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## Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2020

24 November 2020

**Session VIII – 1:00 pm CET**

**Early Stage Researchers: Networking to Accelerate Careers in the Covid Era.**

### Workshop Organizers

Scotland Europa

### Description

The session is an exploratory dive into how the connections between Scottish and Lower Saxon universities and institutes can facilitate stronger support for the career developments of early stage researchers (ESR). In particular, the session will discuss developing and leveraging networking effects to develop skills, make new contacts and facilitate access to opportunities in a diversity of sectors (academia to industry) and therefore, valuable experience.

Covid-19 has created some roadblocks in this regard for ESRs and we'll be talking about some of the challenges and some of the ways that they can be overcome.

Given this context, the panel will discuss creating the right environment to cultivate connections with top scientists, research opportunities in your field of experience and accessing exchange opportunities across Europe. Some of the key themes discussed will include how the challenge of Covid-19 is reshaping the need to:

- Facilitate inter-sectorial Networking.
- Transfer transversal skills.
- Increasing research and employability skills.
- Getting guidance and support.
- A supportive academic environment and regional government.

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Key areas of focus will be on bilateral means that Scotland-Lower Saxony can help level-up the career prospects of their early-stage researchers, to discuss ways that importance of these issues can be raised amongst university leaders and to identify some initial pathways towards improvement.

- Leveraging networks that help to support conversations between peers in an informal setting but also networks that allow for professional development. This is especially tricky given the current context, so how can we overcome some of the barriers?
- How to better support early-stage researchers in their academic surrounding; what regional/national governments should be doing and how should funding best support these activities?
- How to create the opportunity to allow early-stage researchers present their research improving communication skills.
- How to enhance mentorship schemes to provide critical and constructive feedback and advice, a wider perspective and encourage early researchers to acquire a wide range of (interdisciplinary) skills.
- Developing employability of PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers within and outside academia and surveying industry and authorities to ensure they are developing the competencies they need.

## Programme

(The times of the programme items are indicated in CET.)

### 1:00 pm Welcoming Addresses

Philip Piatkiewicz, *Senior policy Executive at Scotland Europa*

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**1:10 pm**      **Introducing the Speakers**

Marta Chiarinotti, *Coordinator of Mentoring Programme at University of Kiel*

Elizabeth Adams, *Research Development Manager at University of Glasgow*

Carla Cebula, *Research Associate in Gender Barriers in Engineering Careers at University of Glasgow*

**1:30 pm**      **Discussion**

**2:05 pm**      **Closing**

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