In this newsletter:

EU Horizon Europe & EURAXESS Armenia Portal Inauguration Event
Page 1

EURAXESS Armenia Mobility Day
Page 2

MSCA PF Call of 2022
Page 3

Successful MSCA PF projects from Armenian researchers
Page 4

70 new COST Actions have been approved
Page 5

EEURAXESS Biennial Conference 2022
Page 6

EURAXESS ARMENIA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

"EURAXESS - Researchers in Motion" is a unique initiative of the European Commission, which aims to support mobility and career development of researchers, thus contributing to the development of the European Research Area. The main goal of the EURAXESS network is to facilitate the process of creating a pan-European market for researchers by providing them free of charge information services and high-quality support in terms of their Career Development.
EU HORIZON EUROPE & EURAXESS ARMENIA PORTAL INAUGURATION EVENT

Following the signature of the EU Horizon Europe Association Agreement between European Commission and Armenia, EU Horizon Europe & EURAXESS Armenia Portal Inauguration Event took place on November 24, 2021, organized by the Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Center (SIPAC) in cooperation with Science Committee of RA (SC RA), the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and European Commission (EC).

During the event, speeches were held by the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Deputy Director-General, DG R&I, European Commission, President and Vice President of the National Academy of Science of RA, Chairman of the Science Committee, and other important speakers.

All the high level Armenian and EU officials stressed the importance of the association of Armenia to the largest in the world research and innovation grant programme and joining the EURAXESS Initiative, which will allow Armenian research organizations, universities, SMEs and individual researchers to be part of European Research Area (ERA), and get involved and benefit from participation in joint research projects with EU counterparts.

The agenda of the event comprised of 3 sessions, following the solemn opening the first was dedicated to the association of Armenia to Horizon Europe programme, the second to EURAXESS Armenia National Portal Inauguration and the third to research opportunities in Armenia and activities of the Enterprise Europe Network.

Attended by over 100 participants from Governmental Bodies, EU Delegation to Armenia, public institutions, research institutes, educational organizations, CSOs, SMEs, NGOs and other stakeholders, the event was a true success and received very positive feedback from the attendees.
EURAXESS ARMENIA MOBILITY DAY
“EU PROGRAMS SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS’ MOBILITY AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT”

On May 17, 2022, EURAXESS-AM Mobility Day on "EU programs supporting researchers’ mobility and career development" was organized at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (NAS RA), in the framework of EURAXESS-Armenia project.

The event was organized by International Grants Support Department (IGSD) of the NAS RA, EURAXESS Bridge Head Organization (BHO), in cooperation with Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Center (SIPAC) and the European Commission.

The main objective of the event was to disseminate the EURAXESS-AM project results and impact to a wider audience and share opportunities for international mobility and career development under various EU programmes with Armenian research community.

The keynote welcome speeches were delivered by Mr. Tigran ARZUMANYAN, Head of IGSD NAS RA, Mr. Hrant MATEVOSYAN, Vice-President of NAS RA, Ms. Silvia BOJINOVA, ENP Team Leader, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I), European Commission, and Mr. David AVAKIAN, International Cooperation Officer, EU Delegation to Armenia.

The full-day event agenda included presentations on EU funded programmes and initiatives, such as EURAXESS, Horizon Europe, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), DAAD, COST, Erasmus+, as well as national programmes supporting mobility and international cooperation. One of the sessions was devoted to testimonials from three Armenian successful MSCA Individual/Postdoctoral Fellowship applicants, who shared information on their projects, application experience and provided tips for potential applicants.

The event was marked by participation of invited speakers - Ms. Cristina GÓMEZ, Spanish EURAXESS BHO representative/MSCA National Contact Point, and Ms. Katalin ALFOLDI, Policy Officer, COST Association.

The event has raised high interest among Armenian research community and was attended by around 100 participants.
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS CALL OF 2022 IS OPEN

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) — is a programme under EU Horizon Europe that offers funding for postdocs in the form of 2 or 3-year fellowships in the framework of its Postdoctoral Fellowship Action (MSCA PF).

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship provides universal support to young researchers’ scientific and professional growth. MSCA PFs are highly competitive, and only applications with the highest quality get the chance to be financed.

The MSCA PF 2022 call is open since the 12th of May, 2022 and welcomes applications from postdoctoral researchers planning to move within or to Europe for developing their scientific career. Projects financed in the framework of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship should be implemented within the EU Member states or in Horizon Europe associated countries. The projects can last from 2 to 3 years.

The call is open for researchers of any nationality.
In order to apply you must meet the following conditions:

- Have your PhD degree before the call deadline
- Your PhD degree must not be more than 8 years old at the call deadline (exceptions apply: career breaks, maternity leaves etc.)
- You must not have spent more than 12 months in the country of host organization in the last 3 years prior to the call deadline (short-term stays such as family visits do not count)

More detailed information on MSCA PF call and possible support for application can be found in a brief MSCA PF Guide developed by EURAXESS Armenia BHO designed to attract Diaspora researchers. The guide is available both in Armenian and English languages in Career Development Section of the EURAXESS Armenian portal.
SUCCESSFUL MSCA PF PROJECTS FROM ARMENIAN RESEARCHERS

MSCA PF provides universal support to young researchers’ scientific and professional growth. Each year, researchers from all over the world apply to the MSCA PF call, thus making it very competitive with only the top excellent proposals getting funded. There were 8356 applications to the MSCA PF call of 2021 and only 1156 experienced post-doctoral researchers will get funding, €242 million in total, to work at top universities, research centers, private organizations and small and medium-sized enterprises in Europe and the rest of the world. Two researchers from Armenia are among those lucky ones, Hripsime Mkrtchyan and Anahit Hovhannisyan.

Anahit Hovhannisyan is a population geneticist at the Institute of Molecular Biology of NAS RA. Her research focuses on applying evolutionary genetics and genomics to study human populations. Anahit’s MSCA PF project FeverTime (Selection Versus Drift in The Rise of Deleterious Mutations) was successful and she will be hosted by Trinity College Dublin for 2 years to study the demographic history, selection, and origins of the disease-causing variants in Armenia, using a powerful ancient genomics approach. FeverTime will decipher the relative roles of drift and selection in driving local gene mutation load. At the end of the project, the international scientific conference on disease evolution and ancient genomics will be organized in Armenia.

Hripsime Mkrtchyan is an engineer-physicist at Cosmic Ray Division of Alikhanyan National Science Laboratory, her research is devoted to the investigation of thundercloud electric structure. Her project AtmosEleC (Atmospheric Electricity for Climate) was successful and she will be hosted by the University of Reading in the UK. Hripsime will investigate the usefulness of the Global Electric Circuit (GEC) variables for climate monitoring by combining novel technological advances and new analysis techniques to improve observations of the GEC. Outcomes will include: the development of a framework for regular monitoring of the GEC ionospheric potential from balloon measurements using a new sensor; improvement of fair-weather determination for GEC electric field measurements using reanalysis data; analysis of historical GEC datasets to study changes in climate-related ocean circulation patterns. New analysis techniques will also be developed to examine existing datasets to understand how the GEC and thus global lightning may link to global climate change.
On 27 May 2022, 70 new COST Actions, that will officially start this Autumn were approved and published on the COST website.

The new Actions mean new opportunities for researchers, including those from COST Near Neighbour Countries, to become COST participants.

The new Actions’ websites will be available as from 24 June and new partners can directly engage and join them. To learn more and browse the new Actions please visit here.

What are COST Actions?

A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties.

Open to all science and technology fields, including new and emerging fields; COST Actions offer an inclusive, pan-European environment for individuals of all levels of seniority to grow their professional research networks and boost their careers.

In today’s world it is essential for research to be interconnected, interdisciplinary, collaborative and data-intensive. By focusing on networking activities, COST Actions help to advance knowledge and strengthen the research and development sector, by creating networking opportunities for researchers to meet and discuss ideas, complex problems can be addressed in a targeted way, across a large geographical area.

Read more.
EURAXESS Biennial Conference 2022

The aim of EURAXESS conference 2022 was to deliver stimulating content and foster lively debate around the latest EURAXESS and policy advancement, creating a perfect environment to exchange best practices and facilitate cohesion among network members.

This was the first ever EURAXESS biennial conference that EURAXESS Australia & New Zealand participated in since the inception of the hub. The conference offered EURAXESS members the perfect occasion to give visibility to the network achievements, but also to share insights on creating supportive, inclusive and healthy environments for excellent research. The conference also gave a platform for discussion on how to improve the attractiveness of research careers and how to protect the well-being of researchers, while ensuring EURAXESS remains fit for the digital age.

There were lots of engaging discussions on:

- Empowering women researchers
- Careers beyond academia
- Staying connected to the European Scientific Diaspora
- Science4refugees
- Researcher working environment

All plenary sessions were held in hybrid format allowing for onsite and remote participants to follow the discussions at the same time. Workshops were held either physically in Nantes for the onsite participants or fully virtually for the remote audience. The conference also allowed for the participants to engage in virtual matchmaking.

For more information and the Conference recording please visit [here](#).