

EURAXESS Brazil & Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

EURAXESS Brazil & Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS LAC, which provides information of specific interest to European and non-European researchers in Brazil and other Latin American and Caribbean countries who are interested in the European research landscape and conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

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Please email brazil@euraxess.net or lac@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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1 Briefing – Doctoral training in Europe

About Doctoral education

"Doctoral education is a primary source of new knowledge for the research and innovation systems in Europe. The outcomes of doctoral education are both:

- a) young researchers who proved their skills for a professional life as "creative, critical and autonomous intellectual risk takers", and "those who go into roles beyond research and education, in the public, charitable and private sectors, where deep rigorous analysis is required.", as pointed out by LERU, "as well as
- b) the research output in the form of a doctoral thesis that contributes to the development of world science and the innovation system."

Background

In its Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach" in 2011, the European Commission (EC) aimed at "shaping the future of doctoral training in the context of the Innovation Union policy. [...] Doctoral training is a primary progenitor of new knowledge, which is crucial to the development of a prosperous and developed society. Developed economies rely on new knowledge and highly skilled knowledge workers to feed a process of continuous innovation. They rely also on adequately trained responsible citizens that can adapt to changing environment and can contribute to the common good. Grand societal challenges like climate changes and healthy ageing require complex solutions based on high level frontier research carried out by new generations of researchers.

Several initiatives have been taken to identify and promote good practice in doctoral training, most notably [...] by the European University Association (EUA).

"In the framework of the Bologna process, the European University Association (EUA) launched in 2005, after extensive consultation through a structured bottom-up process, Conclusions and Recommendations on Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society, better known as "Salzburg Principles". These principles were confirmed and enriched, in 2010, in the Salzburg II Recommendations."

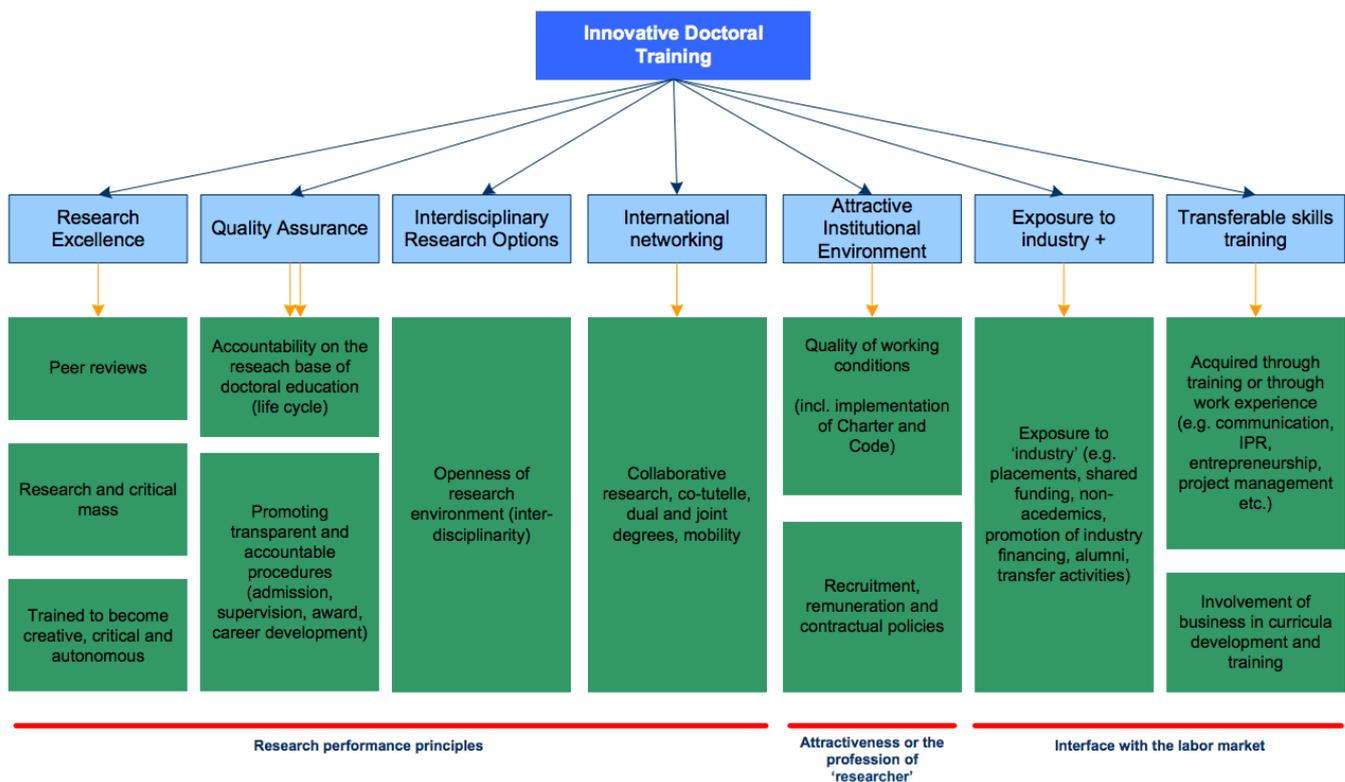
Seven Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training

Based on the initiatives cited above and many other (by the League of European Research Universities LERU, Coimbra Group, different thematic and international initiatives), as well as good practices in Member States and the Marie Curie experience, the European Commission identified seven principles composing a common approach to enhance the quality of doctoral training in Europe.

1. Research Excellence
2. Attractive Institutional Environment
3. Interdisciplinary Research Options
4. Exposure to industry and other relevant employment sectors
5. International networking
6. Transferable skills training
7. Quality Assurance

Doctoral education is recognised as the third cycle in the Bologna Process

More visually:



Source: IDT tree, by IDEA Consult based on Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe: Towards a common approach (2011)

These principles have been endorsed in the Council conclusions on the modernization of higher education, Brussels, 28-29 November 2011.

The Council calls on institutions and Member states "to link, where relevant and appropriate, national funding to the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training". With that aim, the European Commission is supporting National funding agencies through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND scheme that covers the co-financing of national or institutional doctoral training programmes in compliance with the 7 principles.

A diversified European higher education system

The EC 7 principles were not meant to be constraining and are rather considered by EU member states and associated countries as a "guiding tool" to inspire in the reforms in doctoral training and education in Europe.

Doctoral training remains very different from a country to the other. It can also vary within a country across universities, faculties/departments or disciplines. It is important to note that, as stated by LERU, those "varied practices [...] successfully achieve high quality doctoral education within a vigorous research culture and these must not be stifled."

For more details on how doctorate training is organised in the different European member states and associated countries, check EURODOC survey on the Doctorate structures across Europe [here](#).

To date, country fiches were published on Croatia; Czech Republic; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Ukraine.

"The duration of doctoral education varies across Europe according to the national university structures and disciplinary traditions, but requires as a rule a full-time endeavour of 3 to 4 years."

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and innovative doctoral training



MSCA is a European Commission research fellowship programme. It is funded under the framework programme for research and innovation [Horizon 2020](#).

Under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) structured research and training programmes are based on [the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#) (European Commission, 2011).

About Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

ITN is the **main European doctoral training programme**. The objective of the MSCA ITNs is to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefits. The projects funded will allow structuring and raising doctoral training at European level by providing researchers with enhanced career perspectives both in the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set

Innovative training networks bring together universities, research institutes and other sectors **from different countries worldwide**. The maximum duration of an ITN project is **4 years**. **All research areas** can be funded

There are **three types of Innovative Training Networks**:

1. European Training Networks (ETN)

Joint research training, implemented by at least 3 partners from in and outside academia. The aim is for the researcher to experience different sectors and develop their transferable skills by working on joint research projects.

The organisations should be established in at least 3 different [EU or associated countries](#). Additional participants can join from across the world, **including from Brazil** and other LAC countries.

2. European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

Joint doctoral training delivered by at least one academic partner entitled to award doctoral degrees, and at least one partner from outside academia, primarily enterprise. Each participating researcher is enrolled in a doctoral programme and is jointly supervised by supervisors from the academic and non-academic sector, where they spend at least 50% of their time.

The aim is for the doctoral candidates to develop skills inside and outside academia that respond to public and private sector needs.

The organisations should be established in at least two different [EU or associated countries](#). A wider set of partner organisations from anywhere in the world may also complement the training.

3. European Joint Doctorates (EJD):

A minimum of 3 academic organisations form a network with the aim of delivering joint, double or multiple degrees. Joint supervision of the research fellow and a joint governance structure are mandatory. The aim is to promote international, intersectoral and multi/interdisciplinary collaboration in doctoral training in Europe.

The organisations should be from different [EU or associated countries](#). The participation of additional organisations from anywhere in the world, including from the non-academic sector, is encouraged.

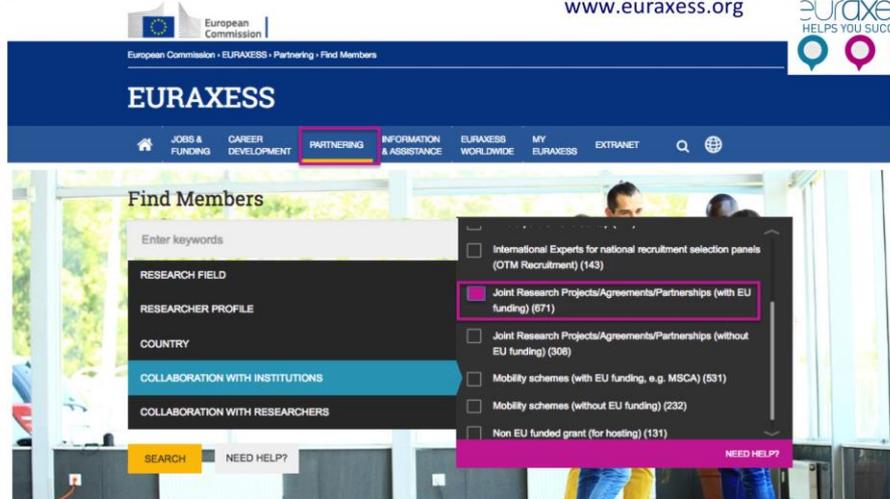
ITN calls and positions

ITN annual calls are **open to consortia of organisations** such as universities, research centres or companies, that propose a research training network, including **Latin American and Caribbean institutions**. Please note, that the call is **not open to individual researchers/students**.

Your LAC institution is looking for partners to submit a proposal? Check the EURAXESS partnership tool to find organisations willing to collaborate:

Check MSCA calls 2019 calendar [here](#) to know when the annual call will be announced and read the [guide for applicants](#) for more details.

How to find partners for joint projects with EU funding on EURAXESS Portal? www.euraxess.org



Members Search Results (25340)

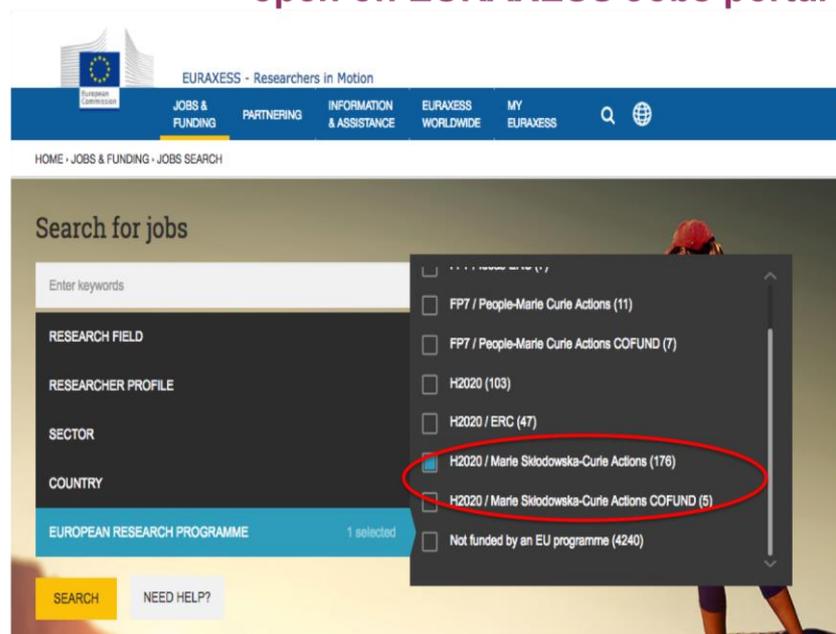
Sources:

Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach", European Commission, 27 June 2011;

Report of the ERA Steering Group Human Resources and Mobility (ERA SGHRM) [Using the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training as a Tool for Guiding Reforms of Doctoral Education in Europe](#); LERU Advice paper no 19, March 2016, [Maintaining a quality culture in doctoral education at research-intensive universities](#); [Eurodoc](#).

=> **Brazilian and LAC researchers** interested in high quality doctoral-level training in and outside academia can apply to the PhD positions created by these networks. They are advertised on the [Euraxess Jobs portal](#) and many will be published in the coming months to start your PhD in September.

PhD in Europe (ITN/Cofund)
=> open on EURAXESS Jobs portal



Meet the researcher: Interview with Larissa Terumi Arashiro, Brazilian PhD candidate enrolled in a European Joint Doctorate (MSCA ITN) on Wastewater



Born in Taubaté-SP, Larissa is an Environmental Engineer graduated from São Paulo State University. In 2013, after working in industry for 3 years, she was granted the Erasmus Mundus scholarship for the International Master of Science in Environmental Technology and Engineering, organized by Ghent University (Belgium), UNESCO-IHE (Netherlands) and UCTP (Czech Republic).

She is currently a Marie Curie fellow of a joint PhD programme between Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain) and Ghent University (Belgium). Her research focuses on wastewater treatment and resources recovery using microalgae.

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MSCA is a prestigious European funding programme. How did you learn about it? Tell us more about the selection process.

I learnt about the MSCA funding programme while I was doing my Master's through colleagues who were also researchers. They always mentioned the MSCA as competitive top-level fellowships. After obtaining my Master's degree, I was informed about the call for this joint PhD programme by an Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA) communication. As one of the fellowships offered addressed the same topic as my Master's thesis, I decided to apply. The selection process consisted in screening the top-5 applicants for each fellowship and inviting them for an interview and a committee selected the early-stage researchers (ESRs) based on their background, previous experiences, motivations and potential to deliver results.

In your experience, what are the advantages offered by the MSCA scholarship over other funding programmes?

The projects funded by the MSCA are robust and innovative. These high-profile programmes are multidisciplinary and promote intense collaboration between scientists and the non-academic sector. In my opinion, this is the main advantage of MSCA scholarship when compared to other funding opportunities. Besides that, the programme has a very holistic approach involving education based in 4 pillars: research, exchange with the non-academic sector, structured training courses, and participation in public outreach activities. This framework allows us to improve and develop both technical and soft skills, which is definitely valuable for our future careers.

Under this MSCA programme, you will conduct research in different EU countries. What are the benefits of mobility on your training and career? What about trans sectorial mobility - with the non-academic sector?

The cross-organisational mobility required by the MSCA programmes is a great opportunity to work in a different environment and open up perspectives. The most valuable benefit from this is, in my opinion, the chance to connect with different cultures. Being exposed to an international environment allows us to understand and respect different perspectives, learn from new ideas and improve community relations, which certainly makes a difference in our career development. I am currently doing my secondment at Ghent University (Belgium), where I will work for 6 months. It has been a very good experience, especially to exchange information with other researchers and learn about the different projects in which they are involved.

Regarding trans sectorial mobility, it is definitely a relevant opportunity to directly interact with the non-academic sector. In 2018, I did an internship at a consulting company called Simbiente (Portugal) as part of my joint doctorate programme. Personally, the experience was a great chance to learn about how the projects are developed and undertaken, the distribution of tasks within the team and the importance of effective communication for greater results in a consulting company. It was also valuable for having feedbacks about my research with a non-academic point of view, which gave me other perceptions and inspirations.



[SuPER-W](#) is a "European Joint Doctorate" programme for highly motivated young scientists, combining state-of-the-art research with a comprehensive joint training programme on Resource, Product and Energy Recovery from Wastewater with a strong collaboration between academic and private partners.

It brings together eminent scientists and non-academic sector representatives from multiple key disciplines to train young professionals, to optimize existing technologies and develop novel integrated technologies for product, energy and resource recovery from wastewater. The aim is to identify (potential) bottlenecks in the implementation and exploitation of these technologies and to stimulate policy input formulation.

It has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska -Curie grant agreement No 676070.

Are there any tips that you would like to give to prospective MSCA candidates?

Some advice I would give to prospective candidates is to be very persistent and truly believe in your potential. In order not to miss any good opportunity, keep updated on the offers by the MSCA, and once you find interesting calls, check whether you have all documents ready for the application. Make sure you prepare them in advance as some of them might require quite a long time to be issued (legalized documents, proficiency tests, etc.). The ITN selection process is very transparent and focuses mainly on scientific excellence irrespective of the gender, age or nationality, so if you feel motivated to contribute to science and innovation, I definitely encourage you to join the MSCA community!

2 Hot Topic – “Marie-Curie PhD, Advantages and Challenges...”



Mahmood Mahmoodian is a PhD candidate at both Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) [QUICS](#) (Quantifying Uncertainty in Integrated Catchment Studies).

The overall aim of QUICS was to provide high levels of training and carry out research to take the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to the next level. It also aims to improve water quality management by assessing the uncertainty of integrated catchment model water quality predictions. The project employed 12 Early Stage Researchers (PhD Fellows) and 4 Experienced Researchers.

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Piece originally published by Mahmood Mahmoodian, Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher, in MSCA project QUICS blog entry of the same title, accessible [here](#), and reproduced below with his consent.

“Is this a PhD or a kind of tour in Europe?” “Do you have time to do research as well? Or you only travel and teach at schools and kindergartens?” “Ah, you guys and your luxury PhD!”

These are typical comments and questions that we, as Marie-Curie (MC) fellows often hear from friends and colleagues. So, I thought that it might be relevant to write about advantages and challenges of this experience. This can give an overall idea about the situation for students who are interested in this fellowship and want to know more.



Being a Marie-Curie fellow in an ITN network, has numerous advantages as well as some challenges. I will try to list some of them briefly according to my personal experience in a sincere and honest way.

1) Advantages

Among many advantages that MC fellowship has, I can mention:

a) Reputation and being prestigious

A Marie-Curie fellowship is one of the most prestigious fellowships in Europe and perhaps one of the best in the world. The majority of academic people know about it and it can be considered as a valuable asset in the future, if you want to stay in academia, or even if you want to start working outside the academic world. (No need to mention that it is highly competitive to get selected).

b) International environment

Each project has various partners (universities, institutes, companies, etc.) all over Europe and even outside Europe. In case of the QUICS project, 9 partners and 7 associate partners which are located in 9 countries! This is truly a unique experience as a PhD student to be involved in a serious project in such an environment!



c) Secondments

Each MC fellow has the requirement of undertaking so called “secondments” to other project partners. For instance, I have 9 months of secondments to spend at TU Delft (NL), University of Sheffield (UK), University of Laval (Canada) and RTC4Water (Luxembourg). Hence, there is a great possibility to exchange knowledge and learn more on your topic from other project partners. This mobility will definitely nurture your other life skills as well apart from academic life.

d) Lovely training budget!

A generous budget is allocated to each fellow to spend on their training and research as well as transfer of knowledge. We, Marie-Curie fellows, love it! It gives the fellow a great opportunity to attend lots of courses, summer schools, trainings, conferences, and so on. As far as I know, this is not comparable with any other PhD grant. This gives you a unique opportunity to develop your discipline-related skills as well as soft skills and also to expand your professional network!

e) Networking

In an ITN project, it is all about networking and collaboration possibilities. You have the possibility to meet experts in your field during various project meetings, while attending conferences and training events, or when you are seconded to project partners. You may also have multiple supervisors from different universities and institutes, which is in fact another advantage in this regard.

f) Public outreach events

As an MC fellow, you are required to convey the general knowledge about your research to the non-academic audience as well. This normally includes some outreach events for public audience such as school students and pupils, technicians at companies and so on. Although it is really challenging to organize these activities in a tailor-made manner, they are really fun in the end! It is a skill to simplify your message to be easily understandable for public.

g) Collaboration

I think collaboration is one of the main keys to be more successful in research. With collaboration you can expand your knowledge, learn from others, and think outside the box. In the QUICS project there is a great collaboration opportunity at individual as well as institutional levels. For instance, at the moment I am collaborating with 2 other QUICS fellows to write a conference paper and hopefully a journal paper in the future.

h) Soft skills

PhD topics are normally very detailed and they are defined to solve specific and tiny problems in this complex world. You may be lucky to find another specific and similar research topic or a job title to continue your career after graduation; however, what would make you a more suitable candidate for a wider range of careers is your ‘soft skills’. For example: communication skills, teamwork and collaboration, adaptability, project and time management, critical thinking and so on. Personally, I do not assert that currently I am great in these skills, but I am sure that the Marie-Curie fellowship is helping me a lot in this regard. Most importantly, we develop our soft skills via “learning by doing”. Besides, there are plenty of courses during our training events and also in our universities and institutes.



The QUICS ITN comprised 9 partners who are universities, research institutes and commercial enterprises where the researchers were based. The project also included 11 international associate partners who were involved in training and also hosted the researchers during secondments.



2) Challenges:

a) Distraction!

During the first year of my PhD, averagely, I had almost one work-related travel each month. This is really distracting when it comes to research. Add to this all the travel planning and the bureaucratic procedures. On one hand, they are good for your skills development and changing the monotonous working environment, but on the other hand they can easily distract you from the current step and you would totally forget what you were doing before!

b) Project management and time management

As a MC fellow, you are connected to multiple locations and entities, each of which brings different responsibilities. [...]

To be honest, sometimes, I realize I am spending a considerable part of my time or a whole day only on bureaucratic tasks. Dealing with the numerous tasks related to my PhD position requires proper project management and time management skills that the MC fellow needs to develop over time.

c) Managing secondments

First of all, you need to define what your objectives are and what the “optimum time” is to go for a secondment. Then you need to plan and organize it:

- Find another accommodation which is normally very difficult for short stays.
- Apply for visa (if you need to) and plan your trips.
- Adapt to the new work environment.
- Do in parallel the responsibilities for your host institute.
- Write a secondment report after finishing.

d) Multi-supervisionship

Having double, triple or even more supervision is another challenge. It is clear that having more than one supervisor is beneficial in terms of sharing the knowledge, experience and new ideas. But sometimes it can be a challenge too. For instance, receiving the feedback from all of them would take a considerable amount of time; sometimes, ideas can be contradictory; besides you need to keep in touch with all to avoid miscommunication.

e) Uncertainty in visa applications! *

I really “dislike” this part and almost everyone in QUICS project knows why...

Imagine if you have to wait for about 6-7 months to get a visa to start your PhD in Luxembourg: you will understand very well the meaning of “uncertainty”. I do not want to go into political discussions here, but just a hint to those nationalities who are treated more strictly for entry visas: “Apply very well in advance”.

Based on my experience after living in several countries and spending “n” hours in the embassies, there is no rule about granting visas. The uncertainty bound is too wide. These were totally personal experiences, but I hope I have conveyed the main message.

3) Summary:

All in all, Marie-Curie PhD is a unique one. Although there are some challenges on the way, it will definitely help you to develop your skills as a researcher as well as a project manager. Go for it if you have the chance!

* EURAXESS can assist you with your visa application! Find out about all the free services EURAXESS provides to researchers and employers. You can save time and money by using **more than 500 EURAXESS Centres around Europe** to help you with a range of issues including **visa requirements, work regulations, taxation and social security**. More information [here](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess).

3 EURAXESS members in focus: CROATIA



(image source: Wikipedia)

Croatia is situated in South East Europe, at the crossroads of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, neighbouring five countries on land border: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, and Montenegro. The Croatian Adriatic coastline is one of the most indented coastlines in Europe, next to the Norwegian fjords.



The International Monetary Fund classified Croatia as an open and developing economy and the World Bank defined it as a high-income economy.



Croatian S&T Funding Agencies

Scientific research in Croatia is monitored and conducted in six fields of science: natural sciences, technical, biomedical, biotechnical and social sciences, and humanities. The entire system of science and technology is financed through direct project financing with a mechanism of annual monitoring of results, through financing of junior researchers on concrete projects, with multi-year monitoring of their progress and financing of equipment.

The main funding bodies, in addition to the Ministry of Science and Education (MSE), are the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) and the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO). Through the Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme and Operational Programme Human Resources Development, Croatia is combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) for funding development of science and research.

Croatian Science Foundation (CSF)

Croatian Science Foundation was established by the Croatian Parliament in December 2001 under the name The National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development of the Republic of Croatia. Its mission is to promote science, higher education and technological development in Croatia in order to ensure the economic development and to support employment. The Foundation provides support to scientific, higher education and technological programmes and projects, fosters international cooperation, and supports the realization of scientific programmes of special interest in the field of fundamental, applied and developmental research.

Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)

HAMAG-BICRO is the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia with the purpose of enhancing SME development and promoting investment and innovation. The Agency is an independent institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts.

Croatian Research and Innovation Institutions

The Croatian research and innovation system

The Croatian research and innovation system has evolved over the last decade into a complex system of various institutions and measures directed to build innovation-driven growth. The basic principles and guidelines of science and higher education policy are determined by the Croatian Parliament. **The Ministry of Science and Education (MSE)** is the main administrative body responsible for planning, funding and monitoring of the entire science and education system while the highest advisory body for the scientific research system is **The National Council of Science, Higher Education and Technological Development** with the aim to harmonize the overall development of the R&D and innovation system. **The Ministry of Economy,**



READ OUR EURAXESS countries in FOCUS:

EURAXESS is supported by over 40 countries, of which we profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS LAC newsletters. In this edition, we zoom in on CROATIA.

Focuses on other EU countries are available [here](#) / PUBLICATIONS tabs.

So far, we featured the following countries: Albania, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain.

Entrepreneurship and Crafts complements the national innovation policy related to innovation-based entrepreneurship and business infrastructure. The role of the **Ministry of Regional Development and European Funds** has increased upon the Croatian accession to EU. Scientific activity in Croatia is performed at the universities, public research institutes, research institutes, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and other legal persons duly registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations.

Investment in R&D and employment in Science and Technology

The Croatian science and technology sector employed 38,2 % of the active population (aged 25-64) in 2016 according to the Eurostat report which is close to the EU-28 average (46%). The public R&D sector, with universities playing a leading role, is the largely dominant sector research manpower (56,5% of total researchers HEI in 2016). As reported by Eurostat in 2016, the business sector employs a modest 21% of total researchers and invests 0,44 percent of GDP in R&D. On the other hand, the business enterprises sector is leading in R&D performing activities (49,4%), followed by the higher education sector (31%). Furthermore, the total investment into R&D was 0,85% of the GDP in 2016 and has been fluctuating around 1% in the past 10 years, marking Croatia as one of the most advanced R&D performers in the region, but not at the EU level. However, according to ERAWATCH, Economic Programme of Croatia envisaged increasing the investment in research and development to achieve a share of GERD of 1,4% of the GDP by 2020 in order to overcome the gap in science funding between Croatia and the EU countries (0,85% of GDP vs. 2,03 % of GDP in 2016).

Ruđer Bošković Institute

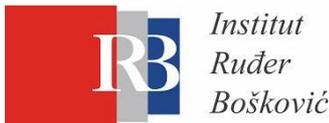
The Ruđer Bošković Institute is regarded as Croatia's leading scientific institute in the natural and biomedical sciences as well as marine and environmental research, owing to its size, scientific productivity, international reputation in research, and the quality of its scientific personnel and research facilities. The Institute is the leading and internationally most competitive Croatian institute by virtue of its participation in international research projects.

Croatian Academy of Science and Arts

The Academy promotes and organizes scientific research and encourages the application of the findings of this research, develops artistic and cultural activities, and is concerned with Croatian cultural heritage and its affirmation throughout the world. It publishes the results of scientific research and artistic creation and makes proposals and gives its opinion on the promotion of sciences and arts in the fields which are of special importance to the Republic of Croatia.

Study in Croatia

The portal "Study in Croatia" (www.studyincroatia.hr) is owned and managed by the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes. It contains information about higher education in Croatia aimed at prospective international students. You can find an overview of the Croatian higher education system, practical information about application procedures, student life, visas and accommodation and scholarships. Furthermore, the portal provides information on learning Croatian as a foreign language, as well as general information about Croatia.





SNAPSHOT

**Dunja Dunda (Croatia)**

Dunja Dunda is a Community Psychologist who went from the UK to Chile, thanks to a Santander Universities Travel Grant obtained while she was pursuing her MA in Community Psychology. Her research relates to grassroots self-organisation of disadvantaged communities. She has been researching liberation psychology and the importance of critical consciousness-raising and public space being recognised and treated as political space, as a way of achieving transformative change for the oppressed.

Her focus has been on the methodology of large group self-organisation called the "Organisation Workshop", created by the Brazilian sociologist Clodomir Santos de Moraes, which contributes to the process of local empowerment; the acquisition of organisational, emotional and professional skills, the reactivation of the local economy, and the creation and development of local enterprises.

Croatian presence in South America

It is estimated that some 3 million Croatian immigrants and their descendants live today outside Croatia and around the world. Latin American countries, primarily Argentina and Chile, received Croatian immigrants in two important immigration waves. The first one was in late 19th century, between 1880 until World War 1, mainly for economic reasons, while the second one was at the end of World War 2, mainly for political reasons. It is estimated that some 250.000 Croats and their descendants live today in Argentina, some 200.000 in Chile, 20.000 in Brazil, 5.000 in Bolivia, 4.000 in Ecuador, 5.000 in Paraguay, 6.000 in Peru, and 5.000 in Venezuela. These figures however are not confirmed and in some of these countries the estimated numbers may significantly vary to include a much higher number of Croatian descendants. As for Chile, the contribution of Croatian immigrants and their descendants in the construction of modern Chile has been very significant since important Chilean entrepreneurs and industrials, politicians, artists, writers, academics and scientists are Croats by descent.

The Croatian immigrants and their descendants from South America are often very interested in cooperating with their mother land and Croatia's goal is to support their interest through various initiatives aiming at keeping and strengthening their Croatian identity and fostering their economic, cultural, scientific and political involvement in present-day Croatia.

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Croats outside Croatia is a consultative body of the Croatian Government which supports it in the design and implementation of policies, activities and programs aimed at Croats and Croatian immigrants living abroad, while the Central State Office for Croats outside the Republic of Croatia is the central governmental executive body in charge of the coordination of all pertinent activities.

The Embassy of Croatia in Chile has co-organized so far 4 annual meetings, in coordination with the Croatian diaspora organisations from Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, and the participation of the Embassies in Argentina and Brazil and the Croatian diaspora organizations from the rest of South American countries, as well as with the support from the Croatian Government institutions. The Final Conclusions aim at strengthening the Croatian South American diaspora identity and their overall involvement in Croatia's economic, cultural, scientific and political life and growth. The 5th meeting is expected to take place in Argentina in the second half of 2019.

Source: Croatian Embassy to Chile.

EURAXESS Croatia

The Agency for Mobility and European Union Programmes is coordinator (Bridgehead Organization) of the EURAXESS programme in Croatia as well as a EURAXESS Service Centre. The EURAXESS Service Centre (ESC) assists researchers and their families during their period of mobility, in all matters relating to their professional and daily lives, helping them to reach adequate services for their needs, as well as assists the core contact points in research institutions and informs a wider group of contact points about matters of interest to mobility. For all required information, incoming researchers should contact Croatian EURAXESS Service Centre, or check the website (<https://www.euraxess.hr/>).



4 EURAXESS LAC activities

4.1 Don't miss our future activities in the region

4.1.1 [Info session on EU funding and tools in Montevideo, Uruguay, 4 April](#)

First EURAXESS LAC mission to Uruguay to participate in an Info session on EU funding and tools for researchers mobility focused on Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA). Participation of Dra. Cristina Gómez Corchete from FECYT- MICIUN, España where she is National Contact Point for MSCA.

4 April at MEC, 9:00- 12:00. Registration mandatory by email cip@mec.gub.uy.

4.1.2 EURAXESS LAC Webinars with Colombian universities

- 3 April from 10:00 – 12:00 (Colombian time) at the **Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia**

How to use EURAXESS tools to help Colombians connect with Europe, and introductions to the rules of the funding programmes Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and European Research Council (ERC) grants for Colombian researchers and institutions.

- 4 April from 09:00 – 12:00 (Colombian time) at the **Universidad El Bosque**

Organised by the Vice-Rector of Research: Introductions to the rules of the funding programmes Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions and European Research Council grants for Colombian researchers and institutions, introduction to EURAXESS tools to help Colombians connect with Europe, and a practical workshop on how to make the most of the EURAXESS platform to look for funding opportunities and collaborations in Europe.

4.1.1 EU session on science diplomacy at FAUBAI Conference 2019, Brazil, 13-17 April

The session aims at presenting the **state of the art of research on science diplomacy**, but also the European Commission and its member states and associated countries **best practices on the topic**, highlighting the main **tools** they dispose to engage in science diplomacy with Brazil and the Latin American region. Participation of France, Spain.

4.1.2 EURAXESS participation in COLIFRI Summit in Medellin, 12-14 June 2019

As part of the COLIFRI activities during this event, EURAXESS LAC will be proposing some work sessions to help Colombian researchers connecting with Europe and a workshop on European funding with tips and insights from European researchers. Stay tuned [here](#) for more details coming up soon and on EURAXESS LAC's visit to Colombia in June with other info sessions to be held in Medellin, Bogota and other cities.

More on lac.euraxess.org and facebook.com/EuraxessLAC & facebook.com/EuraxessBrasil

[Women in science - Interview with Celina Turchi, Brazilian researcher](#)

In order to celebrate the International Women's Day, EURAXESS Brazil & LAC interviews Professor Celina Turchi, a Brazilian epidemiologist who was ranked in Nature's 10 most notable people in science in 2016 and listed as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine in 2017 after being the first one to evidence a link between Zika virus and microcephaly.

4.2 Recent activities

- **EURAXESS Researchers night**, scientific dialogue between France and Brazil on biodiversity and food production, 26 March, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- [Info session on EURAXESS and research funding at USP](#), Brazil, 25 March, with the participation of representatives from 8 European countries
- Organised by the Delegation of the European Union to Mexico, a EURAXESS LAC Webinar took place on 6 March at the CUCEA faculty of **Universidad de Guadalajara**
- A EURAXESS LAC Webinar followed by Q&A took place on 20 February at the **Universidad de Antioquia**

4.3 Follow us on Twitter!

We now have a [Twitter account for EURAXESS Brazil](#): @EuraxessBrasil

EURAXESS Brazil remains on [Facebook with news in Portuguese](#), while [EURAXESS LAC has its own page in Spanish](#).

Follow us and keep yourself updated with the latest calls and news about the European STI world.

4.4 In case you missed our Flashnotes

[Call between France - South America: MATH-AmSud 2019 and STIC-AmSud 2019](#)

[List of funding opportunities, first edition of 2019!](#)

[Follow us on Twitter!](#)

[\[Brazil\] Short-Term Grants for Brazilian PhD students with CAPES scholarships for research stays in Germany](#)

[\[All countries\] International Education Scholarships in Ireland, for undergraduate, Master's or PhD students](#)

[\[All countries\] AUIP Mobility Scholarship between Andalusian and Ibero-American Universities](#)

[\[Colombia\] Call for participation in event: COLIFRI Colombian - French summit for research innovation and higher education](#)

[\[Brazil & LAC\] Call in Spain: Programme for International Cooperation on Industrial Research and Development \(Unilateral\)](#)

[\[Brazil & LAC\] Short-term post-doc Fellowships in Germany in diverse research fields - Zukunftskolleg's AAA Fellowships](#)

[\[All countries\] PhD scholarships in the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Italy \(various research fields\)](#)

4.5 EURAXESS LAC on-site visits

If you are interested in EURAXESS LAC presenting at your institution via webinar or potentially face to face, please contact us on lac@euraxess.net (for institutions in Argentina, Chili, Colombia, Mexico and other LAC countries) and brazil@euraxess.net (for Brazilian institutions).