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EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the February 2014 edition of the **EURAXESS Links China Newsletter**.

This month's **EU Insight** takes a closer look at mobility in higher education and research, presenting different concepts of mobility developed by the European Science Foundation as a part of their science policy brief series.

Following last month's interview with the Vice-president of the Max Planck Society Prof. Herbert Jäckle, the latest **Feature** article presents another European recipient of China's "International Science and Technology Cooperation Award", Prof. Fabio Rocca from the Polytechnic University of Milan. He kindly shared with us his experience and views regarding research and scientific cooperation with China in a short interview.

Preparation for the next EURAXESS Links China event is ongoing. Foreseen for this April in Beijing, the next "EURAXESS Share" should provide an exclusive opportunity for researchers to access practical information about Chinese and European fellowships, funding international mobility. For this occasion, we are also looking for speakers who are ready to share their first-hand experience with fellow researchers. The programme and registration form will be sent out soon through the network. Stay tuned!

Moreover, we would like to thank all respondents (over 140!) to our call for papers regarding the 2nd "New European Research on Contemporary China International Conference". Co-organized by the CEFC and Euraxess Links China, the event will take place 2nd -5th July in Beijing. The selected participants will be announced in April.

Meanwhile, we inform our readers based in Europe that the EURAXESS Roadshow will start on 3rd March. It will tour 22 European cities to raise awareness about the services for researchers offered by EURAXESS in Europe.



A somewhat different event taking place in Beijing might be of interest to local innovation stakeholders - the upcoming 2014 China (Beijing) International Technology Transfer Convention is going to take place on 15th – 17th April. It aims at further promotion of innovation cooperation among foreign and Chinese private and public research organisations. Find more details under **Events**.

Among the various announcements concerning Europe-China research & innovation, we would like to draw your attention to several activities: The 6th Annual China Europa Convention focusing on urbanization, 9th Edition of the Summer Law Institute in China Executive Education Training Programme, and the China Executive Tour 2014 providing direct access to leading science parks, incubators and technology transfer organizations in Beijing and Guiyang. Check the registration deadlines along with other announcements and press releases in the **News & Developments**.

You will find an extensive list of new calls under **Grants & Fellowships**, as well as a long summary of opportunities which we had previously advertised and which are still open (but please beware, as some of them expire during the first days of March).

Chinese universities continue to offer a number of job opportunities as they expand and seek to internationalize their faculty staff. The **Jobs** section features only a few samples of the many offers based in China (or in Europe with required China-related expertise) that you can find on research career portals such as [EURAXESS Jobs](#) and Nature Jobs.

Finally, if you haven't done so quite yet, please spare a minute to fill out our short [survey](#). It will help us adjust our services for the benefit of the China-bound research community.

Wishing you a pleasant read,

Jacques de Soyres

Andrea Strelcova

[EURAXESS Links China](#) Country Representatives

About this newsletter

EURAXESS LINKS CHINA NEWSLETTER is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links China, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers and non-European researchers in China who are interested in the European research landscape and in conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to China.

Please email china@euraxess.net for any comments on this newsletter, contributions you would like to make, or if you think any other colleagues would be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe.

Editors: Andrea Strelcova,
Jacques de Soyres, EURAXESS
Links China Country
Representatives



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1 EU Insight – Mobility in Higher Education and Research

The increasing mobility of researchers and students in tertiary education is a key feature of the global science system. That is why the latest *EU Insight* will touch on recent mobility trends in higher education and explore the implications of the different aspects of mobility developed by the European Science Foundation's Member Organisation Forum as their science policy briefs "European Alliance on Research Careers Development" entitled *New Concepts of Researcher Mobility – a comprehensive approach including combined/part-time positions*.

In 2011, the number of students enrolled in tertiary education outside their country of citizenship reached 4.3 million, which is more than double when compared to the year 2000 (see Figure 1).

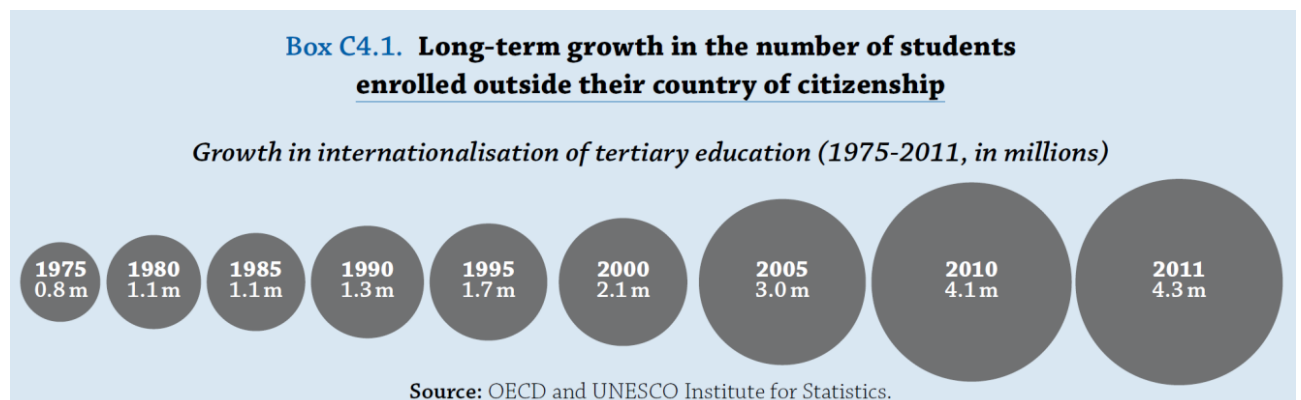


Figure 1: Growth in internationalisation of tertiary education [2]

Europe, hosting 48% of students at the tertiary level of education enrolled outside their country of origin, is the top destination. It is followed by North America which hosts 21% of all international students.

The factors driving the general increase in student mobility include not only the exploding demand for higher education worldwide, but also the perceived value of studying at prestigious post-secondary institutions abroad. Other factors include specific policies that foster student mobility within a geographic region as well as the efforts of countries and institutions themselves to attract students from outside their borders. The top five source countries for internationally mobile students are China, India, South Korea, Germany and France. Overall, 53% of the world's mobile students come from Asia.

Interestingly, 90% of the mobile students in Europe are European, out of which 75% originate from EU member states. Such data is not surprising, as the



Bologna process has been strongly encouraging the bidirectional student mobility within Europe for the past 20 years.

The [European Science Foundation](#) is currently focusing on the responsible winding down of its traditional research instruments and the transfer of policy activities to [Science Europe](#), an association of European Research Funding Organisations (RFO) and Research Performing Organisations (RPO), based in Brussels. Science Europe promotes the collective interests of the RFOs and RPOs of Europe. It supports its [Member Organisations](#) in their efforts to foster European research. It will strengthen the [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#) through its direct engagement with key partners.

It is widely accepted that international researcher mobility and cross-disciplinary research collaboration are indispensable for fruitful scientific research. They are also essential for the realization of the European Research Area. As the Science Policy Briefing *New Concepts of Researcher Mobility – a comprehensive approach including combined/part-time positions* explains,

Mobility is not a goal in itself, but rather a means for international research collaboration across fields and sectors.

At the same time, however, brain drain from less scientifically attractive areas should be counteracted.

The paper introduces four different types of mobility:

International mobility which means physical mobility across countries and is hampered by the challenges in establishing smooth immigration and work permit procedures for incoming researchers, or the incompatibility of different systems for social benefits, pension rights, etc.

Two further aspects of mobility, *intersectoral* and *interdisciplinary mobility* refer to mobility across academia, industry or the public sector, and mobility across different research fields, respectively. While both forms of mobility are widely encouraged, they may cause later disadvantages, i.e., by the limitation on research publications due to stricter IPR rules in industry or by individual and thus disciplinary review procedures.

A last form of mobility introduced in the report is *virtual mobility*, which encompasses virtual platforms, such as multidisciplinary network research centres. Such platforms facilitate the collaboration between excellent research groups worldwide without the need for physical mobility. Such flexible opportunities should be encouraged as they stimulate the effective use of human and financial resources in research.

Mobility leads to the diversification of careers. This will eventually require new concepts of research positions or transnational institutional research collaboration. Successful examples of such collaboration include the existing European Molecular Laboratories, the Nordic Centres of Excellence or the first schemes for industrial PhD degrees.

One of the new concepts addressing researcher mobility is based on a Harvard University/MIT scheme: The implementation of a “Professor 2” combined/part-time position scheme allows full-time professors have a 20% position at another university, and allows employees in industry have a 20% position in academia. Such schemes could be introduced as a part of existing EU instruments, i.e. the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, or in combination with the proposed ERA Chairs programme. As stated in the Science Policy Brief, “such combined part-time positions may also counteract brain drain by preserving the link to frontline research institutions for future collaboration.”

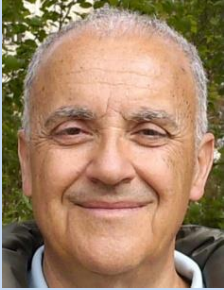
Sources:

- [1] [European Science Foundation](#)
- [2] [Science Europe](#)
- [3] [European Science Foundation Science Policy Briefing: New Concepts of Researcher Mobility](#)
- [4] [OECD Education at a Glance 2013](#)
- [5] [University World News, 2 February 2014: Special Report on student mobility](#)



2 Feature

“Meet the Researcher”: Prof. Fabio Rocca - Emeritus Professor of Telecommunications at Politecnico di Milano and recipient of the Chinese ‘International Science and Technology Cooperation Award’ 2013



Fabio Rocca was born in Naples and graduated at the Politecnico di Milano in 1962. Devoted to his *alma mater* in Milan, he started his academic career at the Department of Electronic Engineering. Having developed his expertise in the field of digital signal processing and radar imaging, he is currently Emeritus Professor of Telecommunications.

His research activities led to the application of innovative techniques in a variety of disciplines, mainly in seismology, tomography and radar systems but also in video and TV broadcast. In 1990's, Prof. Rocca coordinated a research group for the European Space Agency; working with the ESA later on also gave him the opportunity to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. He has been a member of the scientific councils of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and of the Institut Français du Pétrole. His work has been recognized by many prizes, the latest being the China's Science and Technology Award.

Following last month's interview with Prof. Herbert Jäckle, vice-president of the Max Planck Society, we meet this time with another European winner of the latest International Science and Technology Cooperation Award honoring distinguished foreign scientists who promote science and technology advancement in China: Professor Fabio Rocca, and ask for his views on the development of China as an important research and innovation partner on the international scene.

Dear Professor Rocca, could you first please briefly introduce to our readers yourself, your research interests and experience in China?

I used to be a Professor of Telecommunications at the Politecnico di Milano; I have been retired since 2010. I have worked on signal processing, and also on radar imaging from satellites since 1983, cooperating with the European Space Agency (ESA). In 2004, ESA initiated a program together with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, in order to expand the studies of this topic in the country. I adhered to this program from the beginning, cooperating with LIESMARS, the Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing at the University of Wuhan, with Prof. Li Deren and Liao Mingsheng. My first visit to China was in 2004 and since then I visited this country many times. I could observe the extremely rapid growth of scientific capabilities in this domain. Today, Chinese scientists are also in this topic in the forefront.

You were recently granted the State Science and Technology Award in the category awarded to foreign scientists (congratulations!). When did you find out that you won the state prize and what was your immediate response? Can you elaborate on the importance of the award and whether it is going to influence your future work in any way?

I heard about a possible candidature in 2013 but the news about the Award arrived only in December. To receive such an award made me very proud. I feel that while the award goes to me, at the same time, through me it also goes to many other scientists who had the opportunity to work with Chinese colleagues for the advancement of science and technology. It will influence my work and I plan to continue working with Chinese scientists as long as I will be able to contribute.



The International Science and Technology Cooperation Award

In December 2013, eight foreign scientists (among them, three Europeans) received the state science and technology prize for international scientists. The State Science and Technology Awards are distributed every year in five categories that recognize scientists and their contributions in different areas – one of them aims at foreign researchers. A total of 87 foreign experts and one international organization have won the award since 1995.

Who are your main research partners in China? Can you tell us more about your collaboration and plans for the future?

I collaborate with several groups in China, firstly with LIESMARS and also with Prof. Li Zengyuan of the Chinese Academy of Forestry in Beijing. In fact, I am now working on the forthcoming ESA satellite named Biomass that will monitor the Above Ground Biomass, penetrating and observing the structures of the forests all over the world. The satellite will also penetrate ice and dry sands, allowing us to study the buried structures of glaciers and deserts. This topic is interesting not only for many Chinese scientists working in China but also for western universities.

In your experience, how has China's research landscape and attitude to research changed over the time you have been working with Chinese researchers?

Chinese scientists have progressed enormously: a piece of evidence lies within the skills of so many young students and their ability to speak English, notwithstanding the difficulty of the language. If they perform so well in such a difficult thing, imagine how they can manage the much simpler language of the formulas of mathematics and physics. Probably, nowadays more than 50% of the papers published have at least one Chinese author.

What obstacles can you personally see along the way of China becoming a global research and innovation powerhouse?

The difficulty that I see, and it is shared by other developed countries as well, is the trend in qualifying the scientists with the number of papers they publish, rather than directly and patiently evaluating the quality of their research. This pushes the scientists to spend too much time on writing and publishing their work rather than actually creating new science. It also makes it more difficult for the readers to determine what is new and what might only be a rehash of other material. But this is a problem common to all science and not only to the Chinese scientists. However, as Chinese scientists are the most prolific, it is becoming a problem for them too. Otherwise, I see no limits: Chinese labs are well furnished; new and dedicated students flock in, and science is produced and developed quickly and on a massive scale.

Professor Rocca, we thank you for the discussion!



**POLITECNICO
DI MILANO**

The Politecnico do Milano (Polytechnic University of Milan, POLIMI) is the oldest and largest university in Milan, Italy. It is one of the best technical universities in the world, offering education in the fields of engineering, architecture and design. Being at the forefront of Italian and European S&T, the university is also active in scientific research; it can boast a number of research centres, labs and business accelerators.



3 EURAXESS Links Activities

EURAXESS on tour in Europe

If you are in Europe in March and April, find more about how EURAXESS can help your research career!

Starting from 3rd March 2014, the EURAXESS Roadshow will tour Europe to come to a town near you! With 29 stops in 22 cities, the Roadshow wants to provide students and young researchers across Europe with the opportunity to mobilise their research careers.

EURAXESS is a unique ERA initiative providing access to a complete range of information and support services for European and non-European researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe. It offers access to the job market; it assists researchers in advancing their careers in another European country and supports research organisations in their search for outstanding research talent. EURAXESS is a truly pan-European initiative – it is supported by 40 participating countries across Europe, and extends also to the world, via EURAXESS Links network in ASEAN, Brazil, China, Japan, India, and North America.

The bus will start the tour on 3rd March in Brussels and arrives back in Brussels on 28th April. The bus stays one day in each location.

The goals of the campaign are to raise awareness among European researchers that EURAXESS is a partner for their career development; to show the opportunities related to the research career, especially jobs; and to show how research and innovation contributes to economic growth and job creation in Europe.

Be ready to get engaged!

More information on where and how to join the tour:

www.euraxess.org

www.facebook.com/EURAXESS.OnTour

@EURAXESS_OnTour, #EURAXESS_OnTour

#EU4Jobs



EURAXESS Links China on Social Media: Join our network on Facebook, WeChat or LinkedIn

You can now follow EURAXESS Links China on various social media according to your location or preference.

Don't miss any of the latest news and daily updates about jobs, fellowships, funding, science policy and other pieces of information, and join our network on social media.

Whether in Europe, China or elsewhere, you can either like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on WeChat (scan green QR code above). You can also join our [LinkedIn group](#).

EURAXESS Links would like to hear from you how we can further improve our services

Thank you very much for taking 3 minutes to complete our [survey](#).



4 News & Developments

4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Call for Papers - 6th annual China Europa Convention Workshops: For a Sustainable City - Energy & Quality of Life



The 6th annual China Europa convention will be held in Shenyang on 16th – 18th September, 2014, bringing together Chinese and European cities to present local large-scale urban projects. Representatives of 10 Chinese cities and 10 European cities are expected to participate.

At the same time, the gamut of skills required for the implementation of development projects for the sustainable cities of the future will be represented by 150 Chinese and European companies directly involved in the markets concerned.

An exhibition space will provide an overview of the development plans of the cities represented in the convention and the technical solutions offered by companies and stakeholders.

The workshops for this call for papers will take place throughout the three days' course of the event. They will present original, concrete solutions that respond to the major challenges of a sustainable city as well as Chinese and European urban development projects. The workshops are expected to attract 300 to 400 conference delegates.

The 3 following topics will be addressed during the workshops:

- The sustainable city, the smart city, networks (water, sanitation, power, heat, cooling, high speed internet, etc.)
- New form of urban mobility
- Eco-parks and their integration into the urban and peri-urban fabric

Each presentation will last about 15 minutes.

The deadline to send papers is **30 March, 2014**.

Access the full call for papers and further details [here](#).



9th Edition – Summer Law Institute in China 2014 – Executive Education Training Programme – Registration open

The 2014 Edition of the Summer Law Institute in China – Executive Education Training Program coordinated by the Chair of International Trade Law within the Department of Italian and Supranational Public Law at University of Milan (Italy) and the Chair of Chinese Law within the Department of Law at University of



Turin (Italy) and gLAWcal – Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development (United Kingdom) will be held at the Peking University School of Government in Beijing (China) from 5th July to 2nd August 2014 (SICCEP and IP-China) and from the 19th July to the 16th August 2014 (IP-China and SICCEP).

The programme is organized in partnership with the Faculty of Political Sciences of Lund University in Sweden, University of Provence Aix Marseille I – CNRS Centre of Comparative Epistemology and Ergology in France, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in Spain, University of Eastern Piedmont Faculty of Economics in Italy, University of Pavia, Faculty of Law in Italy, Catholic University of Milan Faculty of Law, Istanbul Sehir University in Turkey.

The multidisciplinary programme is aimed at students, young graduates and senior professionals with a background in law, political sciences, international relations, philosophy, economics, environmental sciences, engineering and any other relevant discipline that can be related to the topics of the programme.

The first curriculum is called “Summer Institute on Climate Change and Environmental Protection” (SICCEP). It addresses issues such as energy policies, environment law and sustainable development, intellectual property and technology innovation. The second curriculum is called “Summer Institute on Intellectual Property Rights and China” (IP-China). The participants (students and professionals) who enroll in all the scheduled courses and seminars will receive the certificates for both curricula. The innovative program takes into account the training demands of young professionals, drawing on relevant curricula received from international organizations and the private sector.

Both the curricula have been approved by the Italian National Bar Association (Rome) with 24 credits valid for lawyers and practicing lawyers.

For undergraduate and graduate students, the summer school is equivalent to at least one semester program, based on the number of hours of lecturers, preparatory academic materials and practical activities

The Summer Law Institute in China will include the following topics:

- 1) Introduction to Chinese Law, Institutions & Politics (20 h) SICCEP and IP-CHINA
- 2) Global Environmental Governance (14 h) SICCEP
- 3) Environment, Science and Society: a Philosophical Introduction (14 h) SICCEP
- 4) Law, Policy and Economics on Climate Change (14 h) SICCEP
- 5) Introduction to Chinese Intellectual Property Law and Technology Transfer (20h) IP-CHINA
- 6) European American and Chinese Approaches to Intellectual Property Rights and Competition Policy (20h) IP-CHINA
- 7) Governance of Energy Transitions: Towards Low-Carbon, Sustainable Society (14h) SICCEP



The deadline for applications is scheduled on **March 15, 2014**.

You can download the brochure [here](#) (PDF file):

Queries can be addressed to info@summerlawinstitute.com

The website of the Summer Law Institute in China can be visited at <http://summerlawinstitute.com>

China Executive Tour 2014 - Registration Period Open

SPI (Portugal) has opened registration to the China Executive Tour 2014 which will take place in Beijing and Guiyang between 13th and 20th April 2014.

The [one week programme](#) includes, apart from face to face meetings with selected Chinese innovation leaders and key stakeholders, direct access to leading science parks, incubators and technology transfer organizations in Beijing and Guiyang.

Registration fee: 1st participant: 600€ Further Participants: 540€

Download the [Registration form](#) (limited number of seats available)

Registration Contacts:

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Mariana Fernandes (marianafernandes@spi.pt)



First “ERA Chairs” to boost research excellence in 11 regions

Eleven universities and technical institutes in Europe are to receive up to €2.4 million each in EU funding to boost their research capacity through the appointment of the first ever “ERA Chairs”, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, announced. The initiative wants to bridge Europe's innovation divide by attracting top academics to organizations to help them compete with centres of excellence elsewhere in the European Research Area (ERA).

[More information](#)



Capital of Innovation: Six finalist cities announced

Barcelona, Espoo, Grenoble, Groningen, Malaga and Paris are the six cities shortlisted for the first European Capital of Innovation award, or iCapital. An independent panel of experts has agreed on the six finalists, one of which will receive the €500,000 prize. The money will go towards building the best “innovation ecosystem” - connecting citizens, public organisations, academia, and businesses - with a view to helping the city scale up its efforts in this field. The winning city will be announced at the [Innovation Convention 2014](#), Europe's premier innovation event which will take place in Brussels on 10th and 11th March.





[More information](#)



The European Young Researchers' Award 2014 Call

The European Young Researchers' Award (EYRA) is granted to researchers who demonstrate outstanding research performance and leadership skills. At the same time, the award aims at inspiring early stage and experienced researchers to incorporate a European perspective into their research. The Award is granted each year but the prize-giving ceremony is held every two years at the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) where the two recipients present their work. The Award consists of a certificate and a grant which covers travel and accommodation for the stay in the ESOF city.

The research must have a clear European dimension. Candidates should work in a European country, but are not required to have a European nationality.

The deadline for applications is **17 March 2014**. See further details [here](#).

European Commission publishes call for establishing the Enterprise Europe Network for the period 2015-2020

In January 2014, a new call for the establishment of the Enterprise Europe Network for the period 2015-2020 was launched. The aim of the Network is to facilitate access to European and international markets for European SMEs and to provide growth-oriented, integrated business and innovation support services that help strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of European enterprises.

The Network will primarily address European SMEs that seek to exploit new opportunities in the Single Market, but also in third countries. At the same time, the Network can help achieve SME-related objectives of other EU programmes, such as Horizon 2020. It is encouraged to contribute to the development of a stronger SME support system in the regions of the European Union.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **15 May, 2014**.

Find out more about this call by clicking [here](#).

Nearly 5 million jobs in European app sector by 2018, says EU report

The EU's app sector has gone from zero to digital superhero in less than five years. By 2018 it could employ 4.8 million people and contribute €63 billion to the EU economy according to a report presented in Brussels. The study, carried out by GIGAOM and NUI Galway for the European Commission, shows that Europe's app developers are up to the challenge of taking the global lead. Currently, EU and North American developers generate the same levels (42% each) of app revenues in crucial EU and US markets. Although the future is

For more information regarding the European Commission's international research cooperation activities worldwide, read the [European Commission's monthly "International Research Update"](#).



bright, developers have raised concerns about the skills gap, connectivity and fragmentation which could put the app boom at risk.

Today the app economy employs 1 million developers, and 800,000 people in marketing & support posts. This could rise to 2.7 million developers + 2.1 million support staff by 2018. EU buyers and advertisers spent €6.1 billion on apps in 2013, 30% of total global app spending, growing to €18.7 billion in 2018. Consumer spending combined with advertising and contract work could lead to €63 billion annual revenue for the app sector within five years.

Source: [European Commission](#)



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Bridging the gap to the market: ERC funds 67 innovative projects

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced the winners of the latest competition for its top-up funding, “Proof of Concept”. A total of 67 researchers, who already hold ERC grants, have received up to €150,000 each to bring their pioneering 'blue sky' research closer to the market. The projects cover everything from an exploration of the molecular foundations of psychiatric disorders to technological innovations that could help rescue skiers caught in avalanches or measure extreme waves. Fundamental, 'blue sky' science – the type of research that the ERC supports – is focused on advancing knowledge, but it can sometimes generate unexpected applications. With its “Proof of Concept” scheme, the ERC enables the full exploitation of the excellent ideas it funds. This funding can cover activities aimed at commercial and societal applications, such as establishing intellectual property rights, investigating commercial and business opportunities or technical validation.

Source: [ERC](#)

HORIZON 2020 new participant portal

On this new, user-friendly portal you can find and secure funding for research & innovation projects under Horizon 2020. In particular, the call search tool can help you filter and select funding opportunities that are most relevant to your activities.

[Read more](#)

Innovation Union on Twitter!

@innovationunion, the only official European Commission account for #Innovation & #Research. Supplied by the Communication Unit of the #EC's Research & Innovation DG. Please follow us!





Ann Mettler, the executive director of the Lisbon Council. © European Union/Gino De Lorenzo

Views – Europe needs a digital single market to stimulate innovation: Ann Mettler

Ann Mettler, the executive director of the Lisbon Council, a Brussels-based think tank, believes that Europe should create new rules for online businesses in order to give web-based entrepreneurs access to the whole of Europe. She will be participating in the EU's Innovation Convention on 10th - 11th March, 2014.

In an interview conducted by online magazine *Horizon*, Mrs Mettler emphasizes the role of young companies in beneficial disruptive innovations (such as Estonian Skype, Swedish Spotify etc.) and advocates for the new European Commission president to take ownership of innovation and digital advancement. She believes that the way it is structured now in silos is detrimental to real progress and that “the digital single market should be the next step in the European integration process” in order not only to foster economic growth but also to “to reignite a European spirit”, in particular among the youth.

Read this thought-provoking interview on the [Horizon website](#).



An artist's impression of the planet Kepler-78b. The planet circles its star every eight and a half hours at a distance of less than 1.6 million kilometres. The proximity of Kepler-78b to its parent star leads to temperatures so high as to melt the rock on its surface and strip away its atmosphere. Copyright: David A. Aguilar (CfA)

EU Research Highlight – Astronomers close in on far-away earth

Astronomers are getting closer to finding a rocky, water-rich planet like earth after proving new technology that can spot minute changes to starlight.

Using an ultra-sensitive light-splitting spectrograph, EU-funded researchers have managed for the first time to identify a rocky, iron-rich planet billions of kilometres away – a critical step towards discovering a far-away earth.

The new device, called HARPS-N, was made with nanoscale precision and operates in a vacuum at temperatures stable within a thousandth of a degree. Researchers at the EU-funded ETAEARTH project, coordinated by Dr Alessandro Sozzetti at the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF), trained it on Kepler-78, a star 400 light years away in the Cygnus constellation, in order to pick out the tiny fluctuations caused by the planet Kepler-78b.

Kepler-78b was first spotted in 2013 by the Kepler spacecraft, which scans the night sky in search of planetary transits that periodically dim the luminosity of distant stars. The chances of a planet crossing its line of sight are two hundred to one, but Kepler has evened out the odds by tracking some 150 000 stars.

Kepler-78b, a planet just 20 % larger than earth, orbits at the breakneck speed of three revolutions a day. It is this tight orbit that means it pulls its star just enough to allow researchers at the ETAEARTH project to identify its mass and density – elusive properties for extra-solar earth-sized planets and key clues as to their composition.

Read more in this [Horizon article](#).



© zhu difeng fotolia

EU Research Highlight – Making steel more fire-resistant

Fire-resistant protection is essential for structures made of light steel, such as industrial buildings, warehouses, houses, garages and containers. The standard solution is intumescent paint, which swells up when heated to form a protective layer for the metal.

The SteelProst project has used nanotechnology to develop a second-generation intumescent paint with enhanced fire resistance and mechanical properties, thus providing substantial advantages over existing coatings.

“The SteelProst coating represents the state of the art of high performance intumescent formulations tailored to meet the unique challenges of the steel construction market,” explains Véronique Dehan, Secretary General of European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS), the project coordinator. “It combines a series of nano-additives carefully selected with tin chemistry to improve performance and sustainability, and it is more environmentally friendly compared to most of the commercially available solutions.”

Over the last ten years, issues regarding the cost and protection quality of existing intumescent paints have resulted in steel structures losing 40% of the market to concrete structures. Because of their low resistance to scratching, the paint is typically applied on-site after erection, to avoid damage during transportation and installation. However, because at least three or four layers are required to achieve the protection required by European legislation, it takes at least three to four days to apply the paint. As a result, the application disrupts the construction process and adds significantly to its cost.

To improve the coating’s resistance to scratching, the SteelProst solution incorporates nanomaterials as an inorganic filler. This makes it significantly more durable than other intumescent paints, and correspondingly less likely to be damaged during transportation and installation, without reducing its fire-resistant properties.

Further details in source: [European Commission](#)

Publication – Key figures on Europe: 2013 digest of the online Eurostat yearbook

Key figures on Europe presents a selection of statistical data on Europe covering areas such as finance, population, health, education, living conditions, industry, agriculture, transport, environment, energy, science and technology.

Most data cover the European Union and its Member States, while some indicators are provided for other countries, such as members of EFTA, acceding and candidate countries to the European Union, Japan or the United States. This pocketbook, which presents a subset of the most popular information found in the continuously updated online publication Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook (available in http://bit.ly/Eurostat_yearbook), may be viewed as an introduction to European statistics and provides a starting point for those who





wish to explore the wide range of data that is freely available on Eurostat's website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Download this publication for free from the [European Commission's online bookshop](#).

4.2 EU Member States*, China & Bilateral Cooperation



China – Call for Papers: Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management

The Journal of Science and Technology Policy Management (formerly known as Journal of Science and Technology Policy in China) considers high quality academic articles in the field of policy and management of innovation, R&D, science and technology relative in emerging economies.

Submitted papers can include literature reviews, empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and case studies. All papers are double-blind peer reviewed. Read more at <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/JSTPC.htm>

Special issue coverage

The special issue will cover key topics related to science and technology in emerging economies, like China, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, etc.:

- Science policy
- Industrial policy
- Technology strategy
- Science and technological capacity building
- R&D management and strategy
- Evolutionary/Schumpeterian economics
- Innovation system(s) (national, regional etc.)
- Technology management/policy/strategy/evaluation
- Innovation management/policy/strategy
- Knowledge management (creation, transfer, exploitation etc.)
- IPR management and licensing
- Product and process development
- Specific industrial policy/developments/clusters
- Globalisation and the role of multinational corporations
- Policy design / implementation/ evaluation

Submission details Academic papers should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words in length. See submission guidelines at http://www.emeraldinsight.com/JSTPC/submission_guidelines

* Including countries associated with the 7th Framework Programme.



Submission link <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jstpc>

Queries can be addressed to: Prof. Patricia Ordóñez de Pablos, The University of Oviedo, Spain.

Email: patriop@uniovi.es, patriciaordonezdepablos@yahoo.com

Denmark – Danish Arctic delegation visits China, vows to increase scientific cooperation

Danish Arctic Ambassador visited China with the deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greenland at the end of February.

The Arctic Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Deputy Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs of Greenland visited China on February 17-20 to discuss ways to increase cooperation between China and Denmark.

In May 2013, China was approved to become a permanent observer to the Arctic Council with active support of the Kingdom of Denmark.

China and Denmark agreed to enhance contacts in relation to the Arctic Council and to seek ways to increase cooperation in the scientific field.

Opportunities to further support commercial ties between China and Greenland were also discussed during the visit covering activities in both Beijing and Shanghai.

Further details in source: [Denmark in China](#)

France – Summary of ANR and CNRS cooperation activities with China

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China, the French National Research Agency (ANR) published a summary of its cooperation with China, its main non-European partner in terms of co-funded joint research projects.

Through its ongoing cooperation with the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology (MOST), ANR is playing a major role in the scientific relations between both countries.

55 joint Sino-French projects have been funded by ANR since 2007 for a total amount of 15 M€, in various fields. In 2014, ANR will continue its fruitful collaboration with NSFC by opening its generic call to Sino-French projects in the field of ICT. ANR is also taking part in a multilateral call involving several European and Chinese funding bodies in the field of social sciences (which list of pre-selected proposals has recently been published on the [NSFC website](#)).

Access the summary on the [French embassy to China website](#) or on the [ANR website](#).



Ambassador Friis Arne Petersen (middle) together with Ambassador Erik Vilstrup Lorenzen (left) and Kai Holst Andersen (right)



The French National Scientific Research Council (CNRS) has published a similar booklet reviewing its cooperation activities with China. CNRS is involved in more than 71% of the Sino-French publications.

Access the report [here](#).



Signature of the agreement by Prof. Bey and Prof. Liu Jingshi

France – Cooperation agreement signed between the Curie Institute (Paris) and the Hunan Tumor Hospital (Changsha)

Created in 1909, the Curie Institute is a foundation fighting against cancer through the combination of a research centre and a hospital, facilitating the accomplishment of the institute's founders (Marie Curie and Claudius Regaud) to be able to quickly apply research results to patients' treatment. It is a leading institute in France, featuring one of the only two proton-therapy centres existing in the country, and internationally.

The Hunan Tumor Hospital is one of the main Chinese actors in cancer research.

The agreement was signed in Changsha on 18 February.

More details in source: [La France en Chine](#)



Germany – Opening of Sino-German OpenHPI Education Cloud

On 18 February, German General Consul in Shanghai Dr. W. Röhr and director of the Hasso-Plattner-Institute (HPI), representatives of Chinese ministries as well as German and Chinese internet companies opened the Chinese language online education platform "OpenHPI.cn".

This new platform should facilitate the online access of IT-stakeholders from China to the information technologies and education material of the HPI Potsdam.

HPI Potsdam is an Academic Excellence Centre for IT development and has been running for some time already the "OpenHP.de" platform in German language which has attracted over 100 000 international participants.

After the opening ceremony, the cooperation agreement for the "OpenHPI.cn" platform was signed and the Strategic Partnership for the Promotion of Education through Cloud-Services and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) as well as the Sino-German Academic Alliance for the promotion of MOOC were introduced.

Further details in source: [German General Consulate Shanghai](#)



5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 Calls announcements for international researchers

Belgium – Beware Fellowships

To promote the mobility of researchers towards Belgium, the Department of Research Programs has launched two new funding schemes to attract foreign-based researchers (including Belgian, the condition is to have spent less than 12 months over the last three years in Belgium) in Wallonia / Federation Wallonia –Brussels.

The BEWARE (BELgium WALLonia REsearch) fellowships are co-financed by the COFUND program of the European Union (FP7 - Marie Curie Actions).

There are two kinds of BEWARE fellowships:

- BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS *Industry*

This program will grant 57 mandates over 5 years, mandates whose purpose is to enable a SME or *accredited research centre* to benefit from the expertise of foreign highly qualified researchers (or Belgian expatriates) to encourage the innovation process within the Walloon host.

The first call for proposals was launched on 21st January 2014 with the deadline for submission of applications on **31st March 2014**. The official text of the call can be downloaded here ([FR version \(.pdf - 64Ko\)](#), [EN version \(.pdf - 67Ko\)](#)).

- BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS *Academia*

This program focuses on technology transfer, the project also runs over five years and a total of 80 mandates will be available for researchers to perform a research stay in a French-speaking University, in partnership with a Walloon company. Over the period covered by the mandate (18-36 months), six months must be spent in the company.

The call for proposals will be launched very soon, the deadline for submission shall be fixed around **15th April, 2014**.

Further details and submission forms can be found on the [Wallonia Research & Technology website](#).

Belgium – Pegasus Marie Curie Fellowships (short)

The purpose of the Pegasus Marie Curie Fellowship is to attract excellent postdoctoral researchers to Flanders in order to contribute to the advancement



of Flemish research. The fellowship provides the selected fellows with optimal conditions to further develop their research career in Flanders or abroad.

The fellowships are divided in two categories:

- Pegasus Long: Postdoctoral fellowships of 3 years at a Flemish university, once renewable
- Pegasus Short: Postdoctoral fellowships of 1 year at a Flemish university

The salary scale under this fellowship scheme ranges from a minimum of €29,069.73 up to a maximum of €45,317.25/year.

In order to be eligible you need to hold a PhD obtained no longer than six years (Pegasus Long) or ten years (Pegasus Short) ago and to have been active abroad for at least two years in the three years preceding the start of the fellowship.

The next call (for Pegasus Short only) opens on 1st March and will close on **1st May, 2014**.

More details on the [FWO website](#).

China (Taiwan) – Postdoctoral Research Fellowships at Academia Sinica (AS)

Taiwan research scholarships are awarded in **all areas**. Graduate students are encouraged to apply for funding.

Applications for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships at Academia Sinica (AS) for the Second Session of 2014 are now being accepted. Starting from 15th January with deadline on **3rd March 2014**, all applications are processed [on-line](#). No hard copies of application materials are required.

All applications must be submitted to Academic Affairs Office (AAO) by the applicant's principal investigator (PI). Appointment of postdoctoral fellows for this session commences on 1st July 2014.

Under this program, there are two types of fellows: (Distinguished) Academia Sinica Postdoctoral Fellows and (Regular) Postdoctoral Fellows. Applicants applying for the position at the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences or the Division of Life Sciences need to choose the type of fellows. Two types of fellows must be ticked if applicants intend to apply for both.

During the term of appointment, the postdoctoral fellow shall comply with the service regulations stipulated by the Academia Sinica Personnel Office (please refer [here](#) for details) and also the requirements and instructions of his/her sponsoring principal investigator and host institute. In addition, the postdoctoral fellow is required to sign a work contract and a declaration which states that he/she is not the spouse or relative by blood or marriage of the heads of the employing organization, institute and the sponsoring PI/co-PI.

For more information, please contact the following staff at AAO:



For Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences: Ms. Chin-Wen Peng (02-27898067) chingswt@gate.sinica.edu.tw

For Division of Life Sciences: Ms. Mei-Hsiu Michelle Chien (02-27899676) mhchien@gate.sinica.edu.tw

For Division of Humanities and Social Sciences: Ms. Shu-ling Song (02-27898051) ssl53@gate.sinica.edu.tw

Or visit the [official website](#).

France – Call for applications for fellowships at the Paris IAS in 2015-2016

The Paris Institute for Advanced Studies welcomes applications from all over the world from established scholars and scientists in the fields of the humanities, the social sciences and related fields for periods of five or nine months, respectively.

The Paris IAS will host twenty international guest researchers for 2014-2015 to work freely on the project of their choice, to benefit from the scientific environment of the Institute, and to create contacts with researchers in the academic institutions of Greater Paris.

Researchers from all countries are eligible. Applicants, who have spent more than a total of 12 months in France during the last 3 years prior to the application, are not eligible. This call for applications is open to : • Senior Fellows: having a full professorship or seniority at the professor-level and having a minimum of 10 years of full time research experience • Junior Fellows: Having the status of postdoctoral researcher, holding a position in a university or research institution, and having a minimum of 3 and maximum of 9 years of full-time research experience after the Ph.D.

Deadline for applications: **30th April, 2014**

Applicants may request residencies for the following periods:

1st September 2015 to 31st January 2016 (5 months) or 1st October 2015 to 30th June 2016 (9 months) or 1st February to 30th June 2016 (5 months).

Learn more on the [IAS website](#).

France – Fernand Braudel – IFER Fellowships Incoming - Call for applications March 2014

The Foundation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH) and the partners of the programme offer postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences for a period of nine months.

This programme is open to applicants from all countries, belonging to a foreign research centre, who wish to undertake a research residency in France.



These post-doctoral research stays are designed to enable researchers to carry out a research project in a host laboratory, integrate scientific networks in France and other European countries and build lasting partnerships between their home institution and the host institution. Applicant's projects should match the areas of research of these institutions.

All social sciences and humanities are eligible. An interdisciplinary approach to research topics is encouraged.

Candidates must apply to specific fellowships, offered by several research institutions and "Laboratories of excellence" (Labex) who are partners of the programme.

Online application platform will open on 3rd March, 2014.

Deadline for submission: **3rd April, 2014**

Further details to be found on the [FMSH website](#).

France – Call for applications - CEFC short-term fieldwork grant for doctoral research on contemporary China

The French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC) is offering three fieldwork grants for doctoral students, ranging from one to three months, to be carried out between May and December 2014 in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan. The grant comprises a monthly stipend of 1200 € as well as a round-trip air ticket between Europe and China, Hong Kong or Taiwan, within the limit of 1000 €.

Applicants shall satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Be enrolled in a doctoral program in a French or European university (located in a member-state of the European Union or of the European Higher Education Area), in the field of humanities and social sciences. (UK enrolled candidates must have been successfully admitted to the PhD cycle)
- Their research project must be situated within the scope of the CEFC's mandate, which is to study **political, economic, social and cultural developments in contemporary Greater China**.

Within the framework of this grant, beneficiaries accept to:

- Submit to the CEFC a short report on their fieldwork, which may be included for example in the annual activity report of the Centre.
- Present their research, at the end of their fieldwork, to the CEFC research team during a seminar in Hong Kong, Taipei or Beijing.

Applications can be submitted in French or English.

Complete applications must be submitted on or before **31st March 2014**.

Click [here](#) for further details.



Germany – Leibniz-DAAD Research Fellowships 2014

The Leibniz - DAAD Research Fellowship programme is jointly carried out by the Leibniz Association and the German Academic Exchange Service. Leibniz-DAAD fellowships offer highly qualified, international postdoctoral researchers, who have recently completed their doctoral studies, the opportunity to conduct research at the [Leibniz Institute of their choice](#) in Germany.

The fellowships are awarded to researchers active in the following fields: Humanities and Educational Research; Economics, Social Sciences and Spatial Research, Life Sciences; Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Engineering; Environmental Sciences.

Fellowships can be awarded for 12 months and include:

- a monthly installment of €2,000;
- health, accident and personal liability insurance in Germany;
- a research allowance of €460 per annum;
- a two-month German language course in Germany (if desired).

Application deadline is **7th March, 2014**.

Further details available on the [DAAD website](#).

Germany - Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Helmholtz Zentrum München

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a newly established program for excellent early-career scientists (up to 3 years after graduation) at Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Center for Environmental Health. Talented postdocs who are accepted into the three-year program receive 3-year fully funded postdoctoral positions and can focus on a research project in an institute of the Center.

Depending on the fellow's personal career goal, the focus will be on careers in academic research or industry.

Applications for the available [research fields](#) from early-career scientists of all nationalities who have received a doctoral degree in **biological sciences, chemistry, bioinformatics, physics, mathematics, veterinary or human medicine or related life sciences** within the last three years or who will receive their doctoral degree by the start of the program are welcome.

Application deadline is **March 16, 2014**.

More information available on the [Helmholtz Zentrum München website](#).

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Program

PFP



Israel – Louis Frieberg Center for East Asian Studies (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Postdoctoral Fellowships 2014-15

Louis Frieberg Center for East-Asian Studies, founded in 2006, is an interdisciplinary forum of faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem aiming to promote and broaden teaching, research and discussion of East-Asian related subjects.

It offers post-doctoral fellowships for the year 2014-2015. The post-docs are open to scholars in the **humanities and social sciences specializing in East Asia**, especially China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. Fellowships are granted for one academic year or one term with the possibility of extension for an additional year. The starting date of the visit should not be later than four years after receipt of the doctoral degree; the fellow must hold a valid doctoral degree no later than September 2014. The fellowship consists of a monthly stipend (tax free) of \$1,500. Payments are made once in three months in Israeli Shekels and are linked to the "representative rate of exchange." Fellows are entitled to one airline ticket (economy class, up to 1500\$) for a direct flight from their home town to Israel and back.

Application deadline is **30th April, 2014**.

Further details available [here](#).

Netherlands – Cooperation China - Joint Scientific Thematic Research Programme (JSTP) – Joint Research Projects

JSTP aims at fostering research collaborations of Sino-Dutch research teams that share high ambitions to work together in sustainable joint research projects by providing multi-annual research funding, and by calling for proposals demonstrating complementary expertise between Dutch and Chinese research teams in areas, in which both The Netherlands and China excel. Thematic Calls for Proposals are published annually, featuring different thematic priorities each year.

The 2014 Call for Proposals addresses the research topic “**Smart Energy in Smart Cities**”.

Research teams of Dutch and Chinese researchers, with a senior Principal Investigator on both the Dutch side and the Chinese side can apply for funding of joint research projects with duration of 3 to 4 years.

Closing date for submitting full joint Research Projects proposals is **26th March 2014**, 11:00am CET. The deadline to submit expression of interest was 8th January 2014 and a workshop was held on 20th and 21st February in China with the pre-selected teams. However, applications can still be submitted by other teams until the final deadline of 26th March.

More details are available on the [NWO website](#).



Netherlands – Rubicon

International research experience is often essential for building up one's scientific career. Rubicon offers talented researchers **of all fields** who have completed their doctorates in the past year the chance to gain experience at a top research institution outside the Netherlands, for a period of 12 to 24 months, as international research experience is likely to be an advantage at a later stage in the applicant's academic career.

For certain typically Dutch topics, there is also a limited opportunity to apply for a research period at an excellent Dutch research institute. However, preference will be given to researchers who apply for a grant to spend time outside the Netherlands.

Postgraduates who are currently engaged in doctoral research or who have been awarded a doctorate in the twelve months preceding the relevant deadline can apply.

Applicants who are still engaged in doctoral research may only apply if their supervisor provides a written declaration approving their thesis.

Next application deadline is **2nd April, 2014**.

Further details on the [NWO website](#).

Netherlands – Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Vici

Vici is targeted at outstanding senior researchers of all fields who have successfully demonstrated the ability to develop their own innovative lines of research, and to act as coaches for young researchers. Researchers who have obtained their PhD within the last 15 years can apply for a Vici grant. There may be a possibility of an extension in some cases.

The maximum grant is 1.5 million euros, awarded for a period of 5 years to build a research group.

Submission deadline for the 2014 round (preproposals) is **27th March, 2014**.

Further details about this scheme and the application procedure and material can be found on the NWO website ([here](#) for **social sciences and the humanities**, [here](#) for **life sciences** and [here](#) for **physical sciences and engineering**).

Sweden – Sustainable building and planning – Guest researchers

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) announces the availability of funding for guest researchers in the area of **sustainable building and planning**.

The aim is to establish international collaboration of a high scientific quality within research projects or research environments at Swedish universities or



research institutes. The funding for this call is 15 MSEK (approximately 1,7 million Euro).

The call supports the invitation of international guest researchers to Swedish universities and research institutes. Funding can be awarded to researchers at Swedish universities, university colleges or research institutes. The main applicant and co-applicant must hold a PhD-degree.

This call will close on **20th March, 2014**.

Learn more on the [Swedish Research Council Formas website](#).

Sweden – Formas annual open call 2014 for mobility starting grants for young researchers

The Research Council Formas hereby invites applications for funding of mobility starting grants for young researchers within Formas' all areas of responsibility.

The mission of Formas is to promote and support basic and needs-driven research in the areas of the **Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning**.

The call is intended to provide funding for salary costs for the applicant, in addition to travel costs and additional costs for family accompanying the applicant during his or her stay at the host university or research institute, abroad or within Sweden.

This call is directed towards younger post-doctoral researchers. Younger researchers refer in this case to a researcher who was awarded a doctoral degree at a Swedish university or research institute no more than three calendar years prior to 1 January of the year of application, i.e. 1 January 2011 at the earliest and 1 October 2014 at the latest.

To be eligible for funding the applicant must have an employment position at a Swedish educational institution or research institute (home university). Funding can be sought for 24 to 48 months. At least one third of the period must be spent at the home university and at least one third of the period must be spent at the host university.

The project start date may be no earlier than 1st January 2015.

Application deadline is **2nd April, 2014**.

Further details on the [Swedish Research Council Formas website](#).

Sweden – Formas annual open call 2014 for research and development project grants (including for young research leaders)

The Swedish Research Council Formas hereby invites applications for funding for research and development projects within Formas' all areas of responsibility (**Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning**) as well as, in a



separate programme, applications for funding for research and development projects for young research leaders. Young researcher leader refers in this case to a researcher who was awarded a doctoral degree within the two to eight calendar years prior to 1 January of the year of application, i.e. for 2014; 1 January 2006 at the earliest and 31 December 2012 at the latest.

The project start date may be no earlier than 1 January 2015. Funding may be sought for a maximum of three years, 2014 – 2016 (36 months).

Application deadline is **2nd April, 2014**.

Further details can be found on the [Swedish Research Council Formas website](#) (click [here for young research leaders programme](#)).

5.2 Calls still open

Calls first announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#)

Austria – Richard Plaschka Scholarship

The closing date for applications is **1 March, 2014**.

Further details are available [here](#).

Austria – Ernst Mach Grant – worldwide

Deadline to apply for the academic year 2014-2015 is **1 March, 2014**.

Further details and access to the online application portal are available [here](#).

France – ‘Discovery China’ programme

The deadline to submit proposals is **1 March, 2014**.

More details are available on the [Campus France website](#).

Switzerland – Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Doc.Mobility and Early Postdoc.Mobility

The next deadline for application is **1 March, 2014**.

Find out more on the [SNSF website](#). ([here for the Early Postdoc.Mobility](#))

France – Cai Yuanpei 2014

The deadline to submit applications has been extended until **2nd March, 2014**.



More details are available on the [Campus France website](#).

EU – Erasmus Mundus 2014 Call for proposals Action 2

Deadline for submission of applications is **3rd March, 2014**.

Access the call on the [Erasmus Mundus website](#).

EU – CERN Fellowship and GET Programmes

Application deadline is **3rd March, 2014** (for a start on 1st July, 2014).

Further information is available on the [CERN website](#).

UK – Newton Fellowships

The next round for applications to the Newton International Fellowship scheme opened on 15th January 2014, and will close on **10th March 2014**.

Find out more on the [dedicated website](#).

UK – Royal Society International Exchanges Scheme

The next application deadline is **13th March, 2014**. Further information can be found on [Royal Society website](#).

Luxembourg – FNR AFR PhD and Postdoc Grants

Deadlines to submit application are **20th March, 2014** for the PhD grant and **11th March, 2014** for the Postdoc grant.

Find out more details on the [FNR website](#).

UK – DFID-ESRC China and Africa research programme

The full specification and other relevant documents can be found below. Deadline for applications is **13th March, 2014**.

Further details are available on the [ESRC website](#).

UK – Royal Society Research Professorship

The closing date for application to this scheme is **13th March, 2014**.

Further details can be found on the [Royal Society website](#) as well as on the [NSFC website](#).



Portugal – FCT PhD programmes

The call for proposals is open from 9th January 2014 until 5pm, Lisbon time, of **24th March 2014**.

Further details are on the [FCT website](#).

Netherlands – Cooperation China - Joint Scientific Thematic Research Programme (JSTP) - Dialogue Seminars

Closing date for submitting Dialogue Seminar proposals is **26th March 2014**, 11:00am CET.

More details are available on the [NWO website](#).

UK – UK-China partnerships in sustainable manufacturing

Call closes on **26th March, 2014**.

Find out more on the [EPSRC website](#).

Switzerland – Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation 2013–2016: Stepping Stone Symposia or other Workshops, Exchange Grants (EG), Research-innovation Communities (RiC), Follow-up Grants

The deadline to apply to any of these funding instruments is **30th March, 2014**.

Learn more about the eligibility criteria and application procedure on the [SNSF website](#).

EU – Dragon-Star Innovation Award – call for application

Deadline for application is **31st March, 2014**.

Find out more about the [eligibility criteria](#) and download the [Innovation Award application form here](#).

More details available on the [Dragon Star project website](#).

EU/Switzerland – PLANT FELLOWS

The fourth call is now open from 7th January 2014 until **31st March 2014**.

Further details are available on this [dedicated website](#).



Switzerland – Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (SSSTC) 2013–2016 - Joint Research Projects in Translational biomedical research and medical technology

The call for proposals is open from 6th January 2014 to **31st March, 2014**.

For more detailed information, please refer to the [SNSF website](#).

China – NSFC Call for Proposals for the First Round of the International Young Scientists Fellowship in 2014

Recommendation deadline was 28th Feb. 2014.

Individual full proposal submission period: from 21st March until **4th April, 2014**.

Recipients of last year's fellowships will be able to apply for funding extension also between 21st March and **4th April, 2014**.

Further details can be found on the [NSFC website](#).

Sweden – Initiation Grants

The next assessment date of received applications is **8th April, 2014**.

Further details can be found on the [STINT website](#).

EU – ERCIM “Alain Bensoussan” Fellowship Programme

Find out more on the [dedicated website](#). Next application deadline is **30th April, 2014**.

UK – UK-China Stem Cell Partnership Initiative, NSFC-MRC joint call

The submission deadline is **7th May, 2014**.

UK applicants can find more details on the [MRC website](#). Chinese applicants are invited to visit the [NSFC website](#).

Belgium – Odysseus programme

The next application deadline is **15th May, 2014**.

Further details are available on the [FWO website](#).



5.3 Open calls under CIP and FP7

The following calls are open under the [Cooperation](#) programme

[Joint Technology Initiatives](#) / 3 open calls (Deadlines 28th Feb., 3th April, 8th April respectively)

The following call is open under the [Capacities](#) programme

[Support for the coherent development of research policies](#) / 1 open call (Deadline 15th April)

The following call is open under the [Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme \(EIP\)](#)

[Transfers of Business](#) / 1 open call (Deadline 5th March)

5.4 Open calls under Horizon 2020 and Euratom

Access all open calls on the [Horizon 2020 Participants' portal](#).

Excellent Science programme

22 open calls including:

European Research Council:

[ERC Consolidator Grant](#) – Deadline **20 May, 2014**

[ERC Proof of Concept Grant](#) – Deadline **1 April, 2014**

[ERC Starting Grant](#) – Deadline **25 March, 2014**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions:

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange \(RISE\)](#) – Deadline **24 April, 2014**

Industrial Leadership

[41 open calls](#)

Societal Challenges

76 open calls including the following ones particularly encouraging collaboration with China (*however, it should be kept in mind that ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*):



[SFS-01a-2014: Genetics and nutrition and alternative feed sources for terrestrial livestock production](#) – Deadline **12 March, 2014**

[SFS-03b-2014: Practical solutions for native and alien pests affecting plants - EU-China cooperation on IPM in agriculture](#) – Deadline **12 March, 2014**

[SFS-04-2014: Soil quality and function](#) – Deadline **12 March, 2014**

[SFS-13-2015: Biological contamination of crops and the food chain](#) – Deadline **24 February, 2015**

[LCE-18-2014: Supporting Joint Actions on demonstration and validation of innovative energy solutions](#) – Deadline **7 May, 2014**

[MG-1.8-2015: International cooperation in aeronautics](#) – Deadline **31 March, 2015**

[MG.5.5-2015 Demonstrating and testing innovative solutions for cleaner and better urban transport and mobility](#) – Deadline **27 August, 2015**

[WASTE-2-2014: A systems approach for the reduction, recycling and reuse of food waste](#) – Deadline **8 April, 2014**

[WASTE-7-2015: Ensuring sustainable use of agricultural waste, co-products and by-products](#) – Deadline **16 October, 2014**

[WATER-5a-2014: Strategic cooperation partnerships](#) – Deadline **8 April, 2014**

[INT-01-2014: Enhancing and focusing research and innovation cooperation with the Union's key international partner countries - proposals targeting Russia and China](#) – Deadline **29 April, 2014**

[INT-11-2014/2015: European cultural and science diplomacy: exploiting the potential of culture and science in the EU's external relations](#) – Deadline **1 July, 2015**

[BG-15-2014: European polar research cooperation](#) – Deadline **26 June, 2014**

Science with and for society

9 open calls including the following one including China in its scope:

[ISSI-5-2014: Supporting structural change in research organisations to promote Responsible Research and Innovation](#) – Deadline **2 October, 2014**

[ISSI.5.2015: Supporting structural change in research organisations to promote Responsible Research and Innovation](#) – Deadline **16 September, 2015**

Euratom

[2 open calls](#)



6 Jobs

Access thousands of jobs and fellowships announcements on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#).

China – Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Glycomics and Glycan Bioengineering Research Center, Nanjing Agricultural University (Nanjing)

Two postdoctoral research positions (for individuals or couples) are available for a minimum period of 21 months in the laboratory of Prof. Josef Voglmeir at the Glycomics and Glycan **Bioengineering** Research Group at Nanjing Agricultural University based in China.

In this lab, they combine biochemical, analytical and molecular biological approaches for the discovery of novel glycoenzymes. Specifically, we are currently working on: (1) nucleotide sugar (bio)synthesis; (2) chemoenzymatic carbohydrate synthesis; (3) development of new analysis methods for carbohydrates; (4) endo- and exoglycosidase discovery.

In addition to a globally competitive salary, faculty housing, a medical and a social care plan will be provided.

Access the full announcement on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

China – Faculty Openings in Combustion Research at Tsinghua University (Beijing)

The [Center for Combustion Energy \(CCE\) at Tsinghua University](#), Beijing, China, aims to build a world-class centre on research and graduate education in combustion science and energy. A strong faculty base has already been assembled at the CCE on combustion chemistry and theory, coal combustion, internal combustion engines and combustion CFD.

CCEA is now seeking at least ten additional faculty appointments at all academic ranks in a wide range of activities in **combustion science and technology**.

Application package should include: (1) a cover letter with a brief statement of current and future research interests, (2) a detailed curriculum vitae, and (3) an optional list of three professional references. Send all application material to ccesecretary@tsinghua.edu.cn. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled.



Access the full announcement on naturejobs.

EU – Doctoral and senior researchers positions at the Joint Research Centre

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is currently advertising the following vacancies:

- 1 PhD. Student position (deadline 2 March, 2014)
- 2 senior researcher positions (deadlines 16 & 30 March, 2014)

Further information is available on the [JRC website](http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu).

China – PI positions in Photochemistry and Pharmacology at Guangdong Ocean University (Zhanjiang)

Guangdong Ocean University hires PIs in Photochemistry and Pharmacology.

To set up a new research institute for marine drugs and nutrition, the university intends to hire successful scientists in **Photochemistry and Pharmacology**. The candidates should have a PhD degree in above-mentioned areas or in **neuroscience and immunology**. Salary and benefits depend on candidate's research experience and achievements.

Guangdong Ocean University is located in Zhanjiang, beside the ocean. There are about 25,000 students and 4 campuses. Since the development of Ocean resources has become an important task in China, the new institute and the university will have a major role to play in cutting-edge research. If you wish to participate in this opportunity, please send your application (CV, cover letter and names of 3 references) to Professor Cai Song at cai.song2011@gmail.com.

Access the full announcement on naturejobs.

France – Professor position in Chinese studies at Paris 7 Denis Diderot University (Paris)

The candidate will strengthen the capacity of the department to offer a comprehensive curriculum in Chinese studies, from bachelor to master degrees and doctorate. The candidate will be a specialist of **Chinese literature or a social scientist of modern, contemporary China or of an earlier period**.

Access the full announcement on [EURAXESS Jobs](http://euraxess-jobs.org).

Ireland – Government of Ireland - DIT Fiosraigh International Scholarship – 1 position for Chinese PhD candidate (Dublin)

The Government of Ireland – DIT (Dublin Institute of Technology) Fiosraigh International Scholarships are awarded to high calibre higher education students from China and India to study on a PhD programme at DIT for a period of one year.

The scholarships highlight Ireland's strengths as a centre of international education, promote links with priority countries and strengthen the internationalisation strategies of HEIs.

Two scholarships (one each from China and India) will be awarded to incoming PhD students to study for one year on one of our structured PhD programmes in:

- Environment and Health
- Information and Media Technologies



- New Materials and Technologies
- Society, Culture and Enterprise

Successful candidates will be awarded €10,000 towards living expenses. Project costs will be provided by the DIT designated Research Centre/Research Institute hosting the visiting student.

Application deadline is **30 March, 2014**.

Access the full announcement on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).





7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

2014 China (Beijing) International Technology Transfer Convention, 15-17 April, 2014, Beijing

For the purposes of further promoting international innovation cooperation and technology transfer of high-tech enterprises, universities and research institutes in Beijing and throughout China, and assisting in innovation-driven and restructuring upgrade in Beijing and even throughout China, it is planned to hold the fourth China (Beijing) International Technology Transfer Conference (ITTC 2014) at Beijing International Convention Center in April 2014.

ITTC 2014 will seek to promote international innovation cooperation and technology transfer matchmaking between industries, universities and institutes from China and foreign countries in the forms of “forum, seminar, show, matchmaking, and exhibition”.

More than 4,000 representatives from over 40 foreign countries and 20 provinces/cities of China were present at the previous three ITTCs. Through the previous three ITTCs, over 500 cooperation intentions have been reached, and contracts of 60 projects worth over CNY 50 billion have been signed.

Further details about this event can be found online [here](#).

Contact for more information and to register:

Sophia Xi, speaker@bjittc.org, +86-10-84351699

7.2 Upcoming scientific events in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
Bioinformatics	23-24 March, 2014	Shenzhen	Workshop in Systems Genetics & Phenome-wide Association
Pharmacology	25-28 March, 2014	Beijing	2nd Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs Summit Asia
Plant Biology	21-25 April, 2014	Suzhou	Genome Assisted Biology of Crops and Model Plant Systems
Genetics	5-9 May, 2014	Suzhou	Epigenetics, Chromatin &



			Transcription
Medicine	10-13 May, 2014	Shanghai	Seventh International Conference SUMO, Ubiquitin, UBL Proteins: Implications for Human Diseases
Neuroscience	12-16 May, 2014	Suzhou	Neural Circuit Basis of Behavior and its Disorders
Engineering	17-18 May, 2014	Nanjing	The 2nd International Conference on Materials Engineering (ICMEN2014)
Medicine	19-23 May, 2014	Suzhou	Liver Metabolism, Diseases and Cancer
Biotechnology	20-23 May, 2014	Shanghai	Biomanufacturing Asia 2014
Biotechnology	20-23 May, 2014	Shanghai	Biosimilars Asia 2014
Engineering	22-24 May, 2014	Beijing	2014 2nd International Symposium on Engineering and Natural Sciences (ISEANS 2014)
Engineering	22-24 May, 2014	Beijing	2014 The 2nd International Congress on Engineering and Information (ICEAI 2014)
Education	22-24 May, 2014	Beijing	2014 the 2nd International Conference on Education and Social Sciences (ICEASS 2014)
Cancer research	26-30 May, 2014	Suzhou	Precision Cancer Biology and Medicine
Life sciences	29-31 May, 2014	Guangzhou	Genomics and Stem Cell Based Therapies: Shaping the Future of Personalized Medicine
Microbiology	2-6 June, 2014	Suzhou	Systems Medicine Approach to Global Infectious Disease
Structural Biology	9-13 June, 2014	Suzhou	5th CSHA Symposium: Structural Biology - From Atoms to Molecules
Engineering	10-12 June, 2014	Ningbo	Optics Within Life Sciences 2014
Chemical Biology	16-20 June, 2014	Suzhou	Protein Modification & Homeostasis
Bioinformatics	16-20 June, 2014	Shenzhen	BGI Bioinformatics Workshop on Diseases
Neuroscience	23-27 June, 2014	Suzhou	CSHA / NGF 2014 Joint Conference on Nerve Growth Factor and Related Neurotrophic



			Factors: Emerging Concepts, New Mechanisms, Novel Technologies
Computer science	19-20 July, 2014	Shanghai	4th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Networks (CENet 2014)
Marine biology	4-9 August, 2014	Shanghai	ClimEco4
Bioinformatics	15-18 September, 2014	Shenzhen	2014 BGI International Bioinformatics Workshop
Engineering	20-21 September, 2014	Beijing	The 2nd International Conference on Mechatronics and Automatic Control Systems
Cell biology & Genetics	15-17 October, 2014	Shanghai	2014 International Experimental Biology and Medicine Conference
Engineering	16-19 October, 2014	Beijing	The 6th International Conference on Hydrometallurgy-ICHM2014
Cancer research	9-11 November, 2014	Beijing	Cell Symposium - Hallmarks of Cancer: Asia

7.3 Forthcoming events in Europe

Find out about major events in Europe on the [European Commission's 'Conferences & Events' website](#).

Event	When	Where	Organized by	Link to the event
Smart Cities International Exhibition	5-7 March 2014	Inter Expo Center, Sofia, Bulgaria	Via Expo	Link
Innovation Convention 2014	10-11 March 2014	Brussels, Belgium	European Commission	link
Funding student mobility - Scholarships, grants and loans	10 April	Brussels, Belgium	Academic Cooperation Association	Link
Industrial Technologies 2014 conference	9-11 April 2014	Athens, Greece	Greek EU Presidency event	Link
Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2014: Innovate	14-17 April	Paris, France	TRA	link



Mobility, Innovation	Mobilise	2014				
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions satellite event at ESOF 2014 Conference		19-20 2014	Jun	Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark	European Commission	Link
EuroScience Forum (ESOF)	2014	21-26 2014	June	Copenhagen, Denmark	Euroscience	Link





8 Press Review*

8.1 Policy & Papers

China will spend billions to reward cleaner companies

China is to set up a 10 billion yuan (US\$1.65 billion) fund to fight air pollution, offering rewards for companies that clean up their operations, as a more affluent urban population turns against a growth-at-all-costs economic model that has poisoned much of the air, water and soil. At a State Council meeting yesterday, Premier Li Keqiang said the central government would set up the fund to “use rewards to replace subsidies to fight air pollution in key areas.” (Source: [Shanghai Daily](#))

Think tank examines South China Sea

The Collaborative Innovation Center for South China Sea Studies, based at Nanjing University in Jiangsu province, is among the 14 national-level research projects prioritized and supported by the government since 2011. Hong Yinxing, chairman of the board for the center, said it was established to meet the country's strategic demand to safeguard maritime rights and interests, develop resources and energy, and promote regional peace and development. Hong, who is also Party chief of Nanjing University, said the complexity of the maritime issue has required the country's research sector to eliminate barriers among the subjects and agencies to improve efficiency. (Source: [China Daily](#))

8.2 Voices & Opinions

Xi looks to a nation of cyberpower

President Xi Jinping pledged on 27th February to strengthen China's Internet security and build the nation into a strong cyberpower. He made the remarks

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during the first meeting of a central Internet security and informatization leading group, which he heads. Premier Li Keqiang and senior official Liu Yunshan are deputy heads. Xi said Internet security concerns a country's security and development as well as people's lives and work. The group is designed to lead and coordinate Internet security and informatization work among different sectors, as well as draft national strategies, development plans and major policies in this field, Xi said. (Source: [China Daily](#))

Expert Casts Doubt on Beijing's Approach to Reining in Population

The Beijing city government has proposed using rules focused on the economy to try limiting the size of the capital's population, but one expert has questioned the approach. Lu Jiehua, a professor of sociology at Peking University, says Beijing's population problem and resource shortages are indeed acute, and it is commonly acknowledged the population has to be controlled. However, the authorities should know their limitations. The government should first determine its economic and industrial policies before taking aim at population control – not the other way around – he said. "The authorities have to decide the industrial layout and let the market determine what jobs are available," Lu said. "And then individuals will decide whether they will stay or leave Beijing." (Source: [SCMP](#))

Exec foresees 'Silicon Valley' developing in region

When Li Zexiang launched his company in Shenzhen in 1999, the city's first to specialize in robot control systems, orders were scarce and migrant workers were flowing into the Pearl River Delta. It now supplies products to more than 1,700 companies in more than 60 industries nationwide. Li, a professor of automation and robotics at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, envisions brighter prospects for the region, both in his sector and in enhanced coordination between Guangdong and the Hong Kong. "If China has one region that is going to match Silicon Valley, it is here in Guangdong and Hong Kong," he said. Li said his experience has showed that increased coordination can unleash innovation that could eventually match the US high-tech sector. (Source: [China Daily](#))



8.3 Thematic Activities

Health

China scientists reveal second case of H10N8, raising alarm about bird flu's pandemic potential

Chinese scientists sounded the alarm on February 5th after a new bird flu virus, H10N8, killed an elderly woman in December and infected another individual last month. It appears to be able to infect tissue deep in the lung and may have features allowing it to spread efficiently among humans, they said. "The pandemic potential of this novel virus should not be underestimated," said the team headed by Shu Yuelong from the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Beijing. Although the cases are few, the fact it has jumped from birds to humans is an important warning, the researchers said. (Source: [SCMP](#))

Researchers Identify VGLL4 as a Novel Tumor Suppressor in Lung Cancer

Hippo pathway is a conserved regulator of organ size in both Drosophila and mammals. Emerging evidences have indicated the significance of genes involved in Hippo pathway as tumor suppressors in cancer development. VGLL4 is a protein-coding gene. Researchers from the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences now revealed that the VGLL4 gene is frequently lowly expressed in both mouse and human lung cancer. Taking advantage of de novo lung cancer mouse model and human cancer cell lines, they clearly show that VGLL4 exhibits a strong inhibitory role in lung cancer growth and progression. (Source: [CAS](#))

Genetically modified monkeys created with cut-and-paste DNA

Researchers have created genetically modified monkeys with a revolutionary new procedure that enables scientists to cut and paste DNA in living organisms. The work was carried out in a lab in Nanjing Medical University. The feat was applauded by some researchers who said it would help them to recreate devastating human diseases in monkeys, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. The ability to alter DNA with such precision is already being investigated as a way to make people resistant to HIV. But the breakthrough is controversial, with groups opposed to animal testing in genetic manipulation warning that it could drive a rise in the use of monkeys in research. (Source: [The Guardian](#))

Vaccine for H7N9

Shanghai has developed gene vaccine for H7N9 bird flu virus for humans and has succeeded in primary animal tests, according to officials at an infection



disease research body under the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center. (Source: [Shanghai Daily](#))

Researchers Discover A Novel Role of Oxytocin in Mediating Crossmodal Plasticity During Early Brain Development

During the early postnatal period, natural sensory experience is important for the development of the nervous system. Deprivation in one sense not only reduces responses in the correspondent cortical region, but also crossmodally affects other brain regions. Little is known about the mechanism of crossmodal plasticity during early development. Recently, a research team led from the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, identified a novel form of plasticity in neonatal mice, where early sensory experience crossmodally regulates development of all sensory cortices via oxytocin signaling. The link between sensory experience and oxytocin signaling may be particularly relevant to autism research. (Source: [CAS](#))

Surgery performed using 3D printing technology

A hospital in Guangdong province successfully performed surgery on a patient who suffered from acetabular fractures using 3D printing technology, Southern Metropolis Daily reported on February 13th. The full simulation of the "fracture of acetabulum" was printed out by a 3D printer before the surgery was conducted at the No 3 Hospital Affiliated to Southern Medical University in Guangzhou. The patient surnamed Zhang, 43, who suffered serious fractures in a fall, could sit up the second day after the surgery. It was the first time 3D printing technology has been used in clinical treatment in the southern province. (Source: [China Daily](#))

Transdifferentiation of Lung Adenocarcinoma to Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Lung adenocarcinoma (ADC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) are two major subtypes of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with distinct pathologies, biomarkers, gene expression profilings and the cells of origin. The mixed adenomatous and squamous pathologies with identical genetic mutations, however, has been consistently observed in a single lesion of human NSCLC, suggesting a monoclonality and the potential lineage transition between these subtypes. Researchers at the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, have now provided the first *de novo* evidences supporting the transdifferentiation of lung ADC to SCC in mice through the integrative studies of three animal models followed by molecular and pathological analyses. (Source: [CAS](#))



Roads and Floods Help Plague Spread

Coughs and sneezes may spread diseases, but transport routes and wet climates may help spread the plague. That's the conclusion of a new study by researchers from China and Norway that uses a novel analytical approach to track how a plague epidemic moved across China beginning in the mid-19th century. The results pinpoint which environmental and social factors are most important for plague transmission. This could help scientists refine disease control measures in the future. In the new study, researchers from China and Norway addressed this underexplored issue, armed with detailed Chinese historical records. (Source: [Science Magazine](#))

* * *

Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology

Scientists use their noses to help distinguish between highly prized black truffles and cheap Chinese imports

A team of experts from the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) at Avignon is attempting to establish the "olfactory qualities" of the European truffle. "From the key components of the smell, we should also be able to determine the soil from where the truffle comes," Christian Ginies, head of the INRA research team told Reuters. Over the past century, tree clearance has led to France's production plummeting from 1,600 tons a year to about 40 tons. The Chinese produce about 300 tons, of which 15 tons are exported to France. (Source: [The Guardian](#))

Tibetan Mastiffs Equally Adapted to High Altitudes of Tibet

In a new study, researchers explored the genetic basis of high-altitude adaptation of Tibetan Mastiffs, which were originally domesticated from the Chinese native dogs of the plains. The authors examined genome-wide mutations (called single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs) of 32 Tibetan Mastiffs, and compared them to 20 Chinese native dogs and 14 grey wolves. Overall, they identified more than 120,000 SNPs, and in their analysis, narrowed these down to 16 genes that have undergone positive selection in mastiffs, with 12 of these relevant to high altitude adaption. These candidate genes have been shown to be involved in energy production critical to high-altitude survival under low oxygen conditions. ([Source: Science Daily](#))

Ministry encourages researchers to become agricultural entrepreneurs

Zhang Laiwu, vice-minister of science and technology, explained the ministry's plan to deepen reform of the agricultural sci-tech system and promote rural entrepreneurship at a news conference on February 13th. The ministry has



adopted a series of reforms since 2012, including funds to national seed-industry-related projects, encouraging businesses to breed high-yield and disease-resistant plants. But many of China's breeding companies are still too small to lead the market, and most of the new breeding technologies remain at an experimental stage in universities or research laboratories, with their commercialization taking at least 10 to 15 years. (Source: [China Daily](#))

* * *

Information & communication technologies

Interaction Relationships of Caches in Agent-based HD Video Surveillance Discovered and Utilized

In the study of networked HD video surveillance, various caches embedded in the IP camera, the data management server and the network proxy server are used for lossless video storage and complete playback. And it has been considered as an emerging solution that utilizing the agent technology to achieve effective and collaborative caching in the end-to-end process of video capture, network data transmission and video data management. As a result, in this research, an agent-based collaborative caching model is designed, in which three roles of agents. The agent-based collaborative caching model has two significant contributions. (Source: [CAS](#))

China's IT giants to hedge against Windows XP shutdown

Tencent will join hands with other IT giants to "build a hedge" against potential Internet attacks for Chinese users after Windows XP shutdown on April 8. Tencent, along with Kingsoft, Sogou and other Internet service providers, will give technical assistance for Windows XP users for system upgrades and risk defense, said Ding Ke, a senior manager of Tencent. The companies will start the protection before the shutdown and the "hedge" will continue during a transition period that may last for two to three years or even longer." More than one quarter of China's computers are running the operating system. Microsoft announced earlier that it will stop providing technical assistance for Windows XP after April 8, and computers will still work but they might become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses. (Source: [Global Times](#))

LinkedIn testing Chinese language site

The firm said the move is aimed at offering a more localised service to its users in China. It is expected to boost LinkedIn's growth in China - where rival social networking firms such as Facebook and Twitter continue to remain blocked. LinkedIn's English language site has been available in China for over a decade and it already has four million users in the country. LinkedIn said the Chinese



language site will incorporate features aimed at helping local users drive more value from the service. (Source: [BBC](#))

Chinese Internet firms dig big data gold

Chinese Internet companies have been exploring business opportunities based on big data analytics during the world's largest human migration. The "Baidu Migrate" heat map gathers data from smartphones installed with Baidu Maps or other applications to depict the most popular destinations, points of origin and travel routes throughout the country during the Spring Festival. Baidu's real-time migration map that really manifested the power and scope of big data analytics, especially for business and social management, and the area is now explored by other small and big companies. However there are privacy concerns to big data's use. (Source: [Xinhua](#))

Wideband DOA Estimation Based on Block FOCUSS with Limited Samples

Wideband direction-of-arrival (DOA) estimation has been widely used in various active research areas. As a result, many kinds of algorithms have been proposed to address this problem. Researchers from the Institute of Acoustics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the University of Science and Technology of China, and Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology, CAS propose a novel algorithm. They treat the wideband DOA estimation as a block sparsity reconstruction problem to use the joint sparsity property among different blocks. It is proved that better results can be achieved if block sparsity rather than conventional sense is considered in the recovery of block-sparse signals, since additional structures are ignored in conventional methods. (Source: [CAS](#))

* * *

Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies

Design and Assembly the Lithium Sulfur Batteries with High Energy Density

Sulfur as a cathode material can react with lithium to form Li_2S with a two-electron reaction process. Sulfur is also inexpensive, abundant and non-toxic. Therefore, Li-S batteries are considered as promising next-generation high-energy batteries. However, the practical application of Li-S batteries is greatly hampered by low electrical conductivities of sulfur, highly soluble polysulfides in electrolyte and a volume change (80%) between sulfur and Li_2S during charge/discharge due to the different densities of sulfur and Li_2S . However, a research group at Shenyang's National Laboratory for Materials Science,



Chinese Academy of Sciences designed and developed a series of high-performance carbon-sulfur composite cathode materials at nano-scale, which effectively improve the electrical conductivity and restrict the polysulfide dissolution. (Source: [CAS](#))

Researchers Illustrated the Morphology, Structure and Optical Properties of 3D Bi₂O₃ Hierarchical Architectures

Bi₂O₃ is an extremely attractive material due to its unique features of large band gap, high dielectric permittivity, high refractive index, as well as marked photoluminescence and photo-conductivity, which have made it suitable for a wide range of applications such as gas sensors, optical coatings, capacitors, catalysts, photovoltaic cells, fuel cells and microwave integrated circuits. Up to now, there are only a few reports on the synthesis of 3D Bi₂O₃ hierarchical architectures. Therefore, researchers illustrated a facile approach of fabricating them by using thermal oxidation in the air. Such unique architectures are expected to be utilized as next generation of nano-scale devices, such as sensors, optics and electronics. (Source: [CAS](#))

* * *

Environment (including climate change)

China to build 'world's largest' smog chamber to solve pollution puzzle

The central government has approved the construction of a facility that creates artificial smog to allow scientists to devise new ways to reduce air pollution. Plans for the so-called "smog chamber" were apparently fast-tracked as the country continued to choke under heavy smog. The proposed Huairou complex will rival the world's largest atmospheric simulation facility, the European Photoreactor, Euphore. Professor He Hong, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the lead scientist of the project, said that when completed the Huairou smog chamber would be the largest in the world. The Chinese chamber will be able to use 600 cubic metres of polluted air for tests - exceeding Euphore's capacity by 50 per cent. (Source: [SCMP](#))

China smog threatens agriculture with nuclear-fallout conditions, warn scientists

Smog in China could block light as effectively as a nuclear fallout and will bring disaster to agricultural production, mainland scientists warned. Already, the choking air conditions – which blanketed one-quarter of the mainland's land area – have had detrimental effects on agriculture. He Dongxian, an associate professor with China Agricultural University, said that the school conducted an



experiment in Beijing on smog's effect on plants over the last few months and observed a drastic slowdown in photosynthesis. Applied on a larger scale, such slowdowns could spell trouble for China's agriculture, which contributes some 10 per cent to its GDP. (Source: [SCMP](#))

Forest Fragments Important for Tropical Tree Species Maintenance

Deforestation and associated forest fragmentation are main drivers of species loss across the tropics. Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) conducted a study to test the importance of the spatial distribution of remaining forest fragments, relative to other fragmentation effects, on tree species diversity, composition and rarity patterns within a tropical landscape converted to rubber plantations in Xishuangbanna at the very south of Yunnan Province. (Source: [CAS](#))

* * *

Energy

China-made longest undersea cable laid in Zhoushan

The Zhoushan project is the first five-terminal VSC-HVDC transmission project in the world and the total transmission distance is 141 kilometers. It is invested by State Grid Company of Zhejiang province for the DC power connection between the mainland and the Zhoushan islands. The whole project is expected to complete and go into production in June 2014. (Source: [People's Daily](#))

New technology helps find over 800 m tons of oil

The deep oil exploration technology developed by Shaanxi Yanchang Petroleum Group has helped discover 831 million metric tons in new oil reserves in Shaanxi province's Yanchang oilfield. The technology helped discover new oil reserves in an oilfield that has been mined for more than 100 years. Yanchang oilfield is located in the Ordos Basin that lies in northern Shaanxi and neighboring Inner Mongolia autonomous region. (Source: [China Daily](#))

China robot studies SW Indian Ocean seabed

China has used a domestically made underwater robot to study polymetallic sulfide in the southwest Indian Ocean, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said on February 13th. Scientists aboard the "Dayang-1" oceanic research vessel found sulfide in more areas of China's exploration contract area, and gained new understanding of the characteristics of the carbonate area. This detailed information is important for China's future research in the polymetallic sulfide exploration contract area, the SOA said. The hydrothermal sulfide is a



kind of sea-bed deposit containing copper, zinc and precious metals such as gold and silver. (Source: [Xinhua](#))

* * *

Transport (including aeronautics)

Electric Car Charging Stations Powering Down

Major obstacles, including battery-charging station woes, stand in the way of China's push to put more electric cars on the road. Charging stations have fallen silent due to weak demand for electric cars, a lack of technical standards, utility-car company disagreements and other hurdles that seem to run contrary to the government's "new energy" policy initiatives. Some experts say consumers are not necessarily against electric cars, but that they simply can't fathom buying one without an adequate, roadside system for recharging batteries – a system for which power utilities and local governments have been responsible. (Source: [Caixin](#))

China plans the world's longest undersea tunnel

At more than twice the length of the Channel Tunnel, China's latest mega project is not short of ambition. A 76-mile-long tunnel will run between Dalian and Yantai on the east coast. "Work could begin as early as 2015 or 2016," said Wang Mengshu, an expert at the Chinese academy of Engineering. He added that the new tunnel will knock 800 miles off the current route between the two cities. It will also form a vital link in a high-speed rail line from China's frozen north to the tropical island of Hainan, in the south. (Source: [The Telegraph](#))

Hefei to Make New Energy-Powered Driverless Cars

Hefei Institute of Physical Science, an Anhui-based research institute under Chinese Academy of Sciences, announced on February 25th it will work with a domestic car producer to make unmanned new-energy vehicles. The move is viewed as high-level cooperation between a government-funded new-energy research organization and an auto maker. (Source: [CAS](#))

New advanced tram tested in East China

An advanced prototype tram was presented for tests in East China's Shandong province. The tram has a maximum speed of 70 km per hour and can carry over 300 passengers when it consists of three carriages. Public transportation is a government priority especially in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, notorious for congestion. Currently, trams run in Shanghai, Tianjin, Dalian, Shenyang and Changchun, with a total track length of only 96.6 km. More than 200 trolley car



lines nationwide are planned with a total length of 4,000 km. (Source: [China Daily](#))

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Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology

Large numbers of ancient coins excavated in Inner Mongolia

Archaeologists in Inner Mongolia autonomous region have discovered a coin casting workshop and more than 1.4 million ancient coins dating back to the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24) in an ancient city in Ordos, according to Inner Mongolia Institute of Archaeology. (Source: [People's Daily](#))

Largest ritual site unearthed on Loess Plateau

Remains of a 4,200 square meter building on a hilltop in northwest China's Shaanxi Province are the largest Shang Dynasty (1600 BC - 1046 BC) ritual site on the Loess Plateau. Located in Xinzhuang, Qingjian County on the west bank of the Yellow River, the late Shang site covers up to 100,000 square meters. A team led by Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archeology began the excavation work in April, 2013. Over a hundred artifacts made of clay, bones, copper, wood and stone, have been unearthed (Source: [Global Times](#))

When Did Feathered Dinosaurs Become Birds

Detailed analyses of Chinese fossils may have isolated the point on the reptile family tree where feathered dinosaurs began evolving into warm-blooded birds. In a new study, researchers looked at tiny pigment bodies known as melanosomes in the skin, hair, and feathers of 181 modern species (including mammals, birds, and several types of reptiles) and in the fossils of 13 species that lived in what is now China between 120 million and 160 million years ago (including lizards, turtles, dinosaurs, and winged reptiles known as pterosaurs). They found out that in the lineage leading to birds, the observed increase in the diversity of melanosome morphologies appears abruptly, near the origin of pinnate feathers in maniraptoran dinosaurs. (Source: [Nature](#))

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Space

China's lunar rover comes back to life

China's moon rover Yutu has waken up from a troubled dormancy although experts are still trying to figure out the cause of its abnormality, a spokesman with the country's lunar probe program Pei Zhaoyu said on February 13. Pei said the moon rover has now been restored to its normal signal reception function. But experts are still working to verify the causes of its mechanical control abnormality. (Source: China Daily)

Chang'e-3 lander enters third dormancy

The Chang'e-3 lander entered its third dormancy on early Feb. 23, 2014. China's lunar rover Yutu also entered the dormancy on Feb. 22, with the mechanical control issues that might cripple the vehicle still unresolved. According to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND), Yutu only carried out fixed point observations during its third lunar day, equivalent to about two weeks on Earth. Yutu's radar, panorama camera and infrared imaging equipment are functioning normally. (Source: Shanghai Daily)

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People & Higher Education

Studying abroad backfires for some Chinese

"Mandarin is the only language we use in class. There is no need to speak English," says Zhao Jun, 22, from north China's Hebei Province who came to study at Department of Statistics at Columbia University. Chinese students are coming to US universities in such numbers that they tend to dominate certain university departments. As a consequence, they are inadvertently robbed of the very cultural experience they hope to gain through foreign study. (Source: [Shanghai Daily](#))

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Research infrastructures

China opens 4th Antarctic research base

China has opened a fourth Antarctic research base, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said in Beijing on February 8th. Taishan station is between Zhongshan and Kunlun stations, and the yearly average temperature there is about minus 36.6 degrees Celsius. The station measures 1,000 square meters with its main building 410 square meters. It can accommodate up to 20 people during the Antarctic summer and is equipped with a runway for fixed-wing aircraft, specially designed for snow and ice. China has established four research centers on the continent since 1985 -- Great Wall, Zhongshan, Kunlun and, now, Taishan. (Source: [China Daily](#))

Better collider planned to hunt 'God particle'

Chinese scientists are planning to build a better electron-positron collider, the latest effort in exploring the Higgs boson, or "God particle," a Chinese research body said on 25th February. The machine is aimed at accurately measuring the nature of the Higgs particle and exploring the regularity of fundamental physics, according to a symposium held by the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The hunt for the Higgs boson has been a focus of particle physics research for decades. Scientists believe the particle does exist and its discovery is merely a matter of time. (Source: [China Daily](#))

China Builds Mammoth Detector to Probe Mysteries of Neutrino Mass

After neutrinos were hypothesized in 1930, it took physicists 67 years to prove that these elusive particles—which zip through our bodies by the trillions each second—have mass at all. Now, a Chinese-led team is planning a mammoth neutrino detector, meant to capture enough neutrinos from nearby nuclear reactors to determine which of the three known types, or flavors, of neutrinos are heavier or lighter. Last month, scientists gathered in Jiangmen, in China's southern Guangdong province, to review plans for the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) which China aims to complete by 2019. (Source: [CAS](#))

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International S&T relations

China's Antarctic explorations peacefully intended, cooperative

The opening of China's fourth Antarctic research base is yet another step forward in the country's ambitious plan to study Antarctica, and further



contributes to the peaceful use of this icy continent. The Taishan station, located between China's two existing Zhongshan and Kunlun stations at an altitude of 2,600 meters, will most certainly bring new opportunities for international cooperation in Antarctic research. With 95 percent of its land covered by snow and ice, Antarctica holds huge mineral resources and the surrounding seas are full of bio-resources under its continental shelf. (Source: [China Daily](#))

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