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PU	Public	
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	X
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Regional training seminar on mobility issues Stara Zagora, 13 April 2006

The Regional training seminar took place on 13 April 2006 in Stara Zagora. It was organized by the staff of the Regional Research Mobility Centre – Stara Zagora with active support of the personnel of the Department for Information and In-Service Teachers Training (DIITT) at Trakia University.

At the seminar participated representatives of the project team from Sofia University - CIST, invited lecturers from the Regional Migration Unit - RHQ Stara Zagora and National Revenue Agency - Stara Zagora, representatives of Trakia University, Plovdiv University “Paisij Hilendarski”, regional research institutes and organizations (see the list of participant at the end of the report).

The seminar agenda included:

1. Opening session of the seminar
Instruments supporting the mobility of researchers
2. The European Researcher’s Mobility Portal – an initiative in support to the mobility of researchers in Europe - Mrs. Stanimira Yordanova, Sofia University
3. Presentation of the Regional Research Mobility Centre – Stara Zagora – Dr Elena Lavrentsova
4. Conditions of entry and stay in Republic of Bulgaria – Major Christo Trufchev, Chief of Regional Migration Unit – Stara Zagora
5. Health and pension security in Republic of Bulgaria – Mr Dimitar Dikov, Deputy Executive Chief of the Territorial Directorate of National Revenue Agency - Stara Zagora
Presentation of the projects and mobile practices in the South Central region
6. Strategies for the development of Thrakia – Mrs. Maria Koleva, Chairperson of Trakia Scientific Institute
7. Free announced presentations
8. **Discussion:** „The mobility of researchers in the South Central Region - barriers and opportunities”
9. Closing session

Associate Professor Galia Kozhuharova – Director of the DIITT welcomed the participants and presented briefly all invited lectures, organizers and active participants in the project and their role in the Regional Research Mobility Centre.

The first presentation “The European Researcher’s Mobility Portal – an initiative in support to the mobility of researchers in Europe” was made by Mrs. Stanimira Yordanova, Sofia University. She focused first on the European Researcher’s Mobility Portal and ERA-MORE – The European Network of Mobility Centres. Mrs. Yordanova provided the total information about the European Researcher’s Mobility Portal. After that she presented in details the Bulgarian initiatives for support of researchers mobility – the portal and the network.

Dr Elena Lavrentsova presented the Regional Researchers Mobility Centre – Stara Zagora. She stressed briefly the essential Europe-wide initiatives, and then described the process of structuring, organization and institutional establishment of the Regional Researchers Mobility Centre at DIITT in Stara Zagora, clarified its statute and functions, connected with creating a favorable environment for the development of the research career in the South Bulgaria through the supplying of the structural information and services. In her presentation Dr Lavrentsova stressed upon the essential role of the Researchers Mobility Centre as a regional

executive and coordinating section in the Network. At the end of the report she mentioned about various informational events, expected to be organized by the staff of the RMC and DIITT- Trakia University in the region, where the RMC activity would be specially emphasized and actively popularized.

The report “Conditions of entry and stay in Republic of Bulgaria” was delivered by Christo Trufchev, Chief of Regional Migration Unit - RHQ Stara Zagora. In his presentation he pointed out the necessary documents for foreign nationals to enter Bulgaria, the requirements for different countries groups, the different types of entry visas, etc. He focused also on some details like the need foreign citizens to obtain a medical insurance, to have minimum amount of money per day for the foreseen period of stay. The audience was provided with regulations according to Bulgarian legislation for registering the foreign nationals in Bulgaria and the way to obtain short and/or long-term residence permit. He informed the public about the specific documents which the foreign nationals, entering Bulgaria with a vehicle should present to the relevant authority, and gave some examples with cases of potential situations, connected with researchers’ mobility that could arise in real life.

The report “Health and pension security in Republic of Bulgaria” was made by Dimitar Dikov, Deputy Executive Chief of the Territorial Directorate of the National Revenue Agency - Stara Zagora. He explained the functioning of the national social security system and the relevant regulations in this sphere. Mr Dikov explained in details some specific moments and changes in mechanism of the social and respectively pension security relating workers and employees that worked under civil contract and free lancers. A great number of interesting topics such as allocation of social security instalment liability, actual international agreements between Bulgaria and other countries for social security and etc. were considered too.

Presentation of the projects and mobile practices in the South Central Region

The report “Strategies for the development of Thrace” was delivered by Maria Koleva, Chairperson of Trakia Scientific Institute. She put an emphasis on a positive role of the project, joining the researchers from the different countries (partly situated on the territory of Thrace) in their efforts to study common historical and cultural traditions of the population of the Thrace region.

Discussion: „The mobility of researchers in the South Central Region - barriers and opportunities”

The topic of the discussion provoked a deep interest and broad sharing of opinions among the participants of the seminar. Rainer Josef Rempfer outlined his conceptual vision of the problem and the difficulties for foreign researcher, coming to work in Bulgaria. The most serious barriers accordingly to him are: language barrier and bureaucracy of the administrative-organizational system. On the other hand, he stressed that opportunities were much more than barriers: work in comparatively small groups and teams; direct contact with leading academic staff, professors and colleagues; friendly environment, acquaintance with another culture and etc.

The following printed **informational materials** were distributed to participants:

- Informational leaflet of the regional RRMCC – Stara Zagora;
- Book marker and a small calendar with the contact details of the RRMCC;
- Program of the seminar with brief information about the other projects in this sphere with the participation of RRMCC.
- Informational papers, provided by Christo Trufchev, Chief of Regional Migration Unit – Stara Zagora

**Training seminar on mobility issues
Stara Zagora, 13 April 2006**

List of participants

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Regional training seminar on mobility issues Varna, 17 April 2006

Training seminar overview

The Regional training seminar took place on 17 April 2006 in Varna. It was organized by the staff of the Regional Research Mobility Centre of the Technical university of Varna. The seminar was held in the conference hall of TUV.

At the seminar participated representatives of higher education and research institutions in East Bulgarian region (see list of participants at the end of the report), experts of the project team from Sofia University – CIST, invited lecturers from the Regional Unit of Foreign Affairs, Regional Unit of Social Services, Regional Labour Office and Regional Inspectorate of Education - Varna.

The seminar agenda included:

1. Opening session of the seminar – Assoc.Prof.PhD Hristo Hristov, Vice-Rector of the Technical university of Varna, Ani Kurteva – Expert at the Regional Center for the International Relations and Mobility
2. Conditions of entry (incl. by car) and stay of foreigners in Republic of Bulgaria – V. Dimov, Regional Unit of Foreign Affairs - Varna
3. The European Researcher’s Mobility Portal – an initiative in support to the mobility of researchers in Europe - Stanimira Yordanova, Sofia University
4. Social and Health Insurance for Foreign Citizens in Republic of Bulgaria – Nasko Stanev, jurist at the Regional Unit of Social Services - Varna
5. Bulgarian Legislation for Hiring of Foreign Citizens – Sofia Tiholova, jurist at the Regional Labour Office – Varna
6. Recognition procedures for certificates of period of education or degree issued by Foreign Countries Schools or Institutes – Nevyana Nikova, jurist at the Regional Inspectorate of Education - Varna

At the beginning of the seminar Assoc.Prof. Hristo Hristov, Vice-Rector of the Technical university of Varna welcomed all participants and presented the organizers and the invited lecturers.

Ms. Ani Kurteva from the Regional Center for International Relations and Mobility- Varna informed the audience about the main goals of the project BulRMCNet and described the activities of the Regional Center – Varna.

The first presentation “Conditions of entry (incl. by car) and stay of foreigners in Republic of Bulgaria” was made by V. Dimov, Regional Unit of Foreign Affairs – Varna. He explained the different types of entry visas and the official way to obtain them, showed all the necessary documents for foreign nationals to enter Bulgaria. The audience was provided with regulations according to Bulgarian legislation for registering the foreign nationals in Bulgaria and the way to obtain short and/or long-term residence permit.

Stanimira Yordanova, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” introduced to the participants the European Researcher’s Mobility Portal and explained other initiatives for support of the researchers’ mobility in Europe.

Nasko Stanev, legal expert at the Regional Unit of Social Services – Varna focused on Health Insurance for Foreign Citizens in Republic of Bulgaria. He explained the functioning of the

national social security system and its main principles of the functioning. He informed the audience about the most significant changes and new regulations.

The afternoon session was devoted to the topics of “Bulgarian Law for Hiring of Foreign Citizens” and “Procedures for recognition of certificates for period of education or degree issued by Foreign Countries Schools or Institutes” presented by Sofia Tiholova, legal expert at the Regional Labour Office – Varna and Nevyana Nikova, legal expert at the Regional Inspectorate of Education – Varna. Both lecturers informed the audience about the Bulgarian legislation and showed all lot of necessary documents for going through the respective procedures.

The audience showed an interest to all topics and at the end of every presentation the participants asked lecturers a lot of questions.

Each participant in the seminar received a package with:

- An advertisement pen for the project
- A map of the network
- A brochure of the National Research Mobility Portal
- A brochure of the Regional mobility seminar for East Bulgaria
- The printed lecture materials
- Lecturer’s contact information

List of participants

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19	REGIONAL DISTANCE EDUCATION CENTRE	Assoc.Prof.PhD Velko Naumov	Varna	052/383484	

Regional training seminar on mobility issues
“ANGEL KANCHEV” UNIVERSITY OF ROUSSE
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILITY
Rousse, 19 April 2006

On April 19th 2006 the Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility organized the first regional seminar on basic issues, related to mobile researchers, namely:

- Introduction to the European mobility portal;
- Conditions for entering and staying in Bulgaria;
- Conditions of entering Bulgaria by car;
- Health insurance of researchers in Bulgaria – Bulgarian and foreign nationals;
- Basic issues of the pension insurance in Bulgaria. Social insurance in Bulgaria for foreign nationals and social insurance rights of Bulgarian nationals, working in EU countries;
- Studying opportunities for children of foreign nationals in Bulgarian secondary schools
- Introduction into the ERA-MORE extranet (for the Staff of the Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility).

Participants

The target audience was representatives of scientific institutions in the North Bulgarian Region, including the three big universities in the Region, namely: *the University of Veliko Tarnovo, the Technical University in Gabrovo, the Academy of Economics in Svishtov and the University of Medicine in Pleven*. Representatives of other scientific institutions functioning on the territory of the North Bulgarian Mobility Centre also took part in the Seminar, for example: *the Institute on Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Science in Veliko Tarnovo, the Institute of Forage Plants in Pleven, the Pedagogical Faculty – Silistra Branch of the UR in Silistra, the Technical College of the UR in Silistra, the Technological College of the UR in Razgrad, the Institute on Agriculture and Crop Knowledge in Obratzov Chiflik, the Testing centre of agricultural, forest machinery and spare parts in Rousse*. The Seminar was attended by representatives of local industries (*JITI Ltd*), by representatives of the *Union of Scientists in Rousse*, representatives of *the National Insurance Institute in Rousse and the Regional Inspectorate of Education in Rousse*. The Seminar was put to the special attention of the academic community of the *University of Rousse* and was attended personally by *the Rector and the Vice Rectors*, by either *the Faculty Deans or the Vice Deans in Research and International Cooperation*, by *PhD-students and students* and by the organizing University Unit – the Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility – Head and staff members.

Presentations

The above quoted presentations were prepared by:

1. The representative of the National Mobility Portal at the Sofia University Stanimira Yordanova

2. The representative of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Sofia Assoc. Prof. PhD Liubomir Timchev;
3. The Director in European Integration and International Contracts at the National Insurance Institute, Central Unit, Sofia Maria Kasarova;
4. The Head of Department “Methodology of processes and legal aspects” at the National Agency of Incomes, Sofia Margarita Chechova;
5. The Head of Department at the National Insurance Institute – Rouse Branch office Jordanka Jordanova;
6. The Head of the Regional Inspectorate of Education in Rouse Dimitar Rainov;
7. The representative of the Bridgehead organization Sofia University Maria Dikova.

Awareness results

The offered issues for mobile researchers raised the awareness of the research community in the North Bulgarian Region, clarifying issues of common interest both to outgoing and incoming researchers. The Seminar gathered people with different academic, business-oriented and administrative background, thus facilitating the discussions of the issues and the solution of different practical aspects.

Materials

Each participant received a folder, the Seminar Programme, an ERA-MORE pen, provided by the EC, some materials related to mobile researchers which we had at hand and spare sheets of paper. The folders also contained the specially prepared and printed for the purpose leaflet and visit card of the North Bulgarian Regional Researchers Mobility Centre, which give information about the services offered and the new web-site address of the North Mobility Centre.

Mass media

The local mass media representatives were invited to the opening of the Seminar. The Seminar was announced by the DELTA TV transmissions on the same day.

Web site and address

The Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility, which is both University of Rouse unit and is also the North Bulgarian Regional Researchers Mobility Centre, started its new site which is still under construction. The internet address is as follows: <http://www.cicm.ru.acad.bg> Interested mobile researchers, participants of the Seminar and interested officials can find the programme, the presentations and the pictures taken during the Seminar published in the site of the Centre.

L I S T
of the participants in the Seminar
held at the University of Rouse
on 19.04.2006

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Training Seminar on mobility issues

Sofia, University of national and world economy, 28 April 2006

1. Training seminar overview

The training seminar was organised on 28 April 2006 by the Research Mobility Centre at the University of national and world economy - Sofia. At the seminar participated representatives of higher education and research institutions in South-West Bulgarian region (see list of participants at the end).

At the beginning of the seminar Ms Stanimira Yordanova, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" introduced to the audience the European mobility portal and other initiatives for support of the researchers' mobility in Europe.

In the following sessions Assoc. Prof. Liubomir Timchev, Academy of the Ministry of internal affairs focused on two topics – 'Conditions for entering and stay in Bulgaria' and 'Conditions for entering in Bulgaria by car'.

The afternoon session was devoted to the topic of "Social and health insurance in Bulgaria" presented by Ms Hristina Mitreva, National social security institute.

Each participant in the seminar received a package with:

- The printed and bounded in a body lecture materials
- A CD with the lecture materials
- A brochure of the Regional mobility seminar for South-West Bulgaria
- An advertisement pen for the project, ensured by the Commission
- A map of the network, ensured by the Commission
- A Programme
- An inquiry card
- Sheets of paper for notes

2. Evaluation of the training seminar

Level of interest to the seminar

The team of the mobility center prepared and distributed over 60 invitations for the seminar. The target group included: international departments, career development centers and coordinators of European programs of different research and scientific institutions in South-west Bulgaria. The level of interest was not high. This was already also observed in the contacts with the different institutions for the work for the project, as well as in the organization and implementation of the "Academy-industry" seminar at the end of 2005. There are certain institutions showing constant interest to the project and network activities, while the big part of the potential partners show a more passive position.

Implementation of the seminar

The seminar was successfully organized and realized in spite of the fact that the team found the level of participation unsatisfactory. The team also found useful the extranet training, realized after the seminar as a closed for internal purposes part of the programme.

Evaluation was also given by the participants, who received an inquiry card in the package with materials and filled it at the end of the day. The inquiry contained 6 open questions, concerning both the seminar and the mobility project.

The first raised question “Do you estimate the project as useful for your institution?” received absolutely positive answer - 100% of the respondents confirmed.

The answers to the second question “What benefits do you expect from the project for your institution?” showed the overcoming of the information necessity and insufficiency as a basic expectation of the participants. 71% of the respondents answered that they expected to receive more, actual, better and detailed information about:

- the mobility opportunities for researchers, students and phd candidates;
- the conditions for reception of foreign researchers;
- the opportunities for exchange of researchers with foreign institutions.

The rest of the respondents saw opportunities for better career development for the students and researchers, improved possibilities for attracting of foreign researchers, as well as for traveling and work of Bulgarian researchers abroad, and as a result from this – sharing and exchange of good experience and practices or shortly – brain circulation as an expected result from the project. Another expectation is for improved communication and cooperation between the research institutions in the region.

The third question “Do you think that the seminar will be useful for your work and if yes - in what way?” received 100% positive answers again. The answers varied between “yes”, “yes, partially” and “yes, to great extent”. Most of the participants also added the asked comment. 57% of the respondents found the seminar useful for the clarification of the mobility issues /which obviously are not well known in the country/. 14% of the respondents evaluated as very useful also the contact with colleagues, which usually provoked precious ideas for cooperation. Another 14% of the respondents found useful the additional learned information about the European portal, as well as the contacts with experts, and the opportunities for receiving of competent answers to questions and ideas for decisions of problems in the everyday work. 15% found the seminar useful with the clarification of many questions connected with the status of Bulgarian researchers abroad and foreign ones in the country¹.

The fourth question “Which of the presented topics were of greatest interest for you from the point of view of your job and why?” received the following answers:

- 28% of the respondents considered all of the presented topics useful because of the necessity for a broad and common view to the mobility issues. They also evaluated the selection of the lecturers and topics as a very good one;
- 43% of the respondents found as most interesting the presentation about the project and the portals because of the broadening of the opportunities for receiving of reliable information both for the researchers, and for the institutions;
- 43% of the respondents appreciated as most interesting the topic for entering and stay in Bulgaria;
- 14% of the respondents found as most interesting the topic about the health insurance of Bulgarians abroad².

The sum of the answers exceeds 100%, because part of the respondents gave more answers.

¹ In spite of the fact that the basic purpose of the seminar was not to clarify the issues connected with the mobility of Bulgarian researchers, this answer and some of the above already mentioned show that in fact this was also realized, not without the support of the lectors, of course.

² This also confirms the fore mentioned observation about the purposes of the seminar.

The fifth question “In what areas should the contents of the seminar be broadened according to you? Would you offer examples for additional topics?” received really various answers:

- 14% of the respondents left the question without comment³;
- 28% of the respondents found useful the presentation of real examples for mobility of researchers, including issues as: problems, connected with the mobility, advantages of the mobility, return of mobile researchers in the country and problems, connected with it, researchers, who had used the services of the mobility center;
- 14% of the respondents considered as important also topics about the social-psychological aspects of the mobility;
- 14% of the respondents found important the topic about the changes, connected with the mobility, after the accession of the country to the European Union;
- 14% of the respondents considered important the issues, connected with the intellectual property protection – its regulation and the special features of its implementation;
- 14% of the respondents proposed as a topic the health insurance of Bulgarian students abroad and of foreign students in Bulgaria;
- 14% of the respondents thought that a possible theme could be mobility in the implementation of scientific projects.

The last question asked for evaluation of the level of organization of the seminar and for proposals for the improvement of the organization. 57% of the respondents found the organization excellent and added no additional remarks. 28% found the organization very good. One of the respondents in the group also recommended the problem-oriented approach – developing the issues by the means of case studies with indication of the basic rules and information sources. Another idea was the one for organization of separate seminars for students and phd candidates.

One participant of this group considered it necessary for the institutions to receive information about similar seminars earlier in order to choosing the proper participant. In fact the invitations together with a programme were sent 15 days before the seminar and 3 days before it the institutions were contacted by phone for reminder. Some of them definitely had not distributed the information and had not taken decision about the participants even until the last day before the date. The team had already met this problem in the contacts, connected with the presentation of the project and demand of partners. Something more, in this process was used the bottom-up approach – the team addressed the departments, connected most closely with the mobility issues, and not the top-down approach – addressing the rectors and expecting the right persons, which always needed more time and was usually not very successful.

14% of the participants didn't give evaluation in the “excellent”, “very good”, etc. mode, but commented that the working atmosphere had been very good and as between real colleagues, which the team considered also positive. They criticized the fact that the organizers missed to ask the participants to turn off the sound of their mobile phones, which disturbed the work. The team fully accepts this recommendation.

As a result of this inquiry and the positive evaluation of the very team, its members consider the seminar successful, incl. from the point of view of the realized experience, the mentioned proposals and ideas for improvement and the established contacts and ideas for cooperation.

³ The team considers this as a compliment for the topic selection.

3. List of participants

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