

**DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT
BY THE MEMBERS OF
THE EURAXESS SERVICES NETWORK (former ERA-MORE Network)**

Preamble:

The Communication "A Mobility Strategy for Researchers in the European Research Area."¹ aimed at enhancing the living and working environments of researchers in Europe in order to attract and maintain a high level of human resources in research, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

According to a Council Resolution of 2001², one of the priorities for the implementation of the mobility strategy for researchers in the ERA was the setting up of a European Network of Mobility Centres, to improve the provision of practical assistance to researchers, and of a European Researcher's Mobility Portal (ERMP), to improve information to them and better disseminate vacancies.

Within this framework, the Commission, in close co-operation with the Member States of the European Union and the countries associated to the Sixth Framework Programme of Research³, in 2003 decided to set up a European Network of Mobility Centres – ERA-MORE (hereafter referred to as "EURAXESS Services Network"), with the aim of providing customised assistance to researchers and their families in all matters relating to their mobility experiences. In close co-ordination with tasks undertaken by means of the European Researcher's Mobility Portal, the objective of the Network is to improve the overall environment of researchers in Europe.

As from June 2008 one unique slogan and logo will overarch several European initiatives for researchers, amongst which both ERA-MORE and the ERMP. EURAXESS Services will indicate ERA-MORE, whilst EURAXESS Jobs the European Researcher's Mobility Portal.

Aim:

Signing this Declaration entails the expression of a commitment to engage in a process towards common objectives provided by the articles laid down. Such signature also gives the right to use the EURAXESS logo, to benefit of the EXTRANET, and to participate to all the related animation activities.

¹ COM(2001)331 final

² Council Resolution of 10 December 2001, OJ C367, 21.12.2001

In its resolution, the Council reiterates the importance of eliminating persistent obstacles to the mobility of researchers, identifying them as "multifaceted in nature, including those of a cultural, social, administrative, legal and regulatory nature".

The Council also endorses efforts to improve information on the mobility of researchers, in particular through "the creation of a dedicated internet portal, (and) a network of mobility centres (...)".

These statements form the basis for the identification of priorities for the implementation of the Mobility Strategy, namely:

- to improve the provision of information and services to mobile researchers

³ Through the Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility whose scope includes the following Commission policy initiatives, taking into account the respective Council Resolutions:

- the *Mobility Strategy for the European Research Area*
- the *Researchers' careers Communication*
- the relevant actions contained in the *3% Investment Action Plan*

Moreover, within the scope of the Steering Group, its members provide input for the implementation of actions at Community level and their follow up at national level. (...)They also have an active coordinating role at national level in order to make sure that the specific needs of researchers are duly taken into account in other government policy areas.

Article 4 - Mission Statement:

The *EURAXESS Services* Network will:

- Assist researchers and their families in all mobility (geographical, industry-academia, etc) related matters with reliable information/answers;
- Provide mobile researchers and their families with customised access to legal, administrative and procedural formalities;
- Assist, whether possible, mobile researchers and their families in tackling daily-life burdens that could arise;
- Ensure that the queries falling outside any of the above mentioned tasks are transferred within three (3) working days to the most appropriate structure;
- Be in contact – through their BHO – with local and national authorities, as well as with the European Commission to provide expertise and assistance in mobility policy issues in close collaboration with the Steering Group for the Human Resources and Mobility of Researchers (hereafter referred to as “SG HRM”);
- Report back to the European Commission's person in charge of the *EURAXESS Services* Network on frequently encountered problems by researchers in the context of mobility;
- Liaise with the local and national authorities on frequently encountered problems by researchers in the context of national/local mobility;
- Provide all aforementioned services/assistance to third parties acting on behalf of mobile researchers like host institutions, National Contact Points (NCP), etc., provided that these latter will pass on the information received free of charge.

Article 5 – Use of *EURAXESS Services* logo and slogan:

All signatories of this commitment (BHO, ESC, LoCP) shall use the *EURAXESS Services* logo and slogan ("EURAXESS - Researchers in Motion") according to the User Guide provided by the EC.

CHAPTER 2 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

Article 6: Rules of Conduct

The *EURAXESS Services* Network promotes a service-culture approach, ensuring that the system is transparent for the client.

The work of the Network's members shall be client-oriented and run with politeness, reliability, openness, competence, reachability and professionalism. All researchers shall be treated according to the principle of non-discrimination and equal treatment irrespective of their nationality, gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disabilities, age or sexual orientation.

All the signatories of this Commitment agree upon the necessity to guarantee the quality of the information provided. Signatories will make best efforts to ensure that information provided is complete, impartial, accurate, practical, user-friendly and up-to-date.

b. Benefits

BHOs may participate in all animation activities organised by the European Commission for the *EURAXESS Services* Network. BHOs represent their countries at the BHO-meetings and at the *EURAXESS Services* conference. BHOs shall get special access rights to the EXTRANET.

c. Duties:

Each BHO is responsible for the management and coordination of the national network and is in contact with other BHOs in Europe. The BHO is requested to provide data and statistics through the EXTRANET, and to collect data provided by the ESCs and LoCPs (if not directly submitted by these latter). BHO should also provide an annual report to the European Commission. Besides that, the BHO decides on and communicates the number and names of participants attending the different animation activities organised by the European Commission. The BHO is also responsible for keeping the Network's contact data up-dated in the EXTRANET.

BHOs shall disseminate information to the Network's members, organise trainings at national level and launch national promotion campaigns. They shall guarantee also: maintenance of the national Portal (either performing this task directly or delegating a ESC. *See separate Declaration of Commitment for national Portals*);

BHOs are in contact with both national government and national authorities.

Article 13: The EURAXESS Services Centre (ESC)

a. Description:

The *EURAXESS Services* Centres provide all services described in Article 4. They may also coordinate the network of Local Contact Points in their region.

b. Benefits:

The ESCs are in contact with the national BHO as well as regional and local authorities. They get assistance and support from their BHO respectively. ESCs are entitled to participate in trainings at national level as well as those organised at European level. They shall represent their country at the *EURAXESS Services* conference, participate in working groups, and get access to the EXTRANET.

c. Duties:

They are requested to collect data and provide statistics either directly through the EXTRANET or to the BHO. They shall individually liaise with the BHO. ESCs shall promote the activities of *EURAXESS Services* at regional and local level. If not carried out by the BHO, a ESC may be responsible for the maintenance of the national Portal (*See separate Declaration of Commitment for national Portals*).

Article 14: The EURAXESS Services Local Contact Point (LoCP)

a. Description:

The Local Contact Points support the staff of their own institution by providing assistance to researchers coming to or leaving the institution. They offer hands-on-support on matters with mainly a local dimension and are often in face-to-face contact with the researchers and/or the families.

We, The University of Stavanger, undersigned organisation declare our commitment to the abovementioned principles and requirements.

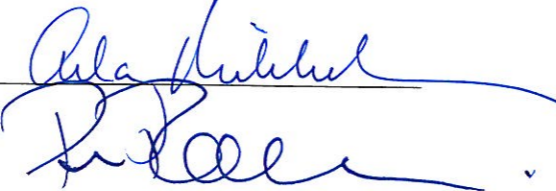
O EURAXESS Services Bridgehead Organisation

O EURAXESS Services Mobility Centre

■ EURAXESS Services Local Contact Point

Organisation: The University of Stavanger

Responsible: Rector Aslaug Mikkelsen and University Director Per Ramvi

Date and Signature: February 21, 2011 

Countersigned by appointing Ministry/Entity (if required): _____

Countersigned by EURAXESS Services Bridgehead Organisation: _____

