

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 2
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EURAXESS NORTH AMERICA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we welcome summer, we are also delighted to dive into Horizon Europe! The first calls for proposals under Horizon Europe have just been launched on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal. Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion (USD\$113.6b / CAD\$140.8b). It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. It creates jobs, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness, and optimizes investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area (ERA).

This month, the European Commission adopted Horizon Europe's [first work program](#) for the 2021-2022 period, announcing €14.7 billion (USD\$17.6b / CAD\$21.6b) of EU funding to support the transition to a greener, fairer, and more digital EU. Read on to learn about the newly released calls under Horizon Europe, as well as its five main mission areas of cancer, climate change, marine environment, smart cities, and food security.

With this, we look forward to continuing promotion of European research and innovation and sharing more information on researcher mobility. In the second half of the year, we will host career development webinars, theoretical and practical info sessions on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and European Research Council grants, and much more. Stay tuned!

–Your EURAXESS North America Team

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This newsletter is also intended as a communication tool with you all, so please do not hesitate to contact us at NorthAmerica@euraxess.net for comments, corrections, or if you want to advertise a particular funding scheme or event.

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EURAXESS North America Team



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1 EURAXESS member in focus: Romania



1



2

Location	South-eastern Europe
Capital	Bucharest
Population	~19 million
Area	238,397 km ²
Language	Romanian
Currency	RON
Time zone	UTC+2



MINISTERUL CERCETĂRII,
INOVARII ȘI DIGITALIZĂRII



Whereas probably the most known thing about Romania is the legend of Dracula, Romania is much more than that. Think medieval towns, time-capsule villages, delicious cuisine, picturesque monasteries, virgin forests, majestic mountains, a blossoming art community, impressive landscape and, of course, high-quality education and excellent research facilities.

The Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitisation ([MCID](#)) is responsible for the overall research, development, and innovation (RDI) policy described in its National Research and Innovation Strategy. While the Romanian Academy coordinates fundamental research in 14 sections, carrying out programmes of national interest via its institutions, MCID oversees the policy side with the help of the **Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding** ([UEFISCDI](#)), the **Romanian Space Agency** ([ROSA](#)) and the **Institute for Atomic Physics** ([IFA](#)).

The main funding instruments of the National R&I Strategy are the Romanian National Plan for Research, Development, and Innovation (PN3), the Core Programs and the Operational Program Competitiveness – Axis 1 (POC-AP1).

Together, PN3 and POC-AP1 allocate competitive, project-based funding through a set of tailored programs to address the specific needs of the distinct R&D performers and their technology readiness levels, and to support inter-sectoral and cross-border collaboration. Proposal selection is based on peer review, complying with the international principles of evaluation.

Four consulting bodies help MCID develop, monitor, and implement RDI policies: the Advisory Board for Research Development and Innovation, the National Council for Scientific Research, the National Council for Technology Transfer and Innovation, and the National Council for Ethics of Research, Technology Development and Innovation.

The RDI system in Romania consists of 263 public R&D organisations (56 public universities, 46 national R&D institutes, 65 research institutes and centres of the Romanian Academy, and another 96 public research institutes and centres), as well as about 600 private companies declaring their R&D activities. Meanwhile, the Network for Technology Transfer and Innovation (ReNITT) has around 50 specific organisations (technology transfer centers, technology information centers, technology and business incubators) and four science and technology (S&T) parks.

¹ Image by [Ciker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#)

² Source: [Wikipedia](#)



The RDI sector employs 43,973 people nationwide³. This includes 18,249 (41.5 %) with a PhD or postdoctoral degree, 37,393 (85.0%) with a higher education degree, and the remaining 6,580 (15.0%) possess secondary education certificates. The vast majority of Romanian R&D staff members (31,271 or 71.1%) are active in the public sector, while the remaining 12,406 (28.2%) work in privately owned institutions. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the employees work full time; 27,168 (61.8%) are categorised as researchers, 6,195 (14.1%) as technical staff, and the remaining 10,610 (24.1%) are listed as “other.”

Scientific visa

In Romania, a long-stay visa for scientific research activities, identified by the symbol *D/CS*, is granted to foreigners once approved by MCID and the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

Currently, 29 research organisations⁴ are licenced under the Scientific Visa Directive (Directive no. 801/2016), hosting researchers from third countries including Moldova, China, Algeria, Turkey, USA, South Korea, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Morocco, India, Egypt, Republic of Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, North Macedonia, and Colombia. They are carrying out research activities in universities/institutes across Romania and under various funding and programming environments, including the EU Horizon framework programmes, the Romanian National Research, Development and Innovation Plan, EU Structural Funds, and inter-organisational agreements.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are a reference program for doctoral education and postdoctoral training in the EU. They support the mobility of researchers between countries, sectors, and disciplines, helping them acquire new knowledge, skills and competencies. MSCA also promote excellence and set standards for high-quality researcher education and training in line with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers. During Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), €16.20 million was directed towards Romanian RDI organisations involved in MSCA projects. Colombia is among the top 10 nationalities of fellows working in Romania, while the USA is in the top 10 destinations of Romanian fellows going abroad via MSCA.

Romanian entrepreneurial ecosystem

Romania welcomes foreign investments by providing special tax incentives and ensuring an investment-friendly business climate. The most intense R&D activity is taking place in the automotive, IT, and automation sectors

The Romanian entrepreneurial ecosystem is increasingly dynamic and shows high potential. UiPath is the world-leading provider of robotic process automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence (AI) software, growing from around \$1 million to over \$100 million in revenue in less than 21 months. Following UiPath’s success,

³ Figures reported at the end of 2019

⁴ <https://www.research.gov.ro/ro/articol/5226/tiin-ifica-pentru-cercetatorii-straini-in-scopul-desfaturarii-in-romania-de-activita-i-de-cercetare-dezvoltare-inovare-pentru-o-perioada-mai-mare-de-90-de-zile>

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 42 countries, of which we will profile one in our quarterly e-newsletter.



other start-ups grew rapidly. Most of the scale-ups operate in RPA, AI, cybersecurity, mobile technologies, and online applications.

Innovation in Romania is of great importance because it is regarded as creative driver and an economy booster. Human talent and R&D are crucial factors for enhancing innovation. Public expenditure on education and intensive staff training also stimulate innovation in high-performing economies.

From 2014 to 2020, Romania launched its strategy⁵ for strengthening entrepreneurship through policy measures focused on improving access to finance, responsive administration, and entrepreneurship. The strategy addresses inclusiveness, job-creation in rural areas, entrepreneurship education and support programs, aiming mainly at the vulnerable or disadvantaged social groups. Romania is thus addressing a legacy of disparities between rural and urban communities by supporting entrepreneurship and job-creation in underprivileged areas.

In 2019, Romania reported over 1.38 million entrepreneurs, which is the highest number in decades. The fact that 37.5% of them were women shows Romania's progress in gender equality as well as other inclusion criteria (SBA, 2019).

Special programs and recommendations have been delivered to foster entrepreneurship among women, Roma, and refugees in the country. Entrepreneurship programs were designed for socio-economically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.⁶

⁵ The Romanian Governmental Strategy for Development of SMEs and Business Environment (RGSDSMEBE) 2020 (OECD, 2018)

⁶ <https://accelerate.gov.ro/storage/sustainability-and-innovation-in-the-romanian-entrepreneurial-ecosystem.pdf>



Study in Romania – www.studyinromania.gov.ro

Romania is an excellent place to study. Diplomas are recognized all over Europe and beyond. In addition, the Diploma Supplement (DS), issued automatically with a graduation diploma, is bilingual and thus ensures transparency of learning outcomes and improves employability.

In 2020, there were 91 accredited Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) – 54 public and 37 private universities – with a wide choice of university programs.

The Study in Romania team has recently released a video to promote Romanian higher education. It is accessible on the [Study in Romania YouTube account](#).

The UEFISCDI agency has developed systems to increase the accuracy, transparency, security, volume and usefulness of higher education and research data. One tool offered is the National Student Enrolment System (RMU), as part of the EU-funded 'EBSI4RO: Connecting Romania through Blockchain' project, in partnership with the University Politehnica of Timisoara (UPT). EBSI4RO is implementing a credentials system for digitally verifying diplomas and qualifications using blockchain technology. It also handles so-called micro-credentials such as proof of informal learning.

Brainmap – www.brainmap.ro

Another important UEFISCDI initiative is the online community of researchers and entrepreneurs, Brainmap, which assembles more than 42,000 Romanian and foreign experts into a single human resources (HR) portal for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The platform is searchable by expertise, country, and institution, and it facilitates the selection of experts involved in evaluation processes organised by UEFISCDI.

EERIS – <https://eeris.eu>

Engagement in the European Research Infrastructure System (EERIS) is the first Romanian online platform connecting research infrastructure owners with potential clients (researchers and company representatives). Developed by UEFISCDI, the portal is a gateway for booking services provided by public and private Romanian research infrastructures. Since 2020, the platform has also accepted registrations from research infrastructures and organisations from abroad. The platform's ambition is to build on the services and promote the infrastructures and available equipment both at national and international levels. EERIS is being upgraded using blockchain technology by implementing reputation management tools that will enhance direct collaboration between researchers and research institutes online using an algorithm for trustworthy service contracts.



REGISTRUL MATRICOL UNIC

National Student Enrolment System

Over 1.4 million students enrolled in over 7,000 study programs starting as from 2015.

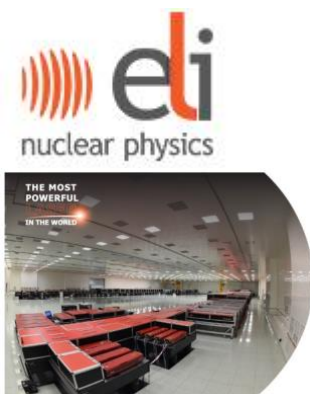


The online community of researchers, innovators, technicians and entrepreneurs





Discover Romania



ELI-NP – www.eli-np.ro

The Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics ([ELI-NP](http://www.eli-np.ro)) is one of the most prestigious research infrastructures in the world due to its state-of-the-art equipment. Implemented by the National Institute and Nuclear Engineering Horia Hulubei (IFIN-HH), ELI-NP has been designated by the Nuclear Physics Collaboration Committee of the European Science Foundation as a major facility in the Nuclear Physics Long-Range Plan.

ELI-NP is building a team of dedicated, talented people willing to contribute to the operation and performance of laser-matter interaction experiments using the most powerful laser in the world.

Open positions for early-stage and experienced researchers interested in working in an innovative, dynamic environment are posted here: www.eli-np.ro/jobs.php

Danubius – www.danubius-ri.eu



The International Centre for Advanced Studies on River-Sea Systems (DANUBIUS-RI) is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure supporting interdisciplinary research on river-sea systems. DANUBIUS-RI's mission is to facilitate scientific excellence in this complex field, offering state-of-the-art research infrastructure and providing integrated knowledge to sustain and protect river-sea systems.

EURAXESS Romania – www.euraxess.gov.ro

The coordination of EURAXESS Romania is ensured by UEFISCDI and The Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitisation. The EURAXESS network in Romania has **nine support centres**: Banat University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Timisoara; Institute for Macromolecular Chemistry 'Petru Poni' Lasi; Lucian-Blaga-University of Sibiu; Bucharest University of Economic Studies; University of Bucharest; 'Gheorghe Dima' Music Academy; Valahia University Targoviste; North-West Regional Development Agency, Cluj-Napoca; and Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brasov.



Bran Castle, also known as Dracula's castle



The Palace of the Parliament Bucharest



⁷Romania Danube Delta



⁸Transfagarasan – one of the best roads in the world

⁷ Image by [Andrei Prodan](https://www.pixabay.com/users/andrei-prodan/) from [Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/)

⁸ Photo by [Ümit Yıldırım](https://www.unsplash.com/users/umit-yildirim/) on [Unsplash](https://www.unsplash.com/)



2 Romania's researcher diaspora

To complement this quarter's country profile, EURAXESS North America held an interview with Teodor Stan, President and Founder of the Immigration Research Forum (IRF), to ask about the Romanian researcher diaspora in North America.

EURAXESS North America: *Most researcher diaspora groups have a name that plainly states the country—what is the overall idea behind the Immigration Research Forum and what makes it different from other researcher diaspora groups?*

Teodor Stan: Our efforts center currently on the experience of the Romanian American diaspora, but we are not state centered in the scope of our reach. We are actively mapping the presence of Romanian professional diaspora networks while in the long term we seek to compare the Romanian immigration experience with that of Greek, Bulgarian, Turkish, and Ukrainian diasporas.

The Immigration Research Forum is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in Washington, DC dedicated to the research of transatlantic immigration from the wider Black Sea region. The purposes of the IRF are research, educational, and civic action focused, devoted to fostering an in-depth understanding of the factors which promote the successful integration and upward social mobility of immigrants. Traditionally, such social mobility implied the pursuit of higher academic achievement, specializations, and entrepreneurial ventures often underpinned by diaspora community support. We believe the immigrant integration process should be studied to inform best practices and potential interventions that ensure the potential of this mobile human capital is achieved.

We look at the mobility of skilled labor migration and transnational career opportunities as engendering lifestyles within which professionals remain simultaneously anchored in multiple communities of belonging. The composite nature of the inherited cultural identity articulated by first- and second-generation immigrants is of interest to us as it shapes the kind of alliances built within the context of our host country. We find that often Romanian American professionals and academics act as mentors to visiting academic exchange scholars or longer-term work-related residents, helping them navigate aspects related to cultural specificities and expectations. These networks of trust, based on mentoring or peer support, assist newcomers in making rational life decisions that maximize their potential, either by pursuing opportunities here, returning to European academic centers, or through alternative means disseminating their gained expertise in the country of origin.

We do not narrow our activities on promoting exclusively the return migration of researchers and professionals to Romania. We see Romanian Americans as vital stakeholders involved in attracting the best and brightest Romanians to academic centers here and we encourage the active involvement of our professional diaspora in transatlantic collaborations that enhance the prestige, the dissemination of expertise and actual interconnectivity of academic, research and innovation hubs in Romania. [Such efforts, we believe, would lead to a greater number of collaborative research initiatives, resulting in a greater number of published articles in high-impact international journals.](#) Increased visibility and collaborations with top American academic institutions would enhance the international standing and attractivity of Romanian universities, implicitly fostering the development of the country in line with Euro-Atlantic values.





What is the general makeup of your members? Do they tend to come from a certain academic field or region of the country?

We are structured through five interdisciplinary communities of practice tasked to identify current needs, competences, opportunities, and expectations within our dispersed diaspora hubs. These five interdisciplinary councils act as “focus groups” bringing together diaspora professionals in: Arts and Culture; Legal Counseling, Development and Public Policy; Medicine and Public Health; STEM and IT; and Community Civic Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship. On average, the active participation in the recurrent sessions of these councils revolves around one hundred and we are seeing a steady growth in part due to the circumstances of the pandemic experience.

Our members are from across the United States and active in various academic centers. There is no tendency towards a certain part of the country being more dominant but certainly there is a larger presence from the major diaspora hubs. Demographically, these are located on the West Coast, especially California with many Romanians working in STEM and IT. The Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic regions are also historically hubs of significant Romanian migration, as are the New England, New York, and DC areas, regions with prestigious universities. In the South, especially in Florida, Texas, Georgia, and Virginia, we are seeing a growing presence of a more recent vintage. Our [board of directors and advisory board](#) reflect this wide distribution.

Each academic field has its own dynamic, priorities, and projects the group seeks to pursue and highlight jointly. What we do see is an interdisciplinary interest in learning about others’ perspectives and there is a tendency of convergence, of borrowing conceptual tools and pursuing similar approaches. Getting each to know about the existence of outstanding diaspora professionals in other fields and positioning these professionals as true role models and powerhouse stakeholders in each diaspora hub is a conscious effort on our part.

In speaking to the different researcher diaspora groups, it's clear that each one has unique strengths and challenges. What issues do the Romanian researcher diaspora face? What challenges have been overcome?

It is not a weakness that we are seeing but rather a certain provocation that we had to address first before we could fully appreciate the opportunities for personal and societal growth afforded by our European and transatlantic mobility. There is a generational gap with regards to learnt attitudes towards solidarity and the ability to create trust networks and it has a lot to do with the legacy of a fractured past. [The first IRF annual conference in 2019 dealt with this provocation head-on](#), acknowledging the nature and methods of the totalitarian regime experienced in Romania, the evisceration of the pre-communist progressive intelligentsia, the intent dismantlement of all pillars of social cohesion, the intent inculcation of fear, of suspicion.

My generation, that came of age and built careers in the last 30 years, is much less tributary to this perpetuated cycle of suspicion and atomization but if the lessons of the past are not learnt we run the risk of perpetrating them. There is growing confidence that my generation is bridging that fractured past with a level of international mobility and individual professional achievements on par with those of the country’s western educated intelligentsia at the turn of last century. Increasingly, [this young, internationally mobile, and skilled stratum of Romanian society is becoming aware of its importance and establishing a new rapport with and expectations from state institutions](#). There is an important distinction between



Romanian labor mobility afforded within the EU, which is a story of success in continental cohesion and the more classic definition of a Romanian American diaspora. The latter is much less involved or relevant in electoral outcomes within Romania. Despite its relatively small size, the Romanian American diaspora is quite influential in assisting the development of the country through various interventions spearheaded by individuals who do not necessarily see themselves reestablishing residence there, yet who wish to give back to their country of birth through in-kind remittance of expertise and financial assistance.

Often, the kind of interventions and assistance provided by our scientific diaspora members remains discreet, unacknowledged publicly and dependent on the personal contacts and abilities of individual professionals. Within our annual conferences, IRF puts a spotlight on several such medical humanitarian missions, teaching/research missions, telemedicine initiatives and symposiums designed to share expertise gained here. Some of these [discreet expertise exchange initiatives lead to discoveries that save lives and even to the patenting of innovations that substantially reduce medical costs on both sides of the Atlantic](#). In the absence of a coherent state-driven infrastructure directed at attracting the expertise present in our diaspora, we are seeing creative ways through which individuals assist in the transfer of knowledge, [for example in the field of oncology](#). We feature these initiatives in our annual conference to encourage experts in other fields to replicate the successful high-impact platforms.

In Romania, how is outreach to and engagement with the diaspora of professionals/researchers?

Innovative win-win public-private solutions are required in adapting governance to the reality of a permanent transnational labor force estimated at eight or nine million Romanian citizens. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its consular offices and honorary consulates addresses some of the legal needs of citizens abroad. That portfolio is not however designed to engage with the scientific diaspora as a resource. It works closely with the Ministry of Culture in implementing cultural diplomacy tasks, though the nexus of public diplomacy efforts does not traditionally envision engaging with diaspora researchers and scientists. The Ministry of Education would be an obvious interested party in promoting internationally the prestige of the country's academic institutions but it is the Romanian Presidency that has in the last few years actively engaged with the academic diaspora, [a patronage focused on mapping and promoting the return of professionals](#). The return of professionals as a fetishized desiderate should not be however the only pillar for such engagement with the scientific diaspora. In recent months, it is Romania's Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization that hosts the national EURAXESS support infrastructure and has a vested interest in boosting international exchange programs and collaborations. It has yet to establish a rapport with American diaspora professionals.

We are still at the very beginning of the road in establishing such institutional relationships and coordination between these ministries will be vital in creating administrative efficiencies that address competing priorities articulated through the overlapping portfolios of these institutions. Understandably, diaspora professionals, despite their best intentions, are not familiar with the everchanging institutional intricacies of various governance institutions in Romania.

One entity that could lead in this direction may be the Department of Romanians Living Abroad. This is a former ministry, traditionally focused on assisting historic ethnic Romanian communities in the near abroad and which generally sees its role as a granting mechanism for assistance to such communities on the European



continent. Few Romanian American diaspora organizations engaged in the financial assistance offered by this entity. It is only in recent weeks that we are seeing an actual direct outreach effort from the State Secretary who leads this entity to engage with the American diaspora leaders.

There are genuinely good intentions and capable professionals involved in establishing these incipient institutional ties. American diaspora organizations do seek validation for what they do without much assistance, and some seek to become complementary supportive resource structures for the country's outreach efforts. It is important that the dynamic now established be based on realistic expectations and the well-articulated priorities of all stakeholders so that it fosters transparency, predictability, and accountability.

The cause for great optimism lays in the opportunities afforded by the Horizon Europe multi-year funding mechanism which may become a driving catalyst framework in assisting a consortium of Romanian universities in engaging with the many diaspora professionals established within prestigious American universities. The country persistently underperforms in accessing such opportunities for [leveraging its scientific diaspora's potential in collaborative enhancement of soft power](#). Romanian Universities stand to enhance their attractiveness and international rankings by mobilizing diaspora professionals in international collaborative research teams through this funding mechanism. Through the efforts of the IRF, we are signaling the presence of a remarkable and sizable diaspora human capital that could be quite instrumental and consequential in enhancing the country's profile in international research and academic exchange collaborations.

What are the general activities of IRF?

Our flagship signature effort is to host an annual nation-wide [Conference of Romanian American Professionals](#) where the various initiatives and contributions of our five interdisciplinary councils are highlighted. We implemented [three such annual conferences](#) (2019-2021), opportunities designed to assess the evolution of our associative ecosystem and to chart ways to better assist our national diaspora by improving our administrative capacities and local interventions. This year's conference held on June 4th and 5th was themed "Nurturing Resilience Through the Pandemic," and sought to provide an overview of the evolution of our interdisciplinary "communities of practice," the many efforts of various knowledge networks in the United States. Remarkable diaspora professionals in each field presented on the institutional and personal efforts that helped create a concerted support for the affirmation of our cultural identity and varied contributions to American society. The annual nation-wide gathering is an occasion to honor and highlight the service, leadership, and achievements of remarkable public figures whose prestige in public office or through commendable careers shapes the positive standing and perception of our diaspora. Participation in the five councils is devised as "focus group" sessions tasked with identifying resources, expertise, best practice models and innovative programs as well as in inducting outstanding leaders to be assumed and valued. Our Council of professionals in Medicine and Public health has identified several projects worthy of national recognition and support. The Council on Arts and Culture established a Romanian American Literary Circle focused on promoting the careers and publications of diaspora writers. The Council on Civic Engagement and social entrepreneurship worked towards identifying projects of excellence especially with regards to mentorships, oral history gathering projects and most recently towards establishing a federation of diaspora community-based organizations.



To cut across these professional fields, we also organize annual receptions (March 2020; 2021) that are not research field specific, for example “[Honoring outstanding Romanian American women in arts and sciences.](#)” Both the recurrent councils’ sessions and joint events have the added benefit of engaging with diaspora’s federal employees who, due to the nature of their work, do not speak publicly without the written approval of their institutions. For example, in the greater Washington, DC area we have a good number of Romanian Americans working within institutions such as the NIH, USPTO, FDA, and other scientific research related federal institutions. Also present in the region are professionals in international finance and development, working with institutions such as the IMF and World Bank and we include these temporary residents within the scope of [our events.](#)

IRF has since its inception conducted a series of qualitative autobiographic interviews [profiling outstanding professionals](#) and highlighting their [individual values](#), [cultural specificity](#), and the recurrent factors that assisted in their [resilient adaptation](#) within their adoptive communities. We seek to implement these qualitative interviews and develop questionnaires to be implemented at a larger scale through focus groups in order to research the various [waves of transatlantic migration](#) and the role of cultural identity affirmation in the positive integration of newcomers. In the long term these studies target the measurement of protective factors within the migration process and the role of cultural specificity. Individual resilience traits are learned and not innate factors and that affords the possibility of targeted community interventions and the formation of practitioners sensitive to the needs of newcomers. Eventually such findings may inform white papers on best practices in the integration of migrants.

What's up next for the Romanian American diasporas?

We expect to see a continued growing reliance on technology that allows a simultaneous anchoring and virtual presence in both our native and host societies, technology that assist specialists in disseminating expertise within professional networks both in the host and country of origin. In the field of medicine we are already seeing this with scientific diaspora sponsored initiatives such [as onconsult.ro, stop-cancer-Romania.ro or the Health for the 21st century foundation.](#) We are also expecting [to see a rise in social entrepreneurs offering services and assistance to the broader national diaspora](#) and to the growing number of people who live transnational lives, pursuing career opportunities on both side of the Atlantic.

For the IRF, the next step is to consolidate this platform that positions accomplished professionals in the five councils as public role models and mentors hosting and promoting the best and brightest newcomers. Our goal is to serve as a support mechanism for developing exchange programs, assisting collaborations among Romanian and American universities, encouraging the publication of Romanian researchers in high impact scientific journals that enhance the prestige of Romanian Universities’ research and development and in providing an amplified national visibility for the deliverables of these collaborative initiatives. Mentor and peer support initiatives catering to the needs of exchange scholars would bridge a gap that is not addressed through the state-centered administrative lens.



3 Horizon Europe: EU spells out its global R&I approach in a changing world

A dedicated platform for international researchers

EURAXESS Worldwide is a networking platform and reliable source of information and ideas on research and innovation jobs, funding and hosting opportunities in Europe, helping talented European and international researchers explore and create transnational ties with researchers, employers and scientific communities, and develop careers within the global R&I system.

Contact your local EURAXESS hub:
northamerica.euraxess.org

Whether it is tackling climate change, health crises, or marine pollution, global challenges require a global research and innovation (R&I) approach that is open, reciprocal, and focused.

On May 18th, the European Commission issued a Communication on its ‘Global Approach to Research and Innovation’, Europe’s strategy for international cooperation in a changing world, and aimed at making our societies green, digital, and healthy.

Science takes place in a complex geopolitical setting with often competing demands on scarce resources and time. To achieve the best results and avoid fragmented effort, the EU pursues open, multilateral, and reciprocal engagement with international partners and associates. Its experience is that working together like this is the best way to tackle pressing global challenges.

“Openness has always been a cornerstone in our cooperation with the rest of the world,” remarked Margrethe Vestager, Executive VP for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, on the new Communication. “Our response to the pandemic has shown the benefits of more open science, of sharing data and results for the benefit of people in Europe and the rest of the world.”

Europe seeks to engage with partners and strengthen multilateral alliances with those who share its values – i.e., academic freedom, gender equality, research ethics, open science, and evidence-based policymaking – and respect international norms in a range of important areas, such as:

- Marine cooperation (i.e., the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, and the North-South Pole dimension)
- Breakthrough energy technologies
- R&I policy for fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems
- Use of digital technology in the fight against climate change and environmental challenges
- International digital partnerships matching the four pillars of the 2030 Digital Compass
- Health security, preparedness, and the health system

Team Europe approach

This resoundingly global approach to R&I underscores Europe’s commitment to reaching levels of openness needed to drive excellence, pool resources to achieve scientific progress and develop vibrant innovation ecosystems.

But it takes more than EU or public funding and support to ensure that international researchers can cooperate freely across borders, according to



Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. “We also [need] a clear framework that creates a level playing field on issues like ethical and people-centred research, the fair treatment of intellectual property, and reciprocal access to research programs.”

Whether it is tackling the pandemic or cooperating with low- and middle-income countries dealing with endemic problems, multilateral platforms and EU-backed projects show how the Union can galvanise scientific knowledge and communities towards the best outcomes.

For example, the ‘Africa initiative’ under the new seven-year framework program, [Horizon Europe](#), seeks to strengthen cooperation with African countries. The Commission also intends to present guidelines for dealing with foreign interference on EU research organisations and higher education institutions, thus safeguarding academic freedom, integrity and institutional autonomy.

The Commission also plans to encourage initiatives modelled on a ‘[Team Europe](#)’ approach, combining the efforts of the Union, individual Member States and European financial institutions. Synergies with other EU programs such as Global Europe, the neighborhood, development and international cooperation instrument, are also an important element of the overall approach, according to the Communication.

The good news for the EURAXESS Worldwide community is that Horizon Europe is open to researchers and innovators from around the globe who are encouraged to team up with EU partners in preparing proposals. It includes dedicated actions to strengthen international cooperation and supports multilateral initiatives in areas such as clean and renewable energy, ocean research, earth observation, and infectious diseases.

Background and more info

In 2012, a Commission [Communication](#) set out the first strategy for international cooperation in R&I, including relations with third countries, and underpinned the international reach of Horizon 2020. The introduction of more than 30 International Cooperation Flagships under Horizon 2020 boosted R&I exchanges with regions such as Africa, Canada, Japan, South Korea, China, India, and others.

Almost a decade on, the new Global Approach to Research and Innovation takes over from the previous strategy to meet today’s significantly changed global context, and to align the EU’s international cooperation with its current priorities.

For more, see the Global Approach to Research and Innovation [Communication](#) / [Q&A](#) / [Factsheet](#).



4 In case you missed it...

Recent and upcoming webinars

While not a complete list, here are a few past and future virtual events of ours and close partners—watch the recordings and sign up to attend live on the event webpages below!

<u>Event</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Organized by</u>	<u>URL</u>
Launch of Horizon Europe in the United States	27 May 2021	Virtual	Delegation of the European Union to the United States	Link
Virtual Coffee Chat with a Science Diplomat: Ireland	3 June 2021	Virtual	EURAXESS North America, the Embassy of Ireland to the United States, and Science Foundation Ireland	Link
From the U.S. to Europe: EURAXESS Helps You Cross the Atlantic	8 June 2021	Virtual	EURAXESS North America, EURAXESS Ireland, and INet-NYC	Link
“How to Get Published” Webinar Series	September and October 2021	Virtual	EURAXESS North America and EURAXESS Latin America & the Caribbean, with publisher Taylor & Francis	Link

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EURAXESS North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

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