

European Mobility Conference; Prague 03.12.2004

Renaissance hotel; V Celnici 7; Prague 1; 111 21

I. The Background

Mobility is an effective and well-known way of training researchers and spreading knowledge. Activities undertaken by the Union to encourage this have met with great success. In recent years almost 8 000 young European scientists have taken advantage of this option and a further 13.000 are expected to do so over the next four years. To date this measure has been largely for training purposes.

Overall, researchers are more mobile than the rest of the population. Roughly speaking, their level of mobility is around 5% of the active population whereas 2% is the average for other professional groups. That said, they are still not as mobile as they could be in proportion to requirements.

One aspect which plays a significant role is the lack of familiarity of European researchers with the research "cultures" that exist in other countries and the lack of attraction that they feel for them. There are also obstacles of an administrative nature. Application at national level of Community directives on free movement and right of establishment, social or pension cover, is not always straightforward and requires an effort from interested parties which can be dissuasive.

More use should be made in future, at national and European level, of the possibility of using mobility as an instrument of information and technology transfer. The mobility of researchers between the academic world and the business world, in the different forms that this might take, should also be readily encouraged and developed.

This is one of the best ways of improving cooperation between universities and industry. Information, training and familiarisation projects for researchers and the administrative managers of research organisations should, moreover, be undertaken in tandem by the Member States and the Commission. In the longer term the possibility should be looked at of improving, on a co-ordinated basis, for the bodies concerned, certain internal regulatory and administrative provisions.

II. The Prague Conference

The European Mobility Conference is organized as an initiative of Czech Member of the European Parliament, Mrs. Jana Bobosikova and its primary aim is to support the European Commission to increase the public awareness about the mobility instruments available within the European Union. The secondary aim is to encourage the higher education and research institutions to participate in the mobility measures more actively (e.g. becoming a training site for researchers from other EU countries; co-ordinating projects aiming at increasing mobility of young people).

III. The Participants

The participants of this conference are heads and managers of the institutes dealing with research and higher education. The audience was selected in order to open-up again the discussion about EU mobility and its measures. The specific attention is given to the participation of women within the mobility schemes.

IV. The Speakers

Host:

Mrs. Jana Bobosikova – Member of the European Parliament; Czech Republic

Speakers:

Mrs. Stefania Bettini is working for the European Commission at DG Research, Directorate D: Human factor, mobility and Marie Curie Actions- Unit D1: Strategy and Policy Aspects. Here, she follows the implementation of the Commission Communication «A mobility strategy for the European Research Area» dealing particularly with the setting up and developing of the Researcher's Mobility Portal.

Mrs. Marcela Linkova is a junior lecturer at the Institute of Sociology. She received her degree in English and American Studies at the Philosophical Faculty, Charles University. Her research concentrates on the position of women in science, the construction of scientific knowledge and the study of scientific institutions from a gender perspective and feminist epistemologies. In 2001 she became the co-ordinator of the National Contact Centre - Women and Science and in 2004 a co-ordinator of an FP6-funded project titled Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science.

Mr. Jaroslav Mysiak is "senior researcher working in the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) - which is an research centre specialised in the field of environmental and ecological economics, and natural resource management" and a board member of the Marie Curie Fellowship Association. The Marie Curie Fellowship Association is the Association of current and former holders of a Marie Curie fellowship or a similar European Community research training grant. It was founded in 1996 at the initiative of the European Commission, and since 1997 it has the status of an international non-profit organization under Belgian law.

V. The Agenda

- European Mobility Conference; Prague 03.12.2004 -
- Renaissance hotel; V Celnici 7; Prague 1; 111 21 -
- Friday 3.12.2004 -

9.00 -10.00	Press introduction
10.00 – 10.20	Coffee break
10.20 – 10.30	Welcome by the host
10.30 – 11.00	The EU Mobility Portal introduction - the value of the mobility schemes for modern European researcher (Mrs. Bettini)
11.00 – 11.30	The Marie Curie Fellowship Association – Brain drain or brain gain? (Mr. Mysiak)
11.30 – 12.00	Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science – Women and mobility (Mrs. Linkova)
12.00	Lunch

Registration: Please fill in the form below and fax (00420 271 090 771) it back to our office.

Booking form

Please book one place at the **European Mobility Conference; Prague 03.12.2004**

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The participation at the conference does not cover any travel and lodging costs for participants.

MR/MRS/MS/MISS/DR/ PROF	FIRST NAME	FAMILY NAME
ORGANISATION		
ADDRESS		
CITY	POST CODE	COUNTRY
PHONE	FAX	EMAIL

Signature of the participant.....

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