

EURAXESS Korea Quarterly Newsletter Issue 12 Q1 2021



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the first three months of 2021, the globalized world has been continuedly struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I believe that with the vaccination process carried out all over the world we can start to be optimistic and timidly look forward to entering the so-called post-COVID era.

In this year's first edition of the EURAXESS Korea newsletter, we explore a small but diverse and full of surprises member of the European Research Area – Slovenia. Research and science has always been an important part of Slovenian society – a predecessor of today's Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts was established in 1693. I then give you a close look into Horizon Europe – the most ambitious program for research and innovation ever implemented. The program was officially launched on February 2, 2021, at an international virtual conference organized by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the years 2021-2027 Horizon Europe's beneficiaries will receive 95.5 billion Euro. Lastly, I encourage you to explore the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) which is the European Commission's primary source of results from the projects funded by Horizon Europe predecessors.

I wish you health and success with all your undertakings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomasz Wierzbowski".

- *Tomasz Wierzbowski*, EURAXESS Korea Coordinator

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Content in this quarterly newsletter includes pieces produced by
EURAXESS Worldwide Team

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EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to researchers mobility and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 42 countries, each of which will be profiled in our quarterly e-newsletters.

In this edition, we will zoom on Slovenia



Capital: Ljubljana

Area: 20,271 km²

Population: 2.081 million (2019), 83% Slovene

Language: Slovenian, Italian and Hungarian (co-official languages) with English widely spoken

Currency: EURO

Unemployment rate: 4.2%

GDP per capita: 25,946 USD (2019)

Funds for R&D activities in Slovenia around 2% of GDP

Discover Slovenia at www.slovenia.info/en

Main research institutes:

[The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#)

[ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#)

[Jožef Stefan Institute](#)

[National Institute of Chemistry](#)

EURAXESS members in focus: Slovenia

Slovenians like to joke that it is the only country in the world with *love* in its name! It is a small yet diverse, green and safe country for the 2 million people who call it home. As a multicultural and multilingual society, Slovenia is seen as a welcoming place to all. Visitors can enjoy the seaside, mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, vineyards, and many historical and cultural sites. Slovenia is also well positioned geographically with neighbours Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia.

As home to six universities and 16 public research institutes, there are many opportunities for researchers in various disciplines. There are visible research successes in many disciplines, ranging from medicine to nanotechnology, social sciences, engineering, artificial intelligence, environmental sciences and so on.

Research and science has always been an important part of Slovenian society – a predecessor of today's Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, *Academia Operosorum Labacensium*, was established in 1693 in Ljubljana.

Today, there are 15,327 researchers working in 989 research organisations, organised in 1581 research groups and working on 6703 projects.ⁱ

According to the 2017 Better Life Index by the OECD, Slovenia performed well in several measures of well-being, ranking above the average in job and earnings, housing, health status, social connections, education and skills, work-life balance, environmental quality, and personal security.

Slovenia is proud of its low income inequality and high record of tertiary education among the adult population (33%), offering a high quality and accessible education, social and healthcare system.ⁱⁱ

The national research and innovation (R&I) strategy is currently being revised. The main ministries involved are the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Economics with their agencies and public bodies.

The most relevant funding agency is the [Slovenian Research Agency](#), a public funding organisation that performs tasks related to the national research and development programme and the European Research Area. Among many of its activities, the agency promotes international cooperation and funding.

In general, the Slovene R&I strategy is very much focused on responding to the needs of society and international cooperation, while encouraging co-creation and greater involvement by relevant stakeholders.

Backed by stable funding, this strategy aims to enhance the attractiveness and value of researchers' work through supporting infrastructure and efficient and fair conditions.



<https://www.euraxess.si/>

Slovenia's network of EURAXESS contact points and centres are served by eight main universities and research institutes.

Largest universities:

[University of Ljubljana](#)

[University of Maribor](#)

[University of Primorska/](#)

[Univeršitá del Litorale](#)

[University of Nova Gorica](#)



Josef Stefan



Slovenia's National Agency, [CMEPIUS](#), is closely linked to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and responsible for the implementation of Erasmus+ programme, one of EU's largest programmes in the field of education, training, youth and sport. It is also responsible for the coordination of the Slovenian EURAXESS network of service centres and contact points, to assist international researchers and their families. It has a special EURAXESS portal for Slovenia, where researchers can find information about working and living in the country.

[EURAXESS Slovenia](#) is dedicated to enhancing its own skills to improve the services it offers to international researchers, assisting them while moving to Slovenia, searching for a job, funding or partners, as well as providing support with practical matters. It cooperates closely with relevant ministries, local authorities and embassies to make international mobility easier. The Slovenian branch is part of a larger pan-European network, cooperating in various projects and activities, exchanging valuable knowledge and experiences.

EURAXESS creates synergies with many other educational programmes and initiatives such as 'Study in Slovenia', a network of Slovene universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) which aims to promote Slovenia as a study destination. There is a comprehensive [Study in Slovenia website](#), supported by social media, promoting Slovenian institutions and the quality of education, research and life.

Main Slovene research institutions

The [University of Ljubljana](#) is the largest and oldest HEI. It is internationally recognised for the high calibre of its scientific and research output. Its research and artistic activities are carried out at faculties and academies covering all research and artistic fields. In 2018, it established the Research and Development Centre of the University of Ljubljana linking various fields of research.

The [Jožef Stefan Institute](#) is the leading Slovenian scientific research centre, covering a broad spectrum of basic and applied research. The staff of about 1050 specialises in natural sciences, life sciences and engineering. Physicist and mathematician [Jožef Stefan](#) (1835-1893) discovered the law of light radiation, which is now called [Stefan's Law](#).

Funded in 1938, the [Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#) is the supreme national institution of sciences and arts. In 1693, the predecessor of the present-day Academy, the *Academia Operosorum*, was founded in Ljubljana (i.e. the same century as the *Académie française*, the Royal Society in London, and the *Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher in Schweinfurt*, or Leopoldina).

The [University of Maribor](#) has an ambitious development strategy focusing on sustainable, socially responsible and high-quality research. The university is committed to excellence in research and to building and maintaining a strong international profile in the wider research space.

Why Slovenia?

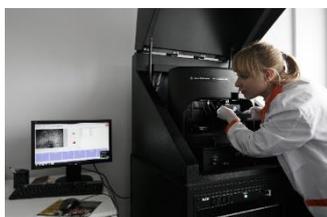


The best people to answer this question are researchers who have already experienced working and living in the country.

[Julian Ascencio Vasquez](#) came from Chile to do his research at University of Ljubljana with the help of the EURAXESS portal. He says he very much appreciates the supporting environment he found himself in.

[Mike Burnard](#) came to the University of Primorska from Oregon, USA. He says that university-industry cooperation is solid, and there is funding available which meant he was able to create his own research environment. Slovenians have been welcoming hosts and he feels well integrated.

[Fayruza Ismagilova](#) is Russian but has no problems communicating with locals in English about everything. Her initial lectures in Slovenia soon grew into more international cooperation and projects, and she finds living in Slovenia very friendly.



Many international researchers that have found their place in Slovenia highly value the quality of life, dedication and cooperation among research teams, excellent infrastructure, tight links with industry, funding opportunities, as well as the support given by the host institutions.

All of the universities and research centres focus on cooperation with industry through joint projects, start-ups, spin-offs, and other forms of cooperation, making their shared work relevant and beneficial to society.



Slovenia certainly has a lot of potential and it is well worth exploring the mainstream as well as more niche disciplines, projects and developments. Some international researchers decide to stay, others leave and become bridges between countries and ambassadors of bilateral cooperation. Either way, it is a win-win situation for all.



ⁱ (Source: Slovenian Current Research Information System - SICRIS).

ⁱⁱ www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/country-statistical-profile-slovenia-2021-1_g2g9eb52-en

ⁱⁱⁱ Photos provided by EURAXESS and Study in Slovenia members, Slovenia.info and Wikipedia

HORIZON EUROPE

As Horizon Europe gears up, EURAXESS WORLDWIDE takes a closer look at the international dimension and what stronger cooperation means for mobile researchers who take the plunge.

What is Horizon Europe?

Despite its name, Horizon Europe (HE) has a decidedly international flavour that extends way beyond the European continent. Running from 2021 to 2027 and with a budget of €95.5 billion – including €5.4 billion for the Next Generation of the EU ‘Recovery Fund’ – HE is the EU’s main funding programme for research and innovation.

Horizon Europe offers a number of new opportunities for international research cooperation. Take the European Research Council (ERC), for example, which has already issued, on 25 February, the [first call](#) under the Horizon Europe banner. This call sets aside €619 million of its €16 billion total HE budget for ‘starting grants’ to help top researchers get their own research team or programme up and running. That call’s deadline is 8 April!

What matters most here is the calibre of the research and here there is good news for international researchers: “The ERC offers grants to top researchers from anywhere in the world who are ready to come or to stay in Europe to pursue their breakthrough scientific and technological discoveries that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and social innovations of the future.”

On 15 March, the European Commission published its [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#) (2021-2024). This plan sets out the key directions that European research and innovation will take over the coming years, including a specific focus on international cooperation. It elaborates on a number of co-designed societal missions and how the EU can achieve other priorities including a climate-neutral and green economy which is “fit for the digital age and works for the people”.

For the uninitiated, Horizon Europe has three main strands: Pillar I prioritises excellent science, scientists and infrastructure; Pillar II addresses global challenges and European industrial competitiveness; and Pillar III concentrates on stimulating innovation. Horizontal actions explore ways to widen participation and strengthen the European Research Area (ERA), and other priorities.

This is also where EURAXESS and its international cooperation role comes into play, linking and promoting ERA as a single research destination (for incoming mobility and collaboration) from the rest of the science world – so-called third-countries not ‘associated’ with the framework programmes, i.e. Horizon Europe and its predecessors.



Worldwide endeavour

The science community's rapid response to Covid-19 and the EU's commitments to meet global challenges and build a resilient 'green and digital' economy through the Green Deal, Recovery Facility and other initiatives show what a connected community is capable of achieving. It also underlines the importance of **cooperating with the rest of the world**.

A dedicated platform for international researchers

EURAXESS WORLDWIDE is a networking platform and reliable source of information and ideas on research and innovation jobs, funding and hosting opportunities in Europe, helping talented European and international researchers explore and create transnational ties with researchers, employers and scientific communities, and develop careers within the global R&I system.



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC in a nutshell

The European Research Council offers grants through open competitions to projects headed by early-stage and established researchers. As its sole selection criterion is scientific excellence, it strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come and stay in Europe. So far, the ERC has funded over 9,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers, and over 70,000 postdoctoral fellows, PhD students and other staff working in their research teams. An independent review in 2020 found that some 80% of projects funded are scientific breakthroughs or major advances, showing the outstanding quality of this EU-funded research.

Lean more: erc.europa.eu
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>

"International cooperation is a common priority throughout Horizon Europe," according to a [fact sheet](#) produced by DG RTD to explain the main thrusts of its new Strategic Plan. "It is essential for tackling many global challenges and therefore underpins all four key strategic orientations."

International cooperation is also a **key enabler**, providing valuable access to resources, infrastructure, know-how, value chains and markets outside the EU. The fact sheet points out that: "The EU will balance openness with the need to safeguard its interests in strategic areas and act in accordance with its high standards and principles."

Clearly, global challenges call for international scientific responses. EURAXESS and its worldwide hubs and networks have a vital role to play in delivering the skills and making mobility and knowledge exchange as simple and enjoyable as possible. Take the plunge!

Contact your nearest branch: euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide

How to look for EU funded projects (CORDIS)

Are you keen on submitting a candidacy to a MSCA Individual Fellowship, an ERC grant or any other Horizon 2020 call?

We suggest you have a look at the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) which is the European Commission's primary source of results from the projects funded by the EU's framework programmes for research and innovation (FP1 to Horizon 2020 and now Horizon Europe). CORDIS articles are classified by high-level domains that reflect where the research results could be applied, independently of their field of science. CORDIS mission is to bring research results to professionals in the field to foster open science, create innovative products and services and stimulate growth across Europe.

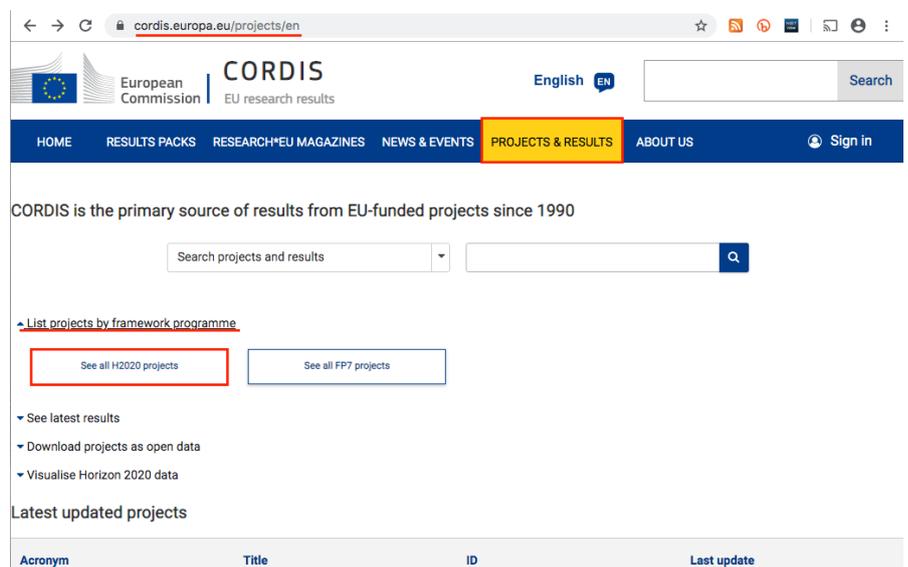
CORDIS has a rich and structured public repository with all project information held by the European Commission such as project factsheets, participants, reports, deliverables and links to open-access publications.

CORDIS also produces its own range of publications and articles to make it easier for you to find relevant results that you can use in your domain. The print editions are in English while the web versions are also available in French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish.

CORDIS is managed by the [Publications Office of the European Union](#) on behalf of the [European Commission's research and innovation](#) Directorates-General, Executive Agencies and Joint Undertakings, supported by specialised contractors for editorial, data and technical services.

CORDIS is one of the cornerstones of the Commission's strategy to disseminate and exploit research results and it is governed and funded as part of the [Horizon 2020 framework programme](#).

Go to: <https://cordis.europa.eu/about/en> and follow the red signs:



The screenshot shows the CORDIS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text 'CORDIS EU research results'. The language is set to English. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a menu with options: HOME, RESULTS PACKS, RESEARCH*EU MAGAZINES, NEWS & EVENTS, PROJECTS & RESULTS (highlighted in yellow), and ABOUT US. A 'Sign in' button is also present. The main content area features a search bar with the text 'Search projects and results' and a search icon. Below the search bar, there is a link to 'List projects by framework programme' and two buttons: 'See all H2020 projects' (highlighted with a red border) and 'See all FP7 projects'. There are also links for 'See latest results', 'Download projects as open data', and 'Visualise Horizon 2020 data'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Latest updated projects' with a table header containing columns for 'Acronym', 'Title', 'ID', and 'Last update'.



EURAXESS Korea links researchers in Korea with Europe.
Join our community of researchers and get the newest information about
funding, jobs, and many more!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

