



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

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### **1. Romanian Training Course April, 29-30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

On the April, 29-30<sup>th</sup> 2010 NARS organized the second training meeting in Bucharest . The participants for this session were: Romanian ESCs and LoCP, Project partners from Poland and Bulgaria, as invited guests, Representatives from neighboring countries: EURAXESS Serbia – University of Nis and Moldova Academy of Sciences.

The session started with Alexandra Vancea, partner within the Discover Europe project and national EURAXESS coordinator, who presented the project and the evolution of the Romanian Mobility Centers between 2005 to 2009. After that the Romanian EURAXESS was presented along with some case studies and success stories of Romanian outgoing researchers. The session carried on with good practices and lessons learned during the working visits in France and Poland. At the end of the day the EURAXESS Serbia was presented and the Scientific mobility in the Republic of Moldavia.

The second day of the training was dedicated to discussions among national members of EURAXESS network, on topics such as: scientific visa, European Partnership for Researchers (EPR) and EURAXESS action plan for EPR implementation, as well as topics related to the daily work of a mobility center: data collection, the use of national EURAXESS portal (e.g. “Jobs” section) and recommendations for increasing the visibility of the network.

Oana Costea, partner within the Discover Europe project presented the training visits in France and Poland:

- Overview of the French and Polish EURAXESS networks (structure and tasks, financial resources)
- Day- to- day work (daily communication, collection of statistics, promotion tools, national Portals, co-operation with external national and international partners)
- Problems and challenges faced in the past and/or at present

The neighboring countries were also invited to expose their national policy, experience and common practices in researchers' mobility in order to gain a broader view of the mobility policies in the region. The representative of EURAXESS Serbia, and of Republic of Moldova, where the EURAXESS concept has not yet been implemented were present and shared their experiences and issues.

The training in Bucharest provided participants with a good environment to create new contacts, network and learn from others experiences.



*Romanian training course April, 29-30th 2010*

## 2. Lessons Learned from the Polish Participants

The Polish partners, also had valuable lessons to learn from the Discover Europe Project. These lessons were closely related to the ones from the trainees.

First of all, it was noticed at a national level, that centres vary in size and recognition of importance from national authorities. These differences influence their development within the home network, and major discordances should be fixed. Another important issue refers to the allocation of financial resources. There is a vital need for a minimum financial support, for the well functioning of the centres.

Poland, as well as Bulgaria and Romania are faced with the negative effects of the brain-drain phenomenon. There is an increased need find ways to attract more incoming researchers. However, while this process is being undergone, the centres need to find ways to help outgoing researchers as well.

As noted by all partners the importance of statistical data is very high. It gives more structure to the information gathered, and it eases the problem solving process. Lastly, bridgehead organisations should be in constant collaboration with national, regional and local authorities.

These were all important lessons that do not apply only on the case of Poland, but also in most Eastern and Centre European countries, this is why these findings should not be ignored.



### 3. Lessons Learned from the French Participants

Although the French participants were selected as *teachers*, they still managed to learn and confirm some important lessons.

One of the most important lessons learned along the Discover Europe project was that statistic data is the backbone of any successful local EURAXESS office. Collecting, systematising and analysing all the information, from the mean of contact to the issue itself, eases the work of the office and allows employees to give more competent information to the interested parties.

Funding is also a very sensitive topic. Money is needed to make great ideas flourish, and offices have to find ways to generate or procure sufficient resources in order to offer quality services for incoming researchers. Lastly, one needs to understand that a National Contact Point office is only about offering information, but also about creating networks. Social activities are very important in that sense. They help in bringing people together, growing ideas and a better integration in the culture of the host culture.

Altogether, the Discover Europe Project was a wonderful opportunity for all countries involved to discover each other and create not only connections at a professional level, but also personal.

