In our scope this month

- **Key figure of the month** - Researchers accompanied by the Euraxess service centre (p.1)
- **What’s up at EURAXESS?** - The Welcome Event for international researchers
- (p.1) - Career development programme (p.1) - Accomodation support (p.2) - The Campus France Days (p.2)
- **Everyday life practical information** - The Winter bank holidays (p.2)
- **Don’t miss it: Euraxess agenda** - Next Info’ Session (p.2) - Cultural outings - Euraxess Strasbourg career workshops (p.3) - Spring French language programme (p.3) - Tax return workshop (p.3)
- **The EURAXESS tip** - The Sustainable mobility package (p.3)
- **A researcher in the spotlight** - Meet Yaouba SOUAIBOU (p.4)
- **Did you know?** - The Strasbourg Christmas market (p.4)

**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**. Cassandre 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
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!
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!
From Ngoundéré to Strasbourg:  
The career story of Yaouba SOUAIBOU  

Holder of a Master’s Degree from the University of Ngaoundéré, in northern Cameroon, Youaba served as a temporary teaching and research assistant for three years between 2011 and 2014 at this university. Aspiring to work in higher education, Youaba 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 laboratory (DynAMic) of the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Lorraine.

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, Youaba aims to receive further training in European and international research projects to be able to coordinate scientific research projects.

THE STRASBOURG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Strasbourg Christmas Market, known as the Christkindelsmärk, 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/acceuil