

UNESCO-ROSTE's Assistance to Researchers' Mobility

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UNESCO supports European researchers' mobility through two funding sources: the UNESCO Fellowship Scheme Bank and ROSTE's Programme of Assistance to Researchers Mobility.

I. UNESCO Fellowship Scheme Bank

Within this framework, some 48,000 fellowships have been awarded so far in all fields of competence (www.unesco.org/general/eng/about/fellowship.shtml)

Examples in the field of **Natural Sciences** (www.unesco.org/science):

- The UNESCO/Biotechnology Action Council (BAC) Professorship Scheme
- Short-term Fellowship Programme in the Basic Sciences
- Short-term Fellowship Programme in Molecular and Cell Biology
- UNESCO Postgraduate Courses in Hydrology and Water Resources
- UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme
- MAB Young Scientists Research Grant Awards
- L'Oréal Price for Women in Science

II. UNESCO-ROSTE Assistance to Researchers' Mobility

The UNESCO regional Bureau for Science (ROSTE) was created in Venice, Italy, in 1992, with the following mandate:

- To achieve UNESCO's and Member States' goals in the fields of *science* and *culture*
- To encourage cooperation and provide specialized expertise within the *European region* and the Mediterranean Basin

- To provide liaison between UNESCO and the International Private Committees, Associations and Organizations for the Safeguarding of Venice

The programme of Assistance to Researchers' Mobility provides continuing support to capacity-building in the following scientific fields of activity: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnology, Energy, Engineering, mainly by the provision of *grants to attend international and European scientific events and to follow short-term training programmes.*

Some examples of recent support (grants for scientists from SEE):

- “4 Seas Conference on Physics”, Thessaloniki, 16-21 April 2002 (US\$23.000)
- 10th International Symposium on “Solubility Phenomena: Application to Environmental Protection”, Varna, Bulgaria, 21-24 July 2002 (\$15.000)
- 5th General Conference of the Balkan Physical Union, *Young Physicist Day* on 28 August 2003, Serbia and Montenegro (US\$12 000)
- 8th International *Summer School on Biophysics "Supramolecular Structure and Function"* Rovinj, Croatia, 14-26 September 2003 (US\$35.000).
- Training Course in *Sustainable Development and Management of Municipal Infrastructures and Services for Managers and Decision-Makers from Eastern Europe*, Perugia, Italy 1-11 September 2003 (US\$50,000).
- 8th International *Summer School on Biophysics "Supramolecular Structure and Function"* Rovinj, Croatia, 14-26 September 2003 (US\$35.000).
- *Training Courses on Telecommunication*, CNIT, Padua University, Italy (1-30 September 2003 (US\$80,000).

Forthcoming Event to be supported (subject to approval by ROSTE Steering Com.)

- Euroscience, MCFA, Eurodoc and PI-net Conference *Best Practice in the Area of Early Stage Researcher Mobility in Europe*, Lisbon, 25-27 February 2004.

An Action Proposal for *Restoring and Improving Human Potential in Research* was recently elaborated as an outcome of the UNESCO-ROSTE Initiative: *Rebuilding Scientific Co-operation in South East Europe (SEE)*:

- International Conference of Experts from SEE (*Venice, March 2001*)
- Round Table of Ministers of Science from SEE (*Paris, October 2001*)
- UNESCO High-level Conference on *Strengthening Co-operation in SEE*, Paris, April 2002

The Programme ‘Restoring and Improving Human Potential in Research in SEE’ foresees the following actions intending to complement the existing international and European schemes (PF6) providing financial support to scientists from the sub-region. Funds for the implementation of this programme are at present partially available.

1. Clearing House for Research Career Paths in SEE
2. Summer Schools and Training Programme
3. Travel Grants for Establishing Research Partnerships
4. Fund for the Development of Research Capacities

1. The Clearing House for Research Career Paths in SEE

- is an interactive instrument devoted to complement the European Commission pan-European Researcher’s Mobility Portal (http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index/_en.cfm)

- aims at giving the opportunity to non candidate countries from SEE (i.e. *Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro*) to “join the club” of the 27 European countries.
- offer comprehensive information on the existing research/fellowship programmes or grants, available opportunities and job offers in SEE countries.
- encourage institutions from the SEE countries to up-date their own offer of opportunities open to regional and international scientific co-operation and thus to compete in this particular area with other European countries.

2. Summer Schools and Training Programmes for SEE

- *In regionally relevant issues* for SEE on the basis of proposals made by scientific institutions from SEE.
- *To* encourage and support the participation of European scientists in existing and new summer schools and training programmes of world-class status organized in SEE.
- *To* improve the scientific capacity of institutions from SEE to acquire, administrate and manage co-operative projects.
- For institutions from: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey

3. Travel Grants for Establishing Research Partnerships

- *To enhance research co-operation* between active research groups in laboratories from West Europe and from SEE, by the *creation of common research teams in the framework of specific projects*.
- *To* foster research collaboration internationally, between countries from the region and between the academic and business worlds

- For Scientists from: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey
- Selection is per peer review. Euroscience has agreed to provide UNESCO-ROSTE with the requisite scientific expertise.

4. Fund for the Development of Research Capacities in SEE

- To encourage researchers based outside their countries of origin to return or to cooperate in research activity within these countries.
- to support the purchase of facilities and equipment for researchers, in their countries of origin, on projects of recognised timeliness and excellence, and in subject areas which are of relevance to countries of the region.
- Scientists from the following countries are eligible for this fund: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro

A new initiative entitled ‘Piloting Solutions for Alleviating Brain-Drain in South East Europe’, developed by the Division of Higher Education, Section for Access, Mobility and Quality Assurance, UNESCO-Paris and financed by Hewlett Packard aims at establishing common research projects by teams of researchers from SEE countries and fellow-nationals living and working at remote faculties abroad. Donation of latest technology Grid computing is also included.

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