



## **The EURAXESS Network's role in supporting the H2020 SME Innovation Associate Programme**

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The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) runs a new initiative to help European SMEs recruit post-doctoral researchers from other countries to explore a business innovation idea.

Because we are targeting both SMEs and Researchers, we expect that the EURAXESS members may receive questions about this project. The aim of this note is to inform you on the generalities of the call and the aspects that are more relevant for you.

### **▪ Objective of the Pilot Programme**

The action aims at overcoming barriers for EU SMEs to the recruitment of highly qualified specialists (PhD or equivalent) that are not available on the national job market (either because the required skills are not available or because they are not affordable), but whose knowledge would be crucial to open up opportunities for innovation and significant growth for the enterprise.

For more information, please consult our [webpage](#) and the document providing [Additional Information to Applicants](#).

### **▪ Target Audiences**

The call aims at creating a "bridge of knowledge" connecting enterprises and researchers. EURAXESS will be the main partner of the European Commission to involve researchers, whereas enterprises will be contacted through the [Enterprise Europe Network](#).

We are targeting researchers from all over the world meeting the following criteria:

- **PhD holder** or equivalent ([Recognised Researcher R2 level](#) minimum);
- **Demonstrated expertise** in line with the job advertisement;
- **Transnational mobility** as defined in the mobility rule of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA): "*at the time of recruitment, researchers must have resided or*

*carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country where the SME is established for no more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account".*

## ▪ **Key selling points**

- Key opportunity to acquire or reinforce experience in the private sector;
- Opportunity to work on highly-innovative projects selected by the EU Grant
- Attractive salary + benefits (reallocation etc) sponsored by the EU
- Tailored Training Package
- "Light" application
- Internationalisation, mobility, innovation, excellence.

## ▪ **Support to be provided by the EURAXESS Network**

The EURAXESS Network is a key factor in making this call a success during the recruitment phase in 2017.

For the time being, we ask you to please help us in:

1. **Raising Awareness** by sharing the Call [infographic](#), follow the call news on the [EASME LinkedIn page](#) and the twitter account [@H2020SME](#) and start sharing and contributing using the following hashtags: #SMEAssociate #H2020 #SME #Innovation.
2. **Readdressing possible questions** to [EASME-Innovation-Associate@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EASME-Innovation-Associate@ec.europa.eu)

At a later stage of the call (indicatively in April-June 2016) we may contact you again to request further help from you.

## ▪ **Milestones**

- a) Call open: 11 February 2016
- b) Deadline for applications: **30 June 2016.**
- c) Testing phase: between 11 February 2016 and 30 June 2016.
- d) Awarding and Signature of the Grants: 28 February 2017 (at the latest).
- e) Publication of the Vacancies: between 1 March 2017 (or before) and 30 April 2017.
- f) Recruitment phase: May-June 2017.

