



European  
Commission

Education, Audiovisual and Culture  
Executive Agency

Eurydice and Policy Support  
Avenue du Bourget 1 (BOU2)  
B-1140 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 299 50 58

Fax +32 2 292 19 71

E-mail: [eacea-eurydice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eacea-eurydice@ec.europa.eu)

Website:  
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice>

## Eurydice Overview

# Staff Mobility in Higher Education

## National Policies and Programmes

---

### Introduction

### Background

Promoting staff mobility has become an issue of increasing importance in European higher education policy. Mobility and internationalisation are key aspects of the Bologna process, and staff mobility is integral to the overall objectives. This is exemplified most recently in the '[Mobility Strategy 2020 for the European Higher Education Area](#)' adopted by the Ministers of the European Higher Education Area countries. Yet despite the political attention to the topic, surprisingly little information about staff mobility is available at European level.

Part of the reason for the lack of information is conceptual. What exactly is meant by 'staff' in higher education, and what forms of mobility are to be considered? At first sight, these may seem like straightforward issues, but they are not so simple. The phrase 'academic staff mobility' could, for example, be categorised by length of time spent outside a country – thus considering 'short term' or 'longer term' periods spent abroad. However, it would be far more useful to categorise mobility by the purposes of periods spent abroad. Thus academic staff may be mobile to participate in international conferences, for study visits, for periods of teaching or

Author

**Cornelia Racké**

Contributors

**Bernadette Forsthuber**

**David Crosier**

Contact

Wim Vansteenkiste,  
Communication and Publications:  
+32 2 299 50 58

academic exchange, for a sabbatical with a defined objective, etc. Mobility may be funded by grants and fellowships, or may be supported by an employment contract. A mobility period may take place as part of continuing professional development. Or alternatively an institution may be interested in importing academic labour and thus targeting the international labour market. In European policy discussions, these questions are yet to be fully answered, and hence there are no general agreements on what kind of data collection is required to capture relevant information.

This short report therefore aims to provide some information while the policy discussion continues to define more concrete objectives at European level.

## Objectives and scope of the report

The purpose of this short comparative report is to provide an overview of national policies and measures concerning staff mobility in higher education.

The content is based on data extracted from Topic 13 of Eurypedia (Mobility and Internationalisation), more specifically from Article 13.2 (Mobility in Higher Education), focusing on **national** policies and programmes. The topics to be covered were defined by the guide to the content as well as an additional list of questions sent to all Eurydice National Units in October 2012 concerning

- national policy goals regarding staff mobility in higher education;
- national mobility programmes for higher education staff.

Reflecting the responses received, this short overview report distinguishes between national, bilateral and regional (governmental) programmes to foster staff mobility in higher education.

*National* programmes are organised at national level and one single country is responsible for funding and coordinating the programme. In the case of Belgium, the higher education systems of the French Community, the German-speaking Community and the Flemish Community are treated separately and 'national programmes' or 'national policies' refer to the level of Communities. The same goes for the United Kingdom, with England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland being treated as distinct higher education systems.

*Bilateral* programmes are based on intergovernmental cooperation between two countries, which both contribute to funding and organising the common programme.

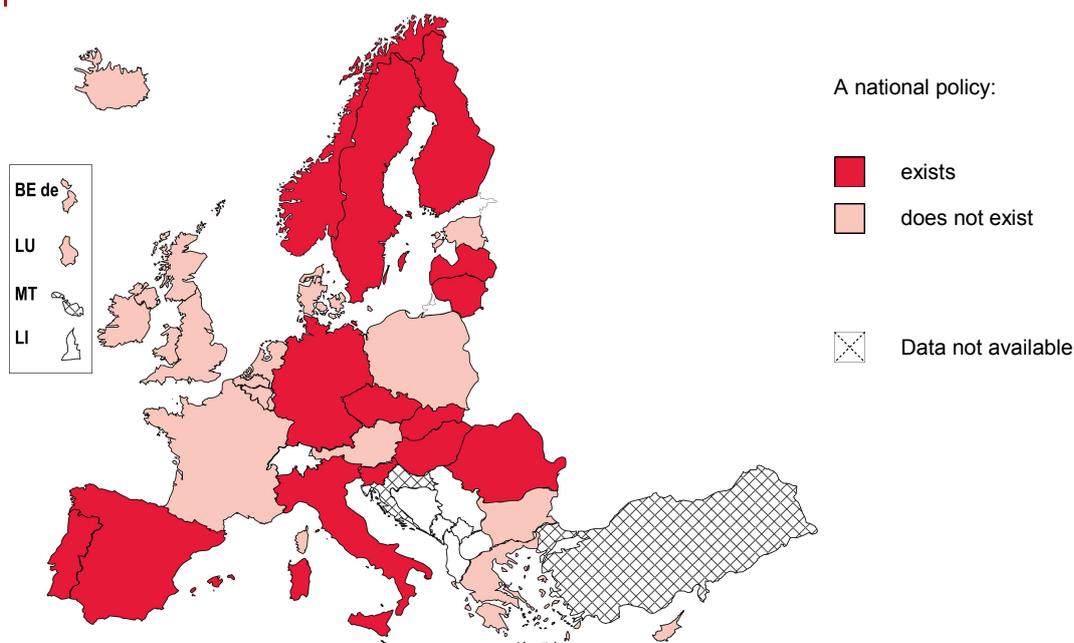
*Regional* programmes involve more than two countries from one European region. They can also involve bilateral exchanges but those exchanges then take place in a broader framework of cooperation among a larger group of countries.

Erasmus and other EU-funded programmes, however, are not covered by this report.

# 1. National policies

While there seems to be general support for internationalisation of higher education, including staff mobility, less than half of the countries where data is available have *national policies* that explicitly seek to promote staff mobility in higher education.

**Figure 1.1: Existence of national policies explicitly aimed at promoting staff mobility in higher education, 2012/13**



Three countries have adopted national policies in combination with quantitative targets:

The Programme on Internationalisation of Higher Education of **Lithuania** 2011-2012 has the promotion of academic staff mobility as one of its objectives and identifies as priority countries of destination for academic staff mobility: EU countries, Nordic countries, Australia, Japan and the US. The quantitative targets set are to have an annual growth of outward academic staff mobility of at least 8 % and to Lithuanian/Baltic centres across Europe of at least 15 %. For inbound mobility, the target is to have a rate of at least 5 %.

In **Slovenia**, the National Higher Education Programme 2011-2020 envisages higher education teachers, other staff and researchers to train, teach and carry out research at higher education institutions in other countries. At the same time, the proportion of foreign nationals among higher education teachers, assistants and researchers at Slovenian higher education institutions should increase considerably by 2020. For inward mobility as well as doctoral programmes quantitative targets are set: by 2020, at least 10 % of academic staff should be foreigners and at least 20 % of doctoral candidates should be involved in joint doctoral study programmes.

In **Finland**, the Ministry of Education and Culture published in 2009 a Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions, which underlines the importance of increasing staff mobility and includes the aim that in 2015, 4 000 teachers and experts of polytechnics will spend a period of at least one week abroad and 4 000 university teachers and researchers will spend at least two weeks abroad. The corresponding targets for incoming mobility are 3 000 and 4 000 respectively.

Another eleven countries have national policies to achieve specific goals related to staff mobility in higher education, without setting quantitative targets. Staff mobility tends to be seen as an element of human resources development and as a way to improve the quality of higher education and research at national higher education institutions. National policies therefore are designed to encourage staff of national higher education institutions to spend some time abroad (and to return to the home country afterwards) and/or to facilitate the recruitment of highly qualified foreign lecturers and researchers.

In the **Czech Republic**, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has included mobility of academic staff of public higher education institutions as a priority in its Strategic Plan, which envisages programmes to support staff mobility as well as the establishment of suitable conditions for the permanent employment of foreign experts. The Strategic Plan also contains recommendations to higher education institutions: they are advised to support two-way international mobility of researchers; for academic staff, long-term mobility should form part of career progression; for other (administrative) staff, mobility should become a normal expectation, too. The Strategy for Lifelong Learning in the Czech Republic refers to academic staff mobility as a means to develop quality in teaching and research. In the context of the National Policy of Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic, enabling academic staff to do research at major European and world workplaces is seen as a contribution to the provision of quality human resources for R&D.

In 2008, the **German** Government adopted a 'Strategy for the Internationalisation of Science and Research', which emphasises the need to strengthen the international mobility of German scientists and researchers and underlines Germany's aims to attract excellent researchers from all over the world.

In **Spain**, the national policy goals regarding staff mobility are defined by the National Plan for Scientific Research, Development and Technological Innovation overseen by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness and implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. One of the overarching goals is 'to advance internationally as a basis for a qualitative step forward for the Spanish system of Science and Technology'. For this purpose, an increase in the participation of Spanish researchers in international programmes and bodies is sought, as is the coordination of agents implementing research, development and innovation activities in different countries. The 2001 Organic Act on Universities (LOU) and the 2007 Organic Act modifying the Organic Act on Universities (LOMLOU) established boosting the mobility of students, teachers and researchers within the Spanish, European and international systems as an essential goal and a priority of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports.

The **Italian** Ministry also seeks to increase the number of academics with teaching and/or research experience abroad, more specifically to encourage Italian academics teaching/researching abroad to return to Italian higher education institutions or research institutes as well as to promote international recruitment of young researchers, researchers and professors. Moreover, the Italian Ministry aims to promote academic mobility in the context of cooperation agreements with other countries or between individual higher education institutions and to increase Italian participation in EU research initiatives.

**Latvia's** National Development Plan 2014-2020 refers to mobility of academic and research staff and to attracting foreign lecturers as tools to reach the goal of qualified and internationally competitive higher education personnel. To attract academic staff from abroad (EU and non-EU countries), the Government's Action Plan proposes e.g. facilitating the use of foreign languages at public higher education institutions, easing requirements concerning local language knowledge and simplifying visa and residence permit procedures. To reach the national policy goal of improving the quality of higher education, mobility of academic staff is supported not only with regard to an academic or scientific dimension but also for the purposes of professional skills and competences development, for instance by way of in-service training at enterprises active in the academic's field of studies.

**Poland** does not have a national policy yet, but a 'Strategy for the Development of the Human Capital' is being drafted. This considers mobility as a constant element of staff development. It also envisages increasing the number of Polish academics going to foreign higher education institutions as well as the number of foreign academics coming to Poland for the purposes of teaching and research. Similarly, the number of academics who spent part of their academic career at a foreign higher education institution should be increased.

In **Portugal**, the Government's Programme acknowledges the importance of academic staff mobility and lists among its objectives maintaining mobility programmes and encouraging the internationalization of students and teachers. The Foundation for Science and Technology, a public institute integrated in the Ministry of Education and Science, supports mobility and international cooperation and applies 'the degree of internationalization of the team' as one of the selection criteria when funding research projects.

**Romania** reports that the current educational policy fosters mobility and exchange of students and academic staff at all education levels as an important contribution to the development of the European dimension in education and of quality education, as well as to improved networking and opening of the education system. Similarly, **Hungary** seeks to internationalise higher education and to achieve an exchange of knowledge by way of staff mobility.

The **Slovak Republic** has adopted a long-term plan on education, research, development, artistic and other creative activity in the field of higher education until 2014, which also deals with teacher mobility. When providing funding to higher education institutions, the Ministry of Education is to 'positively reflect' teacher mobility. Moreover, the Ministry will promote teacher mobility as one of the conditions for obtaining positions as *docent* or *professor*.

In 2008, the **Swedish** Government adopted the Bill 'Knowledge without borders – higher education in the era of globalisation' in order to promote the internationalisation of higher education, stressing the importance of teacher mobility. The Bill tasked universities to increase staff mobility by local initiatives and the Swedish Government also allocated special funds to higher education institutions to stimulate teacher mobility (2010/11 a total of SEK 20 million). The support included the possibility to finance substitute teachers but was not extended beyond 2011.

In the White Paper on research published in March 2013, the government of **Norway** underlines the need to increase both international and inter-sectoral mobility. Norway appears to be rather attractive for foreign researchers and the Centres of Excellence, among others, have become important arenas of international collaboration. The persisting challenge is to stimulate Norwegian researchers to utilize the existing opportunities to go abroad. In particular PhD candidates are encouraged to spend some time abroad.

In several higher education systems, promoting internationalisation and increasing academic staff mobility are acknowledged as important goals but are not connected to concrete national policies on staff mobility in higher education.

In the Political Declaration of the Government of the **French Community of Belgium** (2009-2014), the mobility of staff is pointed out as one of the main elements of internationalisation of higher education.

Similarly, in the **Flemish Community of Belgium**, internationalisation is considered an important element of the mission of every higher education institution, which at least indirectly implies increasing staff mobility, as is also reflected by the Frameworks for the Assessment of Internationalisation developed by the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO). Internationalisation is also one of the topics to be addressed by the annual reports higher education institutions need to submit to the Flemish authorities.

**Estonia** refers to the mobility of lecturers as a key element of the higher education strategy with a view to improving quality as well as international credibility and competitiveness of Estonian higher education.

**France** reports that promoting the mobility of staff in higher education and the internationalisation of higher education institutions more generally form part of the strategy for the development of higher education and research. Even though there is no explicit policy that directly targets the mobility of staff in higher education, France supports staff mobility via other policies promoting the internationalisation of universities.

In **Austria**, the 2002 Universities Act lists national and international mobility of students, graduates, and university scientific and artistic staff as one of the guiding principles to be observed by universities in fulfilling their missions.

Finally, the German-speaking Community of Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and Iceland explicitly state not to have national policy goals on staff mobility in higher education.

## 2. National, bilateral and regional programmes and measures

As indicated in the introduction, in this short overview report, a distinction is made between national, bilateral and regional (governmental) programmes to foster staff mobility in higher education in order to get a more detailed picture of the different types of official programmes available in different countries. This distinction does not imply any kind of hierarchy or ranking; all three types of programmes have their merits.

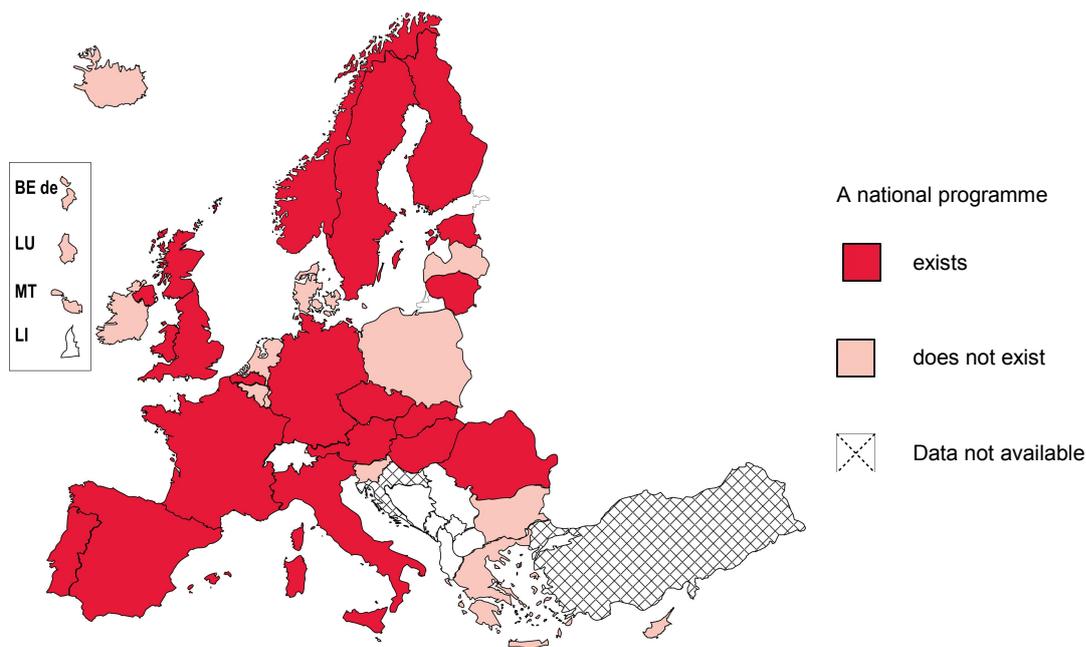
### 2.1. National mobility programmes for higher education staff

Most countries with national policies targeting staff mobility in higher education (see Figure 1.1) also have national mobility programmes for higher education staff. In total, about half of the higher education systems participating in this study have national mobility programmes for higher education staff.

In most cases, such programmes exist to support both *inbound* and *outbound* mobility.

**Luxembourg** distinguishes two main types of staff mobility: (a) short-term mobility of staff employed by the University of Luxembourg going abroad for a learning experience of a few days, weeks or months within the frame of his/her working contract and (b) long-term mobility of residents working at foreign universities or foreign higher education staff employed by the University of Luxembourg. With regard to short-term staff mobility in higher education, Luxembourg does not have any national policy goals or national mobility programmes. Staff mobility is coordinated by the University itself. The relatively low number of measures for short-term mobility is explained by the importance of long-term mobility at the University of Luxembourg: about 75 % of the academic staff come from abroad, so by working at the University of Luxembourg they already experience staff mobility.

**Figure 2.1: Existence of national programmes on staff mobility in higher education, 2012/13**



**Slovenia** is a special case in that it has national policy goals and even concrete targets but no national mobility programmes. The biggest share of academic staff mobility is supported by the EU programme Erasmus. Additional support comes from the regional programme CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies), European Economic Area Grants and

bilateral cooperation with the US (Fulbright programme). Next to that, individual exchanges of teachers take place on the basis of bilateral or multilateral cooperation between higher education institutions.

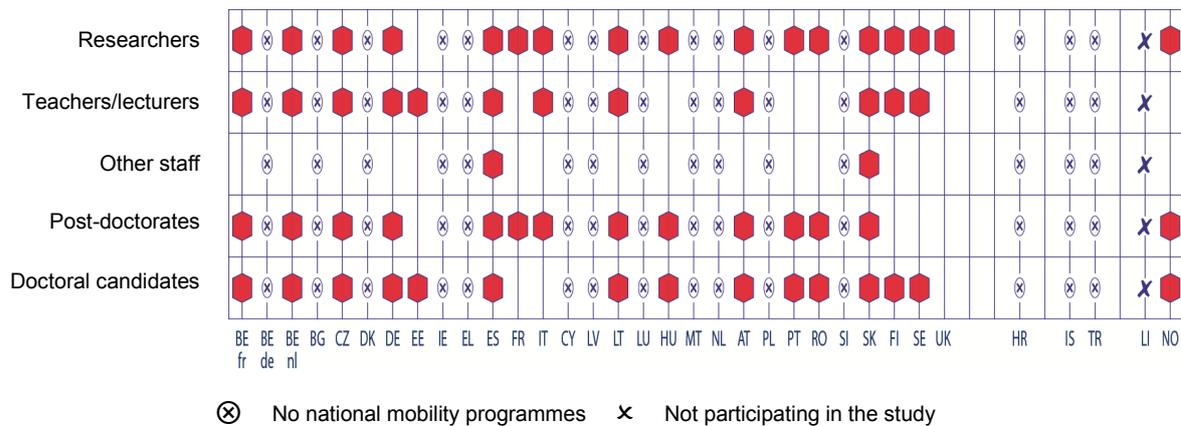
The *funding* is usually provided by ministries of education, research or foreign affairs and/or by research councils/foundations. The *administration* of the programmes is in some cases also a task of the relevant ministries but often delegated to an agency.

The *length of mobility periods* supported by national programmes ranges from a few days to two years. In most cases, members of staff receive funding to go abroad for a short period of time, usually just a few days or weeks.

The *staff groups targeted* by national mobility programmes are not always differentiated – some countries simply refer to programmes for academic staff or higher education staff in general. Where there is differentiation, the two groups mentioned most frequently are teaching staff and research staff. The third group for which specific programmes exist in a substantial number of countries are doctoral candidates or early-stage researchers. However, doctoral candidates might not always be employed by the university but treated as students, in which case, strictly speaking, their mobility would not count as staff mobility.

Only a few countries explicitly mention also 'other staff', non-teaching staff, administrative staff or artists. Financial support for the mobility of administrative staff seems to come almost exclusively from the Erasmus programme, though.

**Figure 2.2: Types of higher education staff targeted by national mobility programmes, 2012/13**



Source: Eurydice.

*Mobility of researchers* figures prominently and is often financed by national research councils or foundations, either with special mobility programmes or as part of national research programmes. In most cases, particular attention is paid to early-stage researchers (doctoral candidates and/or post-doctoral researchers).

In the **French Community of Belgium**, the FRS-FNRS (research funding agency of the French Community/Federation Wallonia-Brussels) provides a range of instruments supporting researchers' mobility at different stages of their career, such as long-term mobility grants, tools for short-term mobility and training abroad. For inbound mobility, there are also long-term mobility grants and the Ulysses Programme specifically aims at encouraging highly qualified Belgian or foreign researchers currently working abroad to develop their career at a university in the French Community of Belgium. Moreover, all national grants or fellowships are open to non-residents provided that they either live in Belgium or promote collaboration between Belgium and their home country. Wallonia-Brussels International also provides specific grants to sponsor research activities outside Belgium.

In the **Flemish Community of Belgium**, the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO *Vlaanderen*), an independent agency supporting fundamental research in all disciplines, also provides funding for scientific mobility, both inbound and outbound. Visiting postdoctoral fellowships enable foreign researchers to do research at Flemish universities; Flemish researchers in turn can receive funding for

short or long stays abroad. Moreover, Flemish research teams can apply for logistic and institutional support for collaboration with colleagues abroad.

In the **Czech Republic**, academic staff mobility is usually included in the development programmes announced annually by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and often included in grants for specific research projects with the main providers of grants being the Czech Science Foundation (GACR), the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic and individual ministries.

With the *Zhang Heng* programme, **France** offers young researchers (up to the age of 40) the possibility to spend one week in China to get to know the research undertaken there in the field of contagious diseases. The programme is financed and organised by the French Embassy in China (in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of China). The administration has been delegated to the agency Campus France.

In **Lithuania**, a national programme offers support for research visits of a maximum of 30 days or for short-term visits of a maximum of 5 days to participate in international scientific conferences. Target groups are teaching staff, doctoral students, young researchers, scientists and other researchers from Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. The programme is financed from the state budget and/or EU funds and organised by the Research Council of Lithuania.

Through the *Balassi* Institute, the **Hungarian** Scholarship Board Office offers scholarships to lecturers as well as research fellows who intend to gain further professional experience at Hungarian higher education institutions or research institutes. There are scholarships for postgraduate studies or research (3-21 days or 1-10 months), for PhD programmes (36 months), for partial PhD studies (10 months), for postdoctoral studies or research (1-10 months), and for research stays (3-21 days or 1-10 months). The latter are available to associate professors or high-ranking academics as well as researchers holding a PhD or an equivalent degree.

In **Austria**, the Federal Ministry of Science and Research offers scholarships to doctoral candidates to pursue 6 to 12 months of their studies abroad. Depending on their field of study, foreign graduates can apply for various grants allowing them to do research in Austria. The programmes are financed and coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research. The administration has been delegated to the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH). The Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) offer scholarships to researchers, too. The Austrian database for scholarships and research grants ([www.grants.at](http://www.grants.at)) has been set up to make it easier for students and researchers to look for such schemes.

The Foundation for Science and Technology, the main governmental agency for financing research in **Portugal**, funds doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships and grants for research both in Portugal and abroad, through annual calls for applications.

The **United Kingdom** research councils, with Research Councils UK (RCUK) as overarching body, run a number of schemes to foster international collaboration. They also encourage individual researchers from overseas to undertake research in the UK and for UK researchers to spend time abroad. Other organisations promoting overseas research partnerships include the Royal Society and British Academy. The Royal Society is a self-governing fellowship and the National Academy of science in the UK. Its international Exchanges Scheme supports UK scientists who want to undertake collaboration with scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel. The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences. Its International partnership and mobility scheme aims to support the development of partnerships between the United Kingdom and other areas of the world where research excellence would be strengthened by new, innovative initiatives and links.

**Norway** reports that funding for mobility is embedded in most of the financial instruments of the Norwegian Research Council (including research programmes, strategic programmes, individual programmes, dedicated mobility programmes). The dedicated mobility programmes for outgoing mobility of staff at Norwegian higher education institutions target mainly early-stage researchers and to a lesser extent also more experienced researchers. The Research Council receives its funding from most ministries, most notably the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A number of countries also report on national programmes to foster *teacher mobility*, both inbound and outbound. A special case of teacher mobility that is supported by several countries (e.g. Estonia, Greece or the Slovak Republic) is mobility for the purpose of teaching the language and/or culture of a country abroad. Similarly, several countries provide funding for inward mobility, enabling foreign higher education staff to study the language and culture of the host country (e.g. Lithuania or Portugal).

In **Estonia**, the *Kristjan Jaak* Scholarship programme covers travel and accommodation costs for short-term (3-21 days) study-related stays abroad of lecturers up to the age of 35. In the framework of the Programme of Academic Studies of Estonian Language and Culture Abroad, Estonia has sent lecturers to 10 universities abroad and offers financial support for short-term guest lectures by teachers of Estonian language and culture.

In **Lithuania**, there is a national programme for supporting teaching visits (2 weeks to 2 months) of foreign lecturers and researchers to Lithuanian higher education institutions. Teaching should be part of the study programme, course or module(s) with a minimum of 3 ECTS credits and 10 contact hours of work with students per week. The Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science is in charge of organising the calls for proposals and of selecting the candidates; the Education Exchanges Support Foundation (an institution within the jurisdiction of the Ministry) is in charge of the administration of the programme.

**Finland** reports on a number of programmes supporting teacher mobility: The *FIRST* programme promotes mobility of higher education teachers between Finland and Russia. The *Asian Network Programme* offers funding for the exchange of higher education teachers between Finland and China, India and South Korea. The *North-South-South Higher Education Institution Network Programme* finances teacher exchanges between higher education institutions in Finland and developing countries. In all three cases, the Centre for International Mobility CIMO is responsible for the administration of the programmes, while Finnish higher education institutions are in charge of coordinating the networks and running the projects together with their partner institutions. The programmes are funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture or (in the case of the North-South-South programme) by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

**Sweden** also has several national programmes to foster staff mobility in higher education. The *Linnaeus-Palme* programme, for instance, seeks to stimulate cooperation between higher education institutions in Sweden and in developing countries and provides funding for mobility of teaching staff (both inbound and outbound, 3-8 weeks). The programme is managed by the Swedish Council for Higher Education and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Many countries also have national programmes that address both university teachers and researchers.

The **French Community of Belgium**, through Wallonia-Brussels International, offers various funding opportunities to doctoral students, post-doctoral students and professors/lecturers, including mobility grants or fellowships for a period of one year in a partner country (e.g. Austria, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Japan, Tunisia, and United States of America). Lately, a new funding opportunity for staff mobility with Latin America and the French Community has been established. It aims at staff mobility with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico and will cover travelling costs of staff towards those countries.

In **Germany**, various grant programmes exist for both incoming and outgoing mobility of lecturers and other higher education staff (e.g. for conference/lecture tours, short- and long-term lectureships), predominantly organised by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and financed by the Federal Government.

In **Greece**, IKY (State Scholarships Foundation) grants scholarships to foreign students for postgraduate and postdoctoral studies and further training in Greece. For the academic year 2012/13, IKY has awarded 25 scholarships for postdoctoral studies and 10 scholarships for further training of teaching staff employed at Greek studies departments of foreign higher education institutions.

In **Spain**, the main national programme for staff mobility in higher education is the National Programme for Human Resources Mobility, financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. The programme supports Spanish teaching staff and researchers spending time at higher education institutions abroad as well as foreign teaching staff and researchers spending a sabbatical at Spanish higher education institutions. In both cases the programme differentiates between senior teaching staff/researchers and young PhDs. Depending on the specific sub-programme, mobility periods can last 3 to 24 months.

Though not a dedicated mobility programme, the National Programme for Human Resources Training also provides funding for short stays (2-6 months) at renowned research institutions in Spain and abroad, targeting trainee research staff. Both programmes are coordinated, managed and financed by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport.

**Italy** brings in an additional aspect as it also has a programme to encourage Italian academics working abroad to return to Italian higher education institutions. The *Rita Levi Montalcini* programme targets early-stage researchers and aims to attract Italian and foreign postdocs working abroad to carry out research projects at Italian higher education institutions.

To foster the international recruitment of researchers and professors, another national programme has been established to co-fund contracts enabling international researchers or professors based at a higher education institution in another country to teach or do research at Italian higher education institutions. Moreover, national research programmes offer support for international mobility of researchers and academics. The programmes are organised, coordinated and financed by the Ministry of Education, University and Research. More specifically, the Ministry defines funding priorities, allocates resources, decides on eligible activities and participants, publishes calls and selects beneficiaries.

The **Slovak Republic** has established a National Scholarship Programme for the Support of Mobility of Students, PhD Students, University Teachers and Researchers in 2005 to support both incoming and outgoing mobility. Eligible for support for incoming mobility are university teachers from foreign universities, researchers or artists who are invited by a public, private or state university,

a research organisation eligible to carry out PhD study programmes, or by a non-governmental organisation to a lecture/research/artistic stay in the Slovak Republic (scholarship period 1 to 12 months). Next to that, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic advertises scholarships for accredited study programmes at public universities as well as for academic stays at public universities of the Slovak Republic or at academic institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. For those Ministry of Education scholarships only university graduates aged 30 to 50 are eligible. Both programmes are financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. The organisation, coordination and administration of the programmes has been delegated to the Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA).

In **Sweden**, the *Visby* programme supports teacher exchanges and research collaboration between higher education institutions or faculties in Sweden and one or several of the Baltic countries, Poland, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The programme targets universities or university colleges that can apply for funding for contact meetings/project planning in one of the eligible countries. It also targets PhD students, researchers or teachers at higher education institutions who can apply for grants for short-term visits to actively take part in a conference. A PhD student, researcher or teacher can also be invited by a university or university college for a study or research visit of two weeks to one month. The *Visby* Programme is managed by the Swedish Institute and funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

## 2.2. Sabbatical/scientific leave

While not necessarily a national programme in the narrow sense of the word, another way to foster academic staff mobility mentioned by a number of countries is to offer academic members of staff the possibility to take a *sabbatical* or a *scientific leave* abroad. In most cases, academic members of staff have the possibility to take a remunerated leave lasting up to 12 months every five to six years. Sabbaticals tend to be focused on research; in some cases, they can also be used for the purposes of professional development or teaching at another higher education institution. In the following, some examples are given of how such sabbaticals are regulated in different countries:

In the **French Community of Belgium**, most universities offer the possibility to their professors to take sabbatical leaves abroad, in order to improve their research or teaching skills. In both the French Community of Belgium and in Portugal, the research funding agencies offer sabbatical leave grants to spend research periods of up to one year at foreign institutions.

**Greece** reports that professors are entitled to receive fully paid scientific leaves of up to one year for every six years of service, or up to six months for every three years of service. Professors who during their scientific leave cooperate with higher education institutions abroad without pay are entitled to their full salary increased by 80 %. After the end of their scientific leave, they are obliged to remain at their institution for at least three years.

In **Spain**, legislation allows university professors and researchers to enjoy a *licencia de estudios* (study leave). The decision on granting the leave to teach or do research at another institution in the country or abroad is taken by the university that also decides on the remuneration in connection with the length of the leave. For a leave of less than three months, staff can receive an amount up to their regular salary; for a leave between three months and one year up to 80 % of the salary, both depending on the scientific and academic relevance of the work to be done. Periods exceeding one year (accumulated during five years, not taking into account study leaves shorter than two months) are not remunerated.

In **France**, members of academic staff (*enseignants-chercheurs*) also have the possibility to take a sabbatical leave of six to twelve months every six years for the purposes of research. During the sabbatical leave, which they can also spend abroad, they continue to receive their regular salary.

In **Italy**, the legislation also enables professors and researchers to spend a sabbatical abroad (or to go abroad in the framework of an agreement between higher education institutions). The leave may take up to five years and the salary of Italian professors and researchers spending a sabbatical abroad is paid by the host country, not by the Italian university or the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

In **Latvia**, also every six years, academic members of staff are eligible for six months of paid sabbatical leave intended for scientific research. Moreover, with the same periodicity, professors, associate professors and assistant professors are eligible for an unpaid leave of 1 year to work as guest lecturer at another higher education institution, also abroad.

In **Lithuania**, according to the Law on Higher Education and Research of 2009, every five years, teaching staff may be released from their pedagogical work for up to one year to conduct research and to improve their scientific and pedagogical qualifications. The staff

member shall be paid his or her average salary during the said period. The procedures for sabbatical or scientific leave abroad are determined by the higher education institutions.

In **Luxembourg**, staff members who have worked for the university for at least seven years or who have served as Rector or as Dean may demand a scientific leave, being detached from their duties at the university for six months in order to conduct research abroad. During the leave, they continue to draw their basic salary or receive fifty per cent of their basic annual income and continue to be covered by Luxembourg's social security system. The leave needs to be approved by the Board of Governors on proposition of the Rectorate on the basis of a research project put forward by the candidate.

In **Slovenia**, the legislation enables higher education teachers to take a sabbatical/scientific leave after each six years of teaching. During the leave, the teacher is relieved of his/her teaching duties and the leave is paid for. Due to a lack of finances and human resources, though, this possibility, stated in the legislation and universities' statutes, is only rarely used.

In **Iceland**, agreements concerning sabbatical leaves are restricted to researchers (professors, assistant professors, associated professors and, with stricter rules, adjuncts). Other staff of higher education institutions can apply for leaves for educational purposes. Academic staff tend to spend their sabbatical leaves abroad, participating in specialised studies or research projects, for which they may receive additional support.

In **Norway**, academic staff at universities and university colleges normally can apply for paid sabbatical leaves to enable focused and coherent periods of research every five, six or seven years; some institutions allow for more frequent sabbatical periods for female staff than for male staff.

### 2.3. Bilateral and regional programmes

All higher education systems covered by this study have scholarship programmes based on *bilateral agreements* with other countries. One such programme that involves all of them is the well-known Fulbright programme, which offers support for the mobility of researchers from and to the United States. Many more examples are mentioned by different countries:

In the **Czech Republic**, scholarships based on international agreements are published on the website of the Academic Information Agency (AIA). Scholarships can be allocated in two ways: Either individual higher education institutions are allocated a certain number of scholarships and students are selected directly by the higher education institutions or there is a competition with scholarships for all higher education institutions in the Czech Republic and AIA runs the selection procedure.

In **Germany**, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) runs, together with partner organisations in different countries, bilateral exchange and funding programmes to intensify scientific cooperation. In the framework of those programmes, mobility of early-stage researchers and researchers is supported.

**Greece** supports mobility periods of an average of 7 days of teaching and research staff, doctoral students and senior administrative staff in the context of bilateral educational agreements and bilateral cultural exchange programmes with other countries. The programmes are organised, coordinated and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greek embassies abroad, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports, and by the State Scholarships Foundation. In addition, the State Scholarships Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) run a common exchange programme and provide funding for research projects to strengthen scientific cooperation between Greece and Germany.

**Spain** has a bilateral programme with France, to support teacher mobility (1-4 weeks) in the context of joint Master programmes of French and Spanish universities. Similarly, the ministries of education of Brazil and Spain have signed a cooperation agreement aimed at developing programmes for the training, professional development and updating of skills of postgraduates and university teachers of both countries. In accordance with this agreement, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports annually offers subsidies for an inter-university cooperation project with Brazil.

**France** also has a number of mobility programmes based on bilateral cooperation with other countries, which are financed and organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The administration of the programmes has been delegated to the agency Campus France. *Hubert Curien partnerships* (PHC), for instance, offer funding for mobility in the context of common research projects of two research teams, one from France, one from another country.

**Italy** has several cultural cooperation agreements with other countries that are coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that offer support for Italian academics to spend a short period of teaching or research in the respective partner country.



researchers (from one of the EU member states or from Switzerland) involved in the projects as mentors can receive funding for up to three short-term visits for the purposes of networking among mentors, implementing the joint research project or supporting junior researchers. The programme is coordinated by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS).

**CEEPUS**, the 'Central European Exchange Program for University Studies' (CEEPUS) was founded in 1994. Participating countries are: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia (see Figure 2.3) as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo with a special status. The programme is coordinated by the Central CEEPUS Office. Responsible for implementation at national level are the National CEEPUS Offices that are often integrated in existing agencies. A special characteristic of CEEPUS is that there is no transfer of funds but each country pays for *incoming* students and teachers. Teacher mobility mainly takes place within networks of higher education institutions established under the umbrella of CEEPUS. Mobility periods can last from 5 days to 10 months and may include research and conference participation as additional activities but the focus is on teaching and scholarship holders need to spend at least 6 hours per 5 work days teaching or supervising at the host institution.

The CEI University Network (**CEI UniNet**) is a contribution of the Central European Initiative to foster cooperation among higher education institutions in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe through the mobility of students and teaching staff. The countries participating in the network are: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia (see Figure 2.3) as well as Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Teacher mobility takes place in the context of joint PhD or Master programmes, financed through annual calls for proposals. Funding is also available for summer schools, seminars and workshops, if they include a teaching element, a minimum duration of one week and an awarding certificate.

To foster cooperation and exchanges in the field of higher education, the Nordic Council of Ministers has established the **Nordplus** Higher Education programme, which also promotes the mobility of academic staff among the participating countries (Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Norway). To be eligible for funding, at least three institutions (of which at least two higher education institutions) from three countries need to establish a network or partnership and appoint a coordinating institution, which is responsible for the application, managing the funds and writing the final report. Independent of their nationality, individual teachers employed by Nordic and Baltic higher education institutions can then receive funding for a mobility period involving at least 8 hours of teaching/working at one or several of the partner institutions.

Though not promoting *international* mobility, **Erasmus Belgica** is still worth mentioning, as it provides funding for mobility between the three Belgian Communities. The programme is modelled after the EU programme Erasmus and works on the basis of bilateral agreements between participating university colleges and universities of different Belgian Communities. Participating lecturers receive a fixed amount per day up to a maximum of five days to attend or give lessons at another Belgian higher education institution.

### 3. Participation rates and monitoring

Data on participation in mobility programmes is usually collected by the authority that is in charge of administrating the programme. Where such data has been made available, information on actual participation rates is included here. In some cases, the same authority is also in charge of monitoring the implementation and/or impact of the programme, in other cases this task is given to a separate agency. In most cases, however, the impact of mobility programmes is not monitored systematically.

In the **Flemish Community of Belgium**, the Research Foundation collects data on participation in their mobility programmes. In 2011, they gave close to 1 000 scholarships to Flemish researchers, 195 of which for long-term mobility, and funded 19 visiting postdoctoral fellowships.

For **Germany**, statistics on the international mobility of scientists and researchers are included in the publication *Wissenschaft weltoffen* edited by the German Academic Exchange Service and the HIS-Institute for Higher Education Research on an annual basis ([www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de](http://www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de)). In 2010, various funding organisations provided funding to 30 781 foreign academics and researchers in Germany as well as 8 083 German academics and researchers abroad.

In **Greece**, the Department of Inter-University Relations collects statistical figures and data on higher education staff mobility in the framework of educational agreements and programmes. Between 2007 and 2012, they counted 273 visits of Greek scientists to 36 countries and 67 visits of scientists from 14 other countries to Greece. The State Scholarships Foundation collects data on its exchange programme with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), counting 567 individuals who visited Germany as members of research teams between 2000 and 2012.

In **Spain**, data on the participation in the two national mobility programmes are collected and published by the Ministry of Economy and Competiveness (<http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.7eeac5cd345b4f34f09dfd1001432ea0/?vgnnextoid=7141f1f53c82d210VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (<http://www.mecd.gob.es/dctm/ministerio/educacion/universidades/estadisticas-informes/informes/2012-datos-y-cifras-11-12.pdf?documentId=0901e72b81230a74>). In 2010, the National Programme for Human Resources Mobility (the one targeting specifically staff mobility in higher education) awarded 4 464 grants.

In **Italy**, data collection is coordinated by the Ministry of Education, University and Research. Information is available from individual academics on their personal pages coordinated by the Ministry and via reporting tools of the different initiatives.

In **Latvia**, the State Education Development Agency collects information on the implementation of the mobility programmes the agency is in charge of. For the academic year 2012/13, the Latvian Government scholarship programme, for instance, received 11 applications for research fellowships.

In **Hungary**, the *Balassi* Institute collects data on participation rates in their mobility programmes: with bilateral programmes, *Eötvös* State Scholarship and scholarships to *Collegium Hungaricum* in Vienna approximately 290 researchers going to about 40 countries were supported in 2011/12 and 220 in 2012/13. The figures for incoming mobility were 115 in 2011/12 and 100 in 2012/13.

In the **Slovak Republic**, the agency in charge of running the national mobility programmes, the Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA), prepares annual reports on those programmes, which include information on yearly participation rates per programme, not differentiating between staff and students. According to the lists of approved scholarships and grants for each programme, 226 post-doctorates, doctoral candidates, teachers, researchers and other staff participated in outgoing mobility programmes run by SAIA during the academic year 2011/12.

In **Finland**, the Centre for International Mobility CIMO produces yearly statistics on international mobility.

The **Swedish** Higher Education Authority collects data on staff mobility in higher education and publishes it in an online database (in Swedish only). The data includes information on the higher education institution, the type of employment, the mobility destination, etc. Detailed reports on staff mobility are produced by the respective higher education institutions. On behalf of the Swedish Council for Higher Education, the higher education institutions also collect participant reports, which are analysed by the agency.

In **Norway**, the Research Council in charge of running several of the national mobility programmes, prepares annual reports on those programmes. These reports include information on yearly participation rates. Application numbers are stable. All institutions report mobility of staff to 'The Database on Statistics on Higher Education (DBH)' managed by the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD). The database has open access (Norwegian only).

Beyond collecting data on participation rates, there is little monitoring of national programmes related to staff mobility in higher education. Several countries where such programmes exist, explicitly state that the impact of national mobility programmes on higher education staff is not monitored (e.g. Italy, Latvia, Slovak Republic). If there is any monitoring at all, it is either done by the authorities in charge of administrating the programmes or by external agencies.

In the **Flemish Community of Belgium**, the Departments of International Relations and Education and Training as well as Research Foundation Flanders are responsible for monitoring the programmes but there is no specific impact assessment concerning academic staff mobility.

In the **Czech Republic** as well as in **Austria**, higher education institutions submit annual reports on their activities, which also need to cover involvement in international educational or research programmes and academic staff mobility.

In **Germany**, international exchange programmes are evaluated by independent agencies or experts.

In **Spain**, the Ministry of Economy and Competiveness monitors the National Programme for Human Resources Mobility as well as the National Programme for Human Resources Training through its Monitoring and Evaluation Integrated System (SISE), developed to analyse (and improve) the governance of public programmes in the area of research, development and innovation (<http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.7eeac5cd345b4f34f09dfd1001432ea0/?vgnextoid=7141f1f53c82d210VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>).

In **France**, monitoring the internationalisation of higher education institutions, including international partnerships and the provision of scholarships for mobility of researchers, forms part of the general evaluation of each higher education institution in the context of quality assurance by the Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education AERES.

In **Finland**, the North-South-South Higher Education Institution Network Programme was evaluated in 2009 and another study from 2012 examined the impact of intensive courses organised in the context of Erasmus, Nordplus, FIRST and the North-South-South programme.

**Norway** reports that all programmes and financial instruments are evaluated on a regular basis. There is no direct monitoring of the dedicated mobility programmes concerning the effects of mobility. There are attempts to evaluate the effects of mobility in relation to scientific merit, but it is difficult to establish a clear correlation.

The remaining countries with national programmes have not provided any information on whether or not those programmes are monitored in any way. On the whole, systematic monitoring of the impact of national programmes related to staff mobility in higher education seems to be the exception rather than the rule.

## 4. Salary, financial compensation and social security arrangements

This section shows how salary, financial compensation (allowances for accommodation, travel expenses, the cost of living, etc.) and social security arrangements (e.g. pension, health insurance) are addressed within national as well as bilateral or regional mobility programmes. In most cases, such arrangements are directly included in the national programmes or covered otherwise by national regulations. The question of pensions, however, is addressed only by a small number of countries.

### 4.1. National mobility programmes

For outbound mobility, the **Flemish Community of Belgium** has two types of regulation concerning salary and social security: (1) If an academic member of staff takes up a position at a higher education institution abroad and that institution reimburses the remuneration to the Flemish home institution, the member of staff is still considered in service of the home institution and keeps all seniority and pension rights. (2) If the member of staff receives remuneration only and directly from the host institution abroad without any involvement of the Flemish home institution, he or she is considered to have a separate job for which no seniority and pension rights can be accumulated at the home institution.

In **Germany**, to do justice to the special situation of mobile scientists with fixed-term employment contracts, the Pension Institution of the Federal Republic and the Länder (VBL) introduced the possibility of exempting researchers employed at universities or research institutions from VBL compulsory insurance contributions (as 60 contribution months are required before benefits can be claimed). Instead, the researcher can register with a voluntary (capital-funded) insurance scheme, which excludes certain components (e.g. parental leave), but offers the insured person flexibility and the immediate, contractually agreed non-forfeiture of claims. With this instrument the VBL has established a gateway for young mobile scientists on fixed-term contracts from Germany and abroad to preserve their entitlements.

In **Spain**, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport covers accident insurance and for scholarship holders not coming from EU/EEA countries or Switzerland also health insurance. The National Programme for Human Resources Mobility supports Spanish teaching staff and researchers spending time at higher education institutions abroad with EUR 1 800 to EUR 3 100 per month as well as foreign teaching staff and researchers spending a sabbatical at Spanish higher education institutions with around EUR 2 000 to EUR 2 450 per month (depending on seniority). In addition, up to EUR 3 450 per person may be granted for travel and accommodation expenses.

The support offered by **France** in the context of the Zhang Heng programme takes the form of grants that cover the travel costs and include a per diem for expenses during the week in China.

In **Italy**, institutional autonomy also applies to human resources management (in a framework that is set nationally). By consequence, salary, financial compensation and social security arrangements are dealt with at the institutional level. Similarly, in **Finland** it is also up to the higher education institutions to allocate the necessary resources from the funding they have available.

**Latvia** reports that different financial and social security arrangements (e.g. whether health insurance is included or not) exist for different mobility programmes, depending on the underlying intergovernmental agreement.

For incoming mobility, the **Lithuanian** national programme for teaching visits allocates a lump sum per individual visit, the amount of which depends on the qualifications of the invited lecturer. In the case of short-term visits abroad, the higher education institution continues to pay the salary and the funding provided by the programme covers additional expenses, such as travel and subsistence costs. In other cases, members of staff receive state scholarships. For mobility periods up to one year, higher education institution teachers receive the average amount of their monthly salary throughout the mobility period. For research visits, allocated funds may be used to cover travel, accommodation, visa or insurance costs, international conference fees, the costs of copying and use of archival documents as well as costs related to the participation in scientific expeditions.

In **Hungary**, scholarships awarded by the Hungarian Scholarship Board Office are not subject to income tax. The same holds for **Estonia** and scholarships received under the Kristjan Jaak programme (covering travel and accommodation costs of young lecturers spending 3-21 days abroad). When lecturers are sent abroad in the framework of the Programme of Academic Studies of Estonian Language and Culture Abroad, the state of Estonia pays salaries, travel expenses as well as national taxes.

In **Austria**, grants offered by the main funding agencies provide social security coverage. Some programmes (e.g. fellowship programmes for doctoral candidates and postdocs administered by the Austrian Academy of Sciences) offer fixed-term contracts with full social coverage or with self-insurance. Anyone receiving a grant from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is financed via an employment contract, which includes social insurance (contributions to pension funds, health and accident insurance, parental leave, etc.). This applies to doctoral students and incoming scholars as well. The FWF had already begun to avoid funding researchers by means of stipends even before it signed the 'European Charter for Researchers' and the 'Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers' in 2006. The only exception are stipends for researchers going abroad. In this case, there is no employment contract and only pension cover is provided.

In the **Slovak Republic**, holders of the Ministry of Education scholarships (incoming mobility) receive EUR 550 per month and college accommodation as well as dining hall catering at the receiving organisation. Scholarships of the National Scholarship Programme (the second programme supporting incoming mobility) range from EUR 670 to EUR 1 000 per month (depending on seniority) and are meant to cover living costs (accommodation, boarding, etc.) during the study, research, lecture or artistic stay at Slovak universities, research or non-governmental organisations. For outgoing mobility, university teachers and researchers from the Slovak Academy of Sciences who have their permanent residence in the Slovak Republic can apply for a travel grant covering travel costs related to their study or research stay abroad, which must last a minimum of one month.

**Sweden** reports that higher education institution staff continue to receive their salary and pension scheme during the mobility period, along with insurance from the respective higher education institution. Moreover, they have all mobility-related costs covered, including travel and accommodation expenses, and receive a food allowance. Participants of the Linnaeus-Palme programme can get additional funding for a two-week language course before the actual start of the programme.

In **Norway**, three types of funding can be distinguished: (a) a full salary under the condition that the candidate is mobile and spends all the time abroad; (b) funding to cover direct costs related to mobility in addition to a full salary; (c) funding to cover direct costs related to mobility without salary support. All funding to cover direct costs is doubled from EUR 2 000 to EUR 4 000 per month if the mobile researcher is accompanied by his or her immediate family. None of the funding schemes compensate for potential loss of health and pension coverage.

## 4.2. Bilateral and regional programmes

**Spain** provides for bilateral programmes the following details: In the context of Franco-Spanish Master programmes, teacher mobility is supported with a maximum of EUR 1 200 per week and a maximum of EUR 500 to cover travel costs. The bilateral programme between Spain and Brazil foresees three types of subsidies: (1) During the period they spend in Brazil, research staff in pre-doctoral training can receive a monthly allowance of EUR 550, complementing the remuneration paid under their contract in Spain, as well as up to EUR 2 500 to cover the costs of departure and installation. (2) Researchers with post-PhD contracts can also receive a one-off payment of EUR 2 500 as well as a monthly grant of EUR 1 800. (3) For teachers and PhDs with civil servant status or employed on a contractual basis, the financial support is limited to the reimbursement of documented expenses.

In **France**, financial support usually takes the form of grants that cover travel costs and that may also include a per diem for expenses during the stay abroad.

In the case of **Lithuanian** state scholarships based on bilateral agreements, Lithuanian doctoral candidates receive around EUR 750 per month, researchers and lecturers around EUR 1 130. They also have their health insurance as well as travel costs covered. Foreign citizens coming to Lithuania receive a monthly scholarship of around EUR 750.

For short study visits or meetings with colleagues from the partner country, the **Action Austria-Slovakia** offers scholarships of EUR 90 per day (for a maximum of 3 days). Post-docs can receive scholarships of EUR 1 500 per month for research stays of 3 to 6 months. The scholarship also covers the costs for accident and health insurance as well as accommodation. Travel expenses are to be covered by the researchers themselves. The **Action Austria-Czech Republic** offers, among others, one-month-grants for university lecturers. With the grant of EUR 1 040, recipients need to cover the costs for insurance and accommodation, both of which can be provided by the OeAD-GmbH at preferential rates. The same holds for grants for postdoctoral studies, with a monthly rate of EUR 1 200 granted to postdocs for a period of 6 months. Similar arrangements exist for the **Action Austria-Hungary**.

**Romania** reports that during periods of mobility, academic staff receive their remuneration from the Romanian state or the host country, depending on the duration and type of the activity as well as on the specific agreement on which it is based.

Fellowships of the Swiss programme **Sciex-NMS**<sup>ch</sup> include an annual salary or CHF 50 000 for doctoral candidates (CHF 55 000 in the second year) and CHF 80 000 for postdoctoral researchers, as well as social taxes, which are to be paid by the employer (according to Swiss rules) and additional allowances for travelling or participation in conferences amounting to a maximum of

CHF 2 500. For short-term visits, mentors can receive up to 3 times a maximum of CHF 2 500 per visit. Costs related to the work of the fellow that are not covered by the Sciex Fellowship need to be covered by the Swiss host institution.

For teacher mobility in the context of **CEEPUS**, Slovenia reports that it does not have an impact on the teachers' salary and social security arrangements. They continue to receive the usual pay and social security. In addition to that, they receive a grant from the host country to cover the mobility costs. Teachers from other countries coming to Slovenia also may benefit from free accommodation in the Home of Postgraduates or similar other locations.

**Nordplus** scholarships for teacher mobility amount to a maximum of EUR 355/week plus a travel grant. Each network decides on the exact amount of the scholarship, depending on the means available.

## 5. Reward mechanisms

Mechanisms to reward members of staff for participating in mobility programmes exist only in a small number of countries. Where they exist, reward mechanisms predominantly are integrated in national or institutional systems of career progression. Several countries (e.g. Italy, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic) report that the decision on reward mechanisms is up to each higher education institution. **Italy** adds that where they are granted by higher education institutions, rewards tend to take the form of financial benefits or a reduction of workload on other activities. In **Slovenia**, teachers at higher education institutions tend to be rewarded with 'points in the promotion process'. The strategic plan of the **Czech** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also recommends to higher education institutions that long-term mobility be part of career progression for academic staff.

In **Spain**, participation of university teaching staff in mobility programmes can be rewarded in the context of regular evaluations: Every five years, an evaluation of the teaching activity by the university can lead to an 'additional remuneration for teaching merits'. Every six years, the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI) carries out an evaluation of the research activity, which can result in 'additional remuneration for research productivity'. Both evaluations also take into account accomplishments at universities or research institutions abroad. Moreover, participation in mobility programmes is also taken into account in the context of the 'National Accreditation' that university teachers need, to be eligible for accessing the university teaching bodies as career civil servant teachers. The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) has developed a merit scale for the evaluation, which explicitly includes merits related to different forms of international mobility.

In **France**, professors who have worked in that capacity at least two years abroad – or at least one year in another EU/EEA country – are granted, upon request, an additional year of seniority to be taken into account for advancement in step. The same holds for researchers who have spent at least two years at a higher education or research institution, a public authority, a public or private enterprise abroad.

In **Latvia**, academic personnel has to go through a re-election procedure (with an open competition) every six years. Legally justified quality criteria for the career development of academic staff are currently being developed, with mobility being one criterion to be taken into account.

When sending teaching staff abroad for the purpose of teaching or training, higher education institutions in **Lithuania** are expected to recognise the teaching or study visit in one way or another, for example as continuing professional development. Moreover, depending on the specific regulations of each higher education institution, researchers and teachers may be paid, in addition to their official salary, a premium for the dissemination of their educational experience abroad or for their participation in international projects.

## Summary

This short comparative report reveals that in most countries for which data is available, staff mobility is considered an important element of the internationalisation of higher education. National policies that explicitly seek to promote staff mobility in higher education exist in less than half of the countries, though, and in only three countries in combination with quantitative targets.

Most countries with national policies also have national programmes in place to foster staff mobility in higher education. In total, such programmes exist in about half of the higher education systems covered by this report. In the Nordic region, in Belgium and especially in Central and Eastern Europe several *regional* mobility programmes have been established that also target higher education staff. Of the higher education systems covered by this study, roughly two thirds are involved in regional mobility programmes. Last but not least, all countries have mobility programmes based on *bilateral* agreements with other countries, be that other European or non-European countries. While not covered by this report, the responses received from countries show that there is also a strong reliance on European mobility programmes and/or cooperation between individual higher education institutions.

Where national programmes exist, organisation and financing is mainly the task of national ministries (education, research and/or foreign affairs) or research councils. The day-to-day running is often delegated to special agencies. In most cases, the authorities in charge of the administration also collect data on the participation in mobility programmes. Systematic monitoring of the impact of those programmes is, however, missing in most countries.

Mobility periods supported by national, regional or bilateral programmes range from a few days to several months, in some cases up to two years. Most common are mobility periods of just a couple of days or weeks.

While national mobility programmes most often target researchers and early-stage researchers and in second place also teachers; bilateral and regional programmes tend to focus on teacher mobility. Funding for the mobility of administrative staff seems to come almost exclusively from the Erasmus programme. The arrangements on salary, financial compensation or social security differ from country to country, often even from programme to programme. In most cases such arrangements are directly included in the national, regional or bilateral programmes but they can also be dealt with at institutional level. Common are funds to cover travel and accommodation costs, a monthly scholarship or salary and also health insurance. The question of pensions, however, is addressed only in a few cases.

Only a small number of countries report on the existence of reward mechanisms, which then tend to be integrated in national or institutional systems of career progression.