gathered in Napa Valley, California, for a Silicon Valley 101 training by UC Berkeley's Drew Isaacs. The US Start-up Tour is a vital part of Climate-KIC's mission to create opportunities for innovators to address climate change and shape the world's next economy. This year's tour will provide participants with vital international experience, mentoring, networking and potential investment opportunities.

The project involves 13 of the most promising European start-ups, including representatives from the UK, the Netherlands and France. The start-ups are responsible for innovations ranging from smart charging technologies for electric vehicles to sensors that optimise the logistics of waste collection and environmental management software for businesses and the construction industry.

The program, co-ordinated by Climate-KIC, will see the start-ups spend the next two weeks in Silicon Valley and Boston getting a crash course cleantech entrepreneurship in two of the world's leading innovation hotspots, as well as the opportunity to pitch to some of the world's leading Venture Capital firms and meet potential partners and customers.

The tour will also encompass visits to leading universities like Berkeley, Harvard and MIT, and entrepreneurship hotspots like solar incubator SunCube in Oakland, CA, and the Cambridge Innovation Center and Greentown Labs in Cambridge, MA.

Frans Nauta, Deputy Director Entrepreneurship at Climate-KIC, stated: "Ultimately we want to see a global community of cleantech entrepreneurs and innovators. But real communities are built on trust, and trust can only be established with real-world face-to-face interaction."

"To this end our Start-up Tour programme has a vital role to play in facilitating these connections – helping to establish creative partnerships between dynamic companies across borders and regions," said Nauta.

Source: The EU Delegation in the US





2.8.2 The EU has a presence in many U.S. states through their EU Centers of Excellence, Member State Consulates, and more.

Check out the Interactive Map. http://www.euintheus.org/interactive-map/#!/?map=US

CURRENT GRANTEES - EU CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

The network of EU Centers of Excellence, housed at major research universities, promotes the study of the European Union and EU-US relations through teaching programs, scholarly research and outreach activities.

Since it was launched in 1998, the EU Centers of Excellence program has played a vital role in highlighting the importance of the transatlantic relationship and helped inform students and the public at large about the European Union.

Grants totaling €726,219.00 will fund a wide variety of activities for a one year period at the following universities:

- University of Colorado Boulder
- Florida International University and the University of Miami
- University of Illinois Champaign
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas Austin
- University of Washington –Seattle
- <u>Washington, DC, Consortium</u> (American University, George Mason University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, The Johns Hopkins University)

Visit www.euce.org for more information.

2.8.3 NSF and USAID announce global research collaboration awardees

39 new projects will use science and engineering to address global development challenges

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) today announced 39 new research projects that advance the scientific and technical capacity of both the United States and countries in critical areas of development.

The projects, spanning 23 countries, are funded through the <u>Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Science program</u>, a joint initiative designed to foster collaborative global research. Through the competitively awarded program, USAID directly supports researchers in developing countries who work with NSF-funded U.S. scientists.



"Science does not stop at the border or at the water's edge," said Jessica Robin, NSF program director for PEER. "As PEER continues to grow, both the U.S. scientific community and our foreign partners benefit. The program supports fertile collaborations that advance scientific knowledge and have the potential to improve the lives of people around the world."

These new awards total approximately \$6 million and allow scientists to collaborate on a variety of crucial research areas, such as glacier retreat and water resource sustainability, biodiversity conservation, biogas production, drought and climate change mitigation and pollution remediation. PEER Science awardees were selected from nearly 300 high-quality proposals and represent more than \$67.3 million of leveraged NSF funding through collaborations with their U.S. counterparts.

Since its launch in 2011, PEER has supported more than 150 projects in more than 40 countries, an investment of about \$18 million. Previous awardees are already seeing positive impacts from their projects: development of integrated humanitarian logistics systems in Colombia, improved yam seed systems in Nigeria, reduced exposure to arsenic and fluoride in groundwater in India and assessment of volcanic hazards in Armenia.

The <u>39 new PEER awards</u> include a project in East Africa that will map multiple geothermal areas and identify new forms of geothermal activity across Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya. The project will work to build a strong regional framework for scientific and technological exchange, while empowering and educating local pastoral communities.

"We are thrilled to watch the network of PEER researchers grow," said Andrew Sisson, acting executive director of the U.S. Global Development Lab at USAID. "The promise of PEER lies not only in the discovery of new data and knowledge in support of USAID's development objectives, but also in strengthening the research capacity and capabilities of the researcher communities in countries where we work, in turn strengthening our connection to local expertise."

The fourth call for PEER proposals is expected to be announced in early October 2014.

The <u>U.S. Global Development Lab</u> supports breakthrough solutions in water, health, food security and nutrition, energy, education and climate change to help end extreme poverty by 2030. The Lab represents a new way of working at USAID, engaging a global community of inventors, academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and corporate leaders in science and technology to invent, test and scale the most promising and cost effective solutions to end extreme poverty.

Source: NSF



3 Grants & Fellowships

3.1 Europe





Open calls

Call identifier	Call title	Publication date	Deadline
H2020-MSCA-	COFUND - CO-	10 April 2014	02 October 2014
COFUND-2014	FUNDING OF	-	
	REGIONAL,		
	NATIONAL AND		
	INTERNATIONAL		
	PROGRAMS		

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 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

3.1.4 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 Proof of Concept | ERC-2014-PoC

Deadline Date: 1 October 2014

Forthcoming call:

- ERC Advanced Grant | ERC-2014-AdG



Deadline Date: 21 October 2014

3.1.5 Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one or twoyear fellowships to post-docs 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.

Deadline Date: 31 October 2014

More information

3.1.6 EMBO: Fellowships

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.

Short-Term Fellowships - applications accepted throughout the year

3.1.7 European Respiratory Society/EU RESPIRE2 post-doctoral Marie Curie Fellowship

ERS/EU RESPIRE2 post-doctoral 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.

2nd round: 31 October 2014 (call to be launched during summer 2014)

More information

3.1.8 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.



3.2 EU Member States and Associated Countries

3.2.1 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

3.2.2 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 - Deadlines

Applications are accepted at any time for the ISTFELLOW 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.

More information

3.2.3 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

3.2.4 Austria: Marietta Blau Outgoing Grant

The Marietta Blau Grant offers financial support for carrying out the abroad part (6-12 months) of a doctoral programme at Austrian universities. The grant enables scientific research worldwide. The grant is for highly qualified doctoral candidates in all research fields enrolled at an Austrian university. It funds specific longer term research stay abroad and experience in an international



^{*} IST FELLOW is partially funded by the European Union



research environment with monthly grants of 1200 Euros. The next closing date for application is **1st of February 2015**.

Further details available here.

3.2.5 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

3.2.6 Belgium: Postdoc fellowships to non-EU researchers

The stimulation of international mobility and the attraction of researchers from abroad is one of the priorities of the European Research Area.

In this context and intending to stimulate the S&T cooperation, the Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) implements a fellowship scheme for highly qualified non EU researchers (i.e. postdoctoral level or equivalent experience), granting them an opportunity to work during 6 to 18 months in a Belgian research team.

More information

3.2.7 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. activities 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 the process to develop international collaborations. Requests should be received at least eight weeks in advance of the proposed visit.

More information

3.2.8 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

3.2.9 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



master's degree and doctoral degree, but some bachelor degree scholarships are also possible.

More information





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 post-doctoral 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

3.2.11 Finland: Säätiöiden post doc - pooli - the Foundations' Post Doc Pool

Säätiöiden post doc -pooli ("the Foundations' Post Doc Pool") is a grant resource set up by Finnish foundations and intended for post-doctoral research abroad.

The Pool's aim is to make Finnish research more international by offering young scholars flexible funding from one source that covers all expenses of a research period abroad for at least one academic year.

Säätiöiden post doc -pooli has two application rounds per year. The spring application round takes place in December-January and the autumn application round in August-September.

The pool grants are intended only for sending researchers abroad from Finland. The pool grants are not intended for subsidizing researchers' mobility from other countries to Finland.

More information

3.2.12 France: Overview of research exchange programs

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.



3.2.13 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 they have chosen themselves 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

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

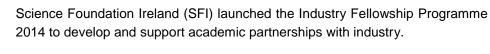
DLR – DAAD Research Fellowships is a new programme implemented by the 'Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt' (DLR) and the 'German Academic Exchange Service' (DAAD).

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. There are currently open positions in Aeronautics; Space; Transportation; Energy. The application deadline depends on the offer.

More information

3.2.15 Ireland: Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Industry Fellowship Programme 2014



The purpose of the Industry Fellowship Programme is to **facilitate exchanges between academia and industry** to stimulate excellence through knowledge transfer and training, thereby building critical mass in areas of strategic importance for Ireland and enabling economic and societal challenges to be tackled.

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 be for between 1 and 12 months in duration if full time or for up to 24 months if part time. The maximum Industry Fellowship award amount is €120,000 direct costs.

Proposals can be submitted at any time but the deadline for the proposal to be evaluated during the next assessment round is **10th December 2014**.

More information available on the SFI website.

3.2.16 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

3.2.17 Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR): ATTRACT 2015

The ATTRACT programme by the National Research Fund (FNR) aims to support the Luxembourgish research institutions to expand their competences in strategic research areas by attracting outstanding young researchers with high potential to Luxembourg.

The programme is designed for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg; it offers them the opportunity to set up an independent research team within a public-sector research institution in Luxembourg that is willing to host them. Research proposals should be submitted jointly by the candidate and the host institution which has to provide a clear and attractive career track to the candidate.

Next deadline: **12 January 2015** (Joint Submission by the candidate and the Luxembourg host research institution of a Pre-Proposal)

More information

3.2.18 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.



3.2.19 Netherlands: The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW): Visiting Professors Program (VPP)

The Visiting Professors Programme enables outstanding foreign researchers to spend time working in the Netherlands. The programme acts as an incentive for Dutch science and scholarship.

Next deadline: 1 November 2014

More information

3.2.20 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

3.2.21 Norway: The American Scandinavian Foundation: Fellowship/Grants to study in Scandinavia



The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) offers fellowships (up to \$23,000) and grants (up to \$5,000) to individuals to pursue research, study or creative arts projects in one or more Scandinavian country for up to one year. The number of awards varies each year according to total funds available. Awards are made in all fields.

Next deadline: 1 November 2014

More information

3.2.22 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: START Program

The START scholarship is an award for the most talented young researchers, presented in recognition of their accomplishments to date.

Next deadline: 31 October 2014

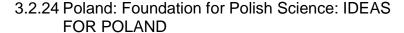
More information

3.2.23 Poland: Foundation for Polish Science: KOLUMB – supporting grants

Programme – supporting grants is an additional offer for the KOLUMB programme laureates (till 2009 edition). The aim of the grant is to enable young researchers to take a full advantage of gained knowledge and skills during the further work in Polish research institutions.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.







Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic 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 they are highly independent as researchers and warrants they will conduct world-class quality research.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

More information

3.2.25 Slovakia: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic: National scholarship program of the Slovak Republic – Study/Research Stay for PhD Students (1-12 months)

Next deadline: 31 October 2014

More information

3.2.26 Slovakia: Ministry of Education, Science,
Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic:
National scholarship program of the Slovak
Republic – Teaching/Research/Artistic Stay for
University Teachers, Researchers and Artists (112 months)

Next deadline: 31 October 2014

More information

3.2.27 Sweden: Swedish Research Council – Grants for international recruitment of leading researchers

The aim oft he grant is to provide an opportunity for Swedish higher education institutions to recruit leading international researchers to Sweden with a long-term perspective.

The grant has to be applied by a Swedish HEI but the researcher recruited shall be interenationally recognized and leading withing hir or her research field.

Next deadline: 28 October 2014

More information

3.2.28 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 (called opened on 17 September 2014)

More information

September 2014 | Issue 76 | Page 45 of 53



3.2.29 Turkey: TÜBITAK: 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.

Next deadline: 31 October 2014

More information

3.2.30 Turkey: TÜBITAK: 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 Industry in TURKEY, the 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

3.2.31 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. This scheme is not intended to support continued research between a UK applicant and co-applicant who was a former colleague or PhD student or to support other existing or recent collaborations between the applicant and co-applicant. Rather, the scheme is intended to stimulate new collaborations between scientists in the UK and overseas.

Next deadline: 21 October 2014

More information

3.2.32 United Kingdom: BBSRC: United States Partnering Awards

The aim of this award is to set up partnership links between UK ans overseas laboratories, to promote the exchange of scientists, particularly early career scientists and to promote access to facilities.

Next deadline: 13 November 2014



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

The aim ist o 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 currentyl OPEN - apply any time

More information

3.2.34 United Kingdom: BBSRC: David Phillips Fellowships

Awards are for 5 years, up to 5 are available, and include personal salary and a significant research support grant. Applications are welcome from candidates seeking flexible working arrangements (e.g. part-time).

Next deadline: 5 November 2014

More information

3.3 United States of America

3.3.1 International Collaborative Research Grants -The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc.

The International Collaborative Research Grant (ICRG) supports international research collaborations between two or more qualified scholars, where the principal investigators bring different and complementary perspectives, knowledge, and/or skills to the project. Supplemental funds are also available to provide essential training for academic research participants in ICRG-funded projects (co-applicants, students, as well as other professional colleagues). By encouraging international collaborations, the grant contributes to the development of an international anthropology that values and incorporates different national perspectives and resources. By providing training funds, the grant helps to build capacity in countries were anthropology may be underresourced.

The grants are for a maximum of \$30,000 for the research project. Proposals which include the optional training element can have an increased funding request up to a maximum of \$35,000, of which no more than \$10,000 can be for essential training purposes. Principal Investigators must hold a doctorate or equivalent in anthropology or a related discipline.

Applicants must submit application materials using the Foundation's online application submission procedure as well as send printed copies of these materials to the Foundation by regular mail.

Application deadlines for International Collaborative Research Grants are June 1 and December 1. The June 1 deadline is for applicants requesting funding starting in January through June of the following year. The December 1 deadline is for applicants requesting funding starting in July through December of the following year.

The Wenner-Gren Foundation



Final decisions are made six months after the application deadlines.

Questions about this program should be e-mailed to: internationalprograms@wennergren.org

For more detailed information on eligibility, requirements and application procedures, please refer to the link below:

http://www.wennergren.org/programs/international-collaborative-research-grants

3.4 Databases and Further Information

3.4.1 Austria: Database of scholarships and research grants available

Austria's most comprehensive database for scholarships and research grants in German and English language offers an overview of about 1200 funding opportunities for incoming and outgoing researchers, graduates and students.

More information

3.4.2 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.

3.4.3 Belgium: a comprehensive webportal

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

Further information

3.4.4 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

3.4.5 Canada: Government of Canada - International scholarship

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

<u>For Canadians</u>: Learn about opportunities for graduate study and research abroad



<u>For Non-Canadians</u>: Learn about opportunities for study and research in Canada

3.4.6 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

3.4.7 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 <u>guide</u> to Danish funding programmes. Innovation Centre Denmark, Silicon Valley, provides you with information about Danish research environment and funding opportunities.

More information

3.4.8 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

3.4.9 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 <u>funding agencies</u>.

3.4.10 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 \in 1,700 / month (1300 \in net).



3.4.11 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

3.4.12 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 post-doctoral 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

3.4.13 UK: EURAXESS Jobs portal: Individual Fellowship Opportunities

More information

EURAXESS National Fellowships&Grants

3.4.14 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, post docs, and junior faculty across borders.

More information

See the list of the International Funding Opportunities at NSF:

http://www.nsf.gov/od/iia/ise/index.jsp



4 Jobs

4.1 EURAXESS Portal

There are currently about 8,700 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 <u>EURAXESS Jobs</u> 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.

4.2 Other Research Career Sites

4.2.1 Canada

Career opportunities in Canada: <u>National Research Council Canada</u> and careers

4.2.2 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/

4.2.3 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 <u>Graduate students</u>

NSF guidance of funding opportunities for Postdoctoral fellows

Funding opportunities at researchusa.com



5 Events

5.1 Europe: Forthcoming events

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link to the event
3 rd GRF One Health Summit 2014	5-8 October 2014	Davos, Switzerland	Global Risk Forum	<u>Link</u>
ICT Proposers' Day 2014	9-10 October 2014	Florence, Italy	European Commission	<u>Link</u>
International Conference on Cultural Heritage – EuroMed 2014	3-8 November 2014	Limassol, Cyprus	European Commission	<u>Link</u>
6 th European Innovation Summit	17-20 November 2014	Brussels, Belgium	Knowledge4innovation	<u>Link</u>
EU2014 Conference on the Empowerment of the Next Generation of Researchers "Promoting talents, spreading excellence"	18-19 November 2014	Trento, Italy	Italian Presidency	<u>Link</u>
FTA Conference (Future oriented- technology analysis)	27-28 November 2014	Brussels, Belgium	JRC	<u>Link</u>
Global Soil Biodiversity Conference	2-5 December 2014	Dijon, France	Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative & EcoFINDERS	<u>Link</u>

5.2 North America: Forthcoming events

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link to the event
Austrian Research and Innovation Talk 2014	10-11 October 2014	Boston, MA, USA	OSTA - Office of Science and Technology, Austria	<u>Link</u>
Destination Europe Conference	17 October 2014	GeorgiaTech, Atlanta, GA, USA	European Commission, Member States	<u>Link</u>
16 th Annual NIH SBIR/STTR Conference	21-23 October 2014	Albuquerque, NM, USA	NIH	<u>Link</u>
EURAXESS Science Slam 2014	22 October 2014	MaRS, Toronto, ON, Canada	EURAXESS Links North America and MaRS Discovery Disctrict	<u>Link</u>
Neuroscience 2014 Conference	15-19 November 2014	Washington, DC, USA	Society for Neuroscience	<u>Link</u>



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!

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