



TANDEM

TANDEM PROJECT OVERVIEW

TANDEM stands for Talent and Extended Mobility in the European Innovation Union.

The main objective of two-year project (10/2012 - 9/2014) consists in analysing the mobility obstacles international researchers and their partners and family members have to face when coming to the new country and in showing various strategic institutional ways of minimising them.

The specific focus of the TANDEM project is on developing services for researchers having partners also pursuing their careers (Dual Career Couples).

TANDEM will:

- Analyse the basic requirements for the successful implementation of Dual Career and Integration Services (via online survey and expert interviews).
- Develop the systematic and modular approach to Dual Career and Integration Services.
- Formulate the alternative strategy of how Dual Career and Integration Services can influence the brain circulation positively.

TANDEM Team:

TANDEM project is based on the cooperation and knowledge exchange between the experienced providers of Dual Career Advise and EURAXESS Service Centres from different parts of Europe.

Following institutions are involved in the project:

- ETH Zürich (Switzerland) (Coordinator)
- CERTH (Greece)
- SAIA, n. o. (Slovak Republic)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- University of Tartu (Estonia)

IDENTIFIED COUNTRY ISSUES SLOVAKIA

In 2013 SAIA carried out series of the interviews with international researchers and their employers in Slovakia. Based on these and the results of Europe-wide TANDEM survey the following key issues were identified:

(1) Persistent issues which are already addressed by researchers' employers or EURAXESS Service Centres but require more comprehensive approach:

- **Administrative barriers:** visa & residence permit, social security or other administrative duties burden both the international researchers and their employers excessively.
- **Housing & accommodation:** for researchers housing is one of the main obstacles they face. For many research institutions lacking the suitable accommodation facilities is one of the most difficult challenges to tackle.
- **Social and cultural integration:** researchers would appreciate to have the possibility to learn Slovak language or meet locals and other internationals. Many employers have capacities to provide language courses or other networking opportunities but do not use them sufficiently.

(2) New challenges which are currently not addressed but are important for the successful (re)integration:

- **Support for researchers' partners and families:** Relocation does not affect only researcher but also his or her partner and family. Moreover most of the researchers' partners have their own professional ambitions which get affected by the relocation, too.
- **Support for researchers returning home:** many institutions hope to attract highly qualified Slovak researchers back. But after many years of living abroad returning back is not always an easy task. Especially if one has a foreign partner and children.

Find all publications at www.euraxess-tandem.eu

RECOMMENDATIONS

TANDEM project will provide practical recommendations on how to make assistance to international researchers, their partners and family members better and more effective.

Based on the results of the survey, the TANDEM project develops a modular system of Dual Career and Integration Services (DCIS). Modular system includes over thirty possible DCIS measures described in the standardised form. DCIS modules include measures such as “welcome package”, “personal assistance” or “welcome event”. Modular system not only suggests which activities could be implemented but provides the guidelines on how to implement them effectively.

Choosing the right mix of modules

The strength of the modular system is that it is adaptable to each institution’s mobility situation. In order to enable the institutions to pick up the right mix of DCIS measures, all modules will be further defined by adding several criteria such as required resources, target group, time when the service should be provided or importance of the service for the integration. These criteria will enable to use the measures in the most efficient and sustainable way.

Creating conditions for successful introduction of DCIS modules in Slovakia

Besides the pool of possible DCIS measures, modular system also includes recommendation on institutional prerequisites that should help the research institutions establish the conditions for successful implementation of DCIS services. These include measures such as “data collection”, “internal guideline” or “recommended information content in English”.

ACTION PLAN

The practical implementation of modular structure in Slovakia will be based on the close cooperation between EURAXESS Slovakia and universities and research institutions. It will consist of three main pillars:

I. Further developing the integration services within the EURAXESS Service Centres activities

- Assessing the existing services and introducing new measures suggested by the DCIS modular system
- Widening the EURAXESS services toward the partners and families of international researchers
- Promoting the new services to international researchers coming to Slovakia

II. Helping universities and research institutions to engage their internal resources for successful implementation of DCIS services

- Promoting the modular system to the research institutions and universities in Slovakia
- Providing training to administrative staff
- Providing universities and research institutions with information materials, tools and other forms of assistance necessary for the provision of DCIS services

III. Promoting DCIS services as a tool to encourage the brain circulation

- Identifying the channels through which Slovak researchers working abroad can be approached
- Providing Slovak researchers abroad with information about the current job opportunities and existing support
- Providing assistance to the research institutions introducing the (re)integration schemes

TANDEM Project in Slovakia

EURAXESS Service Centre at SAIA, n. o.

Sasinkova 10
812 20 Bratislava 1
Slovak Republic
www.euraxess.sk
euraxess@saia.sk
tel.: +421 2 5930 4700, fax: +421 2 5930 4711

Outlook

EURAXESS Slovakia organises a training and dissemination seminar for administrative employees of universities and research institutions in May 2014. Check the EURAXESS webpage to find out more about the seminar and other current and planned TANDEM project activities in Slovakia.