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EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MOBILITY CENTRES

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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)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	X

EU FP6 project BulRMCNet
“Bulgarian Network of Researchers’ Mobility Centres”
Steering Group meeting
Sofia, 2 July 2007

The Steering Group (SG) meeting took place on 2 July 2007 in Sofia hosted by Sofia University - CIST. At the meeting participated representatives of all research mobility centres (RMC) in Bulgaria (Annex 1).

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Presentation of the results of the project BulRMCNet
2. Report on the Survey of the National Research Mobility Portal and the regional sites
3. Discussion on the promotion of ERA MORE
4. The future of the Bulgarian Network
5. Other issues

The meeting was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Roumen Nikolov, Chairman of the SG.

On the first point of the agenda, E. Gurova made an overview of the main achievements during the project BulRMCNet. She pointed out the establishment of a national and four regional centres of the Bulgarian network, the Portal and the future sustainability of the centres. E. Gurova outlined as well the successful common projects, the co-operation with other organisations and the positive efforts in promoting ERA MORE. The participation in international conferences of ERA MORE and the relations with Greece were underlined as very important results.

On the second point, Stanimira Yordanova reported the results of the examination of the National portal and the regional sites carried out in March 2007. She outlined the problems found by the Expert Group, and the follow-up actions of the regional centers staff. All mobility centers expressed their willingness to complete these tasks by the end of July. The site of the university on national and world economy was announced to have been made in compliance with all the rules. The work on the sites was summarized to be successful because of the present information regarding:

- Entering, working and staying of foreign scientists and their families
- Social and working rights, protection of health and tax problems
- Accommodation, education of the children, language courses
- Tourism, culture and so on

With relation to the promotion of ERA MORE, E. Gurova outlined the researchers’ night, the FP7 information days, the web sites of universities and links to other institutions as very successful means of promoting the network.

On the fourth point of the agenda, R. Nikolov raised the issues of seeking new financial sources and extension of the competencies and coverage of the network. Except the financial help of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and the university he emphasized the need of independent fund rising as developing new projects and offering new services. During the following discussion regarding the future of the research mobility centers in Bulgaria, R. Nikolov suggested the use of the Structural funds. He drew the attention on the great chance of usage the structural funds, and the need of more initiatives for collaboration with the Western Balkans. Despite the efforts in promoting the network, R. Nikolov was persuaded that ERA MORA wasn’t known enough in Bulgaria. He also emphasised the need of virtual

mobility in means of short personal meetings between scientists which will conserve the active forms of communication.

K. Angelieva suggested preparing a letter to MES on the activities of the network, and regarding the centers and their activities. A possible support by the Ministry and better positioning of the network should be sought.

R. Nikolov came back to a preliminary idea for setting up a civil society organization. As a part of its future obligations he proposed work for advancing the conditions for scientists who come back in Bulgaria and have been working abroad for some time. The most serious problem he described was the unrecognised diplomas, as well as, the need of contriving an interest in Bulgaria for Bulgarians abroad, aiming at integration in the country. V. Tzakova emphasised the necessity of defying the activities of a future civil society organization aiming at making it interesting for new investors. H. Hristov expressed his conviction that the network should continue to exist and work with the same pace, as it is created and to extent the activities of the centres for mobility.

At the meeting were taken the following decisions:

1. Preparing a letter and a report for the activities of the network to MES
2. Exploring the possibilities of building a formal organisation
3. Upgrading the regional web sites no later than 31st July 2007
4. Using all possible ways of promoting the network by all BulRMCNet partners .

**Steering Group meeting
Sofia, 2 July 2007**

List of participants

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