



Romanian Mobility Centre initiative to straighten ERA-MORE

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1. A few words from Véronique Gillet-Didier– Cite Universitaire Internationale Paris - Bureau d'Accueil des chercheurs Etranger (BACE), France

Cite Universitaire Internationale Paris (CUIP) is the home of international researchers, students and artists who chose Paris to take a step forward their career. Over 10000 students and researchers call CUIP home. The institution resembles to a campus, where its inhabitants can find everything they need, just a half an hour away by metro from the center of Paris



Having to deal with different needs, for different categories of people, CUIP understood the necessity of creating separate departments for its inhabitants. This is how Bureau d'Accueil des chercheurs Etranger (BACE) was formed, as a special department for international researchers.

BACE is also part of the EURAXESS network and helps researchers to adjust better in the new environment of a foreign country.

BACE offers administrative help and welcomes researchers before and during their stay in Paris. It also helps them deal with accommodation issues and with both social and cultural changes.

BACE motto is « Anticipate for a better accompanying of scientific mobility »

In addition, BACE also offers French classes, a bilingual course regarding French culture and history. As part of helping researchers feeling at home, BACE also organizes a party, which takes place once per trimester, which is an informal event meant to bring researcher together. On the same social issue there is also a researchers club that aims to get them together outside the laboratory or office walls and create friendships.

Since France has a long tradition of welcoming foreign researchers, BACE plays the role of one of “the teachers” in the Discover Europe Project.

As Véronique Gillet-Didier stated:

For us it is a wonderful opportunity to go a step forward and transmit what we built these last years in our daily work and to share our experience. It is also very relevant to us to learn what is done in other countries: we were not so aware of the particular difficulties in each country regarding the welcoming of researchers.

The main lessons that should be learned from the French bureau are:

- Researcher's in mobility meet concrete problems: the best services are concrete services meeting their needs;
- never forget statistics and various indicators for people who can fund the structure and participate to its sustainability;
- Importance of having a strong network of reference people in the various administrations: there is no problem, only solutions, and they are the key persons to “discover” the good solution.

As a teacher is never a good teacher if he or she doesn't learn from its students, Véronique Gillet-Didier added, that there are valuable lessons to be learned from the Bulgarian, Polish and Romanian partners: “we are really discovering Europe: each stay in the different countries of the program is so rich, on a professional level but also on a personal level.”

2. Discover France - Good practice sharing meeting to Cité internationale universitaire de Paris (Bureau d'Accueil des Chercheurs Etrangers) 27 – 29 .05.2009



During the 27th and the 29th of May took place the first learning visit from the Discover Europe Project. The visit took place in Paris, France where our teachers did their best in one week to show us how things work in Bureau d'Accueil des chercheurs Etranger (BACE).

In the first day the partners from Bulgaria, Poland and Romania were shown the basic principles on which BACE, how it is organized and how it worked. Apart from that we also benefited from a guided tour of the Cité Universitaire Internationale Paris (CUIP). At the end of the first day we were invited, as special guests, at the trimestrial party for foreign researchers at CUIP. The party took place in an informal environment where members of the project could meet and speak with researchers and other employees from CUIP.

Day two was statistics day. The main issue of this day was the importance of statistic and how much they can ease the work within a mobility center. This lesson was backed up with examples and statistics from BACE.

During the last day the partners from Bulgaria, Poland and Romania had a chance to experience one working day in the BACE office. We were able to ask, observe and learn how things are being done there and what are the main challenges that they are being faced with.

The main topics of discussions focused on three main questions:

- ✓ How to provide the logistics for a place as evolved as CUIP?
- ✓ How to attract researchers to Eastern European countries?
- ✓ How to provide the best services possible for them?

As a conclusion the visit to Paris was fruitful on many levels. It made us understand how to come and meet the needs of the researchers, and what needs to be done in order to improve the services in all regional centers offices.

3. Women in science part 1

Most highly educated women in Europe work in areas related to arts, sciences and economics. However during the past year there has been an increase in the number of female scientists.

Equal rights and opportunities for both genders is something that is more and more desired. Women managed to enter in male dominated areas and prove themselves worthy.

Mary Osborn, professor at the Max Plank Institute in Göttingen (Germany), wrote in a letter to *Nature*, in 1992 that:

'Women believe that success in scientific research has nothing to do with gender and are ready to be judged by the same objective criteria as their male colleagues. In return, they expect to enjoy the same career opportunities, the same sources of finance and the same advantages as men at the various stages in their career.'

Professor Osborn is co-author of the report entitled *Promoting excellence through mainstreaming gender equality*, published by the European Commission¹, which provides the first assessment to date of the role of women in European research. Apart from a number of characteristics specific to the world of science, the general picture which emerges from this evaluation is akin to that in other sectors of society. Women scientists earn less than their male counterparts. More of them are employed on short-term contracts. They rarely climb the ladder of success, and when they do it is more slowly and with more difficulty so that few women arrive in the top jobs. Not many women are awarded honorary distinctions or are members of eminent associations either.

¹ Science policies in the European Union: Promoting excellence through mainstreaming gender equality
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/leaflets/science/en/page1.html>