



Romanian Mobility Centre initiative to straighten ERA-MORE

30st of June 2011, Newsletter no. 8

Contents:

1. Discover Romania Tour
2. Discover Bulgaria Tour
3. Impressions from Participants of the Two Tours

1. Discover Romania Tour

Between the 16th and 20th of May 2011 took place the Discover Romania Tour. The event was part of the Work Package Five and it was organised by the Romanian partners within the project. The participants visited the main universities and mobility centres from Bucharest, Timisoara and Iasi.

The Discover Romania tour was a wonderful opportunity for the audience to gain insights of the Romanian research landscape and to the national EURAXESS network and contact points. This event allowed the guests to become more familiar with the main scientific activities in the country and with the main places where incoming researchers could get help. Altogether, the Discover Romania Tour focused on the main institutions for research, universities and mobility centres.

It concluded that although the EURAXESS network has a crucial role in helping researchers accommodate within the new environment and increase mobility, the network can not stand on its own. Issues such as infrastructure, employment conditions and legislative stability are also key elements for future development. Therefore the EURAXESS network itself is only an open door.

The Discover Romania Tour allowed the guests to get more familiar, not only with the research environment, but also with the Romanian culture and way of life, and it was a great opportunity to create national and international contacts.



Discover Romania Tour: Bucharest Meeting



Discover Romania Tour: Iasi Meeting

2. Discover Bulgaria Tour

Between the 15th and 20th of June 2011 took place the second tour from the Fifth Work Package: the Discover Bulgaria Tour. The participants visited centres and universities from Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Varna, Rousse and Sofia. Just as in the case of the Romanian tour, the Bulgarian event aimed to present the national research environment and to straighten the collaboration between the Bulgarian Local Contact Points and other representatives of the EURAXESS service centres. During the tour the main research areas in Bulgaria were presented. Along them, the infrastructure and science development support were evaluated.

The main conclusion of the tour was the need to create small research groups in order to achieve international excellence. However, in order to do so a number of changes need to be done. First of all the funding should be focused on only small areas of research, which have the potential to achieve international excellence. Second of all, there is a increasing need for interdisciplinary research collaboration. This does not refer only to the Bulgarian situation, but it is also widely applicable at an European level. At the Local Contact Point level, a clear vision is needed along with a direct contact with the researchers. In addition to that a simplified way of accessing information is also needed. These information should not limit themselves to incoming researchers, but also to Bulgarian researchers going abroad. The local contact points should also offer insights regarding funding opportunities and structural funds.

The Discover Bulgaria Tour helped in gaining a clearer insight regarding the research landscape at a national level. Another important benefit of the tour was the fact that it brought the Bulgarian Local Contact Points together with representatives of the EURAXESS network, bettering the communication between them and giving new opportunities for future collaboration. Moreover, the problems that Bulgaria is being faced with are also valid for other European countries.



Discover Bulgaria Tour



Discover Bulgaria Tour: Varna

3. Impressions from Participants of the Two Tours

Both the Discover Romania and Discover Bulgaria tours were successful, and provided the participants with valuable experiences. It represented a great opportunity for networking and creation of new partnerships. Moreover, it gave clear insights regarding the Bulgarian and Romanian research, along with discussions and experience exchange. Moreover, the tours were a great occasion for participants to give input and suggestions for the improvement of the Local and Regional Contact Points in the two new member states.

Participants agreed that there is still a lot to do in order to improve the services offered. An intensive internal training process would be a solution to better the services offered by these local contact points. They also pointed out that a better collaboration with the EURAXESS network is vital, and that representatives should attend as many European Commission workshops as possible in order to align themselves to the standards of older member states. Moreover good connexions and increased visibility were also identified as beneficial.

Lastly, the national Local and Regional Contact Points should keep in touch with young researchers going abroad and provide them with information regarding return policies, in order to prevent and decrease the brain drain process within the new member states.

Nevertheless the two tours were a great opportunity for the partners of the Discover Europe Project to show their work. Moreover, it created a fruitful environment for future collaboration and knowledge exchange.



Discover Romania Tour: Timisoara