



TÜBİTAK

Scientific Visa

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Scientific Visa

- Facilitation of the mobility of researchers is believed to be a prerequisite for enhancing trans-national research collaboration in Europe.
- European Commission's efforts for the creation of the Scientific Visa is conceived as a very important and worthwhile step towards the fostering of mobility in research.

Scientific Visa

- The Scientific Visa Package facilitates the procedure of admitting researchers coming from non-European countries (third-country nationals) to Europe for the purpose of scientific research. There is a distinction in the procedure for:
 - long-term admission, for researchers intending to stay in Europe for more than three months and
 - short-term visas, for entry of less than three months.

Scientific Visa

- The European Research Area should have an adequate flow of competent researchers with high levels of mobility between institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries (ERA Green Paper).
- The implementation of the Directive is urgently needed for building a competitive and attractive ERA (Realising a single labour market for researchers - Report of the ERA Expert Group, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG-Research).
- Bureaucratic and time-consuming visa requirements of EU Members States represent an additional obstacle for researcher mobility into ERA countries. EU governments should make an extra effort to remove this obstacle and to make it easier for non-EU researchers to enter the ERA. (Research Careers in Europe Landscape and Horizons)

Fifth Freedom

- EU 2020 Strategy, emphasises achievement of a “genuine European Knowledge Area, underpinned by a world-class knowledge infrastructure, in which all actors (students, teachers, researchers, education and research institutions and enterprises) benefit from the free circulation of people, knowledge and technology (the fifth freedom)”

Innovation Union

- The Innovation Union proposes that, by 2012, the European Union and its Member States put into place integrated policies to ensure that the best academics, researchers and innovators reside and work in Europe and to attract a sufficient number of highly skilled third country nationals to stay in Europe for limited periods of time, exploiting the possibilities under the Scientific Visa Package and the Blue Card Scheme.

Countries Participating in the Scientific Visa

- All the Member States except Denmark and the United Kingdom.
- The participating Member States are:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (not for short term SV), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Examples of Problems

- Hungary
 - Language of legal documents: Hungarian (visiting researchers are reluctant to sign)
- Serbia
 - Registration of stay is required 24hrs after each entry (Problem for frequent travellers)
 - Law on foreigners states that approval of two ministries (education, science) is required for entry on scientific work/educational grounds

Examples of Problems

- Belgium
 - Lack of awareness of the scope of the hosting agreement application in the diplomatic services
 - Minimal term of the hosting agreement: 3 months: this creates problems for short term stays or for renewals for a short time
- Research professionals can apply for a scientific visa, but PhD students cannot.
- Inconsistency of admission procedures between different Member states

What can be done? – Some suggestions

- Analyse both good practices and problems in countries.
- A need for standardization.
- Define actions for enhancement and monitoring “scientific visa” system.
- Better communication tools.
 - Publication and communication of the new provisions adopted by the Member States to the relevant third-countries
 - New facilitative procedures developed or suggested by Member States for uniform short-stay visas could be communicated to relevant third-countries

What can be done? – Some suggestions

- Academics from universities, researchers from public and private organisations, and students shall be included in the definition of the “researcher” category (i.e. usage of common definition of researcher in every EU state according to OECD manuals).
- In cases where possession of visas is necessary, the following measures could be taken for facilitating the admission procedures:
 - Decreasing the number of supporting documents,
 - Asking for a standard set of supporting documents by different states,

What can be done? – Some suggestions

- Acceptance of copies of the originally signed invitation letters, if necessary,
- Issuing multiple entry visas taking into consideration the duration of the involved research projects,
- Expedition of the examination of visa applications,
- Application of the same set of facilitative procedures for researchers from the public or private organisations; to encourage the mobility of researchers from the industry and SMEs,
- Issuing of visas without administrative fee and without the visa fee.

Thank You...