

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001337/25
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(1 April 2025)

Subject: Strategies to attract US researchers to the EU

The current research policy of the US administration under Donald Trump has left scientists facing uncertainty and restrictions, including massive budget cuts and limitations on the freedom of scientific research. As a result, ten EU Member States, including Germany and France, have stressed the need for targeted support measures and facilitated immigration provisions in order to attract affected researchers to the EU. Several EU regions could benefit from this inflow of talent, provided that appropriate structures are in place. However, the challenge lies in effectively integrating these scientists into the EU's research landscape and making use of their expertise on a long-term basis.

1. How does the Commission plan to integrate international scientists into existing European research structures and harness their know-how for regional innovation hubs?
2. Is there a specific timeline for measures aiming to bring these researchers into the EU and ensuring their long-term affiliation with our research sites?
3. What financial or structural incentives are envisaged to support regions that could particularly benefit from the relocation of researchers from non-EU countries?

Submitted: 1.4.2025

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(23 June 2025)

The Commission aims to make the EU the most attractive and secure place for both EU and non-EU scientific talent, especially amid today's uncertainties. Europe is already a safe haven for scientists, and this role must be protected by enshrining the freedom of scientific research in EU law.

The Commission will put forward a new EUR 500 million package for 2025 -2027 to make Europe a magnet for researchers. This includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie 'Choose Europe' pilot,⁽¹⁾ which will support early-career researchers with attractive allowances and longer contracts, and a seven-year 'super grant' under the European Research Council.

The EU is also making it easier for researchers to relocate and integrate. The 'Students and Researchers' Directive⁽²⁾ provides a framework⁽³⁾ for researchers to enter and reside in the EU, and the upcoming visa strategy aims to build on this by further easing migration procedures.

EURAXESS⁽⁴⁾ offers information and personalised assistance, helping researchers connect with institutions and regional innovation ecosystems.

The European Research Area Act, expected in 2026, will aim to introduce measures strengthening the freedom of scientific research, research careers, mobility and coordination across Member States.

The Commission supports European regions through initiatives like Regional Innovation Valleys to boost local innovation, particularly in digital and healthcare sectors.

This is complemented by tools such as the Artificial Intelligence factories⁽⁵⁾, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology⁽⁶⁾, Digital Innovation Hubs⁽⁷⁾ and Startup Europe⁽⁸⁾.

These efforts are further supported by EU Cohesion Policy, which helps regions leverage funding to support innovation and digitalisation.

⁽¹⁾ In addition to the 'Choose Europe' pilot, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) provide a wide range of training, mobility and career development opportunities that are open to researchers of all nationalities, including United States researchers, for them to successfully relocate to Europe.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast).

⁽³⁾ This framework includes, amongst others, equal treatment rights with EU citizens in many areas, possibility to bring their families to the EU, intra-EU mobility rights, right to stay for up to nine months after the end of the research to look for a job, possibility to teach while conducting research, etc.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-factories>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.eit.europa.eu/>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/home>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/startup-europe>.