Dear Friends and Colleagues!

Being the gateway to the European Research Area (ERA), EURAXESS takes pride in providing an array of information on Europe's vibrant and dynamic research landscape, from latest strides and achievements to funding and partnership opportunities through our new and improved portal and beyond!

In the third 2019 issue, we are zooming into Malta as one of the European Research Area’s destinations; bringing you the latest statistics (2018) for the ERASMUS+ program focusing on short-term mobility and student exchanges between North America and Europe. Our hot topic for this issue is ‘Seven steps to Establishing a Sustainable Scientific Diaspora Network’.

EURAXESS North America is very pleased to provide you with the latest news and developments from the ERA. As always, we strive to offer a selection of articles to engage our growing community of researchers and science advocates in North America, and include recent and very interesting R&D news from the European Research Area, Canada and the United States. If you wish to receive the latest funding opportunities, please subscribe HERE.

Enjoy reading the newsletter!

With Best Wishes,

Your EURAXESS North America Team
Contents

1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: MALTA ........................................ 3

2 EU cooperation with Canada & the United States through Erasmus+ ................................................................. 6
   International credit mobility .......................................................... 6
   Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees .......................................... 7

3 HOT TOPIC: Seven Steps to Establishing a Sustainable Scientific Diaspora Network ........................................ 9

4 In case you missed it ................................................................. 13
   Event Outlook ........................................................................... 13
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 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.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess

Marsaxlokk (source: shutterstock)
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 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 start-up business – taking them from idea to investment and, well, to take-off.

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!
2 EU cooperation with Canada & the United States through Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+?
Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ funds academic and youth mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from "Programme Countries" and "Partner Countries" throughout the world. The 33 programme countries comprise the 28 EU Member States plus five other European countries. Partner countries are located all over the world and include Canada and the United States. Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the EU’s priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions. Four years into the programme, we can see how popular these initiatives are with North American countries.

International credit mobility
For over 30 years, students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ also allows short-term mobility between Europe and other parts of the world for students, researchers, and staff (known as International Credit Mobility or ICM). This two-way mobility allows students to study in a foreign university for 3-12 months (2-12 months in case of traineeships) and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all 33 Programme Countries. Programme-Country institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities from Canada and the US and apply on behalf of their partners.

The budget for Canada & the United States makes up almost 5% of the entire international mobility budget and so far has funded 731 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise mobility for over 6,000 students, researchers, and staff.

In 2015, the Université du Quebec à Montreal, Canada sent three students or staff to Athens (Greece), four to Rennes (France), two to Bergen (Norway) and two Warsaw in Poland. In return it hosted eight Europeans from these countries. These were mainly in the areas of business studies, education science and humanities.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iaşi, Romania, has ICM agreements with the US which send 11 Romanians to the Universities of Massachusetts, Michigan, and Virginia, and to Clarkson University. 14 Americans come to Iaşi, mainly for staff in the ICT and economics/finance sectors. Iaşi also receives 9 Canadians from, and sends 8 Romanians to, Carleton, Laval, Ottawa and Québec.
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees. Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJMD Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/emjmd-catalogue_en)

Institutions from Eastern Partnership countries can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes, as full partners, which means they officially award degrees, or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity, but do not award the actual joint degree.

North American partners

From 2014 to 2018, 100 institutions from North America were involved in 65 of the 153 selected EMJMDs. Of these, 11 took part as full partners. The United States were significantly more represented in EMJMD programmes with 81 US institutions taking part. Top participating institutions were University of British Columbia (Canada) and The Regents of the University of California (US).

More information:

Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association: [www.em-a.eu](http://www.em-a.eu)

WOP-P

WOP-P - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Work, Organisational and Personnel Psychology combines theory on the psychology of personnel and organisations with placements, during which students assess the way organisations work with this. It combines definitive thinking from North America with new ideas from Europe, and makes the most of the perspectives provided by the international student cohorts taking part.

The consortium is led by the University of Valencia (Spain) and includes four partners from the United States and one from Canada in the consortium alongside Brazilian, Italian and Portuguese institutions.
Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

Canada & US
Out of a total of 1,218 successful applications to Jean Monnet between 2014 and 2018, 92 are from Canada & USA and comprise 18 JM Chairs, 6 JM Modules, 24 JM Centres of Excellence, 9 JM Networks, 31 JM Projects and 4 JM Support to Associations.

Fulbright-Schuman scholarships

Fulbright-Schuman offers fellowships to American and European PhD candidates, researchers and lecturers to carry out research or post-graduate studies at a European or American University in the field of US-EU relations. The Fulbright-Schuman Programme is jointly financed by the European Union and is open to citizens of all 28 EU member states and to U.S. citizens with two years of relevant experience.

The Fulbright-Schuman Programme is administered by the Fulbright Commission in Brussels and is jointly financed by the U.S. Department of State and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. For more information: http://www.fulbrightschuman.eu/

From 2014 to 2018, the annual selections have resulted in grants for some 70 Europeans and 40 US nationals.

Fullbright-Schuman testimonies

Despina Karamperidou from Greece received a Fulbright-Schuman scholarship in 2016-2017 to conduct research at Yale University’s Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence. The programme she followed “pushed me to approach my own project from fresh angles and to experiment with new analytical tools” she explains.

Dr. Salvatore Nicolosi from Italy received a Fulbright-Schuman scholarship in 2016-2017 to conduct research at the University of Michigan Law School after postdoctoral research at the Human Rights Center of the University of Ghent in Belgium. “Travelling for the first time to the other side of the Atlantic has soon become a totalizing experience of life during which I have been learning a lot especially in terms of culture and society.”

Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Capacity Building projects in the Field of Youth cover a range of activities that encourage cooperation between organisations active in youth empowerment, education of youth, youth training, and other relevant socioeconomic sectors in Programme and Partner Countries from different regions of the world. The projects aim to recognize and improve youth work, non-formal learning, and volunteering, and consequently link this to education systems and the labour market.

These projects are focused principally on developing countries or countries neighbouring the EU, but youth organisations from all over the world are eligible to take part, and a number have involved US or Canadian organisations.

Youth Participation Parkour

This world-wide project is managed by Kumanovo, a Center for intercultural dialogue in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and involves partners from Canada, Ireland, UK, Italy, South Africa, Cameroon, Belgium, Estonia, Fiji and DR Congo.

The objective of this project is to develop an Idea Lab to bring forward proposals to improve youth participation processes in civil society. It includes an exchange between youth organisations from all eleven countries, which will serve to produce a dialogue exhibition (“youth Parkour”) during the international civil society week.

“WOMEN@IR-WEBIND”

This project run by the Institute for Womens Policy Research of Washington, US compares and promotes women leadership in the EU and the US, thus filling a gap in European integration studies, that have so far neglected the role of women political leaders in EU policymaking and IR. An international team of leading experts, scholars and women political leaders will join forces in the research work, discussed in an international conference in Washington, DC.

The project raises awareness about the EU and European Union studies in the US and inspires emerging women leaders to engage in civil service and politics. Though the project is not about gender politics – it is a trans-disciplinary history and political science project – it does in fact have a clear gender-promotion goal and an agenda that will help reduce the gap between academia and the policy community.
Mobile researchers are afforded unique opportunities in the experience of not only engaging international scientific landscapes, but essentially becoming a bridge connecting both host and home countries. They endure an equally unique set of challenges, best tackled in alliance with those who have or continue to experience the same. While there is not one single way to establishing a diaspora network, whether you are looking to connect with fellow researchers from your country or discipline (or both), there are 7 starting steps to building a sustainable scientific diaspora network.

**EURAXESS Worldwide hubs, their representatives and their vast network of scientific excellence can help connect you to experienced facilitators as well as other diaspora networks to exchange best practices, tips and tricks**

---

3 HOT TOPIC: Seven Steps to Establishing a Sustainable Scientific Diaspora Network

**EURAXESS Worldwide hubs, their representatives and their vast network of scientific excellence can help connect you to experienced facilitators as well as other diaspora networks to exchange best practices, tips and tricks**
In the face of global and societal challenges from climate change to extremism in all its faces, there is a demand for building bridges, collaborating and finding solutions. There is a demand, more than ever before, to activating the collective mindset. This piece is the outcome of our combined experience of over 25 years of building networks to, for and by mobile researchers and professionals. It is in response to the evidently growing interest by governments, institutions and researchers alike to leverage the profound potential of scientific diasporas. While these steps are applicable to national, regional or thematic scientific diaspora this article focuses primarily on establishing a national or regional scientific diaspora.

In 2013, the year of the official launch of EURAXESS Worldwide (then EURAXESS Links), William J. Burns, US Deputy Secretary of State at the time, wrote a perspective article on “The Potential of Science Diasporas”. He asserted that at time of writing, though some would certainly argue that this remains a valid assertion, that “the two most powerful currents in today’s international landscape present important opportunities for American Diplomacy: the unrelenting advancement of scientific knowledge and innovation, and the ever-thickening web of connections that brings diaspora communities and their homelands closer together.”

Indeed, the European Commission continues to heavily invest in the advancement and promotion of mobile researchers and their development. Similarly, China and India devise specific policies to both engage and empower their diasporas to establish a constant exchange of knowledge and experience between host and home countries. In short, as a mobile researcher you are an asset and there is no need for you to face challenges alone. Build and they will come. But where do you start?

**DO YOUR RESEARCH**

Building a network from scratch is not an easy task. As a researcher, you have the tools you need to adequately prepare yourself to the task and magnitude of work it takes to bringing people together. Here are a few questions to ask:

- **How many researchers from your country are in your institute, your city, your host country? Are there any pre-established networks?**
- **Is there a platform where someone raised similar concerns to you as a mobile researcher or expressed interest in a network?**
- **What are the trends of scientific collaboration between your host and home country?**
- **What is the rate of academic/scientific exchange? Are there any policies aimed at increasing this?**

These questions will help lay the ground work for identifying the potential venues your network can leverage to fill the gaps in the support system you need as a mobile researcher. Seek other diaspora network members and leaders in your area, compare and contrast best practices and challenges faced by them to better prepare you in your trajectory. Go to their events, follow them on social media, sign up to their newsletters (yes even if your mailbox does not need another - unsubscribing is but a click away).
Most embassies do not have a designated science, technology and innovation counsellor, let alone office. This does not necessarily reflect a government’s interest, eagerness and various attempts of mapping its researchers abroad. To the contrary, it is our experience that embassies without a designated liaison to their researchers eagerly welcome researchers wanting to champion the effort of building such a network. The support from the embassy does not need to be (and indeed most times is not) financial, it can take many forms including but not limited to:

- Connecting you to other researchers who may have expressed similar interests;
- Facilitating introductions to leading experts in your field in both host and home countries;
- Promote your work and research achievements not only in your host country but also at home or simply providing a meeting space.

There is of course the chance that there is absolutely no capacity for any form of support, your embassy can liaise with embassies of neighbouring countries to explore the possibility of establishing a regional diaspora network until you’ve rallied more allies for a national one. If nothing else, meet to state your intent and extend an open invitation to explore building a mutually beneficial rapport.

IDENTIFY THE CO-CREATORS

Rewarding as it may be, building and maintaining a sustainable network while working a full-time job, trying to publish, staying healthy and perhaps squeezing some form of social life if you date, can be a daunting business.

DISCLAIMER: DO NOT DO THIS ALONE. THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS.

Reach out to your personal networks and institutions from your home country and ask to be connected to researchers in your host country. For ever-changing privacy reasons, this may not be feasible but it may be possible to circulate information you provide so be prepared with an email calling on researchers interested in establishing this network to connect with you.

Find platforms that work with and focus on research career developments and ask for your call on researchers to be circulated. For European researchers abroad, for example, EURAXESS Worldwide is an excellent asset in facilitating these introductions and connections to build a stronger community of mobile researchers. On the EURAXESS North America portal, there is a tab dedicated to European scientific diaspora networks including their news, upcoming events and opportunities and the reports of the annual meetings of European Scientific Diasporas in North America with ample insights on this topic.

STRATEGIZE, STRATEGIZE, STRATEGIZE.

This cannot be emphasized enough. How one lays the foundation influences not only the trajectory but ultimately their capacity to see it through to completion. It is imperative for your newly identified working group to be on the same page.

This is HOW we did it!

Link to all the Reports of the European Scientific Diasporas in North America Annual Meetings:

- 1st Annual Meeting (2015)
- 2nd Annual Meeting (2016)
- 3rd Annual Meeting (2017)
Why do you want to establish this network?
Who are you benefiting by this network? How are you benefitting?
What challenges will you address as a network? What or who might stop/constrain you from establishing a sustainable network?
Why is it have a structure? What will this structure look like?
How would the network operate? What kind of programs would it offer? How will you finance them?

Create a one pager with your mission, vision, objectives, pillars, rationale for your network, eligibility. This will be used to announce, recruit and build alliances.

FIND YOUR ALLIES

After much deliberation on the order of this particular step, it is very strategically placed here. It is later in the steps because what we call the “establishrash” will keep one going to a certain point, until the line between passion project and job gets blurred. This effort, or at least starting it, is almost always entirely volunteer work, which is taxing, trying and tiring. The moment the core group of visionaries behind the network, lose their rush: Things. Will. Fail.

Finding allies helps you maintain momentum and sustain the inevitable challenges and nuances of bringing different personalities and varying need and expertise together. Science-based NGOs, research institutions in host and home countries, funding agencies, programs and experts in Science Diplomacy are all potential allies. Another very important ally is a bracket of the research diaspora communities that often falls through the cracks: the undergraduates. Often looking to build their profile and gain experience, if engaged early they can contribute to administrative, logistic, creative and research tasks.

GO LIVE

In the digital age of insta-tools and social media, there is no need for an official “launch” ceremony. Release your one pager tagging personal and professional networks, research institutions with higher numbers of your target audience and allies announcing that your network is ready to welcome new members.

GROW

There is little to no argument on how scientific diasporas directly contribute to the advancement of both home and host countries: the larger the collective, the more prominent the impact. How does a new, young and probably un/ill-funded grow? By animating synergies through partnerships with alumni networks from home countries and diasporas in neighbouring countries. Here too the forgotten undergraduates can play a vital role. More established researchers have a responsibility to engage, encourage and empower younger and early career researchers. This can be as simple as starting chapters in their respective universities and arranging a series of talks by the more advanced researchers in the network allowing for personal growth through intergenerational collaboration, professional growth whether through the experiences of organizing these events as undergraduates or speaking at them as more established research, as well as the growth of the network and its reach.

“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.

† The excitement fuelled momentum of establishing something new.

2019 | Issue 3 | Page 12 of 13
Event Outlook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Organized by</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information session: Research Funding Opportunities in Europe</td>
<td>9 October 2019</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA</td>
<td>Office of Postdoctoral Studies, UoW</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Jobs Career Fair &amp; EXPO</td>
<td>19-20 October 2019</td>
<td>New York City, NY, USA</td>
<td>Nature Careers</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session on Global Mobility: Research Opportunities Outside of the US</td>
<td>1 November 2019</td>
<td>Indiana University, IN, USA</td>
<td>Indiana University</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session on Global Mobility: Research Opportunities Outside of the US</td>
<td>13 November 2019</td>
<td>Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility Road Show – Information sessions on research funding</td>
<td>19-22 November 2019</td>
<td>UC Berkeley, 10/19 UC LA, 10/20 University</td>
<td>EU Delegation to the US, EURAXESS NA &amp; the host</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of Arizona, 10/21 Arizona State University,</td>
<td>universities in CA &amp; AZ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Funding Opportunities in Europe</td>
<td>3 December 2019</td>
<td>Concordia University, Montreal, QC, CANADA</td>
<td>Concordia University &amp; EURAXESS NA</td>
<td>Link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About EURAXESS North America

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

For further information about EURAXESS North America, please visit: http://northamerica.euraxess.org.

To sign up for membership in our network, please go to our website and click on Sign up and become a member for free button.