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**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MOBILITY CENTRES**

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## **Deliverable D4.2 The Bulgarian Network of RMC and Research Mobility Portal Promotion Day**

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

## **The Bulgarian Network of RMC and Research Mobility Portal Promotion Day**

During the project implementation was decided not to arrange a special day for promotion of the portal, but to include the Portal promotion day in several promotional events in the capital and at regional level, namely the four seminars of awareness-raising rally and the conference on ‘The researcher – a factor for development of the knowledge society’.

The awareness-raising rally took place from 20 to 28 September 2005. It included four seminars in different Bulgarian cities – on 20 September in Plovdiv, on 21 September in Stara Zagora, on 27 September in Varna and on 28 September in Rousse. The seminars had a common part with speakers coming from Sofia or from abroad, a regional part – with local speakers invited by the project participants, and a brainstorming session devoted to the research profession and the on-going survey on this matter. At all seminars was broadcasted a short movie of the production ‘High Tech’ of Nova Televisia devoted to the researchers’ profession including the film of the EC ‘Keys to mobility’ translated into Bulgarian.

Within the main program of the seminars was included a presentation on the European strategy main instruments - ERA MORE and the European Research Mobility Portal (RMP), the Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres (RMC) and the Bulgarian RMP. Following it, a presentation on the financial instruments for researchers mobility, namely on Maria Curie actions was included in the program of all seminars. In addition, foreign guests were invited to present their experience as mobile researchers (Ms Katalin Garane Nagy, Hungary, and Mr Panos Hahamis, UK), and generally the opportunities for researchers to work or study abroad (Mr Bernard Clement, DG JRC-IPTS).

In general, the seminars provided a forum at regional level for discussing policy-related issues and the respective tools concerning researchers’ career. The regional addition to the main program focused on issues of interest to the regional community and was aimed at raising the public awareness on scientific aspects. The seminars succeeded in gathering policy makers, researchers and industrialists at regional level to discuss topics related to researchers’ career development.

Finally the impact at regional level could be seen in raising the awareness of the public in three directions:

- The importance of research human resources for building the European and the Bulgarian knowledge economy and society
- Bulgarian and Europe-wide initiatives related to researchers career, e.g. ERA MORE and the RMPs
- The career and job opportunities for young scientists in Europe

The conference ‘The Researcher – a factor for the development of the knowledge society’ took place in Sofia on 28-29 November 2005 in the time frame of the ‘Researchers in Europe initiative’. At the conference participated various stakeholders – policy makers, local authorities, researchers, businesses, educators, etc. Invited speakers from EU research organisations – from Lithuania, Finland, Greece and Spain, provided an international dimension of the conference.

At the opening of the conference welcome speeches were made by the Head of the Parliamentary Commission on education and research Mr. Ljutvi Mestan, by the President of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria – Prof. Dr. Damjan Damjanov, and by the Vice Rector of Sofia University – Prof. Dr. Peter Bakalov.

During the different sessions of the conference, several speakers presented different issues on the topics of EC and Bulgarian policy for researchers; International and intersectorial mobility of researchers; Science, education and business collaboration; Women and young people in science. A representative of DG Research of the EC made the audience aware of the recent EC activities related to researchers. Very interesting discussion on the habilitation system and the researchers career in Bulgaria followed the speech of Academic Peter Kenderov, President of the Presidium of the Higher Attestation Commission of Bulgaria. The discussion continued in the final session devoted to the Bulgarian researchers state-of-the-art.

A special session of the conference during its first day was devoted to mobility of researchers. After an introduction related to the European strategy main instruments - ERA MORE and the European RMP, the Bulgarian Network of RMC and the Bulgarian RMP were presented. A young researcher from Finland (Mariagrazia Squciarini, VTT Finland) presented her mobility experience to the audience focusing on the factors which influence the decision to go abroad.

In order to reach a wider audience, it was decided to publish the conference proceedings as a special edition of the Journal of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria 'Nauka'. At the same time, the conference proceedings and the presentations of all speakers were uploaded on Internet site <http://www-it.fmi.uni-sofia.bg/reks/news.html>.

During the seminars and the conference were disseminated book marks and flyers on the Bulgarian RMP, including also contact details of all Bulgarian RMCs. In addition, in the info packs of all participants at the conference was included a movie on 'Profession researcher' including also indications to the Bulgarian RMP, as well as small calendars for 2006 with the logo of ERA MORE.