



« International Cooperation In Education and Science »

Russia-EU Cooperation in Academic Mobility

CNRS S&T cooperation with Russia

A brief overview

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WHAT IS CNRS

- CNRS is a **scientific and technological public organization** under the responsibility of the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research
- It is the largest fundamental research organization in Europe
- Targets up until 2020 to push back the boundaries of knowledge
 - Tools to strengthen interdisciplinarity
 - Important means dedicated to very large-scale research infrastructure
 - Key commitment in the setting up of a European research area
 - Active international policy

CNRS IS REPRESENTED IN ALL FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE



- CNRS covers all scientific disciplines and carries out research in all fields of knowledge through 10 thematic institutes :

- mathematics
- physics
- information technologies
- nuclear and particles physics
- earth sciences and astronomy
- chemistry
- biology
- human and social sciences
- ecology and environment
- engineering



RESOURCES AND RESULTS

- Nearly **34 000** people including 25 600 permanent personnel, **11 400** researchers and **14 200** engineers, technicians and administrative staff at the service of research and its monitoring
- 2011 Budget: **3.2 G€**, including **2.6 G€** in subsidies and **600 M€** in CNRS-generated income
- Nearly **1 100** research units
- **90% of research** is performed in partnership with universities, national, European and international research institutes as well as private companies within joint research units
- **25 500** publications each year on average in high-caliber international magazines, of which half are published jointly with an external organization
- **16** Nobel prize and **11** Fields Medal winners



TOOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- Several kinds of Agreements for scientific cooperation are signed between CNRS and research organizations (RAS, RFBR, RFH, Universities...) which cover, always within the framework of joint research projects, from basic mobility expenses to joint laboratories, also supporting the exchange of researchers, organization of events, as well as international networking.
- The selection of projects is based on their Excellence and Novelty.
- Priority is given to projects involving young researchers.



PICS - International Program for Scientific Cooperation

- 3-year non-renewable program based on an ongoing collaborative relationship (having already resulted in at least 1 co-publication). 57 with Russia.
- approval by the relevant CNRS scientific Institute researchers must respond jointly to a call for proposals which is launched once a year (from February 1st to March 31)
- is implemented after a positive co-evaluation by the CNRS and the partner research organization.
- Funding aims at mobility : visits, meetings, and small equipment



GDRI – International Research Network

- Research network bringing together several laboratories from two or more countries to coordinate research on a specific topic funding. 21 with Russia.
- Set up for a 4-year period, renewable twice.
- Is used mainly for mobility, seminars and workshops



LIA – International Associated Laboratory

- Brings together two partner institutions which contribute human and material resources to a jointly-defined project. 18 with Russia.
- Virtual structure in which the laboratories retain their independence and legal status, as well their directors and separate locations.
- 2 co-directors are appointed to head the LIA. The LIA is coordinated by a scientific management committee, which submits a research program to the steering committee, itself composed of representatives of the two institutions possibly as well as established scientists from outside the LIA.
- Agreement runs for 4 years, renewable once.
- Joint funding for : mobility, staff assigned, small equipment.



UMI – International Joint Unit

- Actually brings together researchers, engineers, and technicians from CNRS and from one other country's institution. 1 with Russia.
- Located either in France or in another country staffed by personnel from both the CNRS and the partner country.
- First created in 2002. In France, status similar to CNRS joint research units (UMR) between CNRS and other French institutions (mainly universities).
- Headed by a Director, jointly named by CNRS and the foreign partner institution, the Director is responsible for the management of all resources made available to the laboratory.



ACADEMIC MOBILITY

« Comme tu le sais, j'avais depuis longtemps un projet de mobilité scientifique. Je suis allé sur le site www.informations-pour-les-scientifiques-désirant-bénéficier-d'un-programme-de-mobilité.org, où j'ai facilement trouvé la solution optimale. J'ai tout de suite déposé mon dossier en ligne (très facile, 2h de boulot). Mes équivalences de diplômes ont été validées automatiquement et la semaine suivante, la commission mensuelle d'examen m'a donné le feu vert et j'ai reçu les fonds par virement deux jours plus tard. J'ai acheté mon billet le jour même et je suis parti le lundi suivant. Comme je n'avais pas besoin de visa, je suis passé par le contrôle des passeports sans faire la queue, on a à peine regardé mes papiers. A la douane les douaniers ont été très aimables. Sur ma déclaration de matériel et d'échantillons scientifiques (que j'ai rempli dans l'avion) ils ont tout de suite mis le tampon qui va bien à l'endroit qui va bien et m'ont laissé partir sans autre forme de procès. A l'aéroport on m'attendait et on m'a emmené à la résidence scientifique, où on m'a attribué un appartement agréable dont je suis sûr qu'il plaira à ma femme et mes enfants, qui arrivent dans quelques jours. Grâce au Service de la Famille les enfants ont tout de suite été inscrits à l'école internationale, ils prennent aussi des cours de musique et de sport, et ma femme a déjà trouvé un emploi. La vie ici est un peu comme chez nous, c'est facile de se déplacer et de faire ses courses, quel que soit l'endroit où on se trouve on est toujours à 10 minutes d'une station de métro. Pour le travail, j'ai déjà fait connaissance avec mes futurs collègues (tout le monde parle très bien l'anglais) et je commence au labo lundi prochain... »



ACADEMIC MOBILITY

« As you know, I have had that project of scientific mobility for a long time. I went on the site www.information-for-scientists-wishing-to-take-part-in-a-mobility-program.org where I found the optimal solution quite easily. I simply submitted my file online in a couple of hours. The recognition of my diplomas was validated automatically and I received a positive answer in the following week from the monthly examination commission. I received the funds by bank transfer a couple of days later. I bought my ticket on the same day and I left on the following Monday. As I did not need any visa, I went through passport control without even waiting in the line and they hardly checked my documents. At customs, people were very courteous. I had filled the declaration for imports of scientific materials and samples on the plane, they immediately put the right stamp at the right place and I could walk on to the taxi driver who was waiting for me at the airport. He took me to the residence for scientists, where I was given a nice apartment. My wife and children will like it for sure when they arrive in a few days. Thanks to the special Family Service, my kids were registered at the local international school, they will even have music and sport lessons every week, and my wife has already found a job here. As a whole, life is like at home, everything is conveniently located within 10 minute walk from the nearest metro station. As far as work is concerned, I have already met all my future colleagues (they are all fluent in English) and I am starting at the lab next week... »

- Information
 - EECA researchers do not always publish in international journals, EU researchers do not read non-English – provincial university press
 - Internet helps, but gives no frame information. (say ~ half a dozen different mobility grant programs per country x 27 countries in UE = ?)
- Costs (travel/accomodation) and Funding complexity (different funding levels, sources, procedures, criteria)
- Bureaucracy (visas, permits, immigration control, social security, work legislation for foreigners, etc)
- Language
- Difference in Education systems, diploma recognition and equivalences, (deals essentially with University mobility : Masters, PhD)
- Psychological : Brain drain, different cultures and living standards, everyday life. For EU researchers: “Look and Go East” – still quite unusual
- Personal : family, apartment, activities



ACADEMIC MOBILITY - Solutions

- General information platform
- Reception structures for easy, cheap lodging and easier administrative steps (Campus France, CNOUS)
- Institutional strategy, inter-organism agreements: homogenise procedures, allow to allocate funds on a contractual base, make steps easier
- Abolition of visas Russia-EU (at least for scientists), simplified procedures for the family
- English lessons, training in the local languages
- Culture : open-mindedness, education
- Short term/long term visits : alternated 6 months periods



Thank you for your attention !