



EURAXESS Newsletter #7 December 2023

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KEY FIGURE OF THE MONTH

Between January and December 2023, the Euraxess Service Centre prepared **380 hosting and research stay agreements for researchers** to obtain their visa and residence permit. In the same time, **85 researchers** visited our office to get more information about their stay.



SEPTEMBER - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

In response to the increased interest of the European Commission for researchers' career development, Euraxess Strasbourg is expanding its services with **the development of professional support**. **Cassandra Devos** joined our team as the new project officer in September 2023. Her mission is to develop a programme designed to **support professional growth and skill enhancement** to provide assistance to the researchers of the University of Strasbourg in planning and advancing their careers. This project is supported by funding from the University of Strasbourg's *IdEx – L'Excellence au-delà des frontières*.

OCTOBER - WELCOME EVENT FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

Euraxess Strasbourg hosted its **Welcome Event** for international researchers **on the 27th of October** at the International University House. On this occasion, researchers and staff from the University of Strasbourg were able to discuss and exchange over drinks and snacks. After opening speeches of the **President of the University**, Prof. Michel Deneken, and **the Vice-President of Research, doctoral training and open science**, Prof. Rémi Barillon, ten lucky participants received vouchers for the Jardin des Sciences' planetarium. Thanks to all who made this event a success! We hope to see you next year and stay tuned for more upcoming events.



Photo credit: Euraxess Strasbourg

OCTOBER - ENHANCING SUPPORT IN ACCOMMODATION SEARCH



Since September, Euraxess Strasbourg has joined the **Euraxess France work group** focusing on **accommodation**. Monthly meetings aim to **support international researchers** in their **housing queries in France**. On the 12th of October, the accommodation-focused work group conducted a **nationwide webinar for all Euraxess centres**. Topics included **rental contracts, guarantors**, and involving labs to **ease researchers' housing search**. This initiative bolsters our ability to offer stronger support to Strasbourg's international researchers seeking accommodation.

NOVEMBER - THE CAMPUS FRANCE DAYS



Photo credit: Euraxess Strasbourg

Strasbourg's Euraxess Centre participated in the '**Rencontres Campus France**' on the 14th and 15th of October in Paris, focusing on **promoting French higher education and research**. The event covered various topics including researchers' **visas**, enhancing **the appeal of doctoral studies**, promoting France's research excellence, supporting international **cooperation** while safeguarding **scientific assets**, and **making research activities attractive to women**. Engaging with colleagues from other universities and representatives from French consulates, we gathered **valuable insights and contacts** to improve **services** for our international researchers. Presentations from ministries further deepened our understanding of welcoming international students and researchers. These **enriching** days will inform Euraxess Strasbourg's initiatives in the coming months.

Everyday life practical information

WINTER BANK HOLIDAYS

The winter break is coming up: Please note that Unistra will be closed from **the 23rd of December to the 7th of January included**. The Euraxess Centre will start its break **on December 22nd**, so please be sure to plan ahead for any inquiries. **In Alsace, the 25th and the 26th of December, as well as the 1st of January**, are public holidays. Expect **shop closures between Christmas and New Year's** due to a break for Strasbourg's shopkeepers after the bustling Christmas Market. **Enjoy your end-of-the-year break!**



Don't miss it : EURAXESS agenda

JANUARY 17th - NEXT INFO' SESSION

On the 17th of January 2024, we will be back with our traditional **Info' session** format, which includes a presentation on various aspects of your arrival and stay in Strasbourg: **residence permit application, health insurance affiliation, French language courses**, and becoming familiar with some **French customs**. While this presentation is mostly intended for newcomers, if you are still unclear on some of the administrative procedures you have to go through, feel free to join!



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

We organised an outing to Strasbourg's **Christmas Market** on the **6th of December**, followed by a **Christmas party** on the **12th of December**. These events provided a great opportunity to experience Christmas in France and Alsace, and share holiday season celebrations from your home country. A new visit to the **5e Lieu** ("The Fifth Place", an interactive museum about Strasbourg's history and urbanism) will be organised in February. More information will be provided for future cultural activities in the beginning of the new year. **Keep posted!**



Photo credit: Aynur Naghizade

EURAXESS STRASBOURG CAREER WORKSHOPS

We will pursue the organisation of career workshops between January and June 2024. The first workshop, titled "**Working in a multicultural environment : the keys to success**", will be held **online** and in English **on the 18th of January 2024** from 12:15 to 1:45pm. Our speaker for this session will be Delphine Macquet, an Executive & Business coach at CrossRoads Intelligence. The aim is to learn to **successfully collaborate in a multicultural team, understand the French decision-making system, and work in a cross-cultural context**. This workshop is open to all researchers upon registration: the link will be shared with you soon. **More workshops will be scheduled until June 2024!** Save the date and stay tuned for updates.

SPRING FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

The Euraxess Centre and the International Relations Office will organise their **Spring French courses** for international students and researchers **from the 19th of February to the 31st of May**. The French classes will take place **twice a week** (4 hours a week). It is a great chance not only to learn or improve your French, but also to meet other students or researchers while sharing your experiences. The course is also open to your spouses! Registration fee: 240 €

To register and pay, please fill in the form via this link:

<https://unistra.moveonfr.com/locallogin/6540c5e7fd2c5f9fd30f18f9/eng>

Registration and payment deadline: **February 5th 2024**.

For any further information, please contact dri-short-programs@unistra.fr

2024 TAX RETURN WORKSHOP

In Spring 2024, we will organise a Tax Return Workshop **in collaboration with the Strasbourg Tax Office** to guide you through the process of completing your first tax return. As in April 2023, this workshop will provide **general information** about tax return for international researchers, according to your status (fellowship, contract, ...), as well as **personal advice**.

The Euraxess Tip

THE SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY PACKAGE



Did you know that you can get an **allowance for coming to work by bike**? If you have a **work contract with the Unistra** and you often come to work by bike, you are eligible to the "**Forfait mobilités durables**" (sustainable mobility package). Depending on the amount of days you used your bike to come to work, you can get **up to 300 euros per year**. This allowance can also be combined with your Vel'Hop subscription if you have one.

Apply for this allowance until the 31st of December, and find all the information on <https://ernest.unistra.fr/>

If you are a CNRS or INSERM employee, chances are you are eligible to a similar allowance: enquire with your HR manager!

A researcher in the spotlight

From Ngaoundéré to Strasbourg:

The career story of Yaouba SOUAIBOU

Holder of a Master's Degree from the **University of Ngaoundéré**, in northern **Cameroon**, Yaouba served as a temporary teaching and research assistant for three years between 2011 and 2014 at this university. Aspiring to work in higher education, Yaouba decided to enrol in a doctoral program at the **University of Nairobi in Kenya** in 2014, and was granted a doctoral fellowship funded by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme (Afimegq Doctoral fellowship). During his PhD programme, he was invited for **research stays at Göteborg University in Sweden and TU Dortmund University** in 2017 and 2018. He successfully defended his PhD thesis in **natural product chemistry** in December 2018. He then obtained his first **post-doctoral fellowship** in France, funded by the **"Impact Biomolecules"** project of Lorraine Université d'excellence - LUE, at the microbiology labo-



Photo credit: Yaouba Souaibou

ratory (DynAMic) of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the **University of Lorraine** from 2019 to 2020. In that position, he focused on **antibiotics derived from bacteria**, and obtained the qualification to apply to tenured lecturer-researcher positions. However, seeking more experience in **medicinal chemistry**, Yaouba, through the network of teacher-researchers at the University of Lorraine, secured a **second post-doctorate** at **McGill University in Montreal, Canada**, from 2021 to 2022. Subsequently, he pursued a **third post-doctorate** oriented on biotechnology in the same country at the **University of Quebec in Trois-Rivières** until May 2023. Since September, he is a **tenured lecturer-researcher (Maître de Conférences)** in **pharmacognosy** at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the **University of Strasbourg**. This position allows him to combine both teaching and research, while establishing stability in France and expecting his wife to join him. In the near future, Yaouba aims to receive further training in European and international research projects to be able to coordinate scientific research projects.


Did you know?

THE STRASBOURG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Strasbourg Christmas Market, known as the *Christkindelsmärik*, has been a festive tradition for over 450 years since its establishment in 1570. Evolving from a local market to an internationally acclaimed attraction, it stands as **one of Europe's oldest markets**. Rooted in Alsatian culture, it showcases local artisans offering intricate crafts, exquisite glassware, and fine textiles. Visitors can savor Alsatian specialties like *flammekueche* and spiced mulled wine, contributing to the market's enchanting Christmas aroma. With its deep historical roots, Alsatian traditions, and over 300 stalls, including themed sections and a magnificent Christmas tree, the Strasbourg Christmas Market is often hailed as Europe's finest, affirming Strasbourg's title as the European capital of Christmas. We also recommend you explore **the Marché Off**. This extension of the Christmas market features various local artisanal stalls, street performances, and offers a unique perspective on the festive season. It is often seen as "the real Christmas market for Strasbourg's inhabitants", as opposed to the more touristic side of the main Market. Find all the info (in English) on <https://noel.strasbourg.eu/en/accueil>



Photo credit: Euraxess Strasbourg

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