



## **Romanian Mobility Centre initiative to straighten ERA-MORE**

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### **1. A word from the Annia Wisniewska**

As a Polish counterparty to the “Discovery Europe” project we had a great pleasure to host our partners from Bulgaria , France and Romania during the *good practice sharing meeting* held from 29 June to 1 July, 2009, in Warsaw .

Fruitfully managed time allowed us to get more familiar with the conditions in which new Euraxess networks in Romania and Bulgaria were established and remind us how hard was it in Poland some years before, when we where at the beginning of our path. Our Romanian and Bulgarian guests have been very eager to learn from us and gain a fresh knowledge on sustainable network development, fund raising, human resources, internal and external activities that we perform.

But also Polish Euraxess network have learnt a lesson, which still remains in our minds, when we have heard from our French colleges about their organization achievements. The way, in which the whole mobile researches supporting system works in France , is incredible. Again the issue of funding is crucial in here, and efforts shall be made to widespread the awareness of profitable investments in facilitating researches mobility, not only to make they life easier abroad but also to attract them by these means to stay and conduct research in your country.

All “Discovery Europe” project partners have been successful taking a part in Warsaw meeting by sharing their experience, what made Polish network especially happy, on one hand, to help “younger colleges” in their way up, on the other hand, to define what kind of challenges are there still to overcome to create a better quality services for researches.



During the 29th of June and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July took place the second teaching meeting in the Discover Europe project. This time it was Poland's turn to instruct. The meeting took place in Warsaw, Poland at the headquarters of the Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy (KPK), the regional contact point.

Our Polish partners showed us how KPK was formed and how it works, the nature of their work and the tools they use to help researchers. As a crucial difference from the Paris regional point, KPK handles not only problems of the foreign researchers coming in Poland, but also the problems Polish researchers may face when moving to a new country.

The main topics covered during this visit were: an overview of the Mobility Information Centre from the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the PAS, the tools used to make it work and promotion materials, and visits to the embassies of each or the partner's country in Warsaw.

During the first day we were shown a brief history of how the Polish mobility center was formed, what were the main issues that it has been confronted with and how it managed to overcome them. A special attention has been given to the five main tools used by the Polish Network: national Euraxess Portal, Intranet & Extranet, means of daily communication, trainings (or other forms of similar activities) and reporting which includes statistics. The day ended with a visit to the *Office of Research Administration, University of Warsaw* and a tour of the city through the eyes of *Maria Skłodowska-Curie*.

The next day we focused on the way the promotion for the KPK was done, and what materials were used. After that we visited the Bulgarian, French and Romanian

embassies. There we had the opportunity to talk with representatives from each institution and see how they handled researchers coming in Warsaw. The partners used this opportunity to remind the representatives of the existence of mobility centres in each country and how they could work together in fulfilling their needs.

The visit in Warsaw showed a different approach to how to improve the work within the mobility centres. It also touched problems which are closer to the Bulgarian and Romanian realities, like the need to attract researchers in Eastern Europe. One aspect which proved to be of a great importance was the visit to the embassies which allowed partners to compare how researchers are being helped in the different institutions.

### 3. First Annual Managerial Meeting



The partners used the last day of the visit in Warsaw to hold the first annual Managerial Meeting.

Topics discussed during the meeting covered reports on the progress of the project, expectations, and ideas of what still need to be done.

Areas discussed were mainly activities, financial issues and the dissemination of the project. New and exciting ideas were raised and hopefully the new year will as exciting as the last one.

As Teodora Rusu, the coordinator of the Discover Europe project stated: the past year was a delight. We learned so much from each other, on both professional and personal levels. Each visit meant new issues, and new subjects to explore. We learned how difficulties vary from case to case and how to cope with them.

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#### 4. Women in Science Part 2: The Helsinki Group's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year we are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the Helsinki Group. Founded by the European Commission, the Helsinki Group aimed to promote women in science.

Tiia Raudma of the Science, culture and gender unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research, also founding member of the Helsinki group looked back on how it all started during an interview with CORDIS News.

As she recalls it was cold winter when the first conference took place. It tackled the issue of the small number of women in science, and the male domination of top, decision making positions. A lot of people were present, coming from different backgrounds, people who knew about the issue and people that were exploring a new area. All this made the conference exciting full of vivid ideas and opinions. The main problem discovered during the conference was the lack of data. There were few statistics about women in science, especially since there wasn't a clear divide between men and women in the existing data. Gathering data proved to be more difficult for big countries. However, in spite of all the difficulties, the Helsinki group managed to put together the initial version of "She Figures".

Ms Raudma recalls an interesting finding of the data collected: countries that invest more money in research and development (R&D), that tend to have bigger incomes for researches, have more male scientists. On contrary, countries with lower investments in R&D and with lower incomes for researchers, tended to have more women scientists.

One of the main problems that the system has is the fact that it is made for researchers that are assumed to have a stay at home wife. Ms Raudma underlines the need for a more flexible timetable for both male and female researchers.

Ms Raudma stresses, that even though these 10 years had been quite successful, the work of the Helsinki Group is far from done. She also expressed her hopes that in the next 10 years their ideas and recommendations will be fully accepted and more progress will be done towards the gender equality issue.

Meanwhile, the Helsinki Group continues to provide an important forum for the Member States and the Commission to come together and discuss the issue and exchange ideas and best practice.

As Ms Raudma underlined, when a woman drops out of science, it is the scientific world that loses out.

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