On December 1st, 2020, the EU-Japan Center organized an online event titled “EU-Japan collaborative industrial innovation.” The webinar aimed to discuss ways to further improve the EU and Japan business environment and research & innovation programs towards increasing the number and success rate of innovation-focused collaborations between young, dynamic firms and large, established companies.

After the opening remarks by Dr. Philippe de Taxis du Poët from the EU-Japan Center, there were four presentations delivered by panelists about their businesses especially in the context of cooperation with Japanese and European companies, respectively. Mr. Rossettini from D-Orbit (IT) talked about the cooperation of his company with Marubeni and Interstellar Technologies to create the first space logistics infrastructure. The second presenter, Mr. Guarnieri from Hibot (JP), talked about the "Float Arm" which was used during Fukushima TEPCO's accident to reach the area where people were prohibited to enter and about a new undergoing project with a European partner, BASF. The third presenter was Ms. Tuononen from Nightingale Health (FI), who explained how her company aims at the establishment of a new health-creation system through their technology of blood analysis utilizing NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) and proprietary software to provide comprehensive health data that links a person’s lifestyle to her disease risk, and about the most recent operations with their Japanese partners. The final presenter was Ms. Sawada from Tottori Resource Recycling, Inc. (JP), she mainly talked about their product "Porous Alpha" which is created from glass and has a purifying effect on industrial wastewater and she illustrated the interaction with their partners based in Portugal, Better To Earth.

During the panel discussion, moderated by Luca Escoffier, Project Manager of the EU-Japan Technology Transfer Helpdesk, Ms. Magyar from EURAXESS Japan gave additional information as to how EURAXESS provides regular, tailored, and reliable information, networking and information events about Japanese research cooperation with European partners as well.

During the panel, the speakers were asked questions regarding (i) the challenges and opportunities that their projects faced throughout their international cooperation with their partners, and the (ii) best ways to ameliorate the current instruments, and R&D framework, to create an even more agile environment to facilitate cooperation between the EU and Japan. After providing specific information about their projects, and individual experiences, the webinar ended with the closing remarks by Dr. Ramanauskas from the EU Delegation to Japan, who emphasized how changes and opportunities in technology and science contribute to the potential of changing society as a whole.