

February 2013



**Dear Colleagues,**

Welcome to the February issue of our newsletter.

This month's newsletter was divided into 6 main thematic parts. In the **FEATURE** section you will find a testimony of an Italian researcher who came to the US after receiving a Marie Curie Fellowship. Every month we would like to share a different personal experience of European and non-European researchers working either in the US or in Europe. We will be happy receiving your stories at [northamerica@euraxess.net](mailto:northamerica@euraxess.net). And, don't forget to attach a picture☺.

The section of the **EU INSIGHT** brings you this month an overview of the next European Union's framework program for research and innovation HORIZON 2020 starting as of 1 January 2014. For the first time, Horizon 2020 brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme with a proposed budget of 80 billion EUR.

The **NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS** section contains news which highlights the main research headlines of the past month from the EU and US perspective.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS** this month offer an overview of the European Commission's open calls for proposals within the Marie Curie Actions and ERC Grants. All the country specific funding opportunities can be found in the complex Guide for Europe/USA Opportunities in Research

and Career Development (last update December 2012) freely available on the Euraxess Links USA website under [Funding Opportunities](#).

In the **JOBS** section we remind you of the wonderful tool Euraxess has for researchers and research organisations in order to look for a job and/or a fellowship and to upload job opportunities. In 2012 more than **36 500** jobs and fellowships were published on the Euraxess Jobs website by over **7 700** registered academic as well as private research organisations and more than **21 000** active CVs of researchers were stored. We would also like to draw your attention to the new possibility of publishing research positions in the US.

The **EVENTS** section covers short reports from past three events where Euraxess was present and highlights some of the forthcoming ones. You will also discover here the new dimension of the Euraxess Links USA activities which will include organisation of several events per year in order to raise visibility of the Euraxess initiative, expand the Euraxess Links USA community, allow European and non-European researchers to meet, network, and share experiences from their professional as well as personal life.

**EURAXESS Links USA team**

## Content

<b>FEATURE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EU INSIGHT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>JOBS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>EVENTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
IMPORTANT PAST EVENTS .....	<b>11</b>
FORTHCOMING EVENTS .....	<b>15</b>
<b>ABOUT EURAXESS LINKS USA .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## FEATURE

EURAXESS Links USA asked a Marie Curie Fellow currently based in the USA for a short insight about his fellowship and how he managed to combine work and family life in a different country. Marco Masia, Italian by origin, obtained a so called [International Outgoing Fellowship](#) which will allow him to gain experience in his field in the US for two years and take back the knowledge gained and expand it in Europe for another one year also covered by the fellowship. This is a wonderful example of the “brain circulation” and sharing knowledge between the two continents. And as Marco said: *“The Marie Curie Fellowships are a great opportunity for work and life experience.”*

[Marie Curie Fellowships](#) (MCF) are European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality and field of research. In addition to generous fellowships, researchers have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers.

“My name is Marco Masia and I am a Marie Curie Fellow at Boston University. Marie Curie actions, part of the European framework program, aim at boosting the career development of young researchers through a bottom-up approach; it is a long-time investment on knowledge, that would eventually enrich the European Research Area and its economic growth.

In my case, the fellowship covers salary and research costs for three years, two years in the US and one back in Europe. The scheme IOF (International Outgoing Fellowship) provides a unique opportunity for those researchers willing to acquire new knowledge and skills; in fact, not only does it give the chance to work with world leading groups in any field of research, but it also allows us to connect with the non-European scientific community.

My research field is Theoretical Chemistry: using theoretical and computational methods I am interested in understanding the minute atomistic details of chemical systems. In particular, for my Marie Curie project, I am studying energy transfer in natural light harvesting complexes that are known to be highly efficient in energy conversion. The aim of my research is to look into the main features of the energy conversion for targeted design of the next generation polymer solar cells.

This experience is challenging both for the research and personal aspects. For example, moving to the US meant a big change for my family. My wife had to quit her job and move to the US with our two children. It took a couple of months before my children accepted the changes to our lifestyle, the language, friends, etc. I would say that, after having spent almost eight months in the US, we are finally settled in and most of our problems with moving the whole family have been solved. We are enjoying Brookline, a small city in the Boston greater area that is ideal for young parents and their children.



Marco and his family, Photo: Marco Masia

One thing I like about this experience is that I get to learn about the local culture. In particular I enjoy the Euro-American hybrid culture of Boston. I also appreciate how US people have an optimistic approach to life. This is reflected in their common language. Things that are "nice" or "ok" in Europe, are "awesome", "great" or "terrific" here. I think that this attitude to life is the key to

facing difficult challenges in economy, scientific research and technology. This is why they are much more daring in these fields compared to Europeans. Another thing I like about here is the quasi-absence of bureaucracy. Although they always complain about it, it is evident that their administrative apparatus is 1500 years behind European's. They don't realize how lucky they are!

Of course not everything in the US is better than in Europe; for example, they lag behind us in all aspects related to social welfare. They have highs and lows in education, health, and culture. In fact President Obama recently pointed out, in his State of the Union address that these issues are becoming a burden for the State as they enhance differences in wealth and reach between social classes. This is not acceptable for a civil, rich country. Luckily New England is an exception in this and resembles Europe. I think I will really enjoy living and working here for the next year."

Marco showed that the MCF is very important not only for the personal career and development of the researcher but he will also add value to the European research landscape because - through creating his network - he will forge strong links with the US research community and after returning to Europe act as a bridge between the European and US research communities.

## **EU INSIGHT**

### **Horizon 2020 (H2020)**

#### **The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)**

#### **What is Horizon 2020?**

Horizon 2020 (H2020) is a key pillar of [Innovation Union](#), a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at enhancing Europe's global competitiveness with a proposed budget of roughly €80 bn (the European Commission's H2020 proposal can be found here: [Horizon 2020 - Proposal Nov. 2011](#)). The European Union is a global leader in many technologies, but it faces increasing competition from traditional powers and emerging economies alike.

For the first time, Horizon 2020 brings together all EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. It focuses more than ever on turning scientific breakthroughs into innovative products and services that provide business opportunities and change people's lives for the better. At the same time it drastically cuts red tape, with simplification of rules and procedures to attract more top researchers and a broader range of innovative businesses. The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is the world's largest funding programme for research projects.

#### **Difference between FP7 and H2020**

The main differences between EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7, 2007-2013) and Horizon 2020 consist in:

- bringing together all existing Union research and innovation funding, including the Framework Programme for Research, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT);
- focusing on multidisciplinary societal challenges which the European citizens face;
- simplifying the participation of all companies, universities, and other institutes in all EU countries and beyond.

#### **The three key objectives**

Horizon 2020 will focus funds on three key objectives. It will support the EU's position as a world leader in science with a dedicated budget of €24.6 billion. Further, it will help secure industrial leadership in innovation with a budget of €17.9 billion. This includes a major investment of €13.7 billion in key technologies, as well as greater access to capital and support for SMEs. Finally, €31.7 billion will go towards addressing major concerns shared by all Europeans, across six key themes:

- Health, demographic change and well-being;
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy;
- Secure, clean and efficient energy;
- Smart, green and integrated transport;
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; and
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

### **Funding for mobility, the ERC and international cooperation**

Under the Commission proposal, €5.75 billion (+21%) will be allocated to the Marie Curie Actions, which has supported the training, mobility and skills development of more than 50 000 researchers since its launch in 1996.

Funding for the European Research Council (ERC) will increase by 77% to €13.2 billion. The ERC supports the most talented and creative scientists to carry out frontier research of the highest quality in Europe, in a programme that is internationally recognised and respected.

International cooperation will also be further promoted in Horizon 2020, in order to strengthen the EU's excellence and attractiveness in research, to tackle global challenges jointly and to support EU external policies (see [Fact sheet: International Participation in Horizon 2020](#); a more detailed budget breakdown can be found here: [Horizon 2020 - Budget Breakdown](#)).

### **What's next?**

During the coming months – by the end of 2013 at the latest – legislative acts will be adopted by the European Parliament (EP) and Council on Horizon 2020. The Specific Programme is to be accepted by the Council following an official hearing with the EP (consultation procedures).

On January 1, 2014 the framework programme will start and the first calls will be launched (for a more detailed time line and the legislative procedure see: [European Commission - A time line for Horizon 2020](#)).

Sources and further information:

[European Union](#)

[European Commission - Horizon 2020 Homepage](#)

[Euresearch](#)

[German Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#)

## **NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

**“EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration” (ES:GC2)** is a five-day conference taking place in the European Parliament, starting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Brussels.

The conference will bring together science policymakers, scientists and industry representatives from 100 different countries and will place EU research at the centre of the international response to global challenges. It will be convened by ISC - Intelligence in Science, in association with the **Irish Council Presidency** and in conjunction with Mr Sean Kelly MEP and other Members of the European Parliament.

The centrepiece of the Conference is the [50 Year Roadmap for the Future of Medicine](#). To achieve long-term sustainability of health care systems substantial new concepts are required which have to be based on sound science. In order to ensure that these concepts will be available in time an interdisciplinary and international collaborative scientific effort is required.

For more information please visit their [website](#).

### **European nano-warriors tackle a big killer ... cancer**

European researchers are waging war on cancer, a major medical and societal challenge today. Thanks to progress in nanotechnology and strong leadership by Trinity College Dublin, teams from diverse scientific fields are developing sensitive portable devices to diagnose cancer much earlier and to better monitor treatment when and where it is needed.

[More information](#)

### **Researchers help develop next-generation bio-plastic materials**

The Dutch company Avantium is leading the way in replacing plastic PET bottles and other oil-based products, with 'green' versions made from sugar derivatives – starch, protein and cellulose. Success in making the technology break-through has been partly achieved by the technological expertise brought to the company through the European Commission's Marie Curie Actions (MCAs) mobility support scheme.

[More information](#)

### **Great interest from ERC grantees in hosting early-career top US talent**

The recent initiative between the US **National Science Foundation** (NSF) and European Research Council (ERC) has been taken a step further since last summer.

The agreement, which provides opportunities for early-career NSF researchers to join ERC-funded teams in Europe, seems to resonate with ERC grantees; just over 760 already showed great interest in hosting talent from the US.

[More information](#)

### **Marie Curie 2012 Prize Winner Strikes Again**

Marie Curie "Promising Research Talent" Prize Winner 2012, **Gkikas Magiorkinis**, recently published an article in the high profile publication PLoS Computational Biology, describing how the Hepatitis C Virus spreads in a population. This ground breaking research was also reported on by the BBC. Knowing the main source of the virus transmission can help diagnosing the disease at an early stage, and increase the efficiency of the therapies.

[More information](#)

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

### **European University Institute: Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowships**

Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowships provide a framework for established academics with an international reputation to pursue their research at the EUI. Fellowships last for up to ten months in one of the EUI's four Departments which in turn invite fellows to participate in departmental activities (seminars, workshops, colloquia, etc.).

There are two annual deadlines for applications - 30 March and/or 30 September.

Further details available [here](#).

### **Calls for Proposals from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research: Overview**

The following call for proposals is currently open under the [People](#) program:

<b>Call for Proposals</b>	<b>Launched</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG)	18 October 2012	18 September 2013



The following call is currently open under the [Ideas](#) program:

<b>Call for Proposals</b>	<b>Launched</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Calls for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant	10 January 2013	3 October 2013

For further information, please stay tuned on the [ERC homepage](#) and on the [Research Participant Portal](#).

Information about calls under the [Cooperation](#) program can be found [here](#).

Participants from the United States are eligible to join research proposals under the Cooperation scheme. These programs require at least three partners in three different EU or associated countries plus a partner in the United States. With the exception of Health proposals, there is no funding from the European Union for U.S.-based partners unless the participation of the U.S. partner is deemed necessary for the success of the program. Cooperation schemes in the area of Health provide for full funding of the U.S.-based partners.

Information about calls under the [Capacities](#) program can be found [here](#).

To access a full list of currently open calls for proposals launched by the European Commission and for full details of the calls, go to the their [webpage](#).

**Calls for Tenders Related to the Directorate-General for Research** can be found on the following [website](#).

## **European and Other Funding and Grants**

Please visit [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

## **Guide to Europe/U.S. Opportunities in Research and Career Development**

All the other country specific funding opportunities can be found in our comprehensive [Guide for Europe/USA Opportunities in Research and Career Development](#) with all the necessary links to the individual websites.

## **JOB**

### **EURAXESS Portal**

[The EURAXESS portal](#) provides links to information helpful with researchers' international mobility.

For research careers and information on career and grant opportunities in science and technology in European countries, visit the [EURAXESS Jobs](#) website. You will find over 6000 open positions in different research fields available each day.

For access to a network of Service Centers providing free of charge assistance to researchers across Europe and Associated Countries, visit [EURAXESS Services](#). Services include information on entry conditions for non-European citizens, accommodation, taxes, social security, schools for children, etc.

For information about researchers' and employers' rights and obligations, visit [EURAXESS Rights](#). You will find out which research organisations signed the Charter and the Code and also more about the social security and pension regulations at the EU and member states' level.

For information about networks of European Researchers in the USA, India, China, Japan and ASEAN, visit [EURAXESS Links](#).

**NEW!!! [Online Jobs and Fellowships](#)** on the EURAXESS Links USA website.

As of January 2013 European but also non-European research organisations based in the US can publish research vacancies directly on the website. It is very easy and free of charge. Should you need any assistance, the EURAXESS Links USA team will be happy to help you.

### **Other Research Career Sites**

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

Find A Postdoc: <http://www.findapostdoc.com/>

Find Scholarships in Europe: <http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/>

Find PhDs in Europe: <http://www.phdportal.eu/>

Career.edu: <http://www.career.edu/index.php>

Academic Jobs EU: <http://www.academicjobseu.com>

Euro Science Jobs: <http://www.eurosciencejobs.com/>

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

European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO): [http://europa.eu/epso/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/epso/index_en.htm)

European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), Non-permanent Posts: [http://europa.eu/epso/apply/today/temporary\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/epso/apply/today/temporary_en.htm)

EMBO Excellence in Life Sciences: [EMBO](#)

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

Jobs at ITER: <http://www.iter.org/jobs>

Nature.jobs: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/index.html>

Jobs.ac.uk: [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)

Research Jobs in the Netherlands: <http://www.academictransfer.org/>  
[Research Jobs in Germany](#)

Scholarship Database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Brainpower Austria: <http://www.brainpower-austria.at/>

Talent Scotland: <http://www.talentscotland.com>

Elsevier Jobs: <http://www.recruitment.elsevier.com/register/default.aspx>

## EVENTS

### IMPORTANT PAST EVENTS

#### **AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, 14-18 February, 2013**

One of the world's biggest and prestigious science gathering worldwide, organised annually by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (<http://www.aaas.org/meetings/>) was this year entitled "**The Beauty and Benefits of Science**". Thousands of scientists, engineers, policymakers, educators, and journalists from some 50 nations met in Boston at the 179th AAAS Meeting.



AAAS Annual Meeting, European Commission's Stand, Photo: EC

The Commission was represented among others by Robert-Jan Smits, Director General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, Professor Anne Glover, the first Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Research Council, Professor Helga Nowotny.

The European Commission's key messages were that Europe is open for business, open for innovation, open for research and open for researchers. Europe punches above its weight in research: the Union accounts for just 7% of the world population but is responsible for 24% of world expenditure on research, 32% of high impact publications and 32% of patent applications.

The Commission was involved in a number of symposia in conjunction with EU researchers, high level panel discussions on EU science policy, and career and networking activities ([EU programme at AAAS](#)). Participants were able to get more information on career and funding opportunities in the EU at the Commission's stand in the exhibition hall. The stand was compiled of all the important initiatives launched by the Commission: Marie Curie Actions together with EURAXESS, European Research Council (ERC) and Joint Research Centre (JRC). The Commission's stand held the title "Destination Europe" which attracted many visitors who could not only receive information and material but also attend the flash info sessions on research funding opportunities across the Atlantic.



During the AAAS Annual Meeting a session with the Marie Curie fellows based in the US and ERC grantees based in Europe was held together with the Director General Robert-Jan Smits (in the middle) and Helga Nowotny (next to Robert-Jan Smits).

AAAS Annual Meeting, Photo: EC

The EURAXESS initiative was presented to some 40 researchers at the Career development workshop "Funding opportunities in Europe for creative minds from anywhere in the world" on Saturday, 16 February together with Marie Curie (MC) and the ERC. After the workshop, participants could join the speakers at the lounge and discuss specific requests.

### **"Destination Europe" Conference, Boston, MA, 22 February, 2013**

The "Destination Europe" conference in Boston was already the third one from its launch in January 2012 in the series of events planned in the United States to showcase the vibrant research and innovative culture in Europe and the opportunities available to researchers, from anywhere in the world, interested in working in Europe.





“Destination Europe” is a forum for leading European research organisations, funders and industry to present the opportunities they offer to researchers and innovators from anywhere in the world. These events enable you to learn about opportunities, ask questions, network and discuss with people who have chosen to work in Europe.

From left to right: Mary Kavanagh (EC), Viktoria Bodnarova (EURAXESS Links USA), Karin Peeters (EU Delegation to the US), Errol Levy (EU Delegation to the US), Photo: VB

The Member states’ representatives, namely Austria, Germany, France and The Netherlands invited the audience to take a look at all the opportunities offered by their individual countries and take advantage of the Europe’s growing need for brilliant minds from all over the world. During the conference, other very important job and/or funding opportunities were introduced: The European Research Council, Marie Curie Actions, opportunities at CERN and EURAXESS – the Researchers in Motion initiative.



The conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge was attended by about 200 European and non-European scientists and technologists mainly from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard and Boston

At the Destination Europe Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge, Photo: VB

Universities but also from the New York and Yale Universities.

More information about “Destination Europe” can be found [here](#).

## European Career Fair at MIT, Cambridge, MA, 23 February, 2013



ECF at MIT, EURAXESS stand, Photo: VB

**“Connecting Continents, Creating Careers”** was the theme of the 17th European Career Fair (ECF) that took place from February 23rd to February 25th, 2013 on the MIT campus in Boston. Organized by the MIT European Club, the ECF fosters transatlantic connections between European employers

and candidates interested in career and research opportunities in Europe. Over the years, the ECF has served as a platform for European employers to recruit top talent from leading academic institutions in the United States and is the largest career event of its kind.

One of the Fair’s most exciting features is its proprietary online database, which participating employers can use to pre-select candidates for interviews following the Fair. This database conveniently allows participating employers to view and search submitted resumes, and schedule interviews online. This year’s Fair, held on campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, attracted over 100 companies and over 4000 job seekers. Companies such as ABB, Barilla, BASF, McKinsey & Company, Roche, Siemens; and numerous European academic institutions were among the event exhibitors. As always, volunteers from the European Club organized the event extremely professionally, making us enormously appreciative of their fantastic work.

EURAXESS Links USA co-hosted an exhibit stand at the event, in collaboration with the EU Delegation on the 23 February. We also held a 30-minute presentation during the European information session at the Fair, introducing the EURAXESS initiative to about 50 interested participants. At the stand we welcomed several hundreds of PhD candidates, Post-Docs and more experienced researchers from MIT, Harvard and elsewhere from the US seeking information on job and funding opportunities in Europe.



The Fair also provided us with excellent opportunities for networking with other organizations based in Europe and in the US. See the Fair website at <https://www.euro-career.com/>.

**We welcome all new members who joined the EURAXESS network in Boston!**

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Event</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Organized by</b>	<b>Link to the event</b>
2013 MRS Spring Meeting & Exhibit	April 1-5	San Francisco, CA	Materials Research Society	<a href="#">Link</a>
245th ACS National Meeting & Exposition	April 7-11	New Orleans, LA	American Chemical Society	<a href="#">Link</a>
ACS Spring 2013 Career Fair	April 7-9	New Orleans, LA	American Chemical Society	<a href="#">Link</a>
AACR Annual Meeting 2013	April 6-10	Washington, DC	American Association of Cancer Research	<a href="#">Link</a>
"Destination Europe" Conference	April 11	Washington, DC	European Commission	<a href="#">Link</a>
2013 Annual Meeting	April 11-13	New Orleans, LA	Population Association of America	<a href="#">Link</a>
Public Affairs Conference 2013	April 14-16	Miami Beach, FL	National Association of Manufacturers	<a href="#">Link</a>
Experimental Biology meeting	April 20-24	Boston, MA	Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology	<a href="#">Link</a>
BIO International Convention	April 22-25	Chicago, IL	BIO (Biotechnology Industry Organization)	<a href="#">Link</a>

EURAXESS Links USA will be organizing each year 3 to 4 different events which can fall under the following categories:

**Thematic meetings:** Meetings (usually half-day) bringing together European and non-European researchers and other stakeholders working in the same scientific field to network and discuss different challenges/questions of common interest related to their field of research.

**Horizontal meetings:** Bringing together European and non-European researchers and other stakeholders around one specific and trans-disciplinary issue which is of interest to researchers from different fields (i.e. Intellectual Property).

**Information sessions:** Informing members or potential members of the EURAXESS Links USA network about EU research and EU funding opportunities, EU-US S&T cooperation challenges/opportunities, and EURAXESS (i.e. Science slams, Science café etc.).

We welcome suggestions from researchers and professionals for organizing meetings in their fields of activity.

If you would like to share ideas and suggestions about possible Thematic or Horizontal Meetings in your field of activity, please do so by writing to [northamerica@euraxess.net](mailto:northamerica@euraxess.net).

In the next month's newsletter, we will come with more details on all the events.

## **ABOUT EURAXESS LINKS USA**

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

For further information about EURAXESS Links USA, please visit: <http://usa.euraxess.org>.

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

## **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

EURAXESS Links USA News is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers based in the United States.

To unsubscribe, please send a message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line to [northamerica@euraxess.net](mailto:northamerica@euraxess.net).

Copyright© 2013 EURAXESS Links USA