

**HRK** Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Die Stimme der Hochschulen

**Penalized for Being Mobile? National Pension  
Schemes as an Obstacle to Mobility for Researchers  
in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**

Berlin, June 2008

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# Working Group 1: Mobility within the EU

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

Rapporteur: **Vincent de GRAAUW**, Legal Expert,  
Kastler Foundation / CiUP / Euraxess France

- A growing interest from the national level and recommendations from the EC:

What do we want and from whom?

Do we want to change regulations? (eg. R1408/71, creation of a european pension fund with all stakeholders)

Do we make good use of existing legislation?

**A lot of questions, not many answers**

- Importance of partnership

Bring all the people together: different Ministries, Universities, trade unions, research organisation and the private sector

Share responsibility: from the political decisions to practical implementation

Use the framework of the Bologna process where all partners are present

- A lack of clear and precise information:

Who should do what?

What do we want to achieve/how to get there?

Whom to address on a national level?

Whom to address at the European level?

- Possible solutions:
  - Improve researchers' and institutions' knowledge of social security and pension rules and rights. Sharing knowledge, training, rights and obligations, use the Charter and Code of conduct
  - Have easy-to-access information
  - Use internet as a tool to share information (from EC to national portals: existing guides, helpdesks...)
  - Consider relevant data collection needs
  - Develop a specialised network of national experts working together at european level (Bologna process context?)

- To go further...
- it is not only a pension problem, it is about the general working conditions (students/young researchers/senior)
- A goal: have better conditions for researchers in all countries: apply the Charter and Code
- A long term strategic prospect with all partners: reinforce european cooperation and provide responses to individual situations

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Thank you for your attention

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