



## European Research Day 2017

4 December | Delegation of the European Union to Japan, Tokyo

### **T06 - Dr. Eliza Olivia LUNGU, Postdoc, Romanian Kyoto University, Grad. Sch. of Science**

[Linkedin Profile](#) // [eliza.olivia.lungu@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.olivia.lungu@gmail.com)

#### **My research project:**

Over the last 30 years international trade acquired “new flavors” by extending its long-lasting cross-border flows in goods with flows in know-how, investment, people, services, tasks etc. or what practitioners call global supply chains (GSCs). The process of cross-country production fragmentation started in 1980s and increased towards the 2000s due to inclusion in the global trade network of formally closed economies (e.g. China, ex-communist countries from Eastern Europe), reduction in the product coordination costs as a consequence of technological innovations in IT, decrease in transportation costs, trade frictions and other trade barriers. Currently, GSCs are the norm in producing goods and services, but their nature and dynamics are barely understood. We propose a new methodology to study GSCs framed in the econophysics perspective (complex networks, power laws, entropy).

#### **My career path:**

I first came to Japan in 2014 as a JSPS Postdoc and spend the next 2 years at Kyoto University conducting research on occupational mobility. Prior to that I worked in Bucharest as a full-time researcher on labour market (2009 – 2014), received my PhD in economics (2012), worked as Civilian Intern/Operational Research Analyst at NATO HQ SACT, USA (2007 – 2008). Before arriving to Japan, I had already an extensive international experience by working in multinational teams as project responsible or national expert in international projects founded by EU Structural Fund, CEDEFOP, European Commission; attending international conferences and summer schools. Now in Japan, I am part of new international collaboration teams, mostly US-JP, but I don't travel so much abroad, since internationally travelling from Japan is rather costly; from almost monthly international travelling I am now at the level of 1, 2 conferences per year.

#### **My relation to Europe:**

By working for an extended period as a researcher in Romania, I have created connections with the research institutes in Romania. During my stay in Japan I managed to partly maintain them and for example I will organize a joint conference in Romania for next summer. But I would admit it's rather difficult to maintain a strong collaboration, due to distance, disconnection from their daily realities, lack of face to face contact, no common funded research grant etc. From my experience as a non-Japanese speaker I would say it's much easier to construct a career in EU and especially in your home country; but if you want to broaden your view I think this struggling is necessary, especially as an economist. For the next two years I will be in Japan but after that I would like to return in Europe and transfer the knowledge I acquired here.