

## **European Commission - DG Research**

### **VNR “Human resources and mobility”**

#### VOICE OFF

Substantial resources have been earmarked in order to enhance research in Europe. 17.5 billion euros will be made available to researchers and research organisations over the four years of the European Commission’s 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development. The goal is to create a European Research Area. The 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, launched in Brussels at a major conference in November 2002, started at the beginning of this year.

On taking a closer look, the budget for researcher mobility and training is significant — amounting to nearly 10% of the total budget, some 1.58 billion euros. Europe has given a strong signal by making this choice : it is determined to set up a European research area capable of successfully competing with the United States and Japan.

Europe wants to appeal to researchers all over the world in order to attract them to our institutions and our laboratories. It has also not forgotten its own scientists who have left and moved to other continents.

#### INTERVIEW

**TC in : 01 :04 :18 :04**

**Philippe Busquin**

**EU Research Commissioner**

**Several new actions, like the Marie Curie grants for excellence teams and the Marie Curie Chairs , should encourage our researchers to come back to Europe and reverse the brain drain trend that we have observed in several fields.**

**TC out: 01:04::34:15**

#### VOICE OFF

The European Commission launched the « Marie Curie Actions » in December 2002 to give researchers an opportunity for training, mobility and career development. Today, with this programme, the Commission targets the same success and notoriety it gained with Erasmus, the EU programme for higher education. Like students, researchers should be aware that they have everything to gain by undertaking research opportunities in other countries. .

#### INTERVIEW

**TC in: 01:05:03:00**

**Maria Da Graça Carvalho**

**Instituto Superior Técnico**

**Universidade de Lisboa-Portugal**

**We can’t compare the experience of scientists who went to other countries to that of researchers who have never left home. They have gained new living and cultural experiences, which help them in turn to better organize their work.**

**TC out: 00:05:21:15**

#### INTERVIEW

**TC in: 01:05:21:18**

**Stephen Davies**

**DG Research**

**European Commission**

**These collaborations continue long after the network is actually finished. Particular for young researchers, one can imagine, these collaborations will proceed long into their professional careers as well.**

**TC out: 01:05:33:20**

VOICE OFF

Researchers now have a brand new series of schemes called the Marie Curie Actions, open to scientists from all countries and of all ages. In addition, the programme covers all scientific sectors, including social sciences. The actions target universities, research laboratories and companies – including small businesses – active in research in the Member States, the applicant and the associate states.

The programme is extremely broad and covers a wide variety of actions — fellowships, participation in conferences, the financing of transnational research teams, and training networks.

Training networks are what we have here in the Netherlands where we are attending a meeting of the CAUAC network. CAUAC stands for Cold Atoms and Ultraprecise Atomic Clocks.

INTERVIEW

**TC in: 01:06:18:13**

**Sébastien Sauge**

**Young researcher**

**France**

**Laboratories have trouble financing young researchers for a short or longer period. Generally we can find financing for students writing a Ph.D. thesis. But there was a missing link that has now been provided by the Research training networks. In the laboratory where I am working now, half the young researchers are paid by the European Union by means of these networks.**

**TC out: 01:06:46:05**

VOICE OFF

This « Marie Curie Research Training Network » is being reviewed today in Lunteren in the Netherlands. This review, which comes after two years of operation of the network, is carried out by representatives of the European Commission and the various laboratories involved— in this case in Germany, Denmark, Finland and France.

VOICE OFF

For a second example, we are going to Montpellier, France. Bojin Maximov Bojinov is carrying out research under a Marie Curie fellowship. He has just arrived from Plovdiv in Bulgaria. To join Cirad in Montpellier, he simply got in contact with the centre via the internet.

INTERVIEW

**TC in: 01:07:28:13**

**Bojin Maximov Bojinov**

**Agricultural University of Plovdiv**

## **Bulgaria**

**There is a need to exchange and for research people to be able to move here. This Marie Curie Fellowship gives options to young researchers to move which is not very common with other funding agencies.**

**TC out: 01:07:45:23**

## **VOICE OFF**

For Bojin Maximov Bojinov, this a great opportunity for his own research on DNA imprints in plants. For the time being, he is working in Montpellier, but he plans to work in other locations in France while pursuing his research project.

## **INTERVIEW**

**TC in: 01:08:01:03**

**Bojin Maximov Bojinov**

**Agricultural University of Plovdiv**

**Bulgaria**

**Without the support of the Marie Curie Fellowship, I wouldn't have been able to do it in Bulgaria because it's very expensive. It takes a lot of consumables. The nice thing about the Marie Curie Fellowship is that it covers the bench fees, the expenses for consumables. So I could come here and do all the manipulations I need , with all the consumables I need.**

**TC out: 01:08:23:17**

## **VOICE OFF**

As was mentioned before, mobility tends to prevent brain drain to places outside Europe. If these brains stay in Europe, European research will be more competitive and attractive. The Marie Curie actions follow the researchers as they move, and even when they return to their home countries. The programme has not forgotten their professional reintegration after spending from 6 months to three years in another country. This holds for scientists from both Member States and associated countries.

## **INTERVIEW**

**TC in : 01 :08 :55 :13**

**Maria Da Graça Carvalho**

**Instituto Superior Técnico**

**Universidade de Lisboa-Portugal**

**We need to broaden our borders and to bring in researchers from non-European countries too. These programmes are already open to the applicant countries, which can benefit from mobility fellowships under the framework programme. But the next stage will target researchers in developing countries because exchanges with these scientists are extremely useful for Europe, and of course for these countries.**

**TC out : 01 :09 :33 :17**

## **VOICE OFF**

The mobility of researchers is one of Europe's research priorities. It is a key element in helping to achieve the European Research Area's goal, namely to develop Europe into the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy.