EURAXESS Newsletter #4 May 2022

In our scope this month

- **Key figures of the month** - Welcoming Researchers in exile (p.1)
- **What's up in EURAXESS?** - Ukraine update (p.1) - Guidelines for International PhD Stdudents and Researchers (p.2) - Euraxess Gatherings in 2022 (p.2)
- **Everyday life practical information** - It is time for the 2022 tax return (p.2)
- **Don't miss it: Euraxess Agenda** - MUI cultural outings (p.3)
- **The EURAXESS' Tip** - Validate your VLS-TS visa (p.3)
- **Researcher in the spotlight** - Meet Dr. Marie Korsaga (ObAs) (p.4)
- **Did you know?** - Public holidays in Alsace (p.4)

WELCOMING RESEARCHERS IN EXILE

13 applications submitted to the PAUSE Program "Urgence Ukraine"
8 applications from Russia and Ukraine to the classical PAUSE Program
Very soon: **2 new researchers** in exile from Turkey and from Afghanistan will be welcomed at Unistra!

What's up in EURAXESS?

UKRAINE FOCUS

The Strasbourg Centre for people coming from Ukraine is held in the **Salle de la Bourse** (1 place du Maréchal De Lattre De Tassigny), in the presence of agents from the Prefecture and interpreters:
Open from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 12 pm - from 2pm to 5pm.

→ **Important to know:**
Ukrainian refugees benefit from the exceptional **temporary protection** throughout the European Union (decision of the Council of the European Union of 4 March 2022). This temporary protection is available **for one year (renewable)** and gives them the right to stay, access to the labour market, housing, social and medical assistance.
Bilingual booklet: click here

In the line of its humanist tradition, the University of Strasbourg is strongly committed to helping the victims of the war in Ukraine.
For any request: solidarite_guerre_ukraine@unistra.fr

For students: An **emergency aid fund** has been set up to support students from Ukraine and Russia.
French language courses have been set up for students who wish to continue studying.
For researchers: the PAUSE programme has set up a special Ukraine emergency fund to finance the hosting of Ukrainian Researchers.
Good to know: writing workshop proposed by Laure RAZON, lecturer in psychology: **click here**.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL PHD STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The Euraxess Centre of the University of Strasbourg is proud to present its **Guidelines for International PhD Students and Researchers**.

This tool is made available to you in order to facilitate your installation and your stay in Strasbourg. You will find a lot of information about practical life in France, from residence permit to health insurance, including the processes for staying with your family. Thanks to this booklet, you will be able to carry out your administrative procedures with more peace of mind and better comprehend the «culture shock» that comes with the discovery of the French culture in Strasbourg.

The guide is available on our website **in French** and **in English**.
We look forward to your feedbacks!

EURAXESS GATHERINGS IN 2022

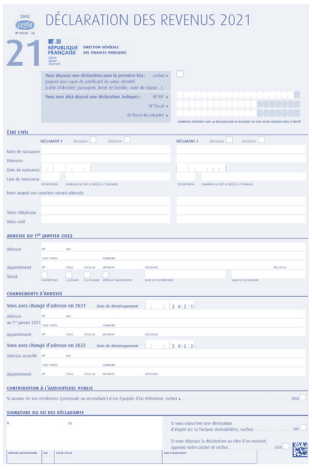
In March, we had the pleasure to attend the **EURAXESS Network's Conference 2022 in Nantes**, along with our colleagues from all Europe and beyond. It was a great opportunity to connect, and discuss researchers' well-being, and the impact of the Covid crisis and the war in Ukraine on their mental health.
It was a very fruitful and inspiring event, and we took the opportunity to enrich our thinking in order to further develop our services and always accompany the international PhD students and researchers of the University of Strasbourg at best.

We will have the pleasure of meeting our colleagues from all over France in June 2022, to exchange information and best practices, and to promote the international mobility of researchers in France.

Everyday life practical information

IT IS TIME FOR THE 2022 TAX RETURN!

A tax notice can be an important proof for some procedures related to your stay in France



→ If you have been in France for **more than 6 months**, you have to file a tax return. Even if you do not receive any taxable income for the moment, it is important for you to make this declaration in order to obtain a tax notice (*avis de situation déclarative à l'impôt sur le revenu*). It will serve as proof of tax status for some of your administrative procedures (naturalisation, certain residence permits, study scholarships, housing, Pôle emploi, health or other).

→ If you have been in France for **less than 6 months**, you will have to file your first tax return in 2023.

Photo credit: Euraxess Office

ATTENTION: if you have been in France for **less than 6 months** and you are **an employee**, check your pay slip to make sure that you have not been withheld income tax by mistake in 2021. If this is the case, it is in your interest to declare your income for 2021 in order to be reimbursed the amount withheld.

Deadlines:
– For a first tax return (paper): Thursday 19 May 2022 12pm
– For an online tax return: Wednesday 8 June 2022 12pm
For more information, read our tax return Fact sheet **in French** and **in English**.

The **Strasbourg Tax Office** was our guest on 26th April; the recording video of their presentation is available upon request at **euraxess@unistra.fr**.

Don't miss it : EURAXESS agenda

MUI CULTURAL OUTINGS

The **Maison Universitaire Internationale** often organises **cultural outings for International Students, PhD Students and Researchers**. It is the occasion for them to **discover the richness of Alsatian heritage and culture and meet new people**. For instance, these last months, students and researchers had the opportunity to visit the Haut-Barr Castle, enjoy a beer at the Brasserie Météor, sail on the river Ill in a Batorama and learn more about Strasbourg's history.

Stay tuned on the **MUI's website** and **our social media** for more great outings in the coming weeks!

Photo credits: Euraxess Office

The Euraxess' Tip

VALIDATE YOUR VLS-TS VISA

If you arrive in France with a **Passeport Talent VLS-TS visa**, you have to **validate it online within the first 2 months of your stay**.

How to know if my visa is a VLS-TS?

A VLS-TS visa is a visa of **4 to 12 months**. It features the mention "**PASS TALENT CH. L313-20 4°**" or "**PASS TALENT FAM. R311-3 9°**" or "**VIE PRIV. ET FAM.**".

How to validate my VLS-TS visa online?

You have to go to the **ANEF online platform**, select "**Validate your VLS-TS long stay visa**" and pay the **€225 tax stamp**. Once validated, your VLS-TS visa is worth residence permit for the duration of its validity.

ATTENTION: when asked for your visa reference:

– if you are a researcher, select **R.431-16 10°** in the drop-down menu

– if you are family, select **R.431-16 15°** in the drop-down menu

Do not hesitate to contact us at **euraxess@unistra.fr** if you have any doubt regarding the validation of your visa.

Researcher in the spotlight

Meet Dr. Marie KORSAGA

Photo credit: Euraxess Office

I am originally from Burkina Faso where I carried my undergraduate studies at the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo and obtained a Master's degree in Physics in 2013. After my Master, I worked at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille (LAM) in France as an intern where I studied the kinematics of galaxies using Fabry-Perot observations, before pursuing a PhD in LAM jointly with the University of Cape Town in South Africa. My PhD research focused on investigating the distribution of baryonic and dark matter in nearby galaxies. After completing my PhD in 2019, I joined the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) for a fellowship in 2020, during which I researched the contribution of the science community in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. I have published different blog articles on the subject, which are featured on the IAU-OAD's official website. I currently am a **postdoctoral researcher at the Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg (ObAS) of the University of Strasbourg**, and a lecturer at the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo (UJKZ) in Burkina Faso.

Besides my academic activities, I am involved in many projects advocating for the promotion of women in STEM studies, with the aim of contributing towards a more equal gender representation in science, particularly in developing countries.

In recognition of my research work and outreach activities, I have been honored this year with the inaugural **2021 African Network of Women in Astronomy early career award**. This prize is for me a reminder and a motivation to seek to excel not only in my research area but also in the actions that I undertake to contribute to the promotion of science and especially astronomy.

To this end, I would like to address a message to young girls: believe in yourself, work hard to reach your goals and never doubt your abilities.

My research focuses on the distribution of dark matter and visible matter in galaxies in order to better understand the formation and evolution of galaxies and the Universe in general. In simple terms, it must be said that visible matter - that is to say ordinary matter made up of protons, neutrons, electrons, everything that is observable with our devices, represents only about 5% of the Universe ; the rest is invisible matter distributed as follows: 26% dark matter and 68% dark energy. Dark matter with its gravitational force is used to explain the fact that galaxies remain close to each other while dark energy causes the Universe to «expand» faster over time. So we cannot speak of understanding the Universe if we only know about 5% of its constituents. So to understand our Universe, meaning to be able to explain its formation and evolution, it is essential to understand what dark matter and dark energy are.

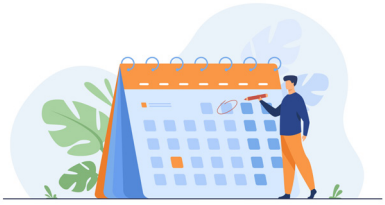
As the **first woman to ever hold a PhD in Astronomy in the whole West African region**, I believe that part of my duty is to help break the social barrier surrounding the topic of women in sciences. To this end, I am involved in many scientific projects, I have given numeral public talks in astronomy, visited several schools to speak to young girls, featured in several documentary films and interviews highlighting and promoting women in science.

My other plans are: I would love to build planetariums in Burkina Faso's regions in order to give presentations to the general public, to satisfy the curiosity of children about the universe and spawn an interest in science and technology. I would also like to install a research telescope, which will make it possible to develop research in astrophysics in Burkina Faso, to facilitate the training of students, forge links with researchers from other countries, and help the country and Africa to get ahead in astrophysics.

I would also like to work towards the establishment of scientific schools in Africa, specifically dedicated to women. This would encourage girls to take up scientific studies and contribute to the development of the continent.

Did you know?

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN ALSACE



In Alsace and Moselle, **Good Friday** (the Friday before Easter) and **St Stephen's Day** (26 December) are public holidays. However, this is not the case in the rest of France!

The origin of this particularism goes back to the **annexation of Alsace and the present-day Moselle** (then known as "Alsace-Lorraine") **by the German Empire after the 1870 war**. Upon reintegration in 1918, these additional public holidays were maintained by the French government for reasons of administrative convenience.

Today, the fact that Good Friday and St Stephen's Day are public holidays in Alsace is **enshrined in the Labour Code**. Another good reason to work in Strasbourg!

Find information on the 2022 public holidays across France **here**.

Université de Strasbourg

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