

EURAXESS Links Brazil Newsletter is a quarterly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links 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.

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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 LINKS BRAZIL

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1 Briefing

Co-financing novelties for Brazilian participation within Horizon 2020

By Elisa Natola, Brazilian Council of the State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), Advisor for EU-Brazil International Cooperation

“EU-Brazil cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation has shown a very strong performance within the European 7th research framework programme (FP7), where Brazil reached a ranking of 6th major participant among third countries, but also in terms of EU contribution for Brazilian participants¹.”

Despite the general openness of Horizon 2020 to international cooperation, the rules which govern the new framework programme have considerably changed this scenario, due to the “non-automatic” funding rule for countries classified as emerging economies. Except for specific cases where funding of Brazilian participants is still possible, most of the time, co-financing from the Brazilian side is required, for projects submitted under Horizon 2020. This limitation has affected Brazilian participation in the calls of the first two years of implementation of Horizon 2020, due to the lack of co-financing mechanisms from the Brazilian side.

In December 2014, a new possibility for overcoming this constraint has started, through the signature of a Letter of Intent between CONFAP, the Brazilian Council of the State Funding Agencies, and the EU Delegation to Brazil. Such a letter represents the overall umbrella under which single States in Brazil, through their Funding Agencies – *Fundações de Amparo à Pesquisa (FAPs)* - are encouraged to implement mechanisms for such participation. Following this, in August 2015, almost all of the 26 Brazilian FAPs have joined the agreement of the Letter of Intent, stressing their interest in finding concrete means to allow an active cooperation within Horizon 2020.

From an operational point of view, the feasibility of co-financing mechanisms need to go through another important step, which is the definition of modalities and rules for allowing the participation of Brazilian Institutions, through co-financing mechanisms.

The first Funding Agency which has defined such implementing modalities has been the São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP, in coordination with the EU Delegation to Brazil. The outcome is the publication of the “[Guidelines for the preparation of research proposals in collaboration with proposals submitted to EU Horizon 2020](#)”.



Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa

CONFAP (Brazilian National Council of the State Funding Agencies) is a non-profit organization. It was created in 2006 to articulate the interests from Brazilian State Funding Agencies, among other goals.

Since 2013, CONFAP is directed by Sergio Luiz Gargioni (also president of the Santa Catarina State Research and Innovation Support Foundation).

The coordinator of the International Area is Mario Neto Borges, former president of this Council.

The 26 members that compose CONFAP meet in National Forums generally 4 times per year

Contact:
secretaria@confap.org.br

¹ EU-Brazil Fact Sheet, European Commission - http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-122_en.htm



Following this, such guidelines have been adopted by CONFAP, which prepared a more generalised version, adaptable to each FAP. In this framework, CONFAP has provided overall guidance and support to other FAPs which have shown their intent to launch their own co-funding procedures and rules.



Useful links:

H2020 [Work Programme](#) for 2016-2017 (budget of almost EUR 16 billion).

[Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).

International cooperation

ALL H2020 calls are open to international and more specifically Brazilian participation.

For more details on funding of applicants from non-EU countries, click [here](#).

CONFAP listed [potential calls of interest for EU-Brazil cooperation](#) in order to encourage the participation of Brazilian researchers under Horizon 2020 calls,

Up to point, this has been done by the Funding Agencies of the States of: Santa Catarina – [FAPESC](#); Goiás – [FAPEG](#); Minas Gerais – [FAPEMIG](#); Distrito Federal – [FAPDE](#). Other States such as: Rio de Janeiro, Mato Grosso do Sul, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Sergipe, Paraíba and others have demonstrated interest in proceeding in the same direction.

The guidelines operate as a sort of open parallel call at Brazilian State level for candidates who have taken part in projects and/or consortia presented under Horizon 2020 calls. Such support covers all the calls within Horizon 2020, namely within the three priorities: Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges, as well as in the horizontal actions of the Programme.

Such an option has been chosen in order to guarantee flexibility and openness with reference to the target research themes and this option follows a bottom-up approach which answers to the demand arising from the Research & Innovation communities in Brazil.

Participants eligible to present proposals need to comply with eligibility rules of the single FAPs, which in general, respond to the type of participants which normally act within Horizon 2020 on the EU side, therefore, covering individual researchers, research institutions as well as innovation actors, depending on the specific Horizon 2020 call.

Deadlines are also coordinated in a way that the submission to the respective FAPs follow a timeline which works in a synchronised manner with Horizon 2020 deadlines, which may vary depending on the call.

An important aspect that needs to be taken into consideration by Brazilian candidates is that the proposal submitted to the FAPs needs to prove a clear link to the wider project submitted under Horizon 2020 and also to show that the participation of the Brazilian counterpart is relevant and consistent in terms of project elaboration and planned implementation, and that the project impacts on the scientific and technological development of the Brazilian State which is involved in the co-financing.

As for evaluation, modalities differ depending on the choice of the single FAPs. In the case of São Paulo, a parallel evaluation of the Brazilian proposal shall be done by FAPESP, following its internal rules, and the project shall be financed by FAPESP only if successfully evaluated and approved also by the EU side. The other States and the respective FAPs, which have already launched the guidelines may choose another system, where the evaluation done at EU level - within Horizon 2020 – can be sufficient. Such an aspect also allows for flexibility for each state and respective FAP, which shall adopt an evaluation system which is mostly appropriate for its internal rules and procedures. In any case, each FAP shall need to receive the proposal in order to take decisions on



whether finance or not, also depending if the project responds to the state's priorities, the available funding and number of proposals approved and ranked.

Such novelties represent a great opportunity to increase Brazilian participation in Horizon 2020 international cooperation schemes, also in view of the numerous open and forthcoming calls, which are already defined and published up to 2017.

In order to increase these opportunities, CONFAP supports such cooperation schemes also with technical guidance targeted at providing capacity building for Brazilian project proponents. CONFAP has activated a dedicated email contact for receiving queries and support, namely: horizonte2020@confap.org.br and has structured within its website a section on Horizon 2020, where relevant documents and news are made available: <http://confap.org.br/news/horizonte-2020/>.”

You are based in Brazil and are considering applying to the European Commission Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), which fund researchers' mobility?

CONFAP has recently been nominated as the institution which hosts **2 National Contact Points** (NCPs) for the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), with the objective of providing targeted assistance for Brazilians interested in mobility actions in cooperation with the EU.

Details and contacts are available in the Horizon 2020 Participants Portal, in the section dedicated to NCPs - http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html.

H2020 MSCA NCPs:

Mario Neto Borges: marionetoborges@uol.com.br

Elisa Natola: horizonte2020@confap.org.br

Read EURAXESS Links Brazil [focus on MSCA](#) to know what's in it for Brazilian researchers and institutions



EMBO is an organisation of more than 1700 leading researchers that promotes **excellence in the life sciences**. The major goals of the organisation are to support talented researchers at all stages of their careers, stimulate the exchange of scientific information, and help build a research environment in Europe and beyond where scientists can achieve their best work.

EMBO helps young scientists to advance their research, promote their international reputations and ensure their mobility. Courses, workshops, conferences and scientific journals disseminate the latest research and offer training in techniques to maintain high standards of excellence in research practice. EMBO helps to shape science and research policy by seeking input and feedback from our community and by following closely the trends in science. For more information: www.embo.org.

The **European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC)** is an intergovernmental organization comprising 27 Member States and two Associate Member States, India and Singapore. EMBC promotes a strong transnational approach to the life sciences. Within the EMBC, Member States pool their resources to improve the quality of research at a national level and to contribute to the advancement of basic research in Europe.

2 Hot topics

Interview of Anne-Marie Glynn, EMBO, Head of Global Activities

What does EMBO have to offer researchers outside Europe, namely in Brazil and other countries where EURAXESS Links is active?

EMBO has a variety of activities to encourage collaboration between life scientists worldwide: some of these activities are open to researchers regardless of where they are based, while others are restricted to EMBC Member States.

EMBO has several programmes that aim to increase interactions with researchers in EMBC Member States. Although EMBO Courses & Workshops are primarily held in EMBC Member States, **scientists from all over the world attend EMBO Courses & Workshops** and anyone can invite EMBO Members and EMBO Young Investigators to present their research at an international conference, including in Brazil.

Irrespective of the country where the researcher is working, there is the possibility for researchers to apply to EMBO for a **postdoctoral fellowship** to continue their research career in an EMBC Member State (incoming), and researchers from EMBC Member States can continue their postdoctoral research in a laboratory situated anywhere in the world, provided that it is in a different country to where they did their PhD (outgoing). Equally, researchers of any nationality within 10 years of having received their PhD are welcome to apply for an **EMBO Short-term Fellowship** to strengthen exchange with an EMBC Member State laboratory.

So far EMBO has signed partnership agreements with Singapore and India. What are the state of play of negotiations with China and Brazil, two EURAXESS Links countries?

Many EMBO Members maintain good connections with scientists in these countries. EMBO Global Activities was introduced with the aim of strengthening exchange and collaborations between scientists in the EMBC Member States and scientists in non-European countries with emerging or existing strength in life science research. In this spirit, **we are working with partners in China and Brazil to establish new collaborative agreements**. Although it is too early to report on the status of discussions and negotiations, we will announce any future developments as they arise.

Young investigators intending to establish their own research group in selected countries – currently Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Portugal, and Turkey – can apply for EMBO Installation Grants.



Do you offer different funding opportunities to EMBO members and non-members? How can a researcher become a member?

EMBO Members are nominated and elected by the community of 1,700 eminent life science researchers who comprise the EMBO membership. EMBO Membership is a recognition of research excellence and the outstanding achievements made by a life scientist. Annual nominations and elections ensure that the membership remains at the forefront of life science research.

EMBO Membership is not required to apply for EMBO programmes and activities, most of which are designed to support younger scientists on their way towards becoming experienced researchers.

It is not long since we celebrated International Women's Day (8th March). Are there any specific EMBO actions/programmes to increase the participation of women in life sciences? Which ones?

EMBO is committed to gender balance in our activities. All of our committees and the EMBO Council have a good gender balance; the same applies to the invited speakers and participants at the scientific meetings that EMBO funds. EMBO has implemented a number of family friendly criteria (e.g. parental leave, crèche support, and family allowances) for our fellowships as well as eligibility extensions for scientists who have children and have taken parental leave. Childcare is available at a subset of the EMBO funded meetings. EMBO also runs leadership courses for researchers, including a course focused on Female Leaders in Science.

EMBO has recently published a white paper exploring the use of quotas to increase the number of females in senior positions in academia. Previously, EMBO has investigated whether gender bias impacted the success rate of applicants to the EMBO Fellowships Programme.

Together with FEBS, EMBO acknowledges outstanding life science research performed by women through the **Women in Science Award**, which this year was awarded to Fiona Watt, Director of the Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine at King's College London, UK.



EURAXESS members in Focus

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 41 countries, of which **we will profile one in each of our quarterly EURAXESS Links Brazil newsletters**. In this edition, we zoom in on Spain



Spain is a Member State of the European Union since 1986 and it has a population of 46.455.123 people. It's Gross Domestic Product was 1.041.160 million € in 2014. Life expectancy in Spain keeps growing every year, reaching 82,8 years in 2014. Spain welcomes every year a huge number of tourists, reaching 64.938.945 visits in 2014

Sources:

¹ INE(www.ine.es) and ICONO (www.icono.fecyt.es)

²http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Investigacion/FI_CHEROS/Spanish_Strategy_Science_Technology.pdf

3 EURAXESS members in Focus: SPAIN

The Spanish research, development and innovation system in figures ¹

The **Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation** encompasses internationally recognised institutions where scientists and entrepreneurs are able to enjoy a variety of funding opportunities. The “Spanish strategy on science, technology and innovation (2013-2020)²” promotes the capacities of the system and enables collaboration between all the stakeholders of the system while increasing the social and economic returns from investment in R&D&I.

In 2014, the Spanish institutions published 77,013 publications (including articles, conference proceedings and reviews), ranking 10th in the world, which means 3.19% of the total world production. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications (top 10%)), energy and veterinary medicine were the top research areas in Spain. Also, international collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: up to 44.69 % of the Spanish documents in 2014 were co-authored with a foreign institution. Finally, the total number of European patents with a Spanish origin in 2014 was 467.

Spain is a very active participant in European research projects. At the moment, around 9% of H2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions, mainly in Energy and NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing) areas, as well as under the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) instrument.

Research excellence in Spain

The “[Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence](#)” programme for independent research centres and the “Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence” programme for smaller unit recognises institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at world standards. The awarded centers and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all foreign, highly respected researchers, including Nobel laureates.

In Spain can be found a number of so-called “[Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures \(ICTS\)](#)” composed of facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics or engineering, distributed throughout Spain and in areas and devoted to cutting edge research and the highest quality technological development.

[Interviews with Brazilian researchers in Spain](#)

As part of this focus on Spain, FECYT conducted interviews with **Fernanda Peris**, Brazilian PhD researcher at the Open University of Catalonia, (UOC) and **Luciana Ferrari Montemezzo**, Brazilian research on Spanish Literature, former Fundación Carolina fellow They agreed to share their views with our readers and give advice to those interested in following their path. Read their interviews [HERE](#).



[Find details on the following funding opportunities here](#)

1 - Spanish State recruitment opportunities

Ramón y Cajal contracts
 Juan de la Cierva – incorporation
 Juan de la Cierva - Training
 Industrial doctorates
 Pre-doctoral grants-training doctors
 Pre-doctoral grants. Training of university teachers
 Torres Quevedo contracts

2 - Regional recruitment opportunities

[IKERBASQUE](#) (Basque Country)

[ICREA](#) (Cataluña)

[ARAID](#) (region of Aragon)

[OPORTUNIUS](#) (Galicia)

[FUNDACIÓN SÉNECA](#) (Murcia)

3 - Private sector recruitment opportunities

[OBRA SOCIAL LA CAIXA INTERNSHIPS](#)

[National, regional and private sector recruitment and funding opportunities](#)

The Spanish State has many recruitment opportunities on both the national level and regionally, as well as in the private sector. If you are interested in research mobility opportunities in Spain, see the extensive list [here](#).

Spain also hosts more than 300 European Research Council (ERC) grants in more than 50 Host Institutions and is also very attractive for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) fellows. At present, through 2014 and 2015 MSCA calls, more than 220 experienced researchers are carrying out their research in Spanish Institutions, which ranks Spain among the top four EU countries.

Contact the [Spanish MSCA/ERC contact points](#) if you are interested in carrying out research in Spain with European Commission funding.

Important information for incoming researchers

Spain belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when arriving in the country (in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). **The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)** is the national coordinator of the Spanish network. There are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. All information can be found at www.euraxess.es/eng

Every two years, FECYT publishes exhaustive, up-to-date information about the labour situation, everyday life, and the specific characteristics of Spain, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in Spain: <http://www.euraxess.es/eng/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain>

Opportunities for research, technology development and innovation in the region

The **Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology - CDTI** -, Spain's National Innovation Agency, is a public entity currently under the Secretariat of State for Research, Development and Innovation, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Government of Spain.

CDTI is the public agency in Spain financing industry-driven R&D projects (industrial research, experimental development) developed by Spanish companies, and promoting Spanish technologies in foreign markets via innovation and technology adaptation projects.

Based on the paradigm of open innovation, CDTI manages the participation of Spain in HORIZON 2020 and multilateral programmes promoting industrial R&D cooperation such as EUREKA, IBEROEKA and EUROSTARS. Similarly, CDTI has entered into agreements with several R&D funding agencies and developed industrial R&D funding programmes with countries like **Brazil (FINEP)**, amongst others.

The Primary Goal of the **bilateral program between Spain and Brazil** is to foster the technology cooperation between entities of Spain and Brazil through joint research and technology development projects. More [here](#).



CDTI External network: present in 27 countries and offering support to those Spanish entities which are interested in developing technological cooperation projects with companies in other countries, facilitating the identification of technological opportunities outside the EU and promotes technology transfer.



4 EURAXESS Links Brazil activities

4.1 [EURAXESS Links Conference 2016](#) – Rio de Janeiro, 11 May 2016

EURAXESS Links Conference 2016 “Linking researchers worldwide”

11 May 2016, 09:00, Hotel Pestana, Rio de Janeiro

Free event but limited seats available

Find the agenda [here](#)

Register [here](#).

<http://euraxessbrazil-conference.eu/>

The European Commission, together with EURAXESS Links Brazil and the Delegation of the European Union to Brazil, will hold the **EURAXESS Links Conference 2016 entitled “Linking researchers worldwide” in Rio de Janeiro on 11 May 2016**. The EURAXESS Links Conference 2016 will be the major scientific event of the **European Week 2016**, which is scheduled to take place all over Brazil.

This event is aimed at providing an opportunity for European and Brazilian researchers to network and to learn from each other.

The conference will bring high level speakers from Europe and Brazil on topics such as the potential for **science to act as an engine for growth** in today's globalised world, strategies to **improve scientific collaboration and mobility** between Europe and Brazil, and how to **create an attractive environment** for international researchers.

The programme will feature a brief **presentation of the European Commission's funding opportunities and tools** and a discussion about **results, challenges and perspectives of EU-Brazil researchers mobility programme**. A roundtable discussion entitled "**Industry - Academia: Research Partnerships for Innovation**" will be held, as well as parallel workshops that will address **mobility, networks** and hands-on session on **how to submit a successful proposal to European funding**. There will also be a networking cocktail at the end of the conference, which will allow participants to further network and discuss possible cooperation. It will also be an opportunity to celebrate the European Day and EURAXESS Links Brazil's third anniversary.

Simultaneous English-Portuguese interpretation will be provided. Please, find the **tentative agenda** [here](#) and [register](#) as soon as possible as **limited seats are available**.

Networking opportunity

Around 150 people are expected to attend the conference, mainly researchers.

The event will be a great occasion for the European and Brazilian research communities to get together and interact with policy leaders from Europe and Brazil, as well as with eminent representatives of the business research and development sector.

A global event

This is the third edition of this global event organised in EURAXESS worldwide locations (ASEAN, China, India, Japan and North America). Previous EURAXESS Links Conferences were held in Asia (Beijing, 2012 and ASEAN in 2014).



4.2 Looking for funding opportunities?

Later in 2016, a new EURAXESS portal will be deployed, with many new user-friendly and useful tools, including ... a **database of funding opportunities!** However, until the new portal is launched, we continue to publish a compilation of open calls to fund researchers' mobility and cooperation with European teams on a regular basis. The latest edition is available here: [Funding opportunities - March 2016](#)

4.3 In case you missed our Flashnotes

[New Legal ST&I Framework should facilitate researchers mobility](#)

[EURAXESS Links Conference, Rio de Janeiro \(11 May 2016\)](#)

[International Women's Day – EURAXESS Links Brazil interview with Maria Zaira Turchi, president of FAPEG and vice-president of CONFAP](#)

[EU insight - Creating Gender Equality in Science & Research in the EU](#)

[EU call on Zika](#)

[Brazil - Europe - Doctoral and Research Programme \(Be a doc platform by Coimbra group of Brazilian universities\)](#)