



Romanian Mobility Centre initiative to straighten ERA-MORE

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1. Second management Meeting, 15 July 2010, Iasi, Romania

On the 15th of July 2010, took place in Iasi, Romania, the second management meeting within the Discover Europe Project. During the meeting the partners gathered and analysed the activities done within the first two years and discussed the activities that are to follow. Maria Sava, member of the Steering Committee, supervised this activity.

The meeting started with the First Reporting Period – we was done and where we are now. It carried on with the second year activities report, followed by the second year financial report and second year Dissemination Report. Finally, it ended with Drafting activities for the last year: Activities Plan, Financial Plan and Dissemination Plan. This was a great opportunity for the partners to meet in person and share ideas. Moreover, it was a great occasion for the new Project Manager, Mihaela Olaru, to introduce herself to the whole team.



Image: Second Management Meeting, 15 July, Iasi, Romania

2. Lessons Learned form the Bulgarian Participants

The closing date for the Discover Europe Project is approaching quickly, therefore, it is important to see what were the main lessons learned by its *trainees*. The first stop will be the Bulgarian participants. There were nine main lessons identified, most of them related to the Local Contact Points, but not only.

First of all, there is an acute need for a clear data base system, to ease the workload, and avoid duplication. These databases should keep a close overview of the incoming researchers and other institutions approaching the Local Contact Points. These databases could help in creating a clear profile of the target group and of their main needs and requirements. Another important element identified by the Bulgarian counterpart is the need for social activities for incoming researchers. These social events could help researchers create networks, friendships and integrate better in the Bulgarian culture. In terms of the Local Contact Points themselves, they need to provide accurate key scientific lists for both incoming and outgoing researchers. Statistical information is also needed to see what were the main channels used by researchers to approach the centre, what were the main topics of concern. Moreover, there should be a clear evidence of what were the most problematic issues for the centre. Another important issue is the need to create strong links with strategic partners, such as government, cultural and research institutions, universities and embassies. There is also a need to create twinning activities and staff exchange between ESCs and LoCPs from different countries in order to increase international cooperation. Moreover it is important that Local Contact Points from neighbouring countries to work together and share knowledge, due to the fact that they tend to be confronted with similar problems. Funding was also identified as a key problem and there is a crucial need to solve it at a national level. Lastly, the Bulgarian network needs to make use more of the national EURAXESS portal.

These are all issues that regard neighbouring countries as well. The Bulgarian EURAXESS network was restructured within the duration of the Discover Europe project due to reforms in the area of science and higher education. The next years should be looked upon with enthusiasm and faith that the Bulgarian Local Contact Points will manage to improve their services.

3. Lessons Learned from the Romanian Participants

The next *trainees* that we will look upon are the Romanian participants. There were six main lessons learned by the Romanian counterparts. These did not limit themselves on the National Contact Point Centres, but also to other structures involved in managing scientific environment. It was noticed that visibility and good scientific portfolio are nothing but prerequisites for increasing scientific mobility. Better promotion not only increases awareness, but also improves the national scientific portfolio.

The main lessons however, were learned, as expected, by the National Contact Point Centres. In order to grow, these centres need to learn from their more experienced colleagues, in the case of the Discover Europe project, the French and Polish partners. There is an acute need for proper financial resources. Even the best ideas are short lived without a solid financial base to sustain them. Moreover a good performance of the centres employees is vital. They should be trained to meet the expectations of incoming researchers. Good performance is advertising by itself, as actions speak louder than words. In training these employees on site examples seems to be the best solution. That way they can have a first hand practice of how more experienced partners handle different issues. These hands-on experiences are more than any guidebook could offer. Lastly, the services offered by National Contact Points should not only limit themselves on the researchers coming from abroad, but also on outgoing researchers, as that is also an important publicity mean at a national level, and also helps in increasing mobility.

These are all important lessons that need to be put into practice for the improvement of the services of the National Contact Points and for straightening the EURAXESS network, as a whole.



Image: Discover Europe Team