

**EURAXESS Korea
Quarterly
Newsletter
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Dear Colleagues,

As spring finally bloomed in Korea, we are pleased to see growing interest in EURAXESS activities. While life in Korea is slowly returning to normal, we decided to keep our work in-person as well as online to involve more researchers from different parts of Korea and Europe. As we look to summer, we hope to contribute to expanding our networks.

In the first edition of 2022, we look closely into an island country situated right in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, often referred to as an open-air museum – Malta.

We then explore the nexus between open science developments and its important links with the global learning environment. We outline the EU's open science policy ambitions and approaches under major research programmes and introduce readers to a planned new learning management system. This feature will be continued in the next quarterly newsletter.

Lastly, we introduce you to a one-stop-shop for information and support services to Ukraine-based researchers and researchers fleeing Ukraine - 'European Research Area for Ukraine' (ERA4Ukraine).

Tomasz Wierzbowski.

- Tomasz Wierzbowski, EURAXESS Korea Representative

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EURAXESS members in focus: MALTA

Malta at a glance

The Republic of Malta is an island country situated right in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, yet close to the European mainland. With its rich history, dating back to 5,000 BCE, Malta is often referred to as an open-air museum. Along with its history and heritage, Malta offers 300 days of sunshine, sea-sculpted shores, azure waters and delicious Mediterranean cuisine. The island's lifestyle is modern and welcoming, providing a good base for families. Malta has excellent local and international public and private education, with all schools teaching in English. English is one of the two official languages, along with Maltese.

Malta is considered as one of the safest countries in the world, especially when it comes to natural disasters and crime according to the 2018 edition of the World Risk Report.

In recent years, Malta has experienced above average economic growth and has been ranked as the fastest growing economy in the Eurozone for the first half of 2018.

With efficient support features in place, the island is also an attractive place for business. The government understands that a healthy private sector and an overall pro-investment climate contributes to the country's sustainable development.

Moreover, Malta is on its route to becoming a leading innovation island. It has made important strides in key technological areas by establishing the first regulatory framework for Block Chain, Cryptocurrency and Distributed Ledger Technology.

EURAXESS Malta has produced a video that gives a brief overview of the Maltese science, technology and innovation landscape. **Watch the video [here](#).**

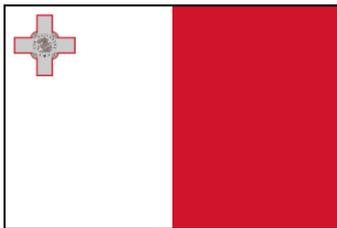
Maltese Policy, Strategy and Funding opportunities

The [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) (MCST) is the governmental body responsible for Research and Innovation (R&I), space, science and technology in Malta. MCST is responsible for the [National R&I Strategy](#), the [National Action Plan](#) and the [National Space Policy](#).

Being the official contact point for the EU Framework programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) and the PRIMA initiative, MCST is also the managing body of the national funds for research, namely the FUSION programme and the Space Research Fund. MCST has a team of

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers 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 Malta



[Research and Innovation
Landscape of Malta](#)

[VIDEO]



National Contact Points ready to assist you in finding relevant partners, applying for funding or resolving your project related queries.

MCST regularly publishes calls for proposals under various funding mechanisms, some of which are highlighted below:

[FUSION](#), a National Funding Programme, is supported through Malta Government funds and managed by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. The main objectives of FUSION are: to raise the level and profile of locally funded research; to ingrain research and innovation at the heart of the Maltese economy; to spur knowledge-driven and value-added growth and to sustain improvements in the quality of life.

[IPAS+](#) provides researchers with two options:

- Option A aims to foster mutually beneficial international relationships between local R&I-performing academic or private entities and foreign counterparts.
- Option B provides opportunities for Maltese entities intending to submit a Horizon 2020 (H2020) proposal as the coordinator of a consortium to engage a service provider (local or foreign) who will be supporting the applicant through proposal writing and submission.

The [Space Research Fund](#) provides financial support for research, development and innovation in the downstream Satellite Earth Observation (EO) sector, specifically projects that deal with the processing and exploitation of data collected through EO satellites.

Malta's research landscape

The [University of Malta](#) (UM) is the highest teaching and research institution in Malta and was founded in 1769. It is a publicly funded institution and caters for 11,000 students which include over 1,000 international students from 92 different countries and comprises over 1,000 academics, and approximately 800 technical and administrative staff. The UM is made up of 14 Faculties and a number of interdisciplinary Institutes, Centres and Schools. The UM is actively participating in MSCA projects and proposals.

The [Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology](#) (MCAST) is a vocational education and training institution. Established in 2001, MCAST offers 180 full-time and over 300 part-time vocational courses ranging from certificates to Master degrees.

[Malta Enterprise](#) is the country's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment as well as facilitating the growth of existing operations. The agency has developed various R&I incentives for the promotion and expansion of industry and the development of innovative enterprises.

The [Malta Life Sciences Park](#) (MLSP) provides an international class facility for life sciences and information technology development. The MLSP is



Valletta (source: shutterstock)



Marsaxlokk (source: shutterstock)

designed to promote research and development and to spur the growth of the life sciences sector in Malta, building on the base that the country developed in the pharmaceutical industry during the last decade.

Based at the University of Malta, [TAKEOFF](#) is Malta's first technology business incubator. The programme is specifically designed to help innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs create successful science, technology, engineering, creative media and knowledge-based startup business – taking them from idea to investment and, well, to takeoff.

Malta is also home of a number of private companies which main core is research and development in various sectors.

Upcoming developments:

- Construction of new center of excellence for aircraft maintenance which will include ground breaking facilities.
- A state-of-the-art laboratory dedicated to medical cannabis research is being set up in Malta as a result of a memorandum of understanding between Malta Enterprise and the La Sapienza University of Rome.

EURAXESS in Malta – ready to support you!

[EURAXESS Malta](#) is hosted by the [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#) and is ready to assist you if you choose Malta as your host country or you would like to cooperate with Maltese researchers!

[PlumTri](#) acts as a platform that facilitates networking and knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders in the Mediterranean, involved in the spheres of research and innovation and serves as a 'one-stop-shop' for information on relevant funding opportunities and events in the EuroMed region.

Be part of Malta's Research and Innovation landscape!



HOT TOPIC: OPEN TO LEARN

Where open science meets the world of learning

The main feature in this edition of EURAXESS Korea newsletter explores the nexus between open science developments and its important links with the global learning environment. We outline the EU's open science policy ambitions and approaches under major research programmes and introduce readers to a planned new learning management system by the OpenAIRE portal.

Emerging out open-source software and IT developments, scientific, learning and publishing communities today have become the vanguard of a growing movement that seeks to promote democracy through unobstructed access to information.

It is a grand vision which somehow helps us understand the power of emotions that open-access evokes within the scientific community and beyond. Open-science and open-learning principles are now firmly grounded in public policy and spurred on by rapid developments in the digital sphere, including numerous cloud facilities, massive advances in online learning tools and courses, such as [MOOCs](#), and myriad other platforms and services – both public- and private-backed – to meet the growing demand for sharing and learning all manner of subjects including science.

Tackling misinformation about Covid-19 has further underlined the importance of up-to-date scientific data delivered through reliable channels by respected people – often the researcher or scientist him- or herself. The public has also recognised the power of collaboration and co-creation in developing rapid solutions to the pandemic, from novel vaccines to advanced testing and containment regimes.

The EU's current flagship research programme, Horizon Europe, has been called the “most open” to date. Its main pillars prioritise i) excellent science, scientists and infrastructure, ii) global challenges and European industrial competitiveness, and iii) innovation drivers. Cross-cutting actions explore ways to boost the European Research Area ([ERA](#)) through stronger international linkages. And here, EURAXESS and its Worldwide hubs play a major role in promoting the programme and its principles of open science, open movement, and the freedom to promote positive scientific developments.

Horizon Europe includes a pre-condition requiring funded researchers/organisations to pursue open science practices. This means “sharing research outputs as early and widely as possible”, but also encouraging citizen science, wide public consultation, and co-creation in research developments. It also calls for new indicators aimed at evaluating research impacts and rewarding researchers.

The programme stresses that funded researchers or their organisations retain the intellectual property rights they need to comply with their open access obligations. And it requires research data to be “open by default” while considering commercial rights, where relevant.

The EU-backed European Open Science Cloud ([EOSC](#)) helps European and international researchers meet growing demands for open science collaboration, and platforms like [OpenAIRE](#), [PLOS](#) and other channels make up a growing ecosystem of democratic open-access research publishing and information-sharing services that empower researchers.

With so much invested and resting on the shoulders of EU-funded projects, the EU is keen to track developments and progress in open science throughout Europe and among global partner countries. Its [Open Science Monitor](#) is building a solid database observing trends and indicators.

What is open science?

“Open science is the movement to make scientific research and its dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional. Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks.” ([Wiki](#))

“Open science is based on the principle of openness and transparency in the whole research cycle, fostering sharing and collaboration as early as possible. Open and transparent practices accelerate the research process at an unprecedented speed and they reinforce core academic values, such as research integrity, cooperation and knowledge sharing. Open science is also key to increasing public trust in science and as a means to spark interest and foster the public’s participation in research activities.” ([European University Association](#))

An open-spirited policy

The European Union has established itself as a pioneer and keeper of the faith through its well-developed open-science policies built around open data which is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable ([FAIR](#)) and new-generation metrics to monitor and do justice to open-science practices.

The EU also promotes so-called “mutual learning exercises” to develop alternative metrics (i.e. [Altmetrics](#)) for specific research and innovation challenges of interest to several EU countries and associated countries, which typically draw on project-based exchanges of good practice and measure the qualities and impact of research outcomes, but also rewards for researchers to further engage in open-science activities.

A key pillar of open-access is ensuring that research findings are not locked behind paywalls. Peer-reviewed scientific publications should be freely accessible and the EU encourages the “early sharing of different kinds of research outputs”. It also wants to see research career evaluation systems better acknowledging and motivating the use of open-science tools. It believes that all publicly funded research in the EU should adhere to commonly agreed standards of research integrity, which means their R&I activities “should be reproducible”, among other qualities.

The link to education and skills in all this clear, according to the EU: “All scientists in Europe should have the necessary skills and support to apply open-science research routines and practices.” Co-creation comes in here too, with greater encouragement of citizen science a cornerstone of future science data-gathering and observation in fields such as marine pollution monitoring and earth observation.

Other EU research-oriented programmes and facilities are also highly attuned to open principles. The European Research Council’s ([ERC](#)) mission is to foster new ideas and knowledge through excellent scientific findings, and thus having them published in peer-reviewed articles and monographs is critical. The ERC therefore considers that “free online access



to these materials is the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read, and used”.

Meanwhile, in another demonstration of open science, the Commission’s Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)) is known for opening its labs and facilities to people working in academia and research organisations, industry, and SMEs from both the public and private sectors. The [EU Science Hub](#) explains the JRC’s reasoning for this and how ‘open projects’ work within its strategy and framework for wider access.

On its [Science Connect](#) website, the European Science Foundation (ESF) also promotes open science principles, which it explains form part of the Commission’s responsible R&I approach under [Horizon 2020’s ERA](#) undertakings. This, it points out, anticipates and assesses potential societal expectations and implications of science and stimulates inclusive and sustainable R&I from the design up. ESF thus stresses the importance not only of open science, research integrity and gender equality in research, but also the role of education and public engagement in “making science more attractive and increasing society’s appetite for innovation”. This, it believes, paves the way for stronger R&I foundations and a brighter future.

Also of interest to the EURAXESS Worldwide community is the course run by the [EU Academy](#) focused on maximising science for policy impact. The online programme explores the skills scientists need to better engage with policymakers: “Through sharing of state-of-the art knowledge, interactive games and best practice examples, this course outlines the skills scientists need for their research results to have a bigger impact on policy and society in general.”

Openness to communicating scientific findings in ways that non-specialists can readily understand is at the centre of democratic science. Modules in the course therefore include knowing how to engage the audience better, understanding how scientists and policymakers communicate and use language, as well as some tricks and tips for getting key messages across with confidence. It is 60 minutes well spent.

The move to open publishing is a natural co-evolution or coalescence of digital developments, public pressure for more scientific transparency, and a massive shift towards online working and learning.

For PLOS, which has democratised scientific publishing, open-access matters because “most publishers own the rights to the articles in their journals, not the authors”. It means paying a fee to access them. While institutions and libraries do their best to facilitate access to such paywalled research, it often involves costly and timely negotiations.

“Even then, no part of the article can be reused by researchers, students, or taxpayers without permission from the publisher, often at the cost of an additional fee,” PLOS explains on its site. Open access provides “immediate and unrestricted access” to the latest research, creating a more equitable



knowledge system that “returns us to the values of science” in pursuit of a better society.

“Open Science has huge benefits, the more people you reach the better. Science should be as transparent and accessible as possible because it should be reproducible and confirmed by others, that is what gives science its power.”

(Author testimony: Elias Nerad on [PLOS ONE](#))

Open access training platform

The Covid crisis has heightened demand for online learning and the appetite for reliable up-to-date teaching content. This has created a boom in so-called “synchronous events” and webinars taking place over various platforms like Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and Zoom. “However, synchronous teaching is not always possible or feasible and online tools provide a wealth of alternatives,” explains OpenAIRE in its rationale for creating a new learning-on-demand [training platform and learning management system](#) (LMS).

- 1 OpenAIRE’s mission is to “shift scholarly communication towards openness and transparency and facilitate innovative ways to communicate and monitor research”. It provides services and policy-alignment support across Europe as a means of improving the quality, transparency and reproducibility of research, and its (re)use by industry and society.
- 2 To further its efforts to reach those goals, it has recently announced plans to create the new open-access Training Platform to support learning and development, and provide fresh training material for services offered through its community of users. Once up and running in the course of 2022, the system will bring together pre-existing content, such as the [FOSTER](#) Open Science courses and OpenAIRE’s own guides. The idea is to better use current openly available content while developing customised material according to user needs.

As a community platform, OpenAIRE says it plans to allow externally hosted content, from video tutorials and interactive modules to lesson plans and templates for a range of scientific subjects: “We invite those that have training content that needs a home to get in touch!”

Plans for the LMS also include incorporating a web-conferencing system for synchronous learning, classroom-style sessions and breakout rooms. “Taken together,” OpenAIRE concludes, “the functionality and modes of

learning will provide a wide choice for both the training providers and the learners.”

More info

For more information about the new Training Platform, contact [OpenAIRE's helpdesk](#) and address your query to the Training Manager.

ERA4Ukraine: a one-stop-shop to support researchers of Ukraine

On 22 March the European Commission launched '[European Research Area for Ukraine](#)' (ERA4Ukraine), a one-stop-shop for information and support services to Ukraine-based researchers and researchers fleeing Ukraine. ERA4Ukraine brings together initiatives at the EU level, per country and from non-governmental groups. It aims to help affected researchers find housing and job opportunities, facilitate the recognition of their diplomas, and offer other services.

ERA4Ukraine is hosted on the existing EURAXESS platform, with a dedicated subpage on each of the 43 Member State and associated country's portal on which support services are listed in a structured way. So far, 30 country pages are available.

We stand with the researchers and innovators of Ukraine who are faced with unprecedented circumstances as a result of the Russian invasion against their country. Ukrainian scientists and researchers have been key contributors to EU research and innovation. Pending the ratification of Ukraine's association to Horizon Europe, we have made sure successful beneficiaries can already receive funding from the EU R&I programmes. Today's launch of ERA4Ukraine is another important action to support our Ukrainian peers.

*(Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth)*

Other EU initiatives include access to [Science4Refugees](#), [EU solidarity with Ukraine](#) and [MSCA – Researchers at risk](#).

The ERA4Ukraine portal also links to #Science4Ukraine, a community group of volunteer students and research scientists from academic institutions in Europe and around the world. The volunteers collect and disseminate information about support opportunities at the university, national, and

international levels for graduate students and researchers directly affiliated to a Ukraine academic institution.

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

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