Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second edition of the EURAXESS ASEAN quarterly newsletter 2018.

Summer holidays! Sun, sand and ... proposal writing. Researchers all over the world are preparing their application for a prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship. Last month, EURAXESS ASEAN joined hands with a European trainer to guide applicants here in ASEAN through the preparation stages as part of our annual ‘Advancing your Research Career in Europe’ flagship event series which was held in Singapore and Thailand (page 9). If you have not started yet, now is the time. There is plenty of advice on successful proposal preparation available on the EURAXESS portal. We wish all of you good luck!

Keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page for daily information on research mobility & cooperation opportunities in Europe and the announcement of our next information & training events here in ASEAN.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and welcome your feedback. Wishing you all a wonderful summer break!

Your EURAXESS ASEAN team
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EURAXESS ASEAN Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS ASEAN, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers in ASEAN and international researchers who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegations of the European Union.

Please email to asean@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

Editors: Dr Susanne RENTZOW-VASU and Simon GRIMLEY, EURAXESS ASEAN, Regional Representatives
1. Southeast Asia – Europe Joint Funding Scheme (JFS): 2nd Joint Call Launched

The Southeast Asia-Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation (JFS) is an instrument for the funding of bi-regional research and innovation projects. The funding for the projects is provided by funding agencies or ministries at national, regional or local level from Southeast Asia and Europe. Each country funds “their own researchers” according to their own rules and in principle there is "no money crossing Joint Calls for Proposals are being launched in changing thematic areas which are of interest to the participating funders. In 2017 a first joint call in the thematic areas Health (Emerging Infectious Diseases/AMR) and Environment/Climate Change (Adaptation/Resilience of food production systems, Impacts of Climate Change on Ecosystems/Biodiversity) was successfully implemented.

The 2nd Joint Call for Proposals in the thematic areas Bioeconomy and Infectious Diseases under the Southeast Asia-Europe Joint Funding Scheme for Research and Innovation has now been launched. The deadline for the submission of Proposals is 18 September 2018.

Type of funded projects:

Southeast Asia-Europe Joint Call Projects must comprise of at least 3 partners (either 2 different Southeast Asian partners and 1 European partner or 2 different European partners and 1 Southeast Asian partner) applying for funding from funding agencies participating in the call. Funding agencies from the following countries are currently contributing to the Call: Bulgaria, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, The Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey. Please note that funding bodies from additional countries are expected to announce their participation soon! Please do visit the official call website regularly for details!

The proposals must cover the thematic areas of Bioeconomy or Infectious Diseases to enhance bi-regional co-operation and develop new partnerships as well as strengthen existing ones.

Deadline: 18 September 2018 12:00 (noon) CET/ 17:00 Jakarta time
Thematic Areas

1) Bioeconomy:

The bioeconomy comprises those parts of the economy that use renewable biological resources from land and sea – such as crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms – to produce food, materials and energy.

Bioeconomy is a top-priority on the research agendas of the EU and its MS/AC and the ASEAN countries (e.g. see Europe's Bioeconomy Strategy and cross-cutting topic in APASTI in Sub-Committee on Biotechnology (SCB), Sub-Committee on Food Science and Technology (SCFST) and Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT), Sub-Committee on Materials Science and Technology (SCMST) or also Sub-Committee on Sustainable Energy Research (SCSER).

2) Infectious Diseases

Research on Infectious Diseases has a long history in Southeast Asia-Europe cooperation as the pose a threat to both regions and there are strong research capacities on both sides. The topic was also part of the 1st Joint Call for Proposals under this funding scheme. A focus is on emerging infectious diseases and proposals could address subjects such as new drug and vaccine candidates (preclinical), diagnostics, epidemiology, public health preparedness. This thematic area covers infectious diseases which pose a threat to human health.

Scope of the projects:

Funding will be provided for the duration of a maximum of three years (36 months). They should start earliest in April 2019.

Within the framework of the Joint Call, funding can in general be applied for:

- Personnel costs
- Equipment and consumables (project-related miscellaneous expenses and project-related larger equipment)
- Mobility costs (exchange research visits between Europe and Southeast Asia. Travel costs, living expenses and visa costs are eligible for funding.
- Other costs (Costs which cannot be classified under the previous cost items but are required for the project implementation, such as costs related to dissemination, intellectual property, demonstration, market search, management, organisational and subcontracting costs).
The eligibility of cost items and their calculation is according to respective national regulations. You can download the respective national regulations for your country in the attachments section of the JFS website.

The upper funding limit can also be found in the respective national regulations.

**Who can apply?**

Proposals may be submitted by public legal RTD (Research and Technology Development) entities, higher education institutions, non-university research establishments, companies (all depending on national regulations). The participation of SMEs, industries and clusters in consortia is recommended. Eligibility criteria can be found in the respective national funding regulations.

Applicants should discuss their intentions and confirm eligibility with their respective National Contact Point before submitting a proposal.

**Application Process**

Project proposals are to be submitted electronically using the PT-Outline web tool.

Link: [https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/seaeuropejfs2018](https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/seaeuropejfs2018)

**Need help?**

Website: Please visit the official website of the JFS for details.

Call secretariat: Indonesian Science Fund, Mrs. Marsia Gustiananda ([Marsia.Gustiananda@dipi.id](mailto:Marsia.Gustiananda@dipi.id)) / Mr. Adam Bakthiar ([adam.bakhtiar@dipi.id](mailto:adam.bakhtiar@dipi.id))

JFS Management: Mr. Hans Westphal. Service Delivery Manager of the SEA-EU JFS ([sea.eu.jfs@servicefacility.eu](mailto:sea.eu.jfs@servicefacility.eu))
2. EURAXESS Members in Focus: Portugal

Centuries of history and culture, and a prime location and Mediterranean lifestyle, make Portugal the right place to learn and do science. Speaking the language of the future, Portugal is a hub for creativity and innovation, a gateway to the world. It is a unique place to live and share good memories.

Portuguese research landscape

With one of the oldest universities in Europe, the University of Coimbra, founded in 1290, Portugal has a long tradition in education and research. The country has also made significant progress in the last 25 years in enhancing its national research and innovation system, by extending its reach to a larger share of the population, by broadening its scope to all areas of knowledge, by fostering strong links with society, in particular with economic actors, and by always striving for excellent research as defined by international standards. In fact, the Portuguese research and innovation system is structurally internationalised, in part because of the relatively small size of the country and the need to share expertise with a broader community, but also because of the strong policy vision that we can only push the boundaries of modern science and technology in collaborative efforts, that have to go above and beyond national borders.

The main funding agency in Portugal is the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), responsible for the implementation of the public policies that arise from the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education. In 2016, the Government published its “Compromise with Knowledge and Science: the compromise with the future”, a strategic document that defined the policy ambitions up to 2020. Among them was the goal of reinforcing the scientific institutions, to expand and dignify the scientific careers, to continue the stimulus for internationalisation, and to develop, with the involvement of the scientific community, a set of research and innovation agendas in different thematic areas that should guide national policies up to 2030.

Facts & Figures

Portugal has 132 Higher Education Institutions spread throughout the country, supporting a community of almost 360 000 students, 12% of which are foreigners. In fact, the number of foreign students in Portugal increased by 95% in the last 7 years, a clear sign of the attractiveness of the country.

The national research and innovation system includes 307 research centres dedicated to all areas of knowledge, originating around 2000
doctorates completed each year, a 74% growth between 2000 and 2010. The strong and long-lasting support to S&T policies led to a 35-fold increase in scientific production in the last 25 years – actually, Portugal had the second highest average annual growth rate of publications between 2001 and 2014 within the EU.

The country also had a 45-fold increase in registered patents between 2001 and 2014. An innovation-friendly environment led to an annual rate of 31 000 new start-ups created every year, and almost 310 000 created between 2007 and 2015. This reflects a changing economic environment in the country, also reflected in the 130% increase of the technology-based firms between 2007 and 2010. To continue fostering this dynamic, the Government has recently launched the Collaborative Laboratories (Colabs), a new model of association between academia and the industry, where the main goal is to create skilled and scientific jobs in Portugal, both directly and indirectly, by implementing research and innovation agendas geared at creating economic and social value.

**International cooperation**

International cooperation is a fundamental characteristic of the Portuguese Research and Innovation landscape. Portugal has a tradition on bilateral agreement with several countries such as Argentina (Cooperation Programme in S&T between Argentina and Portugal), China (Sino-Portuguese Programme for Cooperation in S&T), India (Indo-Portuguese Programme for Cooperation in S&T), and the USA (Fulbright Program), among others.

Along with the bilateral agreements, the country is an active member of several international organisations, such as ESA, which is a part of the national Space Programme, EMBO, EMBL or CERN. Portugal is also a very active participant in the COST programme, as well as in CYTED, the Ibero-american programme for science and technology for development.

Taking advantage of its historical connection to the ocean, of the privileged geographical location, and of the expertise that has been built during the last decades, Portugal has recently promoted the creation of the Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre), an intergovernmental initiative to foster collaborative research activities on climate, land, space and oceans. The AIR centre already has the involvement of Portugal, Brazil, Spain, Angola, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Uruguay and São Tomé and Príncipe, with the United Kingdom and South Africa participating as Observers.

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Portuguese institutions**

Experienced researchers willing to move to Portugal can apply to an Individual Fellowship (IF) of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), irrespective of their country of origin.
Portugal is in the list of widening countries, and therefore, from 2018 to 2020, proposals above the quality threshold of 70% but not retained for funding through the MSCA IF call with a host institution in Portugal will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call (unless the applicants explicitly opted-out).

**Portugal as a research destination**

Besides its excellent universities and research centres, there are a number of reasons to justify the attractiveness of Portugal as a study and research destination. Not only the sun, the food and the friendliness of the people, but also the reasonable cost of living and of accommodation, the comprehensive health system, or knowing that the country has been among the top 5 countries in the Global Peace Index for a number of years now. In fact, there are at least 10 reasons to choose Portugal as a study and research destination. Find a job or a hosting institution and experience this beautiful country.
3. EURAXESS ASEAN Activities

In May, EURAXESS ASEAN organised five events as part of its annual ‘Advancing your Research Career in Europe - Funding & Fellowship opportunities’ platform.

More than 350 researchers of all disciplines and all nationalities as well as research administrators participated in a series of workshops in Singapore and Thailand designed to provide information and hands on application advice on a range of European research funding and fellowship programmes.

80 researchers attended the kick-off session in Singapore on 21 May where representatives of Austria, France, Germany, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, the EU Delegation Singapore as well as Fraunhofer Society (Singapore) were at hand to offer personalised advice to potential candidates.

On 22 May, the event series continued with a hands-on workshop, training researchers how to prepare a strong proposal for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships and Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE). The workshop was conducted by Ms Katia Insogna,
an expert on European funding opportunities with over 15 years of experience. Both events were kindly supported by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and the EU Centre Singapore.

The EURAXESS ASEAN event series continued in Bangkok with a fantastic turnout of over 170 researchers and research administrators. The event was co-organised by EURAXESS ASEAN, Mahidol University and NSTDA with tremendous support from the EU Member States as well as a number of European funding agencies including the French Embassy, Campus France, DAAD, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the British Council, Spain’s CDTI, and OEAD from Austria. The funding experts presented a wide array of European funding and fellowship opportunities available to researchers in Thailand. Senior representatives from three Thai universities and research institutes as well as the European Commission shared their views on the importance of researcher mobility to the development of a researcher’s career and highlighted the measures they have in place to support researchers wishing to cooperate with Europe.

Highly talented alumni of European funding programmes discussed the benefits of conducting research in Europe and provided valuable advice on how to be successful in applying for a European fellowship.

The EURAXESS ASEAN mobility platform continued with one day workshops at Mahidol University and Khon Kaen University with workshops on effective proposal preparation for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

The presentations from the Singapore workshops can be downloaded [here](#)
The presentations from the Bangkok workshops can be downloaded [here](#)
The presentations from the Khon Kaen workshop can be downloaded [here](#)

On 25 May, the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Southeast Asia Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association took place in Bangkok with the support of EURAXESS ASEAN. At the meeting, a plan of action was developed to help researchers in Southeast Asia be successful in the MSCA proposals.

More than 100,000 researchers from around the world, including Southeast Asia, have already benefited from the Marie-Skłodowska Actions (MSCA) which provide grants for all stages of researchers'
careers - be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers - and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA also enable research-focused organisations (universities, research centres, and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.

In April 2017, the Southeast Asia Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) was formally established with the support of EURAXESS ASEAN. This is a network of Southeast Asian and international researchers currently located in Southeast Asia who have benefitted from the MSCA. The aim of the Chapter is to encourage networking, and to enhance the flow of knowledge across different countries, sectors of the economy, and scientific disciplines.

Learn more about the activities of the Southeast Asia Chapter here.

The MSCA Individual Fellowship Call is now open which offers an opportunity for researchers from Southeast Asia to spend up to 2 years working at a lab in Europe. Details here.

**What's next?**

EURAXESS ASEAN will hold information & training events on European research mobility opportunities in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in its annual European Research Day series this October. Details will be announced shortly on the EURAXESS ASEAN portal and the EURAXESS ASEAN Facebook page.
4. European Commission Proposes 100 billion EUR Research & Innovation Budget 2021-2027

A new programme – Horizon Europe – will build on the achievements and success of the previous research and innovation programme (Horizon 2020) and keep the EU at the forefront of global research and innovation. Horizon Europe is the most ambitious research and innovation programme ever.

Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said “Investing in research and innovation is investing in Europe's future. EU funding has allowed teams across countries and scientific disciplines to work together and make unthinkable discoveries, making Europe a world-class leader in research and innovation. With Horizon Europe, we want to build on this success and continue to make a real difference in the lives of citizens and society as a whole.”

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, added: “Horizon 2020 is one of Europe’s biggest success stories. The new Horizon Europe programme aims even higher. As part of this, we want to increase funding for the European Research Council to strengthen the EU’s global scientific leadership, and reengage citizens by setting ambitious new missions for EU research. We are also proposing a new European Innovation Council to modernise funding for ground-breaking innovation in Europe”.

While continuing to drive scientific excellence through the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships and exchanges, Horizon Europe will introduce the following main new features:

- **A European Innovation Council (EIC)** to help the EU become a frontrunner in market-creating innovation: The Commission’s proposal will establish a one-stop shop to bring the most promising high potential and breakthrough technologies from lab to market application and help the most innovative start-ups and companies scale up their ideas. The new EIC will help identify and fund fast-moving, high-risk innovations with strong potential to create entirely new markets. It will provide direct support to innovators
through two main funding instruments, one for early stages and the other for development and market deployment. It will complement the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

- **New EU-wide research and innovation missions** focusing on societal challenges and industrial competitiveness: Under Horizon Europe, the Commission will launch new missions with bold, ambitious goals and strong European added value to tackle issues that affect our daily lives. Examples could range from the fight against cancer, to clean transport or plastic-free oceans. These missions will be co-designed with citizens, stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States.

- **Maximising the innovation potential across the EU**: Support will be doubled for Member States lagging behind in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential. Moreover, new synergies with Structural and Cohesion Funds will make it easy to coordinate and combine funding and help regions embrace innovation.

- **More openness**: The principle of 'open science' will become the modus operandi of Horizon Europe, requiring open access to publications and data. This will assist market uptake and increase the innovation potential of results generated by EU funding.

- **A new generation of European Partnerships and increased collaboration with other EU programmes**: Horizon Europe will streamline the number of partnerships that the EU co-programmes or co-funds with partners like industry, civil society and funding foundations, in order to increase their effectiveness and impact in achieving Europe's policy priorities. Horizon Europe will promote effective and operational links with other future EU programmes, like Cohesion Policy, the European Defence Fund, the Digital Europe Programme and the Connecting Europe Facility, as well as with the international fusion energy project **ITER**.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Commission's science and knowledge service, will continue to contribute with scientific advice, technical support and dedicated research.

More information on Horizon Europe [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)
5 Meet Southeast Asia’s first Jean Monnet Chair

Asst Prof Dr. Natthanan Kunnamas is the first Thai and Southeast Asian to be accorded the prestigious title of Jean Monnet Chair. Established more than 30 years ago, the Jean Monnet Chair Professorship is an honorary award for university professors with a specialisation in European Union studies. Asst Prof Dr. Natthanan Kunnamas currently heads the Centre for European Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand as its Director. EURAXESS ASEAN asked Dr Kunnamas how the position may help deepen research ties between Thailand and Europe.

Please tell us a little about yourself and your connections with Europe.

I’m Natthanan Kunnamas, a lecturer in International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science and Director of Centre for European Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. My academic interests and areas of specialization are European politics, European integration, EU public policy, and comparative regionalism. These interests have provided me with a deep connection with Europe, and led me to complete my master and doctoral degrees in the United Kingdom on European topics.

You were awarded the Jean Monnet Chair at Chulalongkorn University. What has been the focus of your (research) work as Chair?

I have been awarded the Jean Monnet Chair since 2016 and was the first grantee in Southeast Asia and the first to be awarded the Jean Monnet Chair with the Jean Monnet Module Coordinator in the same year. Our project is “Transcending the European Union to the Thai Public by Chulalongkorn University: Jean Monnet Chair Professorship,” focusing on promotion of EU studies in Thailand through (1) two bachelor-degree courses on European foreign affairs and European integration in my university; and (2) diverse public online platforms, for example, Website, Facebook, YouTube, and Podcast. Moreover, our project also aims to...
disseminate the knowledge about the EU among non-academic sectors through our extra activities, such as civil servant trainings, teacher trainings, and public seminars with stakeholders on the IUU fishery problem.

What have you found to be most rewarding about your experience as Jean Monnet Chair?

As the Jean Monnet Chair, I have more opportunities to work together with the EU officials, especially those at the EU Delegation to Thailand who have continued to be enthusiastic supporters of our work. Moreover, I am also more broadly connected with international academic networks in EU studies, one example being networking activities such as EU-ASEAN Strategic Thinkers Forum held in February 2018 to which I was invited as Thai strategic thinker in a round-table discussion on “EU–ASEAN: Old friends, new challenges: Building a reinvigorated partnership.”

Another example is the Jean Monnet/ECSA Conference in October 2016 on the theme of “Global Governance in times of Global Challenges” with 60 national associations of professors and researchers in the field of European integration studies from around the world. These give us more channels to enhance academic and research collaboration with other specialists and institutions that significantly contribute to knowledge development in this discipline in Thailand. Importantly, I have more opportunities and experiences to interact and work with public, educational, and civil – especially artisan fishery – sectors. I am not only gain new knowledge and perspectives on the EU from non-academic stakeholders but have an opportunity to disseminate EU humanistic values to Thai society more easily.

As the first and only Jean Monnet Chair in Southeast Asia, I also consider it my mission to work regionally and am very pleased that I often have opportunities to inspire interest in EU studies and in EU values in neighboring countries. The latest example is the Regional Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in November 2017, which I was invited to by the EU Delegation to Myanmar and the Erasmus+ Programme, to describe the benefits I gained from engaging in the Jean Monnet Chair and Jean Monnet Module Programmes for participants from ASEAN member states.

Where do you see the opportunities for enhanced collaboration between Thailand and Europe?

Since the EU announced a resumption of political contacts at all-levels with Thailand last December following a suspension of 4 years after the
2014 coup d'état, we have seen the recurrence of high-level visits, and negotiations on issues such as the free trade agreement (FTA) and the partnership and cooperation agreement (PCA) have gradually been restored. In this context, I think we are going to see newly enhanced collaboration between Thailand and the EU.

For economic opportunities, the negotiation on the FTA will extend frontiers of economic relations and cooperation further. If it succeeds, total values of trade and investment between them will grow at unprecedented rate whereas the quality of Thai goods and services will be upgraded to meet with EU standards. However, there remain a number of issues, such as intellectual property, where both sides still need to resolve their differences.

In addition, given Thailand’s new national target to develop the Thai economy towards high-technology-based industries, there are significant opportunities for the EU and Thailand to enhance their collaboration in investments in high-technological industry and service sectors including technology transfer.

Regarding political and security issues, the negotiation on the PCA will set a more concrete framework for cooperation between Thailand and the EU, and will offer new opportunities to collaborate on transnational problems such as terrorism, forced migration, and global climate change.

European and Thai civil societies can also support each other and jointly fulfill their missions at the international level. The EU and Thailand can expand their cooperation under the EU-ASEAN framework where the EU can share its experience to help ASEAN develop efficiently which is advantageous for the promotion of peace and prosperity not only in Southeast Asia but also globally.

Last and most importantly, the EU and Thailand should encourage people to people relations through policies such as, youth exchange, cultural exchange and tourism promotion, to construct common identities and foster a common understanding that will be mutually beneficial and sustainable in the long term.

On behalf of EURAXESS ASEAN, thank you Dr Nanthanan!
6 About us

EURAXESS ASEAN is a networking tool for European researchers active in Southeast Asia and for international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS ASEAN provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-ASEAN and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. Membership is free.

Visit us at asean.euraxess.org and Join the EURAXESS ASEAN community.

EURAXESS Worldwide networks have thus far been launched in North America (USA & Canada) Japan, China, India, and in ASEAN (currently focusing on Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia). As of March 2017, the EURAXESS Brazil network has been expanded to cover Latin America and the Caribbean States as well.

In early July, the new virtual Australia & New Zealand chapter under EURAXESS worldwide went live. You can access information on the new chapter on the EURAXESS portal here.

The EURAXESS Worldwide initiative is expanding its activities with a permanent representation in South Korea. The launch event will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel Seoul on Friday, 13 July 2018. Participants can look forward to an information sessions and hands-on training modules that advise researchers in South Korea on the vast array of opportunities for research mobility experiences in Europe and collaborative projects with European research partners. The event addresses researchers of all nationalities, all disciplines, and at all career stages. Research administrators and policy officers are very welcome.

To register for the launch event please do visit the event site.

To find out more about EURAXESS South Korea please visit the newly launched webpage.