

**Quarterly
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EURAXESS Brazil Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Brazil, which provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers in Brazil 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 Delegation of the European Union to Brazil.

Please email to brazil@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.

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EURAXESS BRAZIL

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1 Briefing

Marie Curie Alumni Association Brazil Chapter, by Leonardo Teixeira Dall'Agnol*, Board Chair of Marie Curie Alumni Association Brazil Chapter

The [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA) are European grants offered to researchers at all career stages and encourage transnational, intersectorial and interdisciplinary mobility.

Brazilian individual researchers are eligible to funding.

Organisations from any sector and country can participate in MSCA projects.

To discover more about MSCA and what's in it for Brazilian researchers and organisations, read our guide on MSCA at <http://bit.ly/FocusMSCA>.

Figures:

Between 2007 and 2014, the European Commission funded almost 1500 Brazilian researchers and staff to take part in MSCA projects, either with individual fellowships or to take part in RISE projects (then called IRSES).

Under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the MSCA are expected to support 65 000 researchers, including 25 000 PhD candidates from all over the world.

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is an international non-profit association created in 2013 to bring together all fellow scholars and former scholarship recipients of the prestigious Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions funding programme of the European Union.

Currently, 49 Brazilian nationals are registered in the MCAA, and about 17 alumni of seven different nationalities are living in Brazil. Despite the intense exchange of students and researchers and the enormous human potential of the country, the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions are still poorly known in comparison to other funding and mobility options.

In order to fill this gap, several MCAA member researchers residing in Brazil have initiated talks in November 2016 to create a Brazilian chapter of the MCAA, resulting in its creation in April 2017. They have also set out to organise scientific outreach events and cooperation initiatives between the EU and Brazil. The creation of the chapter is crucial for fostering dissemination of the MSCA programme and the MCAA. The objectives proposed by the 2016-2017 board of the Brazilian chapter are:

- Disseminate the MCAA and the Brazilian chapter by recruiting and attracting new members;
- Encourage networking and synergies among MCAA members through meetings, digital/social media, etc;
- Promote greater knowledge of the European education and research system in Brazil with a special focus on the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions;
- Establish an interface between industry/business federations and the NGOs to disseminate the MSCA programme;
- Encourage interaction with external partners and funding agencies.

Call for current and past MSCA fellows

"I was very pleased that MCAA has a chapter in Brazil. I encourage all MSCA alumni who have a connection to Brazil to contribute to the success of our Brazilian chapter."

[Brian Cahill](#), chair of the MCAA

All MCAA members residing in Brazil, or Brazilian nationals residing elsewhere, are welcome to become members of the Brazil Chapter. More information about the MCAA Brazil Chapter and its activities can be obtained from the official website of the association <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/groups/brazil-chapter> and at the Brazilian chapter group on LinkedIn [MCAA Brazil Chapter LinkedIn Group](#). To enter the Brazilian chapter, it is mandatory to join the MCAA association first. This is free and easy to do on the [Association website](#).

First MCAA Brazil-Europe workshop



The main action of the MCAA Brazil Chapter in 2017 is the organisation of the **“1st MCAA Brazil-Europe Workshop (BREUW): Building a sustainable future based on cooperative science, technology and education”** to be held on 27-29 September at the Federal University of Maranhão (UFMA) in São Luís-MA, Brazil. Despite being a proposal for a new event, the 1st BREUW is included as a permanent event of the MCAA Brazil Chapter to be held concomitant to the annual meeting of the Brazilian chapter board.

The organisation of the event is the result of a partnership between MCAA Brazil Chapter, EURAXESS Brazil and UFMA and is supported by the Foundation for Research and Scientific and Technological Development of the state of Maranhão (FAPEMA). It is an international event and open to the participation of students, teachers, researchers and other academics and industry professionals.

This workshop is a unique opportunity to foster the integration of professionals in Maranhão with their Brazilian and European counterparts, as well as to increase the dissemination of mobility and international financing opportunities. This event also focuses on promoting a closer academia-industry approach, in order to strengthen investment opportunities and the development of products and processes of common interest to both entities. Finally, the 1st BREUW in São Luís aims to support the internationalisation process of the Higher Education Institutions in Maranhão, since all invited speakers are researchers of excellence who can share their experience in international cooperation projects financed by the European Union and its member states.

More information, such as registration fee and abstract template, can be obtained at the event's website: www.mcaaworkshop.com.br/2017 (the website site will be online as from July)

*Leonardo is assistant professor at Federal University of Maranhão. More about him [here](#).

Benefits of joining the MCAA Brazil chapter

By [Elaine Vieira](#), former MSCA fellow

Elaine was awarded an Intra European Fellowship (IEF) while she was at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. It took her to the Miguel Hernandez University in Spain: She now teaches at Catholic University of Brasília.

“The participation in the Brazilian MCAA will provide a unique possibility for scientific collaboration between researchers from Europe and Brazil. In addition, it will create an important network between the former MSCA fellows in Brazil.

The Brazilian MCAA will contribute towards Science Internationalisation, which is an essential step for those who wish to pursue academic life. For Master and PhD students the experience abroad is extremely important. They will learn new research techniques, learn a new language, and increase the visibility and impact of their scientific publications. Thus, by participating in the Brazilian MCAA chapter, our chances of raising the standard of our post-graduate course and achieving a series of benefits in research is undoubtedly considerable”

Contact Elaine Vieira [here](#).



Marie Curie Alumni Association – MCAA

Membership of the MCAA is free of charge, and open to any past or present Marie Curie researcher, regardless of the type of MSCA grant received, length of mobility periods, nationality, scientific discipline or current occupation.

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

Contact the **Brazilian Marie Curie Alumni Association** for more details.

brazil.chapter@mariecuriealumni.eu



2 Hot topics – Five ideas for better communicating your science

By Sanna Fowler

About the author

Originally an immunologist, [Sanna](#) decided shortly after her PhD at Oxford that the lab bench was probably better off without her. She now works in communication and fundraising at EPFL (the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology).

As researchers, most of us still report our science in the same old way we've done it since school: title, authors, materials and methods, results, conclusions etc...you know the deal. This works for publications and peer-to-peer but are you increasingly being asked to explain what you do to 'non-experts'? Maybe you love this aspect of your work, maybe you find it challenging – in any case it requires a very different approach. Here are a few ideas that might help.

1. Ask yourself who is your 'end user'?

Everyone will tell you that one of the first rules of communication is "tailor your message to your audience... blah, blah blah..."

I think we can safely assume that you would never consider going into the depths of String Theory with a class of school kids, opting instead to explain things in a way that they'll understand. A different way of looking at it is to try and set up a chain reaction, allowing the person you communicate with to then use the information for something. This could be passing it on to someone else, or rethinking their opinion or behaviour for example. Your audience should never be the end user, try giving them the tools to be able to pass the message along.

2. Don't just educate...engage!

One of the biggest mistakes we make as scientists is feeling that our audience needs to understand how things work before we can begin to explain our research. This works fine with an intellectually curious audience but can actually be negative with non-experts – when people don't understand, they feel stupid and just switch off. There's a great article over at [Slate](#) that goes into more details on this with references to some nice studies if you want to know more, but essentially, ask yourself how much your audience really needs to know to be interested in what you say. Ok, so no schoolroom lectures - how do you really engage your audience?

3. Get personal and make your audience look good

The great American writer John Steinbeck noted rather sceptically "If a story is not about the hearer he/she will not listen." It's obviously much easier to talk to an audience on a subject that affects them directly, like a possible cure for Alzheimer's or how much their water costs them, for example. But Steinbeck was only half right, probably because he lived in an age before social media. We naturally pick up on things that are new/crazy/funny/odd/frightening (delete as appropriate). So, if you can't make your research personal, ask yourself if you have something that will surprise or impress people.

[CERN](#) is a great example of this – not many of us can see the direct application of the Higgs Boson in our daily lives, but the idea of a 27km underground accelerator filled with superconducting magnets and cooling systems that use as much electricity as a small town is fascinating!



Can you give your audience something that will make them look good at a dinner party or get plenty of likes on social media when they relate what they've heard?

The last option is scandal, but unless you're willing to falsify a few results, get a couple of papers retracted, and ruin your career, this isn't the recommended option!

4. Pitch your science

If you've ever been to a start-up seed night, you'll have noticed that there is a pretty standard formula for pitching:

1. There's a problem,
2. I can fix it,
3. This is how much money I need and it can make you rich.

Ok, so you're not a start-up but you still have to 'sell' your idea. So set the stage, make sure people know what the problem or the question is (and if it affects them directly – see 3 above) and don't start with your science. Once they're tuned into the issue, then tell them about how you're trying to fix/answer it. Leave the money part for later.



Have you heard about Pint of Science before?

The [Pint of Science festival](#) brings some of the most brilliant scientists to your local pub to discuss their latest research and findings with you.

This festival takes place in May, all over the world, including in many Brazilian cities, to communicate science as it can be: fun, fascinating and inspiring.

This year EURAXESS Brazil supported the **Rio, Santos and Porto Alegre** editions of the Pint of science festival. The events in these cities were all coordinated by finalists of the [EURAXESS Science Slam competition](#). Also, André Azevedo da Fonseca, winner of the 2016 edition, presented his Slam in Campinas.

5. Use your platforms & take yourself out of your comfort zone

Nobody gets good at anything by chance - sure genetics help, but you got your brain didn't you? Even if you think you're never going to be the Usain Bolt of the academic world, the old adage about practice goes for science communication too. This means you can't wait to be asked – get out of your comfort zone and sign up for [Science Slams](#), [3 minute thesis](#), [FameLab](#), [Soapbox Science](#), local [TEDx](#)'s, school's outreach programmes and many more.

Offer articles for your department's or university's websites/blogs/social media and if you're working for an institution with some kind of central communication unit, make sure they know who you are and when you publish. At first it might be the most frightening thing you've ever done but jump out of a plane (with a parachute!) enough times and that stomach-churning fear starts to come with a buzz.

What if none of these platforms exist where you are? Well, maybe you're just the right person to start one!

Interested in practising your science communications skills in Brazil? Sign up for the [EURAXESS Brazil Science Slam 2017!](#)



« A science slam is a scientific talk where scientists present their own scientific research work in a given time frame - usually 10 minutes or less - in front of a non-expert audience. The focus lies on teaching current science to a diverse audience in an entertaining way. »

Read the interviews of two amazing Brazilian researchers:

[Vanessa Cardoso Pires - EURAXESS Science Slam Brazil Winner 2014](#), and

[Marcela Uliano da Silva, Brazilian computational biologist, finalist of the first EURAXESS science Slam 2013, TED fellow and now MSCA grantee.](#)

Watch the [special participation of the famous scientist and communicator Atila Iamarino, from Canal Nerdologia, in the edition 2016.](#)

EURAXESS Science Communication Competition

The **EURAXESS Science Slam** is a contest giving researchers the chance to showcase their **research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere**. This science communication competition is organised by EURAXESS annually. It is now in its fifth edition.

The submission process for the EURAXESS Science Slam Brazil 2017 is open until 15 September 2017.

WHO?

Researchers (from masters students to advanced researchers) of all nationalities and research fields currently based in Brazil (including social sciences and humanities).

HOW?

What you need to do to join the competition:

- Be creative and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world: Tap dancing, singing, old-school presentation, scientific equipment – all is allowed.
- Fill in the application form available at http://bit.ly/candidacy_EURAXESSScienceSlamBrazil
- Let us know how you would present your research at the finals, either :
 - Making a 3-minute max. video of the presentation to be held in the LIVE finals with your camera phone (or equivalent), or
 - setting a Skype interview with EURAXESS Links Brazil country representatives.

FINALS?

The five best candidates will be invited by EURAXESS to attend the LIVE finals to be held on the amazing rooftop of the General Consulate of Italy in **Rio de Janeiro on 25 October 2017**, during the National Science and Technology Week.

Finalists will present a topic related to their research to an audience of non-experts. The slam will be given in English or Portuguese in less than **6 minutes** and can be supported by video and audio material, PowerPoint slides and any other kind of media available, as well as by scientific equipment.

The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury of European and Brazilian researchers and communicators.

PRIZE?

The winner will be awarded a free trip to Europe where he or she will meet the European research institution of his/her choice!

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The **5 finalists** will be entitled to participate in a workshop on scientific communication to be held in **Rio de Janeiro** the day before the finals. The workshop will be given by professionals specialising in public/scientific presentations.

Finalists will also receive individual coaching before the finals in order to improve their skills.

Come and sign up now!

For more details, check out: scienceslambrasil.com.



EURAXESS –
Researchers in Motion
 is an initiative of the European
 Research Area (ERA) that
 addresses barriers to the mobility
 of researchers and seeks to
 enhance their career
 development.

*This pan-European effort is
 currently supported by over 40
 countries, of which we will profile
 one in each of our quarterly
 EURAXESS Japan newsletters.
 In this edition, we will zoom in on
 Greece.*



[Greece](#) is a developed
 democratic country with a
 high standard of living. A
 founding member of
 the United Nations, Greece
 was the tenth member to join
 the European
 Communities (precursor to
 the European Union) and has
 been part of
 the Eurozone since 2001.

*¹Foundation for Research and
 Technology Hellas (FORTH)-
www.forth.gr/*

*Center for Research and
 Technology Hellas (CERTH)-
www.certh.gr/root.en.aspx,*

*National Center for Scientific
 Research "Demokritos"-
www.demokritos.gr/?lang=en,*

*Institute of Communications
 and Computer Systems
 (ICCS)- www.iccs.gr/en/,*

*ATHENA Research and
 Innovation Center in
 Information, Communication
 and Knowledge
 Technologies- www.athena-innovation.gr/.*

3 EURAXESS members in focus: GREECE

Research and Development in Greece

Greece has a number of research institutions conducting cutting-edge basic research. Five of the Top-50 research organisations that receive funding through the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020) are from Greece. The capacity of Greek research institutes to conduct excellent research is also reflected in the relatively good performance in terms of outstanding scientific publications¹. Greece's performance (2015) is above the EU average for some individual indicators such as: International scientific co-publications (120% of the EU average), non R&D innovation expenditure in the private sector (127%), SMEs marketing/organisational innovations (124%) and innovative SMEs collaborating with others (120%)².

At the end of 2013 (most recent available data), **Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** was at 1,47 billion euro, increasing from 0,67% of GDP in 2011 to 0,8% of GDP in 2013³. In the context of the revision of the National Reform Programme (for the year 2014), the Greek authorities have proposed a more ambitious target of as much as 1,2 % of GDP⁴. The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer, accounting for 38,2 % of the total R&D expenditure in 2015.

At the end of 2015, the Higher Education sector was composed of 22 public universities and 14 public Technological Education Institutes (TEI). In addition to the public institutions, there are 28 private universities of various types operating in the country and accredited by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. There are 15 public research organisations, of varying sizes, supervised by the **General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT)**.

Greece is strategically located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The R&I strategy for the next programming period (Revision of the implementation law (Law 4386/2016) of the National Strategy for Research, Technological Development and Innovation-ESETAK), which includes the **Smart Specialisation strategy (RIS3)**, focuses on the following priorities:

- areas of traditional strength for the country (examples: shipping, tourism, energy)
- areas of recent successes in terms of critical mass and on-going activities (examples: IT, pharmaceuticals, engineering, energy);
- areas of high added value and able to deliver major economic benefit and employment prospects (examples: energy, nutrition – food sciences); and
- areas of national interest (examples: food production, archeology, culture, energy, defense, biomedicine).

In total, **8 technological areas** were identified matching the priorities; Biosciences, Agro-Biotechnology Nutrition, Energy and Environment, Computer

¹ *The impact of research on Greek economic growth, German Institute for Economic Research DIW ECON, november 2016*

² *RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2017*

³ *RIO Country Report Greece 2014, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2015*

⁴ *Researchers' Report 2014 Country Profile: Greece, prepared by Deloitte*



Science and Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities, with about 28% of the funding for the next programming period 2014-2020 allocated to Biosciences, followed by Engineering (18%) and Physical Sciences (12%)⁵. Approximately 27% of the total funding is expected to be dedicated to societal challenges.

Greek R&D Strategy

The **New R&D&I Strategy for the Programming Period 2014-2020**⁶ aspires to strengthen the Greek research system (human capital and infrastructure), conduct research relevant to the needs of the country and thus make R&D an indispensable tool for the further development of the Greek economy. In this context, it is intended to launch programmes focusing on the development of human capital for research in a knowledge economy (including support to excellent researchers, support to mobility of researchers to work in enterprises, and support to training for innovation activities, as well as starting grants for new researchers).

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Business Sector is the second largest R&D provider of funds and performer in Greece (31,8% and 33,3% of the total GERD respectively). Based on EU2016 Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, **five Greek companies (one more than the previous year) featured among the top EU companies on R&D spending**: [PHARMATHEN](#) (Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology), [INTRALOT](#) (Technology Hardware & Equipment), the [National Bank of Greece](#) (Banks), [GALAXIDI Marine Farmand](#) (fish farm) and [Creta Farm](#) (meat and deli meats). A large number of SMEs and start-ups are also declaring R&I activities mainly in service and incremental innovations⁷. According to the National Reform Programme 2016, Greek enterprises are expected to increase their Business Expenditures on Research and Development (BERD) to approximately 0,38% of the GDP in 2020⁶. A large number of SMEs and start-ups have been undertaking R&I activities mainly in services and incremental innovations.

Greece has **three University Business Incubators** and **6 Science and Technology Parks**: [Technology & Science Park of Attika "Lefkippos"](#), [Science and Technology Park of Crete](#), [Thessaloniki Technology Park](#), [Patras Science Park](#), [Epirus Science and Technology Park](#) and [Lavrion Technological and Cultural Park](#). **Technology Transfer Offices** (called "Innovation Liaison Offices") exist in major Higher Education Institutions and in 64% of Public Research Organisations⁷.

Brain drain has been recognised as a key challenge in the Operational Programme for Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as the Greek Strategy for the European Research Area – Roadmap 2015-2020 (GSRT, 2016). The recently established (L.4429/2016) **National Foundation for Research and Innovation (NFRI-ELIDEK)** in the footsteps of the National Science Foundation (NSF) of the US, and Germany's Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) aims to address this challenge. The Foundation, co-sponsored by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and national funds, aims to fund combined with Greek national funds. The aim is to **attract and to keep highly-qualified scientists in Greece**, through funds devoted both to curiosity driven research and entrepreneurship & innovation. To this

⁵ National Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, National Council of Research and Technology

⁶ Greek National Reforms Programme 2014, April 2014

⁷ RIO Country Report Greece 2016, Science and Policy Report by the Joint Research Centre, 2016



end, the Greek Research and Innovation Foundation will allocate 240 million euro by 2019⁶.

Establishment of a Foundation for Research and Innovation (ELIDEK)

October 2016 by Law 4429/2016.

www.eib.org/projects/loan/oan/20150747

Enterprise Greece promotes investment and foreign trade in Greece

www.enterprisegreece.gov.gr/en/about-us

The main funding body is the General Secretariat for Research and Technology

(www.gsrt.gr/)

Greece has valuable assets that contribute to the transition of an innovation-driven economy:

- leading research institutions,
- medium and high-tech firms, e.g. in the IT and pharmaceutical sector, as well as a certain number of innovative startups in the information technology sector in Athens,
- a considerable diaspora in research, finance and business

Enterprise Greece is designed to promote and support Greek exports of goods & services and investments in Greece.

Funding and Recruitment Opportunities

The government constitutes the largest R&D source of funds (in 2015, 52,7% of the GERD was funded by GOV) and the third largest R&D performer (after Higher Education Institutes and Business). The [National Council for Research and Innovation](#) (NCRI) is the supreme State advisory body for national policy for research, technology and innovation. The responsibility of funding research is shared between the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism. Funds coming from the EU Regional Operational Programmes fall typically under the competence of the Regional Authorities. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food supervises the [National Agricultural Research Foundation](#) (NAGREF), which undertakes research and technology in agricultural, forest, animal and fish production and other related areas in Greece. The Higher Education sector is the largest R&D performer accounting for 38,2 % of the total R&D expenditure in 2015. The Business Sector is the second largest R&D funder and performer in Greece (31,8% and 33,3% of the total GERD respectively) ⁶.

The new Law on Research Technological Development and Innovation (L.4310/2014), acknowledges the pivotal role of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), part of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, in the design of R&D programmes and the allocation of funding.



4 EURAXESS Brazil activities

4.1 [Horizon 2020 Workshop - Opportunities for EU-LAC collaboration in health research and innovation](#), Fiocruz, 19 June 2016

Together with the EU project [EU-LAC Health](#) and Fiocruz, EURAXESS Brazil organised the final EU-LAC (European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean) health workshop.

The event provided comprehensive information and practical clues for participating in the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation Funding Programme, aimed at EU-LAC collaborations, as well as providing a preview of the opportunities for the next 3 years of the H2020 programme and to prepare for future calls for proposals for the strategic period 2018-2020.

4.2 Forthcoming events

See [First MCAA Brazil-Europe workshop](#) and [EURAXESS Science Slam](#) above.

4.3 [Looking for funding opportunities?](#) EURAXESS can help you!

[EURAXESS Brazil list of open calls](#): our compilation of grants & fellowships funded by the European Commission, EU Member States or Brazilian authorities to fund researchers' mobility and cooperation with European teams. The latest edition is available here: [Funding opportunities - May / June 2017](#)

[EURAXESS Funding database](#)

Individual researchers: search for the funding programme you need for your mobility or research cooperation project.

Funding organisations: publish your funding opportunities and scholarships to increase your visibility and reach the best candidates worldwide.

4.4 In case you missed our Flashnotes

[OPEN CALL for Brazilian PhDs to temporarily join a research team run by an ERC grantee](#)

[EURAXESS commemorates ERC's 10th anniversary: ERC Opportunities for Brazilian researchers](#)

[CALL OPEN TO BRAZILIANS: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships \(IF\) - Incoming/Outgoing](#)

[Chair in Social and Human Sciences Programme, CAPES – Universität Bonn](#)

[New European Research and Innovation Centre in Brazil, CEBRABIC](#)

[15,16,17 May: Pint of science festival in Brazil! EURAXESS participation](#)

[European Research Council \(ERC\) to re-launch Synergy Grants in 2018](#)

[EURAXESS Brazil Science Slam: Applications open! Win a trip to Europe!](#)

[Mobility Confap Italy Project \(Incoming and Outgoing\)](#)

[Call for Seed Money Grant for Swiss-Latin American cooperation](#)