

Quarterly
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euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS China

Dear colleagues,

The first quarter of 2022 concluded with the introduction of unprecedented new Covid-19 restrictions, with our Shanghai colleagues being hit hard in their daily lives. In these conditions of uncertainty, we in EURAXESS China decided to keep our activities online, as we will continue doing for the next quarter. The bright side of the situation is that anyone can join our events, even the researchers who are still stuck outside of China.

The [hot topic](#) of this newsletter focuses on the nexus between open science developments and the global learning environment and introduce the OpenAIRE portal, a planned new learning management system.

In this edition, we also highlight our flagship event of the quarter: the [new Science Communication Training](#), that came back with new trainers and new topic after the success of the first edition last year. In this new training we could count on the support of two excellent partners – the German Academic Exchange Service and Taylor & Francis – that secured the 2022 edition was even more successful than the first one!

We continue by introducing the readers to an information brochure on [access to relevant information for researchers in China](#), whose purpose is to offer a user-friendly guide to European researchers in China about the availability of and access to relevant information in China.

Finally, we will take a look back at the first two Videocasts of this year, [in case you missed it](#).

Thank you for reading.

Best regards,

EURAXESS China team

OPEN TO LEARN

Where open science meets the world of learning



The main feature in this edition of EURAXESS Worldwide newsletter explores the nexus between open science developments and its important links with the global learning environment. We outline the EU's open science policy ambitions and approaches under major research programmes and introduce readers to a planned new learning management system by the OpenAIRE portal.

Emerging out open-source software and IT developments, scientific, learning and publishing communities today have become the vanguard of a growing movement that seeks to promote democracy through unobstructed access to information.

It is a grand vision which somehow helps us understand the power of emotions that open-access evokes within the scientific community and beyond. Open-science and open-learning principles are now firmly grounded in public policy and spurred on by rapid developments in the digital sphere, including numerous cloud facilities, massive advances in online learning tools and courses, such as MOOCs, and myriad other platforms and services – both public- and private-backed – to meet the growing demand for sharing and learning all manner of subjects including science.

Tackling misinformation about Covid-19 has further underlined the importance of up-to-date scientific data delivered through reliable channels by respected people – often the researcher or scientist him- or herself. The public has also recognised the power of collaboration and co-creation in developing rapid solutions to the pandemic, from novel vaccines to advanced testing and containment regimes.

The EU's current flagship research programme, Horizon Europe, has been called the “most open” to date. Its main pillars prioritise i) excellent science, scientists and infrastructure, ii) global challenges and European industrial competitiveness, and iii) innovation drivers. Cross-cutting actions explore ways to boost the European Research Area (ERA) through stronger international linkages. And here, EURAXESS and its Worldwide hubs play a major role in promoting the programme and its principles of open science, open movement, and the freedom to promote positive scientific developments.

Horizon Europe includes a pre-condition requiring funded researchers/organisations to pursue open science practices. This means “sharing research outputs as early and widely as possible”, but also encouraging citizen science, wide public consultation, and co-creation in research developments. It also calls for new indicators aimed at evaluating research impacts and rewarding researchers

The programme stresses that funded researchers or their organisations retain the intellectual property rights they need to comply with their open access obligations. And it requires research data to be “open by default” while considering commercial rights, where relevant.



The EU-backed European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) helps European and international researchers meet growing demands for open science collaboration, and platforms like OpenAIRE, PLOS and other channels make up a growing ecosystem of democratic open-access research publishing and information-sharing services that empower researchers.

With so much invested and resting on the shoulders of EU-funded projects, the EU is keen to track developments and progress in open science throughout Europe and among global partner countries. Its Open Science Monitor is building a solid database observing trends and indicators.

What is open science?

“Open science is the movement to make scientific research and its dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional. Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks.” (Wiki)

“Open science is based on the principle of openness and transparency in the whole research cycle, fostering sharing and collaboration as early as possible. Open and transparent practices accelerate the research process at an unprecedented speed and they reinforce core academic values, such as research integrity, cooperation and knowledge sharing. Open science is also key to increasing public trust in science and as a means to spark interest and foster the public’s participation in research activities.” (European University Association)

An open-spirited policy



The European Union has established itself as a pioneer and keeper of the faith through its well-developed open-science policies built around open data which is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) and new-generation metrics to monitor and do justice to open-science practices.

The EU also promotes so-called “mutual learning exercises” to develop alternative metrics (i.e. ‘Altmetrics’) for specific research and innovation challenges of interest to several EU countries and associated countries, which typically draw on project-based exchanges of good practice and measure the qualities and impact of research outcomes, but also rewards for researchers to further engage in open-science activities.

A key pillar of open-access is ensuring that research findings are not locked behind paywalls. Peer-reviewed scientific publications should be freely accessible and the EU encourages the “early sharing of different kinds of research outputs”. It also wants to see research career evaluation systems better acknowledging and motivating the use of open-science tools. It believes that all publicly funded research in the EU should adhere to commonly agreed standards of research integrity, which means their R&I activities “should be reproducible”, among other qualities.

The link to education and skills in all this clear, according to the EU: “All scientists in Europe should have the necessary skills and support to apply open-science research routines and practices.” Co-creation comes in here too, with greater

encouragement of citizen science a cornerstone of future science data-gathering and observation in fields such as marine pollution monitoring and earth observation.

Other EU research-oriented programmes and facilities are also highly attuned to open principles. The European Research Council's (ERC) mission is to foster new ideas and knowledge through excellent scientific findings, and thus having them published in peer-reviewed articles and monographs is critical. The ERC therefore considers that "free online access to these materials is the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read, and used".



Meanwhile, in another demonstration of open science, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is known for opening its labs and facilities to people working in academia and research organisations, industry, and SMEs from both the public and private sectors. The EU Science Hub explains the JRC's reasoning for this and how 'open projects' work within its strategy and framework for wider access.

On its Science Connect website, the European Science Foundation (ESF) also promotes open science principles, which it explains form part of the Commission's responsible R&I approach under Horizon 2020's ERA undertakings. This, it points out, anticipates and assesses potential societal expectations and implications of science and stimulates inclusive and sustainable R&I from the design up. ESF thus stresses the importance not only of open science, research integrity and gender equality in research, but also the role of education and public engagement in "making science more attractive and increasing society's appetite for innovation". This, it believes, paves the way for stronger R&I foundations and a brighter future.

Also of interest to the EURAXESS Worldwide community is the course run by the EU Academy focused on maximising science for policy impact. The online programme explores the skills scientists need to better engage with policymakers: "Through sharing of state-of-the art knowledge, interactive games and best practice examples, this course outlines the skills scientists need for their research results to have a bigger impact on policy and society in general."

Openness to communicating scientific findings in ways that non-specialists can readily understand is at the centre of democratic science. Modules in the course therefore include knowing how to engage the audience better, understanding how scientists and policymakers communicate and use language, as well as some tricks and tips for getting key messages across with confidence. It is 60 minutes well spent.

The move to open publishing is a natural co-evolution or coalescence of digital developments, public pressure for more scientific transparency, and a massive shift towards online working and learning.

For PLOS, which has democratised scientific publishing, open-access matters because "most publishers own the rights to the articles in their journals, not the authors". It means paying a fee to access them. While institutions and libraries

do their best to facilitate access to such paywalled research, it often involves costly and timely negotiations.

“Even then, no part of the article can be reused by researchers, students, or taxpayers without permission from the publisher, often at the cost of an additional fee,” PLOS explains on its site. Open access provides “immediate and unrestricted access” to the latest research, creating a more equitable knowledge system that “returns us to the values of science” in pursuit of a better society.

“Open Science has huge benefits, the more people you reach the better. Science should be as transparent and accessible as possible because it should be reproducible and confirmed by others, that is what gives science its power.” (Author testimony: Elias Nerad on PLOS ONE)

Open access training platform

The Covid crisis has heightened demand for online learning and the appetite for reliable up-to-date teaching content. This has created a boom in so-called “synchronous events” and webinars taking place over various platforms like Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and Zoom. “However, synchronous teaching is not always possible or feasible and online tools provide a wealth of alternatives,” explains OpenAIRE in its rationale for creating a new learning-on-demand training platform and learning management system (LMS).

OpenAIRE’s mission is to “shift scholarly communication towards openness and transparency and facilitate innovative ways to communicate and monitor research”. It provides services and policy-alignment support across Europe as a means of improving the quality, transparency and reproducibility of research, and its (re)use by industry and society.

To further its efforts to reach those goals, it has recently announced plans to create the new open-access Training Platform to support learning and development, and provide fresh training material for services offered through its community of users. Once up and running in the course of 2022, the system will bring together pre-existing content, such as the FOSTER Open Science courses and OpenAIRE’s own guides. The idea is to better use current openly available content while developing customised material according to user needs.

As a community platform, OpenAIRE says it plans to allow externally hosted content, from video tutorials and interactive modules to lesson plans and templates for a range of scientific subjects: “We invite those that have training content that needs a home to get in touch!”

Plans for the LMS also include incorporating a web-conferencing system for synchronous learning, classroom-style sessions and breakout rooms. “Taken together,” OpenAIRE concludes, “the functionality and modes of learning will provide a wide choice for both the training providers and the learners.”

More info

For more information about the new Training Platform, contact OpenAIRE’s helpdesk and address your query to the Training Manager.



New Science Communication Training 2022

After the success of the first edition in 2021, we came back with our Science Communication Training this year again!

We focused on different aspects of Science Communication, with new speakers and new topics. In this edition we could count on the collaboration of the German Academic Exchange Service and on the support of Taylor & Francis.

Below you can see the different topics with selected, the trainers that joined us and also watch the sessions' recordings:



[Training n. 1: Basics of Science Communication](#)

We started from the Basics of Science Communication with **Dr Alvaro Castells**, the winner of Science Slam China in 2021, who shared tips on how to communicate your science in a fun and entertaining way. We also provided an overview of the main takeaways of last year's edition of the Training.



[Training n. 2: How to Prepare a Job Interview](#)

With career coach and trainer **Dean Hogan**, we went through the different formats of interview and provided tips for each of them. We talked the types of questions you can expect, what to do on the day and during your interview, touching also on non-verbal communication & cues.



[Training n. 3: How to Publish in Academic Journals](#)

With the collaboration of **Taylor & Francis** and their **Hennie Thomson**, we provided a basic overview of the current state of academic publishing to enable a better understanding of the process, as well as offer guidance to help researchers succeed.



[Training n. 4: Communicate your Core Idea](#)

Joining this session were **Bill Xu**, SAP BusinessObjects, **Corinna Luther**, Falling Walls Lab Foundation, and the Science Communicator **Emmie Chiyindiko**, who shared strategies and tips to make your pitch stand out and catch the audience attention quickly.



[Training n. 5: Business of Science](#)

The session focused on the transferable skills that can help academic scientists in the business world, and how businessmen engage with entrepreneurs and innovative academics with **Dr Ulf Richter** and **Christian Jensen** from Audi China.

Access to relevant information for researchers in China

EU-China Research and Innovation Dialogue Information Brochure



EURAXESS China is glad to share this information brochure on access to information for researchers. The report was produced with funding from the European Union and was supported by the EU-China Partnership Facility (ECPF) as part of the “EU-China Research and Innovation Dialogue”.

The author, Mr. Ivan Cardillo, is an Assistant Professor in Law at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, in Wuhan, China.

The purpose of the document is to offer a **user-friendly guide to European researchers in China about the availability of and access to relevant information in China.**

The brochure is structured in two main parts. The first part offers an overview of China’s open access policies and comprehensive analysis of the availability and accessibility of scientific information. The second part deals with the legal framework of applicable laws regulating access to information, information circulation, publication, research and education, budget, funds, national security, science and technology, state secrets, intellectual property rights, and provides a systematic overview of key issues.

The brochure is accessible below:



ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS IN CHINA

EU-China Research and Innovation Dialogue

Information Brochure

In case you missed it...



EURAXESS China Videocasts in the Quarter

Watch our live Videocasts from the first quarter of 2022:



EURAXESS China Videocast: The Magic of Science Communication

Anna and Halldor discuss the Science Communication Training that just finished. This episode includes the winner of EURAXESS China Science Slam 2021 Dr Alvaro Castells' insights on the basics of science communications. Watch the recording:



1st Videocast of 2022

Anna and Halldor went live for the first episode of EURAXESS China Videocast in 2022. The focus was on the latest edition of the Quarterly Newsletter. Watch the recording on YouKu or YouTube.

About us

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

Visit us at china.euraxess.org and [join](#) the EURAXESS China community.

EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist you: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, North America (USA and Canada), South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

