

Penalized for Being Mobile?

National Pension Schemes as an
Obstacle to Mobility for Researchers
in the European Higher Education
Area (EHEA)

Official Bologna-Seminar hosted by the
German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

12 - 13 June 2008

Berlin, Ludwig Erhard Haus



HRK German Rectors' Conference
Bologna Centre

Conference Theme

The issue of creating a knowledge-based economy and a European Research Area (ERA) have received ever increasing attention. The EU-wide discussion on the Lisbon Agenda reveals a growing awareness of the fact that research and researchers – whether in the private sector or at publicly funded universities and research facilities – represent the heart of Europe's future competitiveness. Attractive working conditions and the possibility of unlimited mobility, not only within the ERA, but also throughout the extended European Higher Education Area (EHEA), are widely viewed as the requirements for successfully developing excellent teaching and research in Europe. However, a variety of administrative and socio-economic obstacles continue to block the path to greater mobility.

With a range of problems remaining and even been intensified by the social gap within the enlarged Europe, the conference hosts have decided to address the nationally diverse and frequently divergent forms of social welfare systems, focussing in particular on the issue of pension and retirement schemes as an obstacle to mobility. Underling their relevance and as part of the Bologna Process as a whole, these issues were made mentioned in the London Minister Communiqué of 2007. The differences in pension and retirement systems are felt by all mobile workers, but especially by researchers and academics as international mobility is an essential part of their career development. Consequently, researchers and academics constitute a special group of employees within the EU and the European Higher Education Area. And, as the introduction of the European "Researcher Visa" through the 2005 directive of the European Council shows, European governments and the public are gradually recognizing that.

In the light of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Commission Recommendation 2005), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has become especially concerned with the issue of obstacles to mobility, addressing this topic in a specialised working group since 2005. Accordingly, the HRK has organized and will host an official Bologna Seminar as a "follow-up" to the 2007 London Conference and a "prep-up" for the 2009 Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Minister Conference. The seminar, "Penalized for Being Mobile? National Pension Schemes as an Obstacle to Mobility for Researchers in the European Higher Education Area", shall deal with and hopefully raise awareness of this most serious and complex problem regarding the mobility of researchers and academics. A review of selected case studies and examples will illustrate how the diverse pension and retirement schemes affect the mobility of academics and their social position. In addition, seminar participants will have the opportunity to learn about new pension scheme options, discuss short-, medium- and long-term possibilities for improvement and formulate a political-action agenda.

Programme

Thursday, 12 June 2008

12:00 – **Registration**
13:00

13:00 – **Welcome addresses**
13:20

*Andreas **Storm**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research*

*Prof. Dr. Ralph Alexander **Lorz**, State Secretary in the Ministry for Science and Arts of the state Hessen*

13:20 – **“Penalized for Being Mobile?”**
13:40 The Viewpoint of German Universities

*Prof. Dr. Margret **Wintermantel**, President of the German Rectors' Conference*

13:40 – **Presentation of the EU-Commission**
14:00 EU initiatives for strengthening the mobility of researchers in the European Research Area

*Dr. Anneli **Pauli**, Deputy Director-General of Directorate-General for Research, Directorate C: European Research Area: Knowledge-based Economy*

- 14:00 –** **“Penalized for Being Mobile?”**
14:45 Presentation of examples of researchers' mobility in the EHEA and its consequences for retirement
- Dr. Petre **Badica**, Visiting Fellow of the Humboldt Foundation at the University of Mainz, Germany
- Dr. Dagmar M. **Meyer**, Irish Universities Association (IUA), Dublin, and former President of the Marie Curie Fellowship Association
- Prof. Dr. Louise **Ackers** and Dr. Liz **Oliver**, University of Liverpool, European Law and Policy Research presenting their recent study “Scientific Mobility and Pensions”(January 2008)
- 14:45 –** BREAK
15:15
- 15:15 –** **Panel Discussion: “Political Reform Options for Retirement and Pension Schemes”**
16:45
- Chair: Prof. Dr. Klaus **Dicke**, Rector of the University of Jena and Vice-President of HRK
- Massimo **Serpieri**, Policy co-ordinator (Human Resources and Mobility) of the DG Research of the EU
- Leonardo **Sforza**, Head Research Europe and EU Affairs, Hewitt Consulting (Hewitt Associates)
- Karoline **Holländer**, President of EURODOC (European Council of doctoral candidates and young researchers)
- Dr. Birger **Hendriks**, General Director, Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport of the State of Schleswig-Holstein
- 16:45 –** Break
17:15
- 17:15 -** Presentation of information opportunities and opening of the
17:45 poster exhibit

17:45 -
18:45

Discussion in 3 Working Groups

I. Specific regional problems for academics and researchers –
Mobility and the issue of pension schemes: suggestions and possible
solutions

Group 1: Mobility within the EU

Chair: *Lesley **Wilson**, Secretary General, European University
Association (EUA)*

Impulse statements of participants

Rapporteur: *Vincent **de Graauw**, Legal Expert, Fondation
Nationale Alfred Kastler / CiUP (France)*

**Group 2: Mobility between EU-Members, additional Bologna
Countries and the World**

Chair: *Dr. Georg **Schütte**, Secretary General, Humboldt Foundation
(AvH)*

Impulse statements of participants

Rapporteur: *Dr. Gerhard **Duda**, German Rectors' Conference*

II. Advisory structures for mobile academics at universities - Where
to go for advice on retirement and pension issues

**Group 3: Good practice examples of advising services for
universities**

Chair: *Dr. Peter **Zervakis**, German Rectors' Conference*

Impulse statements of participants

Rapporteur: *Rasa **Jurkeviciene**, Project Manager, Lithuanian
Researchers' Mobility Centre, Centre for Quality
Assessment in Higher Education*

19:30

Conference Dinner

Friday, 13 June 2008

9:00 – 10:30 **Work in Groups continued**

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 13:00 **Presentation and Discussion of Working Group results** to all conference participants and **development of a long-term agenda for political action** with suggestions for the Bologna Follow-Up Group and the Ministers Conference 2009

*Chair: Dr. Christiane **Gahtgens**, Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference*

General Rapporteur:

*Prof. Dr. Louise **Ackers**, University of Liverpool*

13:00 END OF CONFERENCE, DEPARTURE

Registration

Please send the enclosed registration form by post, fax or e-mail to:

HRK
Bologna-Centre
Ahrstrasse 39
D-53175 Bonn
Fax: 0228 / 887-194
E-Mail: kleinheidt@hrk.de

Participation is limited. Registrations will be accepted in the order of their arrival.

Contact persons:

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Venue:
Ludwig Erhard Haus
Fasanenstr. 85
10623 Berlin
Tel.: 030 330088-0
Website: www.lehem.de

Location plan:

<http://www.lehem.de>

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Hotel recommendation:

We have a contingency of rooms in a number of hotels in Berlin and would be grateful, if you could reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

Hotel expenses cannot be reimbursed.

Hotel Ku'Damm 101 Kurfürstendamm 101 D-10711 Berlin	Phone: +49-30-520055-0 Fax.: +49-30-520055-555 E-mail: info@kudamm101.com www.kudamm101.com Single Room: € 105,-- reference: HRK contingency deadline: 16 May 2008
Hotel Bleibtreu Berlin Bleibtreustrasse 31 D-10707 Berlin	Phone: +49-30-88474-0 Fax.: +49-30-88474-444 E-mail: info@bleibtreu.com www.bleibtreu.com double room for single occupancy: € 116,-- reference: HRK contingency deadline: 16 May 2008
Hotel Berliner Hof am Tauenzien Tauenzienstr. 8 D-10789 Berlin	Phone: +49-30-254 95-0 Fax.: +49-30-262 30 65 E-Mail: INFO@BERLINER-HOF.COM www.berliner-hof.com Single Room: € 85,-- reference: HRK contingency deadline: 15 May 2008

Breakfast is included in the price quoted.

For more hotels: www.hrs.de

Near the Ludwig-Erhard-Haus: Motel one, Kantstr. 7-11 a, D-10623 Berlin, Phone: +49-30-3151736-0, Fax: +49-30-3151736-10, e-mail: berlin-kudamm@motel-one.de, www.motel-one.com