

## COMMITMENT OF QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR THE RESEARCHER'S MOBILITY PORTAL

(ERACAREERS: <http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers>)

This Commitment is open to public and private sector research organisations anywhere in Europe and the world that share our commitments and objectives and are willing to contribute to the successful implementation of the European Researcher's Mobility Portal.

All the signatories of this Commitment may withdraw from this agreement at any time.

All the signatories of this Commitment agree that failure to respect its commitments will lead to their suspension from this initiative .

### *Principles of this Commitment*

All the signatories to this Commitment are committed to working towards the widest possible access to the resources of relevant information for mobile researchers through internet based web sources, thus contributing to a more favourable environment for the professional development of researchers in Europe.

In public and private partnership at Euro pean, international, national, regional or local level, including government, non -government organisations, institutes of higher education, research centres, foundations, academia, IT and media organisations, industry including SMEs, the signatories will work together to achieve the following goals:

- To provide action and inform about the largest possible number of fellowships and grants from public and private organisations at international, European, national, regional and local level which are accessible, in a commonly agreed format on both the Researcher's Mobility Portal and the information provider's portal or web-site.
- To guarantee access to research job vacancies from a variety of terminals and different access systems through the implementation of in ter-operational protocols (e.g. XML file).
- To provide, whenever possible, information about issues related to national regulations, administrative and cultural issues relevant to researchers and their family members when moving from one country to another, as well as about policy issues relevant to mobile researchers.
- To contribute to an effective promotion strategy of this service .

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**Commitments for the signatories**

They include:

**Interoperability:** Standardisation on core sets of inter -operational protocols, formats, search and retrieve functions, access interfaces and terminal interfaces and protocols: in conjunction with the relevant documents and deliverables as proposed by the European Commission.

**Ownership:** The provided information remains the ownership of each provider linked to the Portal.

**Quality assurance:** All the signatories of this Commitment agree upon the necessity to guarantee the quality of the information: the information provided shall be complete, impartial, accurate, practical, user-friendly and up-to-date. The responsibility for this quality assurance lies entirely with the owner of the web source.

**Accessibility:** The information provided shall be accessible to all researchers regardless of their situation, place of residence or social category.

**Principle of non-discrimination:** The information provided shall respect the principle of non-discrimination and in particular shall guarantee equal treatment for its users irrespective of their nationality, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation.

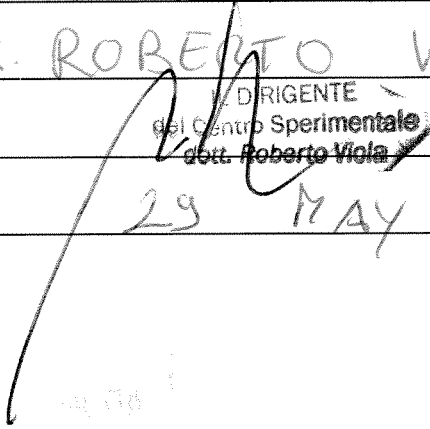
**Confidentiality:** Where relevant, information and counselling are given in a way that respects the user's confidence and anonymity.

**Common ownership of this project:** The participating organisations are committed to exchanging information and to sharing experiences within the scope of this Commitment.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - European Research Area: Knowledge-based economy  
Universities and researchers

## THE RESEARCHER'S MOBILITY PORTAL - RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

One of the major obstacles for transnational mobility is the lack of adequate information on available programmes and opportunities for researchers and on questions related to admission to the country and access to employment, social security rights and fiscal issues or cultural aspects of the host country involved.

A central portal which allows a user-friendly and interactive access to these questions will both stimulate transnational mobility as well as increase the chance of success for the stay abroad of researchers and their family members.

### *The implementation of the European Research Area*

In January 2000, the Commission adopted a Communication proposing the creation of a European Research Area (ERA)<sup>1</sup>. It emphasised, among other things, the need for more abundant and more mobile human resources.

Based on work carried out by the above mentioned High Level Group the Commission presented in June 2001 its Communication 'A Mobility Strategy for the European Research Area'<sup>2</sup>. The strategy aims at creating a favourable environment for the mobility of researchers in the ERA, in order to develop, attract and retain appropriate human resources in research and to promote innovation.

Moreover, the Council adopted in December 2001 a Resolution concerning the reinforcement of the mobility strategy within the ERA<sup>3</sup> where amongst others the *Council of the European Union endorses efforts to improve information on mobility to researchers, in particular by the creation of a dedicated internet portal.*

### *Commission action: developing the Researcher's Mobility Portal*

Therefore the Commission launched the implementation of the **Researcher's Mobility Portal**, which particularly aims at providing references to job or research opportunities at European level, including Community funding opportunities for researchers wishing to go abroad or to return to their home country and at providing information about national regulations and procedure as well as about administrative and cultural issues relevant for mobile researchers.

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<sup>1</sup> COM (2000) 6 final.

<sup>2</sup> COM (2001) 331 final

<sup>3</sup> J.O. 2001/C 367



The ultimate aim of this project is to achieve a true interoperability of national, and where appropriate, regional or sectoral portals, web sites and databases, through the definition of common standards and/or requirements .

The development of the portal has followed a step-by-step approach with the convergence of different pathways:

#### ***The technical development of the Portal***

A contractor, Reggiani Italy, carries out the technical development and implementation of the Portal, which is on-line since July 2003.

#### ***The creation of the European Network of Mobility Centres (ERA-MORE)***

The creation of an integrated *European Network of Mobility Centres*, as foreseen in the above-mentioned Commission's Communication, plays a substantial role in the successful implementation of this portal project. In fact, existing or newly created mobility centres act as *help desk* for the portal and carry out the tailored and customised assistance to incoming and outgoing researchers (<http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/era-more>).

#### ***Mobilisation of different providers***

In parallel, different international, national and sectoral sources have been mobilised towards the interconnection at European level of national and sectoral databases, web sites or portals. They are in fact the signatories of this Commitment and they act as catalysts for a coherent development of the professional development of researchers in Europe by promoting a wider public awareness of the potential benefits of training and mobility of researchers. Thus they contribute to fighting the brain drain of researchers and facilitating the brain circulation within Europe.

#### ***Monitoring of the work progress***

The implementation of the proposed work includes co-ordinated actions with Member States, candidate countries and countries associated to the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme through the members of the Steering Group. They will continue to actively participate in both either the implementation of a national/regional researcher's mobility portal or by continuing the co-ordination and identification work of relevant national/regional/sectoral web-sources.

In addition, ad-hoc working groups address key areas for a successful implementation; this also includes regular user feedback and co-operation networks drawn from the participating organisations at both national and European level.

#### ***General guidelines for the implementation of the Researcher's Mobility Portal***

In addition to some quality criteria already adopted for the technical development of the pilot phase of the portal, the following principles constitute general guidelines for the successful implementation of the pilot portal project:

- Every effort will be made to ensure the objectivity of the information provided through the multiplicity of the sources used.
- The information provided on the Portal shall be free of any ideological, party political or commercial interest.



- Being hosted on the EUROPA server, the Portal shall abide by the rules governing the presentation of any Portal. These rules are set out in the following document: Information Providers Guide ([europa.eu.int/comm/ipg/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/ipg/index_en.html)).
- No charge shall be made for access to the information and other services organised on the Portal, other than the cost of accessing Internet, which may be charged by the access provider.
- The Portal shall not generate any income. Where the information services linked to the Portal concern activities or services for which a user is required to pay, these activities or services shall be limited to those which are in conformity with the aim of the Portal. No paid advertising will be permitted on the Researcher's Mobility Portal.

