



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European Perspectives for Researchers

International Conference
“Excellence stems from People”

Turku, 28 August 2007

Cornelis Vis
“European Research Area;
Knowledge-based economy”
DG Research
European Commission





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European perspectives for researchers

- Part of a new look at the European Research Area
- Commission « ERA Green Paper » of April 2007:
 - Well-trained and mobile researchers
 - World-class research infrastructures
 - Excellent research institutions
 - Effective knowledge sharing
 - Well coordinated research programmes and priorities
 - Opening up to the world





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European Research Area rationale

- Being at the forefront with knowledge
- Knowledge that moves in a changing world
- Knowledge that moves for one key reason: opportunities
- ERA to provide opportunities here in Europe, across Europe





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Researchers in the ERA challenges

Europe's challenges on human resources in research:

- Against strong and rising competition, globally and with other economic sectors, to have more and better trained researchers and to be attractive to the best minds world-wide
- Mainstream mobility, based on the paradigm of "brain circulation", both intra-European and outside Europe, to maximise structured knowledge sharing and at the same time benefit from European career perspectives





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Researchers in the ERA objectives

Establish a single labour for researchers, based on:

- Genuine openness of national research systems to recruit and fund researchers trans-nationally, based on competition
- Attractive working conditions and obstacle free European career prospects
- Stringent and recognised quality standards for research training, meeting needs of both business and academia
- Openness to the world, attracting non-EU researchers to Europe and providing opportunities for European researchers to spend research time outside the EU





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Researchers in the ERA advancements

Some examples:

- Mobility Portal & ERA-MORE: improved information and practical assistance
- Development, adoption and implementation of « scientific visa » package for “third country” researchers
- Issuing and start of implementation European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment
- FP7 € 4,75 billion « People » Programme
- FP7 € 7 billion « Ideas » Programme implemented through ERC





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Researchers in the ERA advancements

- Mainly European level actions
- Member States' response so far: much more diffuse picture
- Key question: IS THIS ENOUGH ?





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Researchers in the ERA barriers and bottlenecks

- Reluctance of organisations to see « their » researchers leave; researchers that leave loose out on more stable job-opportunities
- Transparent, excellence-based competition is exception; tenured positions largely reserved for national or internal staff
- Administrative and legal obstacles to mobility persist: portability of social security and research funding

Warrants stronger Member States' commitment, intensified and concerted actions





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European perspectives for researchers

Stronger commitment to:

- Implement principles of Charter and Code & consider “Iable”
- Consider scope of applying ‘flexicurity’ in research system
- Researcher’s profession & women in research
- Abolish obstacles to inter-sectoral mobility
- Develop joint approaches to training and mobility
- Adapt European and national social security regulations to specific needs of researchers





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European perspectives for researchers

To keep in mind

- There is a sense of urgency
- World-wide battle for the most talented researchers
- ERA concerns all of us: European Commission, national governments, research institutions, companies, researchers
- Only stronger commitment on researchers' issues will help to make research more fun, more exciting and excellent





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Thank you for
your
attention!

cornelis-mario.vis@ec.europa.eu

