



Romanian Mobility Centre Initiative to straighten ERA-MORE

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1. A word from the Dissemination Manager, Natalia Ioana Olaru

Today's world has changed. We entered in an era that can be easily named the "Mobility Era". Being static is not that attractive anymore. People understand now more than ever that in order to move forward you need to work together and share knowledge with people from all over the world, and if you are in a Union such as the European Union then this moving and exchanging process is even more accessible.

Romania and Bulgaria are the newest members of the European Union, and just like in any team, members need to learn and get accustomed to the rules of the house, especially when you come from very different backgrounds, with different experiences them most of the other people from the team.

Discover Europe is a project that understands all these differences, all this need to learn and to reach a common level. This is why France and Poland were chosen, as the more experienced team players. France is a country with a tradition in welcoming foreign researchers and handling their needs, while Poland is also a new member state in the Union, however an older one compared to Bulgaria and Romania; that had to go through changes that these two member states are going through now.

One of the most important issues that is in need of further improvement, when referring to mobility, and mobility centres, is the concept of communication. By communication I mean communication at a local, national and international level, and communicating the information researchers need in order to have a pleasant and peaceful stay in a foreign country.

Another issue is the fact that the mobility centres in the new states lack a good organization. This is mainly why a project like Discover Europe was needed, to show how things should work like, to teach us that the "we can't do it" is not a line that we should hold close. Dreaming is something that helps progress, daring to think out of the box, looking for solutions, having the passion to create something, even if it may seem impossible at first.

Discover Europe in my perception is discovering our own hidden Potential.

2. EURAXESS annual conference – Potsdam, Germany 16-18 March 2009

This edition of the EURAXESS annual conference has been held in Potsdam, Germany between the 16th and the 18th of March. The EURAXESS Annual Conference touched issues like the implementation of the partnership for researchers, the future of the network and new networking opportunities. Discover Europe was involved in this year's edition and had a workshop in the second day of the conference, in a parallel networking session that presented projects that are currently active. The other projects that targeted the trans-national collaboration were: E*Care, MORE-BRAIN, ERA MIND and UNI SALL.

In one and a half hour the institutions involved in the Discover Europe Project has presented itself and its mobility centres from their countries in front of 45 guests. Teodora Rusu, coordinator of the Discover Europe Project stated: "It was a great opportunity to show the people at the conference our work, and who we are. Our goal is to not only to help the mobility centres in Bulgaria and Romania reach the standards of the ones from older EU countries, but also to make Bulgaria and Romania an attractive destination for researchers, to make them see that Eastern Europe can be as resourceful as Western Europe, and I think that this workshop was a good opportunity to do so."



Teodora Rusu at the beginning of the networking season



All eyes on EURAXESS

3. E*CARE - European Career of Researchers



E*CARE - European Career of Researchers is a project funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). As part of the trans-national collaboration projects E*CARE is a three year project which started in August 2008.

The mobility of the researchers means mainly the ability of the institutions and services provided for them to adapt according to their new needs, and the EURAXESS Service Centres are mainly targeted in this issue, this is why E*CARE mainly focuses on them.

E*CARE aims to provide all EURAXESS members with eight National reports on trends and problems in order to discover the remaining obstacles in career development on a national level. Apart from the National reports E*CARE puts together a Best Practices guide, to be used in EURAXESS centres, in order to improve the quality of the services provided by them. Another activity of the project is the organisation of Collaborative Learning Seasons, in order to improve the Network's consistency in terms of experience.

The institutions involved in the E*CARE Project are:

Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), Greece
Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' – NIS (SU-NIS), Bulgaria
Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF), Austria
Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA), Slovak Republic
Euresearch Zurich /Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich), Switzerland
Research Promotion Foundation (RPF), Republic of Cyprus
The Centre for Administration and Operations (CAO) of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR), v.v.i., Czech Republic
Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation (TETALAP), Hungary
The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF), Greece

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4. Visas for researchers

The portrait of the researcher locked up into his office with little or no mobility at all has long been gone for the modern scientific scene. Today mobility is celebrated, and making it easier for researchers is what the European Community aims.

The "Researchers Directive" refers to the permission to enter, stay and work in Europe in the scientific area. In the new system, a non-EU researcher wishing to carry out a research project in Europe will have to sign a contract (a "hosting agreement")- specifying the researcher's status as well as his/her possession of the necessary scientific skills, and financial means- with an accredited public or private European research organisation.

Criteria vary from country to country, yet we will focus on the ones involved in the Discover Europe Project. For further information please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/services> Here are the requirements for Bulgaria, France, Poland and Romania, according to the "Scientific visa" document

Bulgaria

Competent Authority

In Bulgaria the National Authority responsible for issuing a residence permit is the Ministry of Interior:

<http://eu.mvr.bg/en/Areas/Migration/default.htm> (EN language)

Residence Permit

Since it is requested by the researcher, it takes 7 days to receive an official written permit after the researcher submits all the documents. This is specified in The Law for Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria, art.24 b, (4).

Scope

Doctoral studies are considered as research activities. In this capacity the Doctoral Candidates from third countries could be accepted under the conditions laid down in the Council Directive 2005/71/EC.

Accredited Research Organisations

For the time being no private organisations have applied to be included in the List of research organisations that could profit from the Regulation setting out the specific procedure for admitting foreign country nationals for the purposes of scientific research, according to Directive 2005/71/EC. In Bulgaria there are no specific financial obligations for the Research Organisations. The provisions of the Law on Foreigners are applied.

Operational Aspects

Bulgaria's visa policy is based on the Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the regulations for issuing visas. Bulgaria's diplomatic and consular offices are the only institutions having the authority to issue visas according to this Act. Citizens of some countries travelling on regular passports are not required visas for a stay in Bulgaria not exceeding 30 days within 6 months from the date of first arrival but they should be able, upon request, to show evidence of a medical insurance, valid for Bulgaria, covering the duration of their stay.

The Bulgarian Diplomatic or Consular Offices issue the following types of visas:

- o Visa for airport transfer - the foreign national does not enter the country but only changes flights at the airport;
- o Transit visas - the foreign national should leave the country within 24 hours after the entry

with such visa;

- o Short-term visa - it is for a single or multiple entries for no more than 90 days within 6 months following the first entry;
- o Long-term visa - it is issued to foreign nationals who like to reside for a long period or permanently in Bulgaria. The long-term visa is for a single entry, up to 90 days each. The visa is valid for no more than 6 months. This limitation is applied until obtaining a residence permit by the services for administrative control of foreign nationals.

In Bulgaria, foreign nationals that have an employment contract and a valid long-term visa can acquire a long-term residence permit for the time of the contract but for no more than one year. This permission can be prolonged every year. For issuing a long-term residence permit is required that the foreign national has housing, sufficient financial incomes, obligatory social insurance and other insurances according to the Bulgarian legislation.

In most cases the following documents should be presented to the Office for administrative control of foreign nationals at the respective Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior:

- o valid international travelling document;
- o document for paid state taxes;
- o copy of the pages of the international travelling document with the photo, the personal data, the entry visa and the stamp of the last entry into the country;
- o proof of housing during the whole stay in the country;
- o Certified copy of the work permit.

In addition, according to the reasons for issuing a long-term residence permit could be required also:

- o certified copy of the document for tax registration;
- o certified copy of the document for registration to the respective act;
- o certified copy of the legal decision for entering into the Trade register;
- o certified copy of the document for registration in the National Insurance Institute;
- o A document demonstrating that allowance is ensured during the stay in the country.

By request for renewal of the long-term stay in the country are required the following documents:

- o legal certificate for the actual status of the company;
- o certificate from the tax authorities for paid taxes;
- o certificate from the National Insurance Institute for no duties;
- o A document demonstrating that allowance is ensured during the stay in the country.

For further information on operational aspects, please check the link below:

<http://www.eracareers-bg.net/test6.php?cid=50>

France

French legislation: http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=9108F7FC68BD04DFD-CBA190BA789143D.tpdjo12v_2?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20090115

Competent Authority

The “scientific” residents card (Carte de séjour temporaire mention “scientifique”) is issued by the local Immigration administration depending of the Immigration Ministry and the Home Ministry, called “Prefecture”, there is one per French “Department” (more than 100 in France). The list of the local “Prefectures” is available in the following web site:

http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/sections/a_l_interieur/les_prefectures/votre_prefecture

Residence permit

For stays longer than 3 months, all foreign researchers must request a residence permit. When the researcher's stay in France is longer than 3 months she/he must obligatorily apply for a residence permit mentioning "scientifique". In order to obtain a "temporary residence permit", the foreign researcher and his/her spouse must file an application within the first two months of their arrival in France, either at the local prefecture, town hall or police headquarters. This application must be filled as soon as possible since it may take up to three months before the temporary permit is issued.

The researcher will receive a summons by mail (to the address appearing on the application form) to come and collect the temporary residence permit at the préfecture, sous-préfecture, or town hall of his/her place of residence. On that day, he/she must present the following documents: passport, the récépissé de demande de carte de séjour, the original summons for the appointment, the medical certificate issued by the ANAEM, if applicable and the document containing the fiscal stamps paid to the ANAEM (5 X 55€= 275,00€) if the scientist does not have a salaried status in France

Scope of the Directive

The Europeans extends the new "scientist" procedure to Doctoral Candidates provided they have a contract to work in France. Once a Host Institution offers a work contract to a Doctoral Candidate it simultaneously issues the student a Convention d'accueil, pointing out "specific case relating to salaried doctoral students" in section B.

All other Doctoral Candidates who come to France without a work contract are included under the scope of the “Students Directive” 2004/114/EC.

Accredited Research Organisations

The Ministry does not require a written undertaking because by signing the hosting agreement the organisation is responsible for the researcher and a second document is not necessary. If the researcher is not longer working in the host organisation (early end of the temporary work contract for one or another reason), the host organisation just write a letter to the local administration to warn the immigration administration the researcher is not longer member of their staff. The French immigration laws cannot oblige the employer to stay responsible for the foreign researcher once the mission turns to an end.

Hosting Agreement

In France the hosting institution must request a form (convention d'accueil) at the Préfecture or the Euraxess Services, complete it and send it to the guest researcher, who will deposit it at the French Consular offices of his/her home country.

Finally, the implementation of this procedure may vary within France. For instance, the list of required documents may be different from one prefecture to another.

In terms of time, as soon as the hosting agreement is signed, the document is sent to the researcher abroad on order to permit him to obtain a “scientific” long-term consular visa. Once obtained (from 1 to 90 days, depending on the nationality of the researcher), the researcher comes to France and asks the local immigration administration to obtain his resident’s card. Once his/her file has been completed and given to the local administration, it takes between 6 weeks and 3 months to obtain his/her final “resident’s permit” as a “scientist”.

During this period, the researcher receives a receipt for the first residence permit request (récépissé de demande de carte de séjour) that allows his/her work in France.

Financial conditions

There are not real financial conditions to obtain the resident card as a “scientist” in France. Indeed, by signing the hosting agreement, the host organisation becomes responsible for the researcher and the hosting agreement contains specific information on the host institution, the guest researcher and the reason for the stay, as well as the dates of the stay. It testifies that there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of the stay, to guarantee social security cover, employment injuries and repatriation. Researchers are submitted to the national working law, which obliges an employer to pay the minimum salary which is about 1000,00 € net/month.

But if the researcher still comes on his/her personal funding (20% of the foreign researchers in France), or via fellowship, the host organisation stays responsible to assume “sufficient funds” to cover the cost of the stay (but no instructions have been given by the ministry to give a minimum amount)

Operational Aspects

Applying for a visa in France:

- o A short stay visa (for stays less than 3 months) = tourist visa. We strongly recommend the researchers request a multiple entry visa in order to facilitate travel outside of the Schengen area (for meetings, collaborations with other laboratories, tourism,).
- o A temporary long-stay visa (for stays between 3-6 months). In the case of researchers, it will mention “scientifique” upon presentation of the hosting agreement. This visa doesn’t allow travelling to other European Schengen Countries.
- o A long-stay visa (for stays longer than 3 months): should be requested for stays longer than 3 months. This visa (99€ fees) is category D and will mention “residence permit to be requested upon entry”. This is the only visa that allows the holder to request a temporary residence permit. This visa doesn’t allow travelling to other European Schengen Countries.
- o Family visa: Foreigner researchers coming to France with their family must declare this immediately and apply for all the visas at the same time, unless the family intends to join him/her at a later date. In that case, family members should apply for a visa at the appropriate time. The spouse of the researcher is equally eligible for a temporary residence permit which carries the inscription “vie privée et familiale” (“private or family purposes”). The permit will be valid for the same duration as the researcher’s. In the case of Algerian nationals, a “certificat de résidence” (residence certificate) will be issued that mentions “vie privée ou familiale”.
- o Children are required to have a residence permit only if they are over 18 years old at the time they enter France, except for those who are 16 or older and wish to work or do an apprenticeship. The permit must be requested within two months of arriving in France. If the child was a minor when he/she arrived in France the application must be made before the child’s 19th birthday.
- o The visa category “vie privée et familiale” given for private or family purposes allows its holder to have full working rights, in other words the holder does not need to apply for a work permit and is not required to present a work permit to the préfecture when applying for the residence permit.

For further information, please check the Administrative Formalities website:

http://www.fnak.fr/dn_AdministrativeFormalities/Formalities_first_steps.html

Poland

Competent Authority

In Poland, the competent Authority responsible for issuing a residence permit is the Department of Citizens Matters and Migration (Wydział Spraw Obywatelskich i Migracji) of the Voivodship Office (there are 16 Voivod Offices in Poland and each one of them has a different procedure in this matter) in the voivodship where you intend to stay from the Ministry of Interior and Administration:
<http://www.mswia.gov.pl/portal/en/>

Residence Permit

Researchers may stay in Poland for a period specified in their visa, normally 90 days. Those intending to extend their stay after the arrival to Poland are required to apply for one of the available residence permits not later than 45 days (in general it takes up to 45 days but in Warsaw it could be up to 60 days) before the expiry date of their visa. Because of formal requirements, the most popular type of permit is a residence permit for a specific period which may be obtained from the Department of Citizens Matters and Migration (Wydział Spraw Obywatelskich i Migracji) of the Voivodship Office (urząd wojewódzki) in the voivodship where you intend to stay. An application for a permit should be accompanied, among others, by 4 copies of the relevant form, 4 photographs, a certificate confirming temporary registration, a work permit and a copy of the passport. If you have taken up studies in Poland, you are required to submit a certificate of admission to a degree programme and a document confirming the source of your regular income (e.g. a scholarship or grant). A researcher will first obtain a decision granting the residence permit for a specific period, and after 2 weeks will be issued with a Residence Card.

Scope of the Directive

Doctoral Candidates are included within the scope of Council Directive 2005/71/EC. There is one collective regulation linking Council Directive 2005/07/EC and Council Directive 2004/114/EC in Poland.

Financial Conditions

A minimum monthly resources required by Polish Voivod Offices is 110,00 € (461 PLN per person/month).

Accredited Research Organisations

Polish authority requires a written undertaking of the Research Organisation that in cases where a researcher remains illegally in the territory of country the research organisation is responsible for reimbursing the cost related to his/her stay.

Operational Aspects

Researchers are required to obtain a visa, before their entry, in a Polish consulate in the country from which they intend to come to Poland. This does not apply to the countries which Poland step-by-step have concluded an agreement on visa-free movement of persons, including detailed arrangements concerning entry and stay. More information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.msz.gov.pl/Consular,Information,2345.html>

The type of visa to be applied for is determined by the purpose of your stay. At present (2006), nationals of third countries may apply for entry, transit or residence visas. A short-term or long-term residence visa is issued, for example, for education or training purposes, pursuing business, cultural or research activity, participation in international conferences, employment, or for a visit or tourism purposes. Researchers wishing to undertake temporary employment in Poland are required to obtain a work visa, a type of a long-term residence visa. When applying for such a visa in a Polish consulate abroad, you should submit the forms required together with a work permit promise or a statement from the employer confirming employment.

) Family

If you come to Poland together with your closest family members, you should give their details in visa application forms or forms submitted to register your stay in Poland; you should also enclose documents confirming family relationships or marriage, and documents showing that the resources which you have are sufficient to cover the costs of stay of all family members. Members of your family will obtain a Residence Card.

) Registration requirement

Within 4 days of your arrival to a given place in Poland, you are required to register with the closest Commune Office (urząd gminy) or Municipal Office (urząd miasta). When you register your stay, the office automatically initiates the procedure to assign you a PESEL (Powszechny Elektroniczny System Ewidencji Ludności or National Electronic System of Population Records) number which every person receives once and for a lifetime (a PESEL number is a personal identification number which you will need to complete most legal formalities in Poland, in particular in connection with social security and health insurance).

Romania

Competent Authority

The competent authority for issuing the residence permit is the Romanian Office for Immigration, subordinated to the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs. For further information please visit: <http://aps.mai.gov.ro>

Residence Permit

In Romania the average time for issuing a residence permit is 1 month.

Scope of the Directive

Most of the Doctoral Candidates from Third countries entered Romania so far as Doctoral Candidates and they have been hired on research projects as research assistants, with a work contract. In some cases they are already in Romania as students and then apply together with the Research Organisation for the authorisation of a Hosting agreement in order to be hired on research contracts.

Accredited Research Organisation

Currently 7 state universities and 2 National Research Institutes are authorized for the purpose of the Directive, but all of them are Public Bodies. The list of Research Organisation is made public and periodically updated on the official website of the National Authority of Scientific Research: www.mct.ro

Hosting Agreement

The hosting agreement stipulates that the Research Organization guarantees the validation of the existing necessary financial resources in the project. Also it stipulates that the researcher commits his/herself to have at his/her disposal the necessary monthly resources to meet the expenses and travel costs of the trip back home.

In Romania, the hosting agreement concluded between the researcher and the Research Organisation stipulates that the Research Organisation guarantees that it supports the costs related to her/his stay and also the costs for sending him/her away for a period of six months after the end of the Hosting Agreement, if the Researcher remains illegally in Romania.

Financial conditions

The general rule stipulated in the Government Ordinance regarding the foreigner's regime is that minimum monthly resources have to meet the national minimum net salary (140, 00€)