

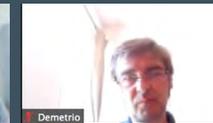
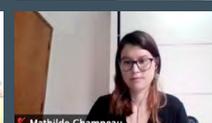
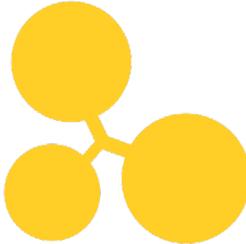
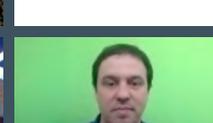
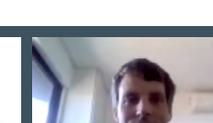
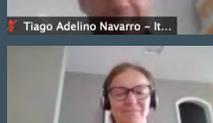


REPORT

**EUROPEAN  
RESEARCHERS  
IN BRAZIL**

First Meeting

20 April 2021

 Charlotte Grawitz, EURAXESS B...	 Viktoria Bodnarova, EURAXESS...	 Fabio Naro - Ambasciata d'Ital...	 Roderik Overzier (ON/MCTI)	 Sébastien Antoine	 Peter	 Wim Degrave	 Demetrio	 David Benito	 Mirco Solé Kienle				
 Tina Gottlieb	 Ricardo Martínez-García	 Daniel Costa, EURAXESS Brasil	 Elisa Natola, Confap	 Mathilde Champeau	 CristinaKormikiari	 Demi Getschko	 L. De Biaggi	 Christoph Deneke	 Luiz Mala Filho				
 Paolo Gessini	 BOGDAN DOBOSZEWSKI	 Carlos Snerber	 alessandra vannucci, full profes...	 Yves Eskens	 Nicolas Carels	 Demi Getschko	 L. De Biaggi		 Christian Stertz				
 Jose Gobbo	 Laura Maraona (EU DEL Brazil)	 Marcelo Concário - Unesp	 Edison Vidal	 Bertram Heinze	 Demi Getschko	 Demi Getschko	 Demi Getschko	 Demi Getschko	 Demi Getschko				
 Janice	 Gabriela De Laurentis	 Althen	 Leonardo Kaltner	 Olivier GIRON (France)	 Demi Getschko	 <h1>EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS IN BRAZIL</h1> <p>First Meeting</p>							
 Tarcisio Marciano da Roch...	 Enzo Lalli	 Valerio Carruba	 sdcardelli	 Klaus Frey	 Demi Getschko								
 Heliza Franca	 Miquel Jeronimo	 Olga Baqinska-Shinzato	 epajaro	 Gérard Chuzel	 Demi Getschko								
 Romain Bachelard	 Deena Tsameret	 Rodrigo Lingnau	 Tiago Adelino Navarro - It...	 Rodrigo	 Klaus Hartfelder					 Bruno Louzada	 Natalia RENTERIA	 Christian	
 elenab.	 Tristan	 Luc Rouws	 Marianne Jensen - Innovat...	 Catherine Meyer	 Juliano Pelegrina					 Jarir Mahfoud	 Miguel Ribeiro	 Isser Peer - Israel	 Valérie
 Matteo Barbari	 Natacha Toral	 Ely Caetano Xavier Junior	 Konstantin Kostov	 Marco Bregant	 Simon-Pierre Gilson					 Fernando Ludwig	 Klaus Schützer - SCPM	 Jochen Junker	 Claudia Masini d'Avila



## FIRST MEETING OF EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS IN BRAZIL

20 April 2021 - online via Zoom web-conferencing platform



 [brazil.euraxess.org](http://brazil.euraxess.org)

 [brazil@euraxess.net](mailto:brazil@euraxess.net)

Authors: Gledson Emidio and Charlotte Grawitz

### HOW TO CITE THIS CONTENT

If you want to refer to this report, please use:

Emidio, Gledson; & Grawitz, Charlotte (2021): First Meeting of European Researchers in Brazil, Report, EURAXESS LAC



This publication was funded by EURAXESS TOP IV Project:

*To strengthen the effectiveness and optimise the services of all partners in an innovative and open EURAXESS network.*

Grant Agreement number 786133

The project is funded by the European Union.

---

**Disclaimer:** The information and views set out in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the report lies entirely with the authors.

# Table of contents

Event guide 5

Opening remarks 6

Executive summary 7

EU researchers in Brazil at a glance 9

EURAXESS TOP IV project 11

EURAXESS LAC 13

Keynote speech 14

Panel: *Being an EU scientist in Brazil* 16

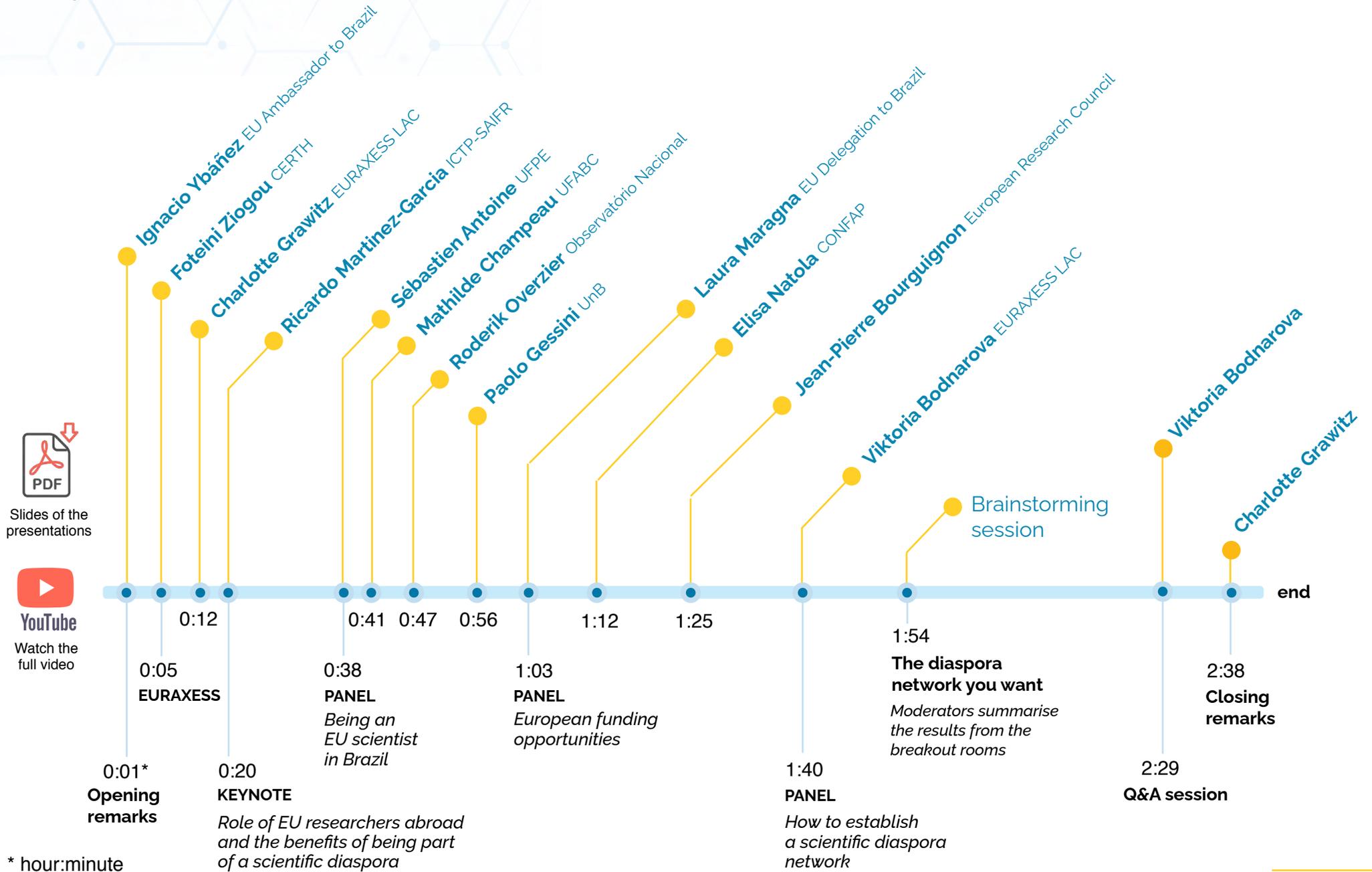
Panel: *European funding opportunities* 19

How to establish a scientific diaspora network 23

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want* 25

Brainstorming session: *Highlights* 40

Closing remarks 43



Slides of the presentations



Watch the full video



## OPENING REMARKS

**H.E. Ignacio YBÁÑEZ**  
*Ambassador of the  
European Union to Brazil*



European researchers based in Brazil are key actors in the EU-Brazil scientific cooperation landscape. In this sense, I think it is of great help to be able to count on the support of the EURAXESS initiative to organise this event which aims at discussing a scientific diaspora network.

I am here in Brazil as a diplomat but if I was a researcher I would be likewise very much interested to do my research in Brazil, which has an intriguing multi-faceted scenario with great scientific capacity.

The Coronavirus crisis has of course aggravated the climate, social and economic challenges that we are all facing. While we are dealing with broader socio-economic consequences, this should be seen as an opportunity to make research systems more accountable and responsible in the timely production and utilisation of knowledge. We will only be able to address these challenges through research and international collaboration.

*Researchers living abroad have unique opportunities of not only exploring the international scientific landscape but essentially becoming a bridge connecting both host and home countries.*

Scientists of a given nationality working in different institutions around the world can become a social network that facilitates the flow of resources and information.

Such a network has enormous social capital that translates into specific benefits for many parties. This social capital helps researchers enjoy professional and personal benefits that otherwise would be impossible or hard to obtain. We know that your knowledge is very relevant to support scientific cooperation, which is one of the pillars of the EU and Brazil strategic partnership.

We expect that you can continue to engage with the Brazilian scientific community and make the most out of the Horizon Europe programme. I wish you a very fruitful discussion aimed at building a diaspora network, which will certainly provide added value to our collaboration with Brazil.

Thank you very much. Obrigado!

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- March 2020  
Questionnaire to stakeholders
- 10 June 2020  
Virtual meeting with stakeholders
- January 2021  
Questionnaire to researchers
- 20 April 2021  
First Meeting of European Researchers in Brazil



Since early 2020, EURAXESS Brazil and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been working to prepare an environment conducive for an autonomous network of European science, technology and innovation (ST&I) actors in Brazil.

In 2020, EURAXESS brought together several European stakeholders in Brazil to discuss their support for such a network of researchers. Representatives from 14 European Member States and Associated Countries participated and demonstrated interest in working with EURAXESS on the topic. They were open to supporting the upcoming meeting with the EU diaspora researchers in Brazil, whether to identify researchers, offer in-kind help, or even financial support.

As preparation for the meeting, EURAXESS started mapping European researchers in Brazil by preparing questionnaires aiming to:

- identify the European researchers in Brazil
- understand their needs
- offer relevant content to the participants of the meeting.

The [First Meeting of European Researchers in Brazil](#) is a culmination of such efforts. It focused on presenting tangible opportunities to collaborate with or return to Europe, and discuss the possibility of creating a scientific diaspora network of European researchers in the country.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

211

participants,  
of which

136

were mapped  
beforehand

The meeting was successfully held online via video-conferencing and involved 211 researchers and innovators from universities and research institutions around the country and the globe, as well as educational and scientific counsellors from European embassies in Brazil, representatives from funding agencies and members of the EURAXESS TOP IV project.

Of these 211 participants, 136 had replied to the EURAXESS questionnaire before the event, which mapped a total of [311 researchers from 23 European countries](#).

The participants demonstrated an interest in making connections and collaborating. They were willing to organise themselves towards creating a better scientific environment.

The participants believed they can be useful to Brazilian scientists, themselves, and European researchers that are still to discover Brazil as a destination for a successful career.

[This event report is a step forward in the creation of a network of researchers.](#)

As you will see in the following pages, such a network has great potential to bring value for the whole community.

EURAXESS, as part of its mission to support research mobility, wishes to work closely with the European scientific diasporas.

European researchers in Brazil at a glance

267

European researchers based in Brazil

+47

based in Europe

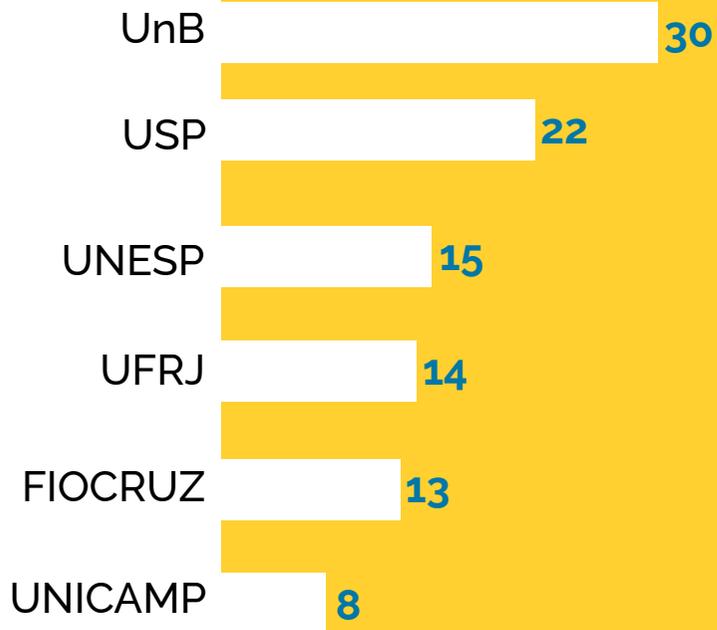
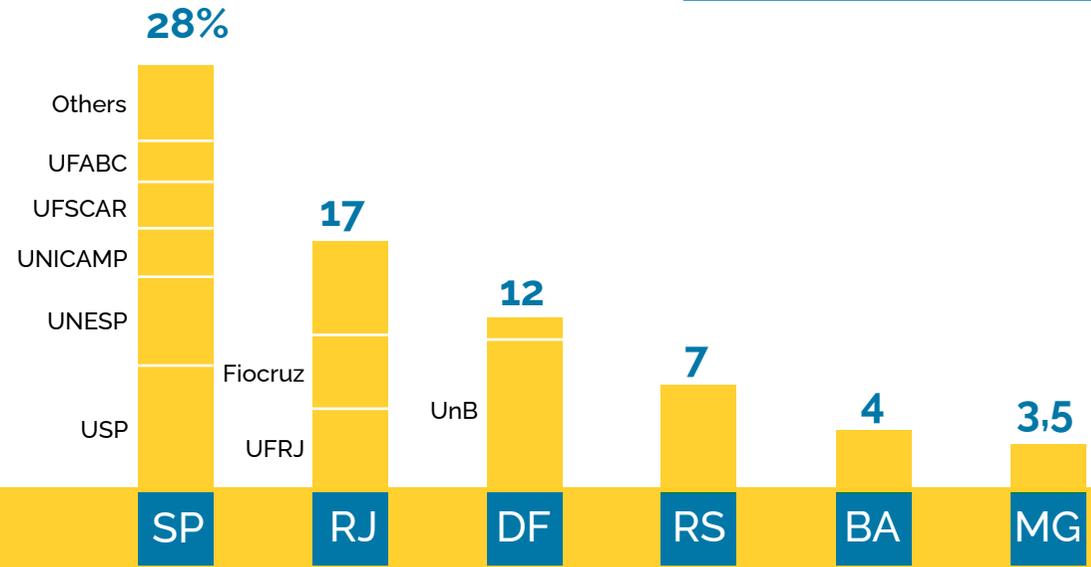
23

nationalities

Nationalities of European researchers based in Brazil, who have registered on the EURAXESS survey  
*The top 6 largest diasporas are highlighted*



# European researchers in Brazil at a glance



**Top 6 Brazilian States with more EU researchers**  
 Percentage of researchers from a total of 267 registered.

**Top 6 Brazilian institutions with more EU researchers**  
 Number of researchers at each institution

# 49%

of the European researchers registered in the EURAXESS survey are based in the Southeast region.

# EURAXESS TOP IV PROJECT



**Foteini ZIOGOU**

*EURAXESS TOP IV Project*

## **Dimitrius Sanopoulos**

*Centre for Research and Technology Hellas  
Coordinator of the EURAXESS TOP IV Project  
& the Greek EURAXESS network*

---

### **EURAXESS TOP IV Project:**

#### *Open EURAXESS*

*To strengthen the effectiveness and optimise the services of all partners in an innovative and open EURAXESS network.*

Grant Agreement number 786133  
H2020-SwafS-2016-17/H2020-SwafS-2017-1

---

🌐 [euraxess.org](http://euraxess.org)

On behalf of Dimitrius Sanopoulos, the coordinator of the EURAXESS TOP IV Project, Foteini presented the opportunities offered by EURAXESS and showcased the services provided in the [EURAXESS Portal](#).

As a unique pan-European initiative, EURAXESS provides access to a complete range of information and support services to researchers wishing to pursue their research careers in Europe to staying connected to it.

Foteini remarked that the EURAXESS Portal is a platform for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and business to interact with each other.

The portal can be used by those who are:

- [looking for job positions](#)
- [looking for funding](#)
- [connecting with other researchers](#)
- [in need for help with their career development](#)
- [relocating to Europe](#)

Foteini indicated that researchers can post their CV's for the attention of potential employers. The platform has a comprehensive up-to-date database of job positions, and also of funding opportunities from several funding agencies.

To finish, she highlighted the added value that the EURAXESS Portal brings to the career of researchers at any stage.

# EURAXESS TOP IV PROJECT

## Work Package 7

### *EURAXESS Open to the World*

#### Task 7.4 | Improving the collaboration with scientific diasporas

Task 7.4 is related to the organisation of two global joint events for scientific diaspora networks. The first was held in China in 2019 and the second one (the subject of this report) was conducted in Brazil. These two events serve as a pilot to promote EURAXESS, learn good practices, and establish a basis for further collaboration with EURAXESS Worldwide.

#### **First Meeting of the European National Scientists Networks in China**

European Delegation in Beijing  
19-20 September 2019

Click to  
open the  
report



EURAXESS TOP IV is a project funded by the European Commission with the aim of:

- increasing the visibility of the EURAXESS network
- widening and diversifying career services for researchers in Europe
- increasing the benefits from international mobility in research for the benefit of the European Research Area.

The EURAXESS TOP IV consortium includes partners from 40 countries, with 34 beneficiaries and seven linked third parties, covering the whole EURAXESS network.

The [First Meeting of European Researchers in Brazil](#) is part of Task 7.4 of the WP 7 (EURAXESS Open to the World), which aims to attract third-country researchers to Europe as well as European scientific diasporas contributing to [brain circulation](#).

The project aims to promote and enrich the database on diaspora groups and continue the cooperation with the scientific diasporas and EURAXESS Worldwide regional representatives.

Promoting EURAXESS to diaspora networks provides fruitful and strong cooperation among researchers around the world and the European research community.

## EURAXESS LAC



**Charlotte GRAWITZ**  
*EURAXESS LAC*



Charlotte Grawitz is the coordinator of EURAXESS Brazil & LAC. She followed Foteini's presentation on the EURAXESS Portal by mentioning the many tools offered to researchers and their students interested in undertaking a research stay in Europe. She added its usefulness to those willing to increase collaboration or work on developing their careers.

EURAXESS Brazil & LAC provides targeted information relevant to researchers based in Brazil and Latin America or collaborating with the region. They can count on EURAXESS to find:

- funding opportunities
- news about important scientific developments in Europe and Brazil
- guides on European funding with clear and concise information adapted to the Brazilian audience
- profiles and interviews from Brazilian researchers who succeed in securing EU funding.

EURAXESS also shares information in Portuguese on its social media channels. Charlotte concluded her presentation by recommending the series of free events organised by EURAXESS on:

- how to get published
- career development for researchers (in Portuguese).

All past events can be watched on the EURAXESS YouTube channel!

Subscribe to the EURAXESS mailing list at:  
[https://bit.ly/EuraxessBR\\_LAC\\_Mailing](https://bit.ly/EuraxessBR_LAC_Mailing)  
 or through the QR code



EURAXESS LAC website  
[brazil.euraxess.org](http://brazil.euraxess.org)



EURAXESS LAC YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/EuraxessLinksBrazil/](http://www.youtube.com/EuraxessLinksBrazil/)

## KEYNOTE: *Role of European researchers abroad and the benefits of being part of a scientific diaspora*



**Ricardo MARTINEZ-GARCIA**  
ICTP-SAIFR



Ricardo Martinez-Garcia is a Spanish biologist working in Brazil. He is a FAPESP Assistant Professor in Biological Physics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics - South American Institute for Fundamental Research (ICTP-SAIFR), in São Paulo, and a SIMONS Associate at the Quantitative Life Sciences section at the [Abdus Salam ICTP](#), in Trieste, Italy.

🌐 [www.rmtzgarcia.com/](http://www.rmtzgarcia.com/)

*“The whole is more than the sum of all parts.”*

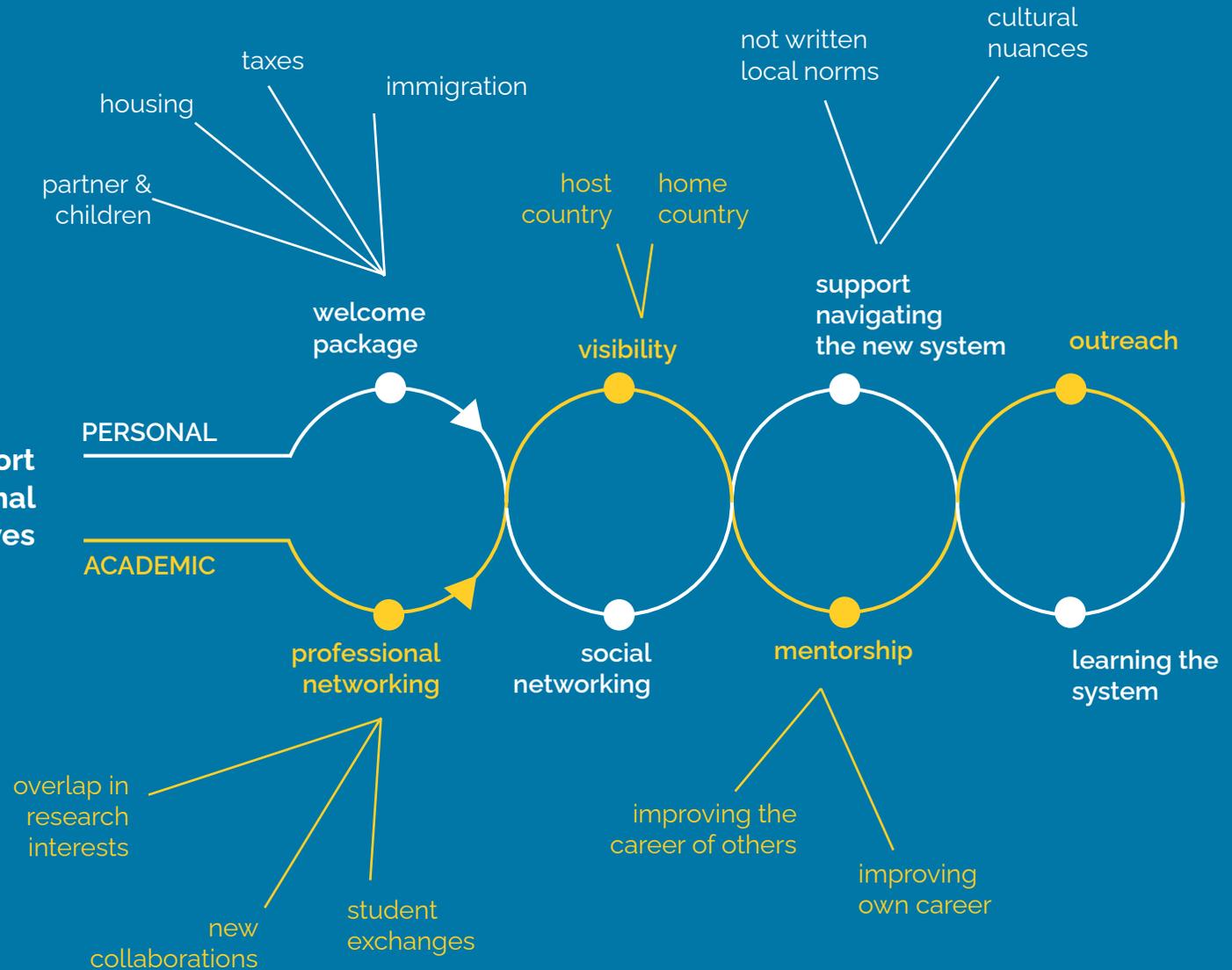
Ricardo presented his experience as a European researcher working abroad. He shared impressions from his time volunteering at the [Association of Spanish Researchers \(ECUSA\)](#) when he was a post-doc researcher in the United States.

He believes European researchers might be a factor in bringing an international outlook for Brazilian Science. When moving to a new country, he suggested asking first what can you do as a European researcher.

Ricardo explained his current work on internationalisation and strengthening BR-EU collaboration. He remarked that EU researchers might act as bridges between researchers in Europe and Brazil, so he is always interested in working with European colleagues to improve the system and create better opportunities for students.

Ricardo highlighted that researchers from other cultures might bring a new perspective on the way procedures can be done. He added that this is neither good nor bad, but it tends to enrich the experience.

Diaspora networks can support  
researchers in their personal  
and academic lives



**PANEL:**  
*Being a European  
scientist in Brazil*



**Mathilde CHAMPEAU**  
*Federal University of ABC*



Moderator **Sébastien ANTOINE**  
*Federal University of Pernambuco*



**Paolo GESSINI**  
*University of Brasilia*



**Roderik OVERZIER**  
*Observatório Nacional, MCTi*



**Sébastien ANTOINE**

Sébastien Antoine is a Belgian social scientist working in Recife, Pernambuco State. He is doing a postdoc at the Federal University of Pernambuco as part of the CAPES Institutional Internationalisation Programme (CAPES/PrInt). He was the moderator of the session, but he was able to talk about the importance of networks for collaboration, taking his personal experience as an example.

Sébastien mentioned his experience doing fieldwork in public schools in São Paulo State ten years ago and how he could tap into his supervisor's connections to collaborate with Brazilian researchers in Portugal. He was able to grow his network from those initial collaborations, which allowed him to get the CAPES fellowship he is now working on.



**Mathilde CHAMPEAU**

Mathilde Champeau is a French material scientist based in São Paulo. She came to Brazil in 2015 for a postdoc at UNICAMP, and two years later became an Assistant Professor at the UFABC. In her talk, Mathilde focused on the differences in research culture between France and Brazil, and how challenging it can be for early career researchers to adapt to such sharp contrasts. She mentioned that research in Brazil is much more intuitive than in France, where people spend more time planning the project steps. As she works at a relatively new Brazilian university, the research process is more independent, having to start things from scratch, get her own funding, create her own group and define research topics with little support.

She also pointed out the differences in the way research is evaluated in Brazil compared to France. She suggested to European researchers based in Brazil to plan their research outputs considering both systems. Nevertheless, she thinks that even with all these challenges, it is possible to succeed, get funding and build a successful career in Brazil.

As a European researcher, Mathilde contributes to her university's internationalisation and the diversification of her course curriculum. She finished her talk by mentioning that the creation of a diaspora network will be important to drive collaboration between Brazil and Europe and to strengthen mentorship for early career researchers.



Roderik OVERZIER

Roderik Overzier is a Dutch astrophysicist working in Rio de Janeiro. He has been in Brazil since 2013 when he was attracted by Brazil's intention to join the European Southern Observatory (ESO). He leads a research group on the origin of black holes, galaxies, and the Universe at the Observatório Nacional, and is coordinator of several cooperation projects between Brazil, Portugal, and The Netherlands.

*"Leading research requires access to world-class research facilities, and this requires international cooperation or collaborations."*

Roderik shared his observations and thoughts about what works and what does not in research collaboration and exchange, considering the Brazilian context.

He stressed that international collaboration is important to get access to resources and facilities, especially now, when funding dedicated to international cooperation agreements is scarce.

Roderik pointed out that doing research in Brazil can be very difficult due to a poorly organised research community and lack of resources. However, the research landscape is rich, and European researchers can play an important role in bringing experience and ties with Europe. But he concluded that it requires perseverance and creativity.



Paolo GESSINI

Paolo Gessini is an Italian aerospace engineer based in Brasilia. Before coming to Brazil 15 years ago, he studied in the United Kingdom and the United States. He is currently a Professor at the University of Brasilia. Paolo's speech was about the Italian presence in Brazil, as he is actively working with the [Association of Italian Researchers in Brazil \(ARIB\)](#). He talked about the association, its mission, funding and structure. He mentioned ARIB's initiative to map the Italian diaspora in Brazil and the flow of Brazilian researchers to Italian universities. So far, 577 Italian researchers were identified in the country, from all levels of education. Most of them (78%) have a PhD, he said.

According to the initiative, 17 591 Brazilian researchers did either their undergraduate, masters or PhD in Italy.

He also compared the size of the five biggest European diasporas in Brazil (Portugal, Germany, Italy, France, and Spain), totaling 3600 researchers who were born in Europe and working in Brazil.

ARIB website:

<https://aribitalia.wordpress.com>

## PANEL: *European funding opportunities*



**Laura MARAGNA**  
*EU Delegation to Brazil*



**Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON**  
*European Research Council*



**Elisa NATOLA**  
*CONFAP*



EU Delegation to Brazil  
Laura Maragna  
✉ [laura.maragna@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:laura.maragna@eeas.europa.eu)

MSCA National Contact Point in Brazil:  
Elisa Natola - CONFAP  
✉ [elisa.confap@gmail.com](mailto:elisa.confap@gmail.com)

Subscribe to CONFAP's  
weekly newsletter at:  
🌐 <https://confap.org.br/>

ERC National Contact Point in Brazil:  
Prof. Moacyr Martucci Junior - University of São Paulo  
✉ [moacyr.martucci@poli.usp.br](mailto:moacyr.martucci@poli.usp.br)



Laura MARAGNA



Laura Maragna is a science, technology and innovation policy officer at the European Delegation in Brazil.

Laura gave an overview of the funding opportunities offered by Horizon Europe, the new Commission programme for research and innovation.

Horizon Europe will run from 2021 to 2027 with the [vision of a green, healthy, digital and inclusive Europe](#). Laura commented that taking part in the programme should be easier now due to the changes made since Horizon 2020.

With a budget of [€ 95 billion](#), the programme is structured in three pillars:

- [Excellence science](#)
- [Global challenges](#)
- [Innovative Europe](#)

The programme has a few novelties, and Laura highlighted two of them, the [EU missions](#) and the [new approaches to partnerships](#).

## Five Mission Areas



**Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation**



**Cancer**



**Healthy oceans, seas, coastal & inland waters**



**Climate neutral & smart cities**



**Soil health & food**

The [EU missions](#) specifically target global challenges. They are a set of measures to achieve bold, inspirational and measurable goals within a set timeframe.

The [partnerships](#) aims for objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships with industry for innovative solutions, which are essential to face big transformations ahead. The Coordination Mechanism will promote cross-partnership collaboration.

A new Communication to present the new EU Global Approach to research, innovation to be published in May, aims to contribute to the Commission priorities related to the green transition, digital innovation, and global health. The EU Global Approach to R&I stresses values such as academic freedom, ethical and scientific integrity standards and open science.

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon Europe



Elisa NATOLA



Elisa Natola is the advisor for EU-Brazil International Cooperation at the Brazilian Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP) and the National Contact Point for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Elisa Natola presented several opportunities in the MSCA for researchers from Brazil and remarked on the successful Brazilian participation in the previous programmes

She highlighted the [Postdoctoral Global Fellowships \(GF\)](#) as an excellent opportunity for researchers in Brazil to attract Europe-based researchers to their groups, fully funded by the European Commission.

She informed that the implementing arrangement signed between CONFAP and the European Union for Horizon 2020 is about to be renewed for Horizon Europe.

Elisa finished by mentioning that State Funding Agencies also support bilateral cooperation with EU member states and other international cooperation actions.

*“Attractive and inclusive opportunities for researchers and R&D staff of any nationality at every stage of their career.”*

## Participation from Brazil in the MSCA

Individual researchers are eligible to funding under Horizon Europe

### POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Supporting postdoctoral researchers. European (EF) or Global Fellowships (GF)

up to 8 years of experience

Mono-beneficiary

EF 12-24 months +6 months if it has a non-academic placement (optional)  
GF + 12 months

Open to participation of Brazilian institutions but no automatic EU funding  
Possibility of co-funding by Brazilian funding agencies

### STAFF EXCHANGES

Researchers, administrative, managerial and technical staff

Multi-beneficiary

max. 48 months

### COFUND

Co-fund schemes for doctoral training and postdoctoral fellowships

Mono-beneficiary

max. 60 months

### DOCTORAL NETWORKS

Networks training PhD candidates, including academic, industrial and joint-doctorates

Multi-beneficiary

max. 48 months

## ERC is open to the world

Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON



Professor Bourguignon is the Interim President of the European Research Council (ERC). In his speech, he highlighted the mission of the ERC to fund groundbreaking research.

He remarked on the excellent participation of early-stage principal investigators in the ERC, accounting for two-thirds of all awarded grants.

For researchers based in Brazil, he stressed the importance of the [ERC Implementing Arrangements](#), celebrating the increasing participation of Brazilian researchers. He mentioned that Brazil is about to become the country that

sends the most scientists joining ERC teams in Europe on a temporary basis.

Professor Bourguignon also highlighted that the [Synergy Grants are an excellent opportunity for scientists in Brazil](#). This scheme allows Brazilian researchers to be one of the principal investigators of the project and develop their research while based in Brazil.

*Besides the traditional ERC grants, researchers from Brazil can be recruited as ERC team members or undertake short term stays in ERC teams. They can also be one of the principal investigators in Synergy Grants while still in Brazil.*

### ERC Grants

<b>STARTING GRANT</b>	up to € 1,5 million
For young, early-career top researchers	up to 5 years 2-7 years of experience
<b>CONSOLIDATOR GRANT</b>	up to € 2 million
For already independent excellent scientists	up to 5 years 7-12 years of experience
<b>ADVANCED GRANT</b>	up to € 2,5 million
For senior research leaders	up to 5 years 10 years of track-record
<b>SYNERGY GRANT</b>	up to € 10 million
For a team with early achievement or a 10-year excellent track-record	6 years 2-4 PIs. One of them can be based outside EU MS/AC
<b>PROOF-OF-CONCEPT</b>	up to € 150 thousand
For ERC grant holders	Top-up grant to bring research ideas closer to market

### ERC Implementing Arrangements

Under this agreement, researchers actively doing research in Brazil can carry out research visits and temporarily join ERC teams in Europe for a maximum of 12 months.

# How to establish a scientific diaspora network



Viktoria BODNAROVA  
EURAXESS LAC

Viktoria Bodnarova has extensive experience working with diaspora networks gained in the USA and Canada where she was representing EURAXESS until recently.

Read the reports

**EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIASPORAS IN NORTH AMERICA**

- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020

Viktoria organised the first five editions of the successful Annual Meeting of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America. She is now based in Mexico where she is one of the two EURAXESS LAC regional coordinators.

Viktoria shared with the audience the **7 steps to building a sustainable scientific diaspora network**, which are detailed in the article she coauthored as summarised in the infographic on the next page.

*“There is no single formula to establishing and operating a scientific diaspora. There may be some guidelines but ultimately it is a bottom-up effort that is custom made to fit mission, vision, objectives, culture, trends, politics and many other things including, of course, the price tag. Don’t let it be your sanity.”*

Dimah Mahmoud, Ph.D.

## Why set up a scientific diaspora network?

- Influence policymaking affecting you as a mobile researcher as well as your scientific discipline
- Consult on research collaboration initiatives between your host and home countries
- Access resources and extended networks of members and allies
- Promote your work on multiple national and international platforms
- Extend your expertise to help newly arriving researchers navigate the new geographic and research landscapes
- Build a sense of community.

# 7 steps to establishing a sustainable scientific diaspora network

By Dimah Mahmoud,  
and Viktoria Bodnarova

Infographic adapted from  
the original publication

Your government has a vested interest in your growth, success, and ultimately continued connection to your home country

Hold a brainstorming session with your core group, embassy officers, established and early career researchers + facilitators to help guide the conversation towards impact

Hold a virtual launch ceremony announcing your new network and call on members to join, tagging all local researchers, scientists and institutions



Does a diaspora already exist in your host country? What have other networks done to address the gaps you seek to fill by establishing your network?

Connect with motivated and committed researchers to build the core working group that will help solidify the vision and trajectory

Find individuals, organisations and institutions that align with your mission and strategy. Remember: ALL ABOARD!

Put your strategy into effect, leverage your partnerships and allies to increase visibility and membership base



## Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

The objective of this session was to brainstorm with the participants to understand their needs and define what sort of network they would like to establish and how.

Participants were randomly divided into 12 breakout rooms to address four predefined questions.

The rooms were moderated either by science or education counsellors of European embassies in Brazil, European researchers or EURAXESS LAC coordinators.

### BREAKOUT ROOMS

15 minutes discussion

### REPORT

Moderators report on the discussion

### INTERACTIVE Q&A

Participants interact by asking questions, giving their opinion, and deepening the discussion.

## QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THE BREAKOUT ROOMS

*What do you want from a diaspora network?*

*How can you contribute to a diaspora network?*

*What type of support do you need from EURAXESS and European embassies?*

*What are the next steps to setting up a European or a national network?*

The 12 interactive breakout rooms were moderated by embassy counsellors, European researchers, and EURAXESS LAC coordinators.

<p><b>ROOM 1</b></p> <p><b>Christian STERTZ</b></p> <p><i>Embassy of Germany</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>David BENITO</b></p> <p><i>Embassy of Spain</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Fabio NARO</b></p> <p><i>Embassy of Italy</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Helga FRANCA</b></p> <p><i>Embassy of Austria</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Olivier GIRON</b></p> <p><i>Embassy of France</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Tina GOTTLIEB</b></p> <p><i>Innovation Centre Denmark</i></p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Laura MARAGNA</b></p> <p><i>European Delegation in Brazil</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Ricardo MARTINEZ-GARCIA</b></p> <p><i>ICTP-SAIFR</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Charlotte GRAWITZ</b></p> <p><i>EURAXESS LAC</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Viktoria BODNAROVA</b></p> <p><i>EURAXESS LAC</i></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Sébastien ANTOINE</b></p> <p><i>UFPE</i></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Mathilde CHAMPEAU</b></p> <p><i>UFABC</i></p>

## *What do you want from the network?*

What I want from  
the network is...

to assist/be assisted

mentorship

to connect/network

to collaborate

to exchange

to share information

to influence

to train/be trained

**What I want from the network is...**

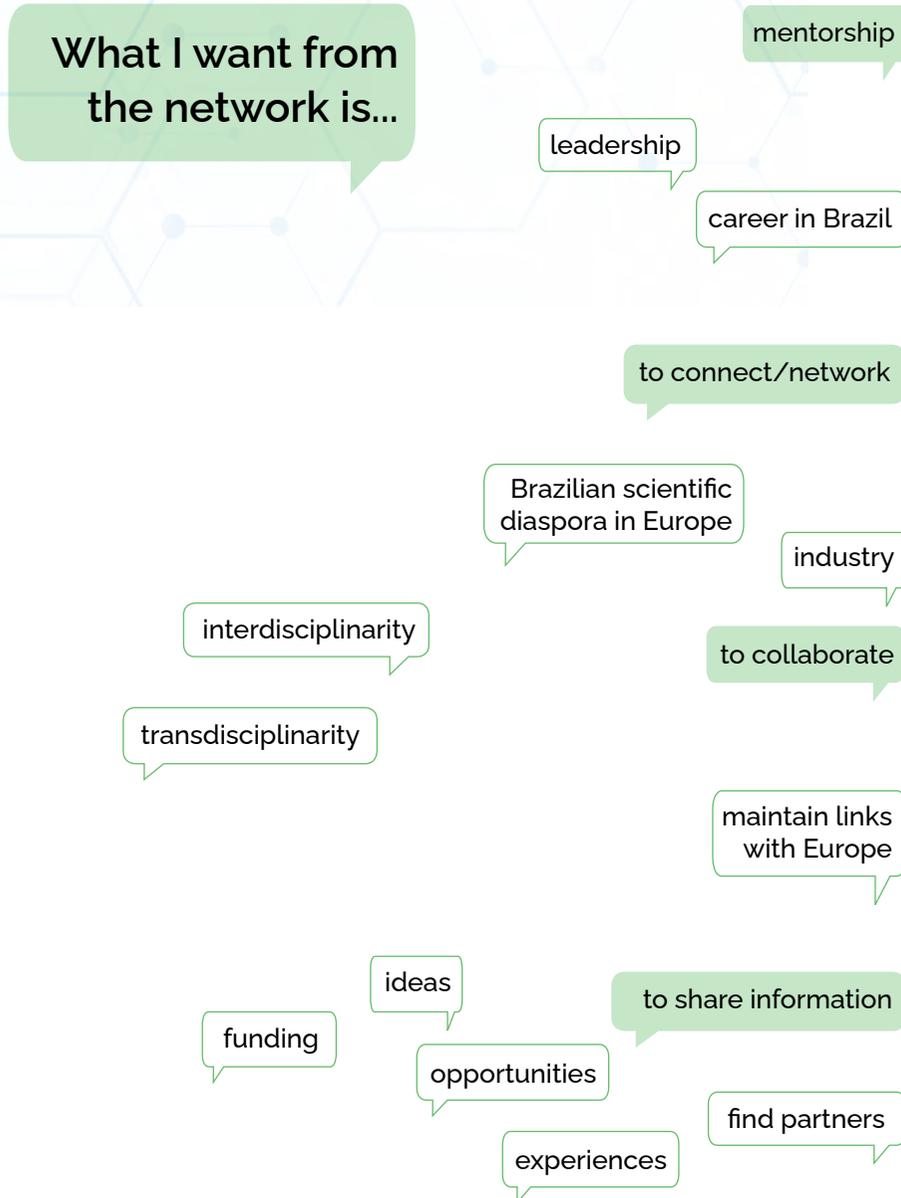


Starting a new life in a different country is challenging. Newcomers need to navigate through bureaucracy and often unknown via crucis to settle in, while at the same time having to learn the unwritten rules and codes of a new research environment.

While newcomers need to create new links in the host country, they may face the prospect of losing connections at home, which is a recurrent problem for many researchers abroad. The feeling of isolation is almost inevitable, being cited by many researchers in the meeting.

Being part of a network is a way to minimise isolation since it facilitates the connection with people who have experienced similar situation before. It is not surprising that the term 'assistance' was mentioned in most of the discussion rooms. Several participants suggested the publication of a welcome package containing information on practical aspects of settling in Brazil, the day-by-day bureaucracy, and how to navigate the Brazilian scientific system.

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*



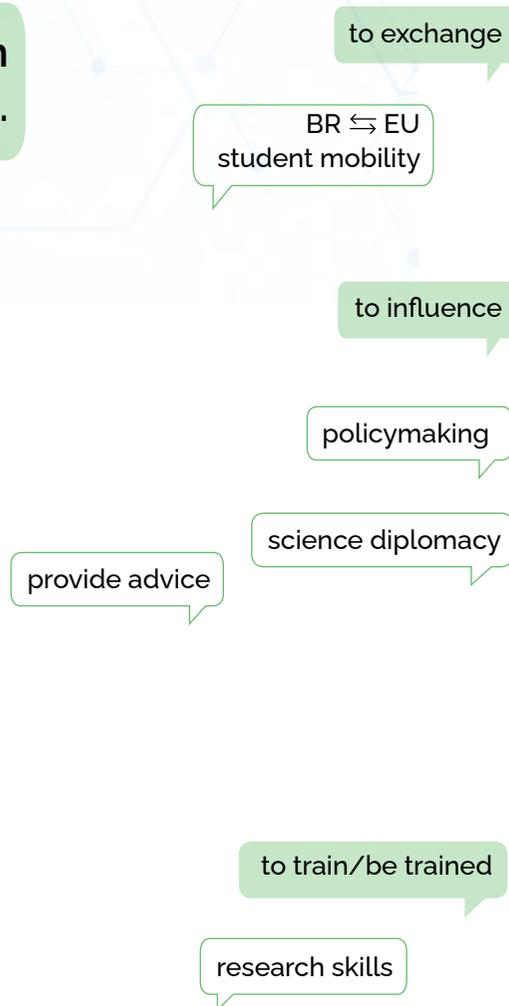
'Mentorship' was also mentioned several times as it is a component of personal and academic guidance. For example, a few participants highlighted that mentorship is beneficial for researchers trying to build a career in Brazil and interested in getting prepared for the so-called *concursos públicos*, the Brazilian selection process for tenure positions in academia.

Participants in ten rooms out of 12 affirmed that the diaspora network could increase or improve their connections. They demonstrated interest in knowledge transfer and would like to connect with industry and the private sector. A few showed interest in connecting with Brazilian researchers in Europe.

A network could facilitate collaborations, not only in the same field but also between researchers from different ones. As one participant put it, "this would be a useful platform for cross-fertilisation of ideas". It would also be helpful to find partners in both host and home countries, thus maintaining contact with Europe.

Diversifying the sources of funding, participants said, is essential to fix the overall lack of resources in Brazil. It would be interesting to create a communication channel to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences. Greater access to information could facilitate the exchange of students between the two regions.

What I want from  
the network is...



There was a notable interest from researchers in Brazil receive more European students in their groups, and vice versa. To that end, it was suggested that a guide be prepared with information on funding, procedures, and how to find hosts to receive or send students.

Diaspora networks have a positive impact on policymaking and science diplomacy. An established network could leverage voices to improve influence and negotiating power in both the European and Brazilian research ecosystems.

For example, such a network could advise funding agencies and governments on mobility and cooperation programmes. Another practical aspect is the interoperability between the Brazilian [Lattes Platform](#) and other international systems like [ORCID](#).

Although not mentioned many times, training would be an added value for the network. Members could offer training on relevant topics for the community such as leadership and research skills.

## *How can you contribute to the network?*

**I am happy to contribute by...**

help building it

Several participants volunteered to help with whatever is needed for the creation and running of the network. Although most of them said they did not have a clear idea how they could actively support the network, they will be more than happy to pitch in as soon as the tasks and actions are assigned.

being a mentor

A few participants volunteered to work as mentors, to help develop strategies for communication and social media. Several more experienced researchers showed interest in contributing to the preparation of a welcome package.

social networks

website & platform

## What type of support do you need from EURAXESS and European embassies?

### The network would need...

EURAXESS LAC, the European Delegation to Brazil and several European embassies in Brazil are driving developments in the network's creation. In 2020, several embassies declared interest in offering political support, infrastructure, and eventually financial help.

#### technical support

Technical and financial support for organising the database, communication channels and events were the most frequent items mentioned by the participants.

#### financial support

#### political support

In the researchers' opinion, these institutions could use their political influence to give legitimacy to the network and help by building bridges with European stakeholders and networks of researchers already established.

#### welcoming

Similarly to the welcoming events for families organised by EURAXESS in Europe, the European embassies' support in welcoming newly arriving researchers and their families in the country would bring real value to the network.

*What are the next steps to setting up a European or a national network?*

The next steps might be related to...

mapping

definitions

organisation

platform

communication

assistance

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

## The next steps might be related to...

mapping

A common suggestion among the audience was to collect information about the diaspora to understand members' needs, and consequently, the mission and scope of the network.

Since 2020, EURAXESS LAC has had in place an online form for European scientists in Brazil interested in a network to share their contact details. To date, 315 European researchers have registered. The online form remains open to new submissions.

The analysis of the information gathered by EURAXESS would be useful to start defining the [mission](#), [goals](#), [pillar](#), and [scope](#) of the network. A more detailed and comprehensive survey could be done continuously as the organisation of the network takes shape.

*"Collect information about how many we are, in which fields, geographical distribution, career stages, ambitions and goals, and then with that information try to shape a list of 3 to 5 points that unite us all."*

Ricardo Martinez-Garcia, summarising his room's discussion.



**Online form:**  
European diaspora network

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

The next steps  
might be related to...

definitions

As Viktoria Bodnarova mentioned in her presentation, there are plenty of ways of establishing a network. However, many decisions made at the beginning can influence its outcomes. As a first step, it is thus important to consider the real needs of the network.

Most of the discussion rooms commented about organisation-related choices that need to be made soon. Among them, the definition of the scope of the network deserved attention. Researchers in attendance were asked during the meeting whether a European or national network would be preferable. The majority were in favour of a European network. However, it was made clear that this should not prevent the organisation of national networks in the event researchers and/or their embassies wish to do so. These initiatives were all considered complementary.

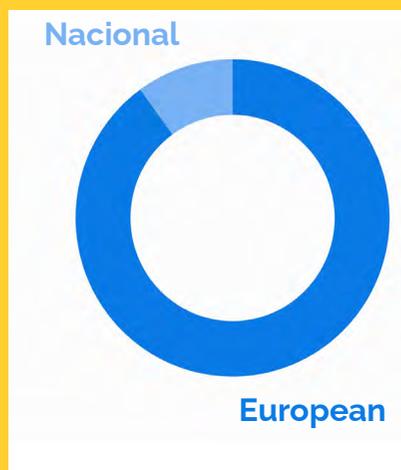
In most of the discussion rooms, participants expressed the need for clarifying key aspects of the network:

- Target group
- Purpose
- Structure (how to group participants)

A topic that came up several times concerned the network's composition. Should it be open to anyone interested in EU-BR scientific cooperation or restricted to scientists matching given criteria?

how open?

Would you prefer a national or a European diaspora network?



90 % of the  
respondents voted  
for a European network

The next steps  
might be related to...

definitions

Who should create the network?

The following candidates were put forward:

- European researchers working in Brazil
- Researchers with dual-nationality: *Brazilians with European citizenship or Europeans with Brazilian citizenship*
- *European descendants*
- European researchers working in Europe but with strong collaborations with Brazil
- Brazilian researchers working in Europe
- Brazilian researchers educated in Europe

In some cases, the link with Europe was not necessarily clear as researchers may not have been educated in Europe nor have close professional links with European scientists.

Institutions with complementary interests were mentioned:

- Other European diaspora associations in Brazil
- Brazilian scientific diaspora associations in Europe
- Embassies and diaspora related ST&I institutions
- Anyone with a deep knowledge of the ST&I landscape who could contribute to creating connections: *researchers, innovators, administrative or technical staff, embassy officers, EU projects, etc.*

There are many synergies between these actors and a strong potential for collaboration.

*"A European diaspora based in Brazil should be in contact with Brazilians in Europe, as they may share the same needs. Both are based in foreign countries"*

Bruno Louzada, PhD student at Université Claude Bernard Lyon, France.

**The next steps  
might be related to...**

organisation

steering committee

informal network

established as a  
non-profit organisation

One important initial step would be the selection of a steering committee representing the variety of actors and interests of the group.

The network's legal establishment was also discussed. Although an informal network could meet most of the objectives, several participants mentioned that the formalisation of the network as a non-profit organisation could improve its sustainability and ensure the credibility needed to leverage influence.

Founding members would then have to decide whether the network should be legally created in Europe or Brazil. One participant mentioned that its establishment in Europe would ensure eligibility to European framework programmes for research and innovation, making access to EU funding easier.

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

The next steps  
might be related to...

communication

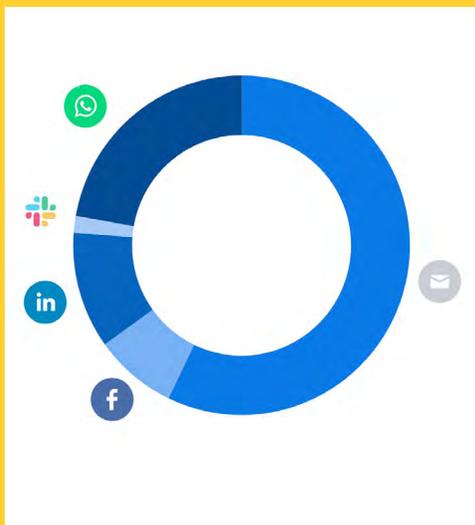
organise flow  
of information

Efficient information management was considered crucial for delivering value to the network. One of the main advantages of joining a network, participants said, is to access information to advance their careers and help their personal and professional lives.

Considering the wide variety of potential actors in the network, the flow of information could become overwhelming. To avoid this, the participants mentioned several times the need to subdivide the network into **topics, areas of knowledge, location, professional groups**, etc. This could be done by creating chapters, interest groups, communities of practices, working groups, etc.

To start the interaction post-meeting, EURAXESS committed to creating a channel for discussing the next steps. Among the different tools suggested (email, WhatsApp, Facebook), participants preferred an email group.

What channel for discussion  
would you prefer?



Email and WhatsApp were  
the most favoured channels,  
followed by LinkedIn,  
Facebook, and Slack

Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

The next steps  
might be related to...

platform

Many participants suggested adopting a searchable platform with information about members, partners, and people interested in attracting or sending students, etc.

to meet EU researchers

Such a platform could provide information based on the subdivisions mentioned earlier. It may also offer match-making tools to put together people with similar profiles or goals.

assistance

A welcome package was mentioned several times, and participants said it would be interesting to start a working group to gather all the relevant information towards its publication.

The organisation of events was suggested as a way of sustaining and animating the network, as well as providing information to newcomers and already-established researchers. These events could be either on general topics or based on thematic interests.

matchmaking

Matchmaking events would be a great initiative to improve interactions and networking possibilities.

*"What we need most is to bridge information about researchers in- and outside Brazil, grants and competences, nationalities. These are suitable to go into a search platform."*

José Alcides Gobbo Junior,  
Associate Professor at São Paulo State University (UNESP)

## Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

### Highlights

#### What I want from a network is...

Based on the discussions, presentations, individual messages and surveys, the participants' interest in collaborating more and in maintaining and growing links with Europe was evident.

They showed interest in sharing experiences and helping newcomers and others who need support to overcome the challenges of living and working in Brazil.

The participants felt the network could help Brazilian science, its scientists, and the European scientists working in Brazil by leveraging influence and developing science diplomacy.

#### I am happy to contribute by...

They would be interested in training and mentorship, and the exchange of students between Europe and Brazil.

Several participants volunteered to help with whatever is needed. Some participants volunteered to work as mentors, others in the development of communication strategies, building a platform and social media channels, and more experienced researchers showed interest in contributing to the preparation of an eventual welcome package.

## Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

### Highlights

#### The network would need...

It was understood that the **network should primarily come from the initiative of the researchers**, rather than from EURAXESS, EU Delegation, embassies and other institutions.

EURAXESS' role would be one of supporting the creation of such an association with the researchers who showed interest and volunteered for it.

Participants would like EURAXESS support to find information on funding and networking opportunities, career development, training, but also visibility.

They preferred the creation of a European association rather than new national ones, at least at this stage, and expressed the need for clarifying key aspects of the network, such as target group, purpose, and structure.

They discussed **how open the network should be and who should create it**. They stressed that a **steering committee** representing the variety of actors and interests of the group should be selected.

Especially considering the wide variety of actors in the network, participants mentioned several times the need to subdivide it by **topics, areas of knowledge, location** and **professional groups**, for example.

## Brainstorming session: *The diaspora network you want*

### Highlights

#### The next steps might be related to...

EURAXESS committed to creating a channel for discussing the next steps, and participants showed preference for an [email group](#).

Many participants suggested setting up a [searchable platform](#) with information about the members, partners, interest in exchange programmes, etc. They highlighted that it could also offer [matchmaking tools](#) to put together people with similar profiles or goals.

Most of the audience stressed the importance of preparing a [welcome package](#) and organising information events to help newcomers to overcome the challenges of settling in a new country, and more experienced researchers to navigate the daily challenges of the Brazilian system.

The [organisation of events](#) was also mentioned as a way of sustaining and animating the network, and they could be either on general topics or according to thematic interests.

## CLOSING REMARKS

The [First Meeting of European Researchers in Brazil](#) was successfully held online. A large and diverse audience of European and Brazilian researchers and other stakeholders took part.

The event was organised by EURAXESS LAC with the support of EURAXESS TOP IV project, and the European Delegation in Brazil.

The meeting was endorsed by several European embassies in Brazil, which actively joined the discussion alongside representatives from associations and institutions interested in research and related networks.

During the meeting, European researchers working at Brazilian universities and research institutes shared their experiences on doing research in Brazil. Representatives from funding bodies and European institutions brought the latest information on European funding opportunities relevant to researchers based outside of Europe, and EURAXESS coordinators presented their actions to support European and Brazilian researchers in their mobility projects and career development.

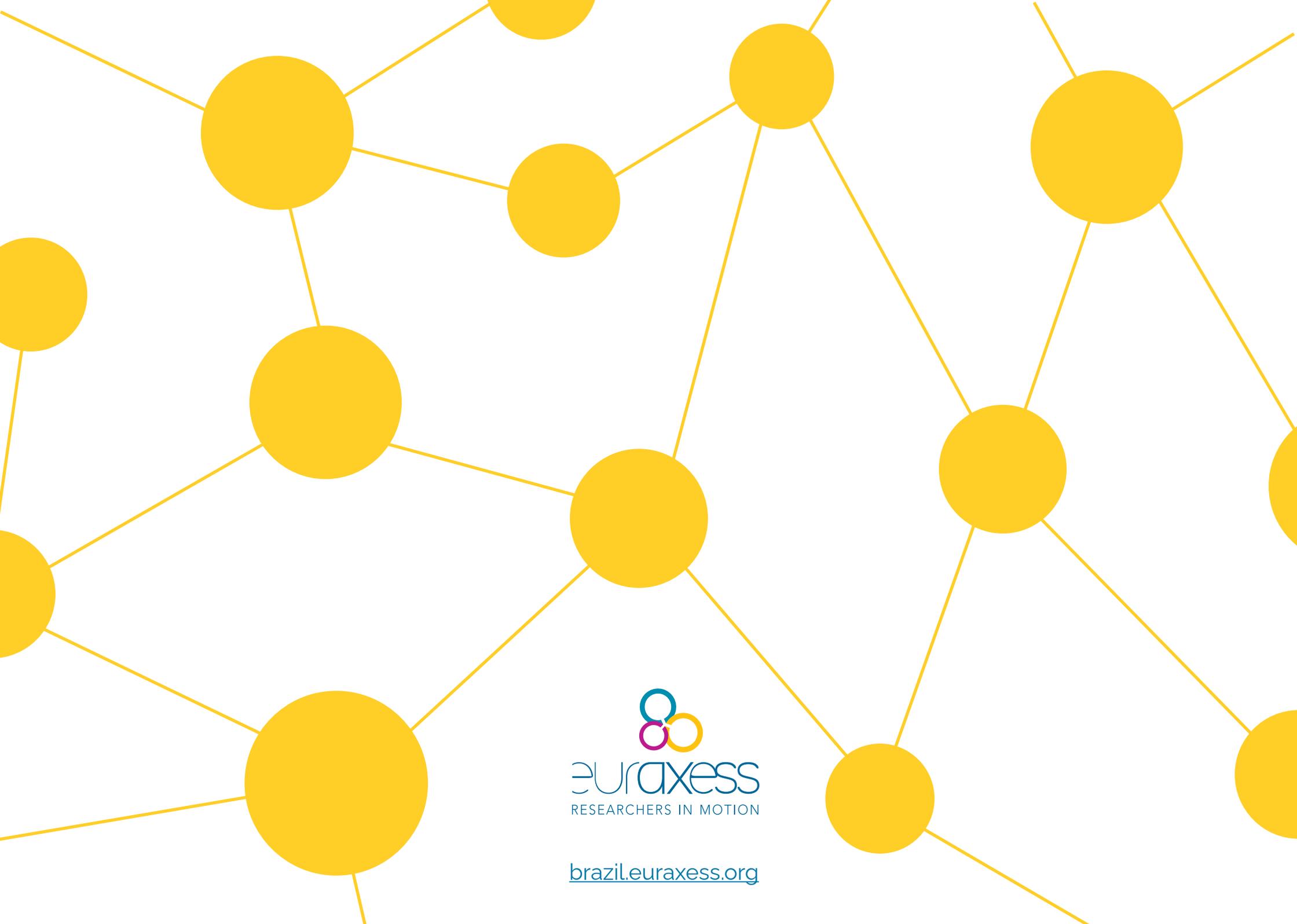
## CLOSING REMARKS

The high number of motivated participants indicated their strong interest in connecting and collaborating on the subject. The current science crisis in Brazil, referred to during many speeches and remarks from participants, gives a sense of urgency to the creation of such a network, joining forces to address the challenges and effectively respond to the uncertainties ahead.

In that sense, the creation of a network gathering different actors of the European science, technology and innovation diaspora was widely considered the right move.

EURAXESS can assist all founding members in their next actions and remains committed to help grow and animate an emerging network.

You can count on EURAXESS to support you!



[brazil.euraxess.org](http://brazil.euraxess.org)