

SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
Human Resources & Mobility
FP6-2003-MOBILITY-CENTRES
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MOBILITY CENTRES

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Kick-off meeting minutes

WP 5 Management and Control

Project acronym: **BulRMCNet**

Project full title: **Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres**

Proposal/Contract no.: **MOBI-CT-2004-510971**

Sofia, Bulgaria, November 2004

The kick-off meeting of the project “Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres” was held on 9th of November 2004 at the Ministry of Education and Science. At the meeting participated the members of the Steering Group (SC) and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and of Sofia University (SU) (Appendix 1).

Mrs. Albena Vutsova, co-chairman of the Steering Group opened the meeting. She briefly introduced the MES team, and highlighted some results achieved by the time being in relation to the project. Mrs. Vutsova announced officially the results of the Tender procedure for selection of Regional Research Mobility Centres. The selected centres are: University for National and World Economy (Sofia), Technical University – Varna, “Angle Kunchev” University of Rousse and the Thracian University in Stara Zagora. It is envisaged that the University of National and World Economy will operate also as Center for Intersectorial mobility.

Mr. Roumen Nikolov, co-chairman of the Steering Group and coordinator of “Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres” project introduced the SU team, which is responsible for the project realization. Within the following tour-de-table all participants briefly presented themselves.

The meeting agenda included one point - presentation of the “Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres” project by Mrs. Elissaveta Gourova. She emphasised the European context of the project, its objectives, main activities and the main implementation phases. Subsequently she presented the project management structure, the tasks and the role of the Steering Group and the project personnel. The meeting participants became aware of the main functions and tasks of the Network of Research Mobility Centres and the information envisaged to be available on the Research Mobility Portal to be designed within the project.

Generally, the participants appreciated the project ideas and provided feedback on possible action lines. For example, some participants suggested to be established links to websites of business organizations on the Research Mobility Portal. Generally, the SC members expressed their readiness to assist in building databases and in other project activities related to mobile researchers.

In the course of discussions was raised the question on the status of the National Strategy for Researchers’ Mobility and its relation to the project. Mrs. Vutsova explained that the Strategy will be prepared after the adoption of the Strategy for Encouragement of Research, which is under discussion now. She expressed her intention to involve the SC members also in the expected activities related to the National Strategy for Researchers’ Mobility.

Mr. Nikolov paid special attention to the existing danger of one-way mobility or “brain-drain” and at the same time he expressed his hope that this project will contribute to the encouragement of the two-way mobility of researchers.

Mrs. Vutsova made a number of concrete proposals regarding the Steering Group work:

- One of the first tasks is the definition of the Steering Group activities. It was decided that Mrs. Elissaveta Gourova will prepare a detailed work plan for the first 18 months of the project.
- The co-chairmen Mrs. Albena Vutsova and Mr. Roumen Nikolov will prepare Working Rules of the Steering Group, on which all SC members are invited to provide feedback.
- A group e-mail list will be created containing the mailing addresses of the members of the Steering Group as well as a separate one for the members of the Expert Group.

In addition, a question was raised for training of the members of the Steering Group and the Expert Group. It was proposed also to consider the possibility for extension of the Regional Mobility Centres activities and their relation with other initiatives of MES – Regional Innovation Strategies for example.

**List
of participants at the kick-off meeting
of the project “Bulgarian Network of Research Mobility Centres”**

Steering Group Members:

1. Ms. **Nevena Apostolova**, Senior Expert, Directorate “Management of the European Union Funds”, Ministry of Finance, Tel. +359 2 985 92925,
e-mail: n.apostolova@minfin.bg
2. Prof. Dr. **Angel Baltov**, Rector of Centre for Education of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding member of BAS, Tel. +359 2 986 1734,
e-mail: baltov@eagle.cu.bas.bg
3. Ass. Prof. **Georgi Botev**, Dean, Faculty „Fire and emergency safety”, Ministry of Interior, Tel: +359 2 982 1070,
e-mail: gk_botev@abv.bg
4. Mr. **Ludmil Dimitrov**, Secretary General, Patent Bureau, Tel. +359 2 970 1316,
e-mail: ldimitrov@bpo.bg
5. Mrs. **Elka Dimitrova**, Director, Directorate “Policy of the labor market”, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Tel.: +359 2 8119 429,
e-mail: edimitrova@mlsp.government.bg
6. Mrs. **Galina Doynova**, Governmental Expert, Directorate “Technology Development and Innovation”, Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency, Тел. +359 2 932 9277, e-mail: g.doynova@asme.bg; g.doynova@sme.government.bg
7. Mrs. **Ginka Kireva**, Head of Unit “International Co-operation and Protocol”, National Centre of Agricultural Sciences, Tel. +359 2 929 5461,
e-mail: kireva@acad.bg
8. Mrs. **Maya Konstantinova**, Governmental Expert, Directorate „European Integration”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tel: + 359 2 948 2570,
e-mail: mkonstantinova@mfa.government.bg
9. Mrs. **Hristina Mitreva**, Chief Director of Chief Directorate ‘Analisis, planning and prognosis’, National Insurance Institute, Tel.+359 2 926 1200,
e-mail: Hristina.Mitreva@nssf.bg
10. Mr. **Roumen Nikolov**, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Sofia University, Tel. +359 2 8161 574, e-mail: roumen@fmi.uni-sofia.bg
11. Mr. **Rosen Simeonov**, Chief Expert, Directorate ‘ Employment services’, National Employment Service Agency of Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Tel. +359 2 980 7363, e-mail: r.simeonov@az.government.bg,
12. Mrs. **Mariana Stefanova**, Director, Directorate “Information and Organization”, Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tel. +359 2 987 3209,
e-mail: stefanova@bccci.bg
13. Mrs. **Albena Vutsova**, Director “Scientific Research and Projects” Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science, Tel. +359 2 9217 647
e-mail: a.vutsova@minedu.government.bg

Representatives of Ministry of Education and Science:

14. Mr. **Radoslav Enev**, Senior Expert, Directorate “Scientific Programs”, Tel.+359 2 9217 646, e-mail: r.enev@mnedu.government.bg
15. Mrs. **Genoveva Jecheva**, Chief Expert, Sector European Programs”, Directorate “European Integration and Bilateral Co-operation”, Tel. +359 2 9217 532, e-mail: g.jecheva@mnedu.government.bg
16. Ms. **Lora Pavlova**, Senior Expert, Unit “Coordination and Control”, Directorate “Scientific Programs”, Tel.+359 2 9217 520, e-mail: l.pavlova@mnedu.government.bg

Representatives of Sofia University:

17. Mr. **Roumen Alexandrov**, Centre of Information Society Technologies, Tel. + 359 2 971 3509
18. Ms. **Mariya Dikova**, Centre of Information Society Technologies, Tel. +359 2 971 3509, e-mail: mdikova@fmi.uni-sofia.bg
19. Mrs. **Elissaveta Gourova**, Centre of Information Society Technologies, Tel. +359 2 971 3509, e-mail: elis@fmi.uni-sofia.bg
20. Ms. **Eugenia Kovatcheva**, Chief Assistant, Department ‘Information Technologies’, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Tel. +359 2 816 1511, e-mail: epk@fmi.uni-sofia.bg