

**EURAXESS Korea
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EURAXESS –
Researchers in Motion
is an initiative of the European
Research Area (ERA) that
addresses barriers to the
mobility of researchers and
seeks to enhance their career
development.

This pan-European effort is
currently supported by over 40
countries, of which we will
profile one in each of our
quarterly EURAXESS Korea
newsletters. In this edition, we
will zoom in on Israel

EURAXESS Members in Focus: Israel

1.1 Introduction

Israel is a country in Western Asia, located on the south-eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. The country contains within its relatively small area. Israel's economic and technological centre is Tel Aviv, while the seat of government and capital is Jerusalem. The State of Israel currently has a population of approximately 9.1 million inhabitants.

Due to its immigrant nature, Israel is one of the most multicultural and multilingual societies in the world. Hebrew is the official language of the country, and Arabic is given special status, while English and Russian are the two most widely spoken non-official languages. A certain degree of English is widely spoken and is the language of choice for many Israeli businesses. Today Israel is an industrialized country with most of its manufacturing, including many traditional fields, based on intensive and sophisticated research & development and hi-tech processes, tools, and machinery. This is the outcome of very rapid and intensive development.



Hi-tech companies in areas ranging from software to biotechnology and cyber-security are a major driver of growth in the country's economy. Many leading international technology firms have opened research and development centres in Israel. In the last few years, out of the members of the OECD, Israel has spent the highest percentage of its GDP towards R&D, and in 2019 was ranked the world's fifth most innovative country by the Bloomberg Innovation Index.

Israel has a long tradition of academic excellence, boasting world class universities, colleges and research institutions. Israeli higher education institutions provide a diversity of academic programs in English for international students at the Bachelor and Master's degree level ranging from short-term courses to full degree programs. Israeli Institutions also welcome international students and researchers for PhD and Post-Doctoral research who collaborate with leading researchers in their fields.



Country size: 22.072 sq.km

Population: 8,798,000 (2018);
9,092,000 (2019)

Language: Hebrew, Arabic

Capital: Jerusalem

Median Age: 30.2

Currency: New Israeli Shekel

Economy:

GDP Per Capita: 40.270,25
USD (2017)

Unemployment rate: 3.7%
(2019)

All based on:

https://www.cbs.gov.il/he/publications/DocLib/isr_in_n/isr_in_n18e.pdf



1.2 Facts and Figures

Universities in Israel

Education is highly valued within the national culture of Israel, and its higher education sector has been praised for helping to encourage the country's economic development and recent technological boom. The high quality of Israel's higher education system was also recognized in the QS Higher Education System Strength Rankings, published for the first time in 2016, in which it ranks as the world's 28th strongest national system.

Israel has 62 institutions for higher education (recognised by the Council for Higher Education), comprised of universities and other higher education institutions, both private and government funded. These institutions teach 262,591 students for all academic degrees.

There are nine universities in Israel, as well as many higher education colleges; the main difference is that the universities offer degrees all the way up to the doctorate level. Courses are often taught in Hebrew, but many leading Israeli universities also offer English-taught programs. Six of Israel's nine universities were featured in the QS World University Rankings® 2018.

Israel is especially recognised for research in the fields of:

- **Science and Engineering:** Israel is a world leader in science and engineering. Israeli scientists have won 4 Nobel Prizes in chemistry, 3 Turing Awards (computer science) and 1 Fields Medal (mathematics). Israel ranks 7th globally in the number of citations per scientific publication and is particularly strong in fields such as computer science, engineering, chemistry, and life sciences.
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Leading companies from around the world chose to open R&D centres in Israel and some programs include opportunities to undertake internships in top companies from around the world, giving students the opportunity to 'advance your career' development.
- **Agriculture and Sustainability:** Israel's challenging environment and lack of natural resources has led it to become a kind of agricultural "incubator" of ideas, developing new kinds of plants as well as revolutionary agricultural technologies. Drip irrigation technology is one famous example of Israel's success in this field.
- **Art, Design & Music:** Areas of study include a range of arts-related fields including fine arts, fashion and jewellery, photography, industrial and urban design, and traditional and contemporary music. Many programs offer innovative and multidisciplinary elements, allowing you to develop your own particular interests.
- **Israel and Mideastern studies:** Higher education institutions in Israel offer a range of programs from ancient to contemporary studies of Israel and Middle Eastern states, to Hebrew and Arabic language. Israel

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This country briefing was created by [EURAXESS BHO Israel](#). Focuses on other EU countries are available [here](#).



offers an unparalleled opportunity to acquire an in-depth understanding of its and the region's political, social and economic dimensions

- **Jewish studies:** Studying in Israel gives students the opportunity to work with leading scholars in this field and to immerse themselves in both ancient and contemporary Judaism.

Innovation and Excellence

For those interested in innovation and technology, Israel is the place for you! Israel is the land of innovation, also known as the “Start-Up Nation”. It is a hotbed of hi-tech activity, with the world’s highest investment per capita in start-up companies. Israel was ranked the 3rd most innovative country in the world (World Economic Forum Global Competitive Index). Studying in Israel gives you the opportunity to experience and participate in Israel's vibrant start-up culture and eco-system.

Israel's Technion Institute of Technology has been rated no. 77 in the Shanghai Academic Rating of World Universities (2018), and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 95th place (2018).

Patents: Israel has seen a steady rise in patent applications over the years. Between 2014 to 2018 the number of applications has risen by 17.37% to 7,363 patent applications in 2018.

[Learn more about Study and Research in Israel.](#)

1.3 Funding Opportunities

Israel supports its R&D through many grants and scholarships; in 2018, the Ministry of Science and Technology signed 356 new engagement agreements to fund research, scholarships and Scientific Knowledge centres that include a program for Scientific Infrastructure Development and a program for Applied Engineering Research. In 2018 the total budget allocated for research, scholarships and knowledge centres was 147 million NIS. [Applying to study in Israel only takes 3 Steps:](#) 1) Search for a program; 2) Complete the forms; 3) Get a visa. Israeli higher education [tuition fees](#) are competitive on an international scale and tuition fees for PhD degrees are generally waived by the host institution.

Bilateral and international cooperation: As of 2019 Israel has 38 ongoing bilateral agreements with 29 countries all around the globe. Today there are significant collaborations through bilateral and multilateral agreements between institutions and organizations that include joint research funds, projects, exchange of researchers and faculty, and more. Israel's key collaborations today include: US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF), German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF), Israel-China Research Foundation (ISF-NSFC), Israel-India Research Foundation (ISF-UGC), and Israel-Singapore Research

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Foundation (ISF-NRF). Promoting Israel's international research relations is one of the key objectives in transforming Israel's higher education system to a high quality and competitive international level. The Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology helps organize and fund International Conferences, Bi-national conferences, Young Scientists Schools, the COST program, and offers assistance with international conferences in Israel. Israel is also an active member in several international organizations and programs such as CERN, Horizon 2020, EMBL, EMBC, GSF, SESAME, ICDP and more.

In the academic year of 2019-2020 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel has funded scholarships for foreign students following cultural agreements, and special scholarship arrangements. [The PBC Fellowship Program for Outstanding Chinese and Indian Post-doctoral Fellows– 2020/2021](#) is one of the specific programs of the Israel Council of Higher Education (CHE). A scientific and technological collaboration agreement between the science ministries of India and Israel was signed in 1993; and since that time, more than 60 research studies have been conducted in a variety of fields: agricultural biotechnology, medical biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, electro-optics and lasers. The collaboration is conducted by publishing joint calls for proposals. In recent years, joint studies have been conducted in the fields of energy engineering, agricultural and medical biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, etc.

1.4 MSCA in Israel

Experienced researchers willing to move to Israel can apply for an Individual Fellowship (IF) of the Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions (MSCA), irrespective of their country of origin. Since 2014, forty researchers from various countries (including Italy, India, Portugal, China, Germany and others) have come to Israeli organisations as part of the Individual Fellowship (IF) program. Eighty-seven other researchers came to Israeli as part of the RISE and ITN programs.

Israel is a very active member of Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions, with hundreds of collaborative links with countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and France. The success rate of Israeli applicants is 15.7%, which is higher than the European average rate (12.66%).

1.5 EURAXESS Israel

Six academic institutions are currently members of the Israeli forum of EURAXESS: Technion Institute of Technology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University, Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University. IP&D is an SME which serves as the EURAXESS

Centre for Industry and as an organisation representing EURAXESS' Bridge Head Organisation in Israel on behalf of the Ministry of Science.

EURAXESS Activity in Israel:

- Continuous contact throughout the year on issues relating to international researchers and the promotion of national policy on the subject;
- Participation in EU training and management meetings for the network;
- Organising conferences and study visits in Israel in accordance with network activities;
- Conduct two meetings a year on forum topics;
- Additional hosting and collaboration activities within Europe and biennial conferences of the entire network;
- Continuous activity of the European and Israeli portal, which includes information for mobile researchers in all countries as well as the publication of relevant positions for researchers.

1.6 Israel as a destination

Israel's higher education institutions are known worldwide for their academic excellence, and many institutions offer programs in English, providing a unique international learning environment designed for students to learn and succeed. But there are a number of other reasons that Israel is an attractive destination for study and research. Israel, the land of innovation, also known as the "Start-Up Nation", is the place to be for innovation and technology. It is a hotbed of hi-tech activity, with the world's highest investment per capita in start-up companies. Israel was ranked the 3rd most innovative country in the world (World Economic Forum Global Competitive Index). Studying in Israel offers you the opportunity to experience and participate in Israel's vibrant start-up culture and ecosystem.

Whether you live on campus or off, in or out of the city, there's more to studying in Israel than just hitting the books. Israel has a vibrant student social scene with the opportunity to make life-long friendships with Israelis and other students from all over the world. You will also find yourself at the heart of a diverse, dynamic and constantly developing culture, with over 4,000 years of history, which have incorporated many different cultural influences. Whether it's food, history, art or music, you will have many opportunities to immerse yourself in Israel's fascinating culture throughout your studies. You can experience world-famous historical sites, float in the Dead Sea, go hiking in the beautiful Sea of Galilee region or the Negev Desert, marvel at the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa or enjoy a sunset on Tel Aviv beach.

Hot topic: Doctoral training in Europe

2.1 About Doctoral education

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

a) young researchers who proved their skills for a professional life as "creative, critical and autonomous intellectual risk takers", and "those who go into roles beyond research and education, in the public, charitable and private sectors, where deep rigorous analysis is required.", as pointed out by the League of European Research Universities (LERU), "as well as

b) the research output in the form of a doctoral thesis that contributes to the development of world science and the innovation system."

2.2 Background

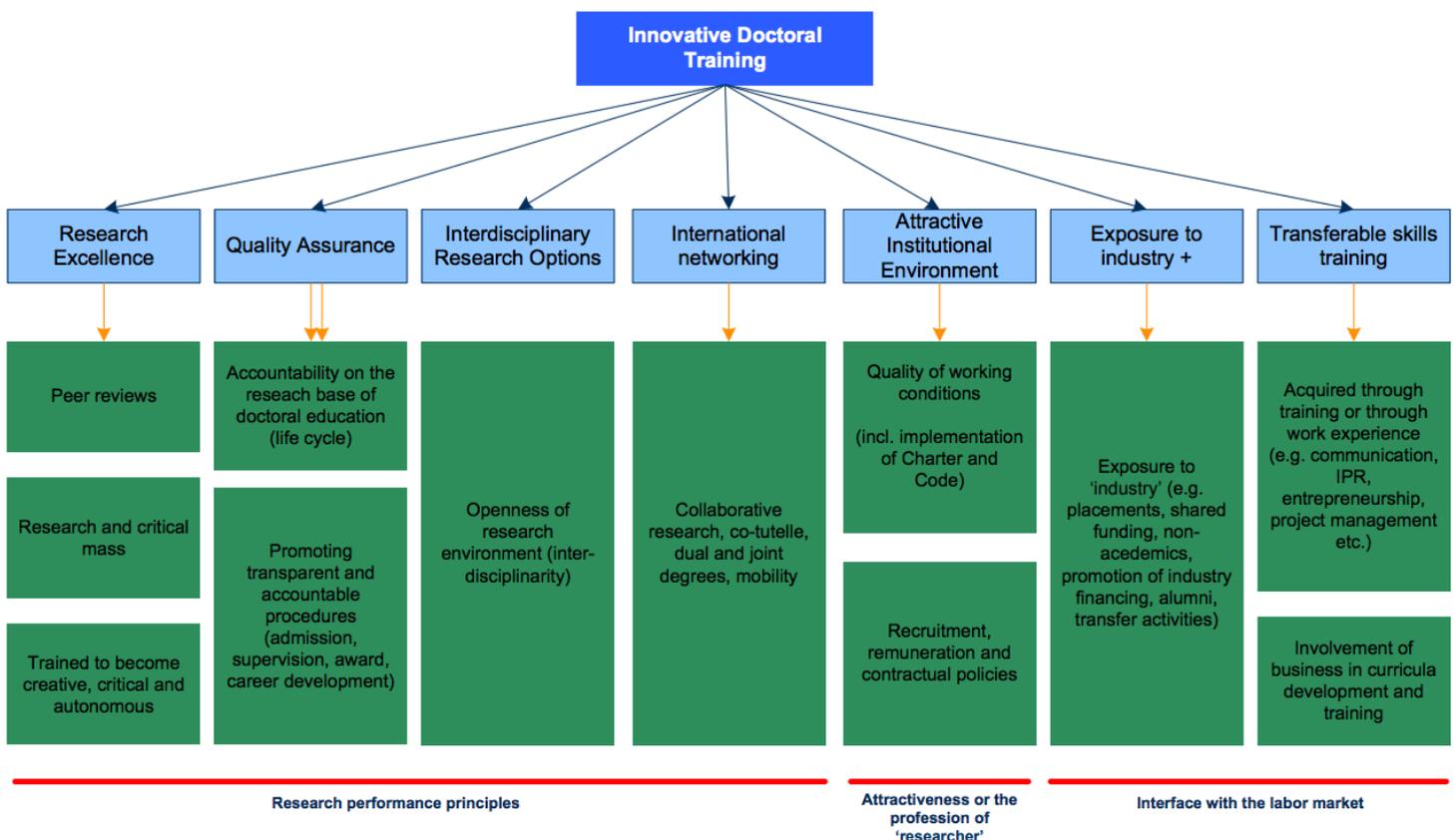
In its Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach" in 2011, the European Commission (EC) aimed at "shaping the future of doctoral training in the context of the Innovation Union policy. [...] Doctoral training is a primary progenitor of new knowledge, which is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

Several initiatives have been taken to identify and promote good practice in doctoral training, most notably [...] by the European University Association (EUA). "In the framework of the Bologna process, the European University Association (EUA) launched in 2005, after extensive consultation through a structured bottom-up process, Conclusions and Recommendations on Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society, better known as "Salzburg Principles". These principles were confirmed and enriched, in 2010, in the Salzburg II Recommendations."

2.3 Seven Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training

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

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



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

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

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

2.4 A diversified European higher education system

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

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

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

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

2.5 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and innovative doctoral training

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a European Commission research fellowship programme. It is funded under the framework programme for research and innovation [Horizon 2020](#). Under MSCA structured research and training programmes are based on [the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#) (European Commission, 2011).

About Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

ITN is the **main European doctoral training programme**. The objective of the MSCA ITNs is to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefits. The projects funded will allow structuring and raising doctoral training at European level by providing researchers with enhanced career perspectives both in the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set. Innovative training networks bring together universities, research institutes and other sectors **from different countries worldwide**. The maximum duration of an ITN project is **4 years**. **All research areas** can be funded.

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

1. **European Training Networks (ETN)**

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

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

2. **European Industrial Doctorates (EID)**

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

The aim is for the doctoral candidates to develop skills inside and outside academia that respond to public and private sector needs. The organisations should be established in at least two different EU or associated countries. A wider set of partner organisations from anywhere in the world may also complement the training.

3. **European Joint Doctorates (EJD):**

A minimum of 3 academic organisations form a network with the aim of delivering joint, double or multiple degrees. Joint supervision of the research fellow and a joint governance structure are mandatory. The aim is to promote international, inter-sectorial and multi/interdisciplinary collaboration in doctoral training in Europe. The organisations should be from different EU or associated countries. The participation of additional organisations from anywhere in the world, including from the non-academic sector, is encouraged.

ITN calls and positions

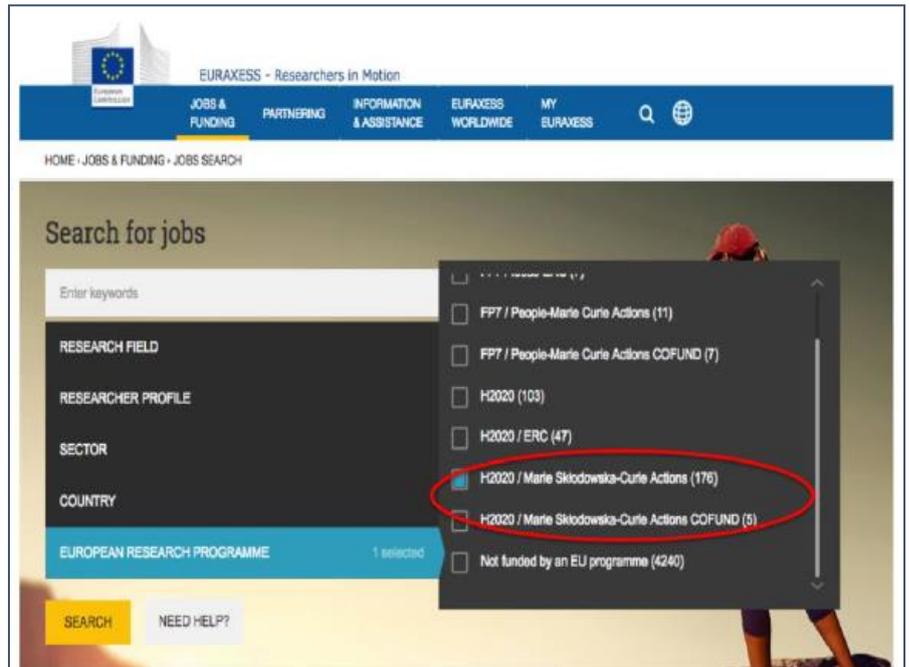
ITN annual calls are **open to consortia of organisations** such as universities, research centres or companies, that propose a research training network, including **Latin American and Caribbean institutions**. Check MSCA calls 2019 calendar [here](#) to know when the annual call will be announced and read the [guide for applicants](#) for more details. Please note, that the call is **not open to individual researchers/students**. => **Korean researchers** interested in high quality doctoral-level training in and outside academia can apply to the PhD positions created by these networks. They are advertised on [the EURAXESS Job portal](#) and many will be published in the coming months to start your PhD in September 2020.

Sources:

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

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

PhD in Europe (ITN/Cofund) open on EURAXESS Job Portal



EU Insight – EU’s New Commissioner for Research

Bulgarian political scientist **Mariya Gabriel** has been nominated as the European Union’s next commissioner for research — but, for the first time in the bloc’s history, the name of her department will not include that word.

Sources:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02728-9>
<https://era.gv.at/object/news/4915>
<https://news-techno.com/2019/11/29/european-commissioner-gabriel-brain-drain-is-a-huge-challenge-europe-dw/>
<https://sciencebusiness.net/frametwork-programmes/news/clamour-new-commission-change-name-innovation-and-youth-portfolio>
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/09/eu-research-commissioner-named-lacks-research-her-title>



Mariya Gabriel has been named as the European commissioner to oversee research in a sprawling portfolio. photo credit: European Commission

Gabriel, will lead the European Commission’s newly named — and expanded — Directorate General for Innovation and Youth. The policy department, previously titled Research and Innovation, will now oversee not just research and innovation, but also education, youth affairs and sport.

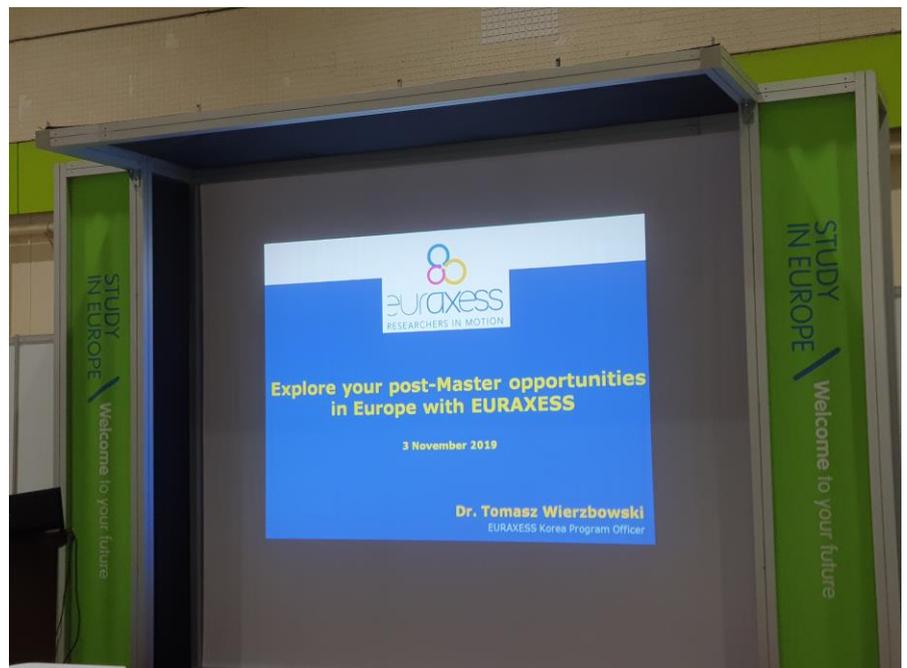
The first item on Gabriel’s to-do list, laid out in European Commission President - Ursula von der Leyen’s mission letter, is the implementation of Horizon Europe, the next 7-year program for research and innovation, which will begin in 2021. The program’s budget now stands at €94 billion, but EU member states and the European Parliament must approve it.

As part of Horizon Europe, von der Leyen’s letter asks Gabriel to “ensure sufficient investment flows to disruptive research and breakthrough innovations, notably through the European Innovation Council [EIC].” Moedas’s brainchild, the EIC provides grants and equity funding for entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists, and is now in a pilot phase. The letter doesn’t mention the European Research Council, a funding agency for basic research with a budget of €13.1 billion for the current 7-year period.

Gabriel will bring to the job years of experience within EU institutions. She has degrees in French language and political science and had been a member of the European Parliament since 2009 before becoming European commissioner for the digital economy and society in 2017.

EURAXESS Korea Activities Update

On November 3, the EURAXESS team explored post-Master opportunities in Europe for graduate students at Study Abroad event, held on 2-3 November in Coex, downtown Seoul. Study Abroad Fair is the biggest study abroad fair in Korea, organised by Korea Trade Fairs LTD. More than 500 exhibitors and over 40,000 visitors participated in the event held biannually. The fair was open to public: students, parents, teachers and anyone in the education field.



Approximately a dozen of graduate students participated in EURAXESS presentation which was followed by a vivid Q&A session.