

Inter-sectoral mobility - a one-way street? Myths and reality.

Date: 2004-08-28

Time: 14:45-16:15

Venue: Folkets Hus, 2nd floor, room 203

Synopsis:

It is more and more recognized that research training at doctoral and post-doctoral level should not only focus on the transmission of scientific knowledge, but also offer opportunities for training in transferable skills and for the acquisition of complementary competencies, such as communication and management skills. But is this really what industry and other non-academic potential employers are looking for? What role should the private sector play in research training? Is there a need for new career pathways between the public and the private sector?

Coordinators:

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Speakers:

Jens Degett (Head of Communication and Information Unit, European Science Foundation)
"A new paradigm for career path in Science"

Frank Heemskerk (President of EARMA - European Association of Research Managers and Administrators)
"What is the added value that mobility can give to your career?"

Marie-Gabrielle Schweighofer (Director of Association Bernard Gregory)
"From PhD to employment (in a company)"

Discussants:

Ivan Montanari (MCFA Administrative Board, Career Development Committee)

Sanin Hasibovic (Project Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina, South-East Europe Association)

Rapporteur:

Dusan Pestotnik (Marie Curie Research Fellow at Siemens AG, Germany)

ABSTRACTS

JENS DEGETT

Head of Communication and Information Unit, European Science Foundation

A new paradigm for career path in Science

Since the beginning of the last century, science education and careers has been viewed as proceeding along a narrow unidirectional track, a "pipeline" that produces new research professors within each scientific discipline. This model has been successful in many aspect, but is not valid any longer. The universities and research institutions have trained their students and young researchers with the perspective of becoming researchers and teachers themselves, but during the last two decades there have been relative few tenured jobs in these sectors and the majority of the young university candidates have found their permanent jobs in many other sectors.

The career of a young researcher is now much more dynamic and transdisciplinary. Therefore we must stop thinking about an academic career in the traditional "pipeline" way but se it as a tree with a multitude of possible branches which are connected and may lead to new opportunities. In many countries most universities are working closely together with industry and business. University professors may shift between their university job and a job in industry, and it is becoming more common that industry researchers go back to the university and become professors later in their career. Permanent positions for young researchers are very rare, and the public research institutions are in most cases unable to offer a complete career development package within research and education.

The presentation will give some examples of this career development and some good advice on how to avoid the dead-ends and float on the sea of opportunities.

FRANK HEEMSKERK

President of EARMA - European Association of Research Managers and Administrators

What is the added value that mobility can give to your career?

This workshop will consider the different aspects of mobility of researchers who do not remain in academic research circles. This entails not only geographical mobility, but also changes from one sector to another, be it industry, a non-profit organization or government. Each move within the landscape of opportunities offers its own value, but you do have to recognize this value for yourself.

This added value can come in various forms: enhancing technical skills in areas where there are no experts in the places where you came from, developing new (e.g. managerial or entrepreneurial) skills, acquiring languages skills, insight in cultural differences, enlarging your network of contacts, etc. Each of these, often in combination, can help you you to take a new turn in your career and remain flexible enough to quickly adapt to changes around you. Most often the biggest advancements and discoveries have been made on the borders of disciplines: the same is true for your personal development.

MARIE-GABRIELLE SCHWEIGHOFER

Director of Association Bernard Gregory

From PhD to employment (in a company)

In France, each year 10,000 PhD students graduate. Only 30% of them enter the private sector.

Two significant figures characterize the researchers employment in companies :

- first : small companies employ more and more research staff (one third of the total work in SME)
- second : the researchers careers in companies are brief (average 10 years) compared to life long research career in the University.

Association Bernard Gregory, (ABG) a non profit organization, funded by public and private members, was created in 1980 to facilitate PhDs integration into companies by actions as : preparing PhD students to the « after thesis », communication, individual PhD guidance to enter a company

ABG aims at extending its actions to the social sciences and humanities, and to a European labor market for PhDs.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

JENS DEGETT

Head of Communication and Information Unit, European Science Foundation

Jens Degett is head of two units at the ESF, the Communication and the Information units. He is responsible for organizing meetings, policies and press releases at the European level for 76 ESF member organizations in 29 countries, a website with about 4.3 million hits a month (www.esf.org), and the publication of a number of magazines, books, brochures and other printed materials for the European research community. The ESF produces about 50 publications a year.

From 1994-1999 he served as producer and host for the most listened weekly radio programme "Studie 2000" on the Danish Channel One. He has more than 400 hours radio and television broadcast experience as host and producer mainly on science and space programmes. Before his broadcast days, he was responsible for scientific and environmental communication strategies and communication with stakeholders and media in the Danish biotech company Novo Nordisk.

In 1997 he was editor on the Danish Natural Research Councils 5-year strategy plan. In the year 2000 he was rapporteur on the Nordic Council of Ministers session on biotechnology, and he has been the Danish representative of several EU-Commission Committees (CAN-HUG and Biomed 1-2) from 1991-1996. He worked for the Danish research councils from 1990-1992 with coordination for the Danish biotech and food research programmes.

His scientific background is cell biology and tropical medicine (*Trypanosoma cruzi*), he did research at Instituto Carlos Chagas Filho, University Federal de Rio de Janeiro in Brazil 1987 - 1998 and University of Copenhagen from 1988-1989.

FRANK HEEMSKERK

President of EARMA - European Association of Research Managers and Administrators

With a PhD from Utrecht university (The Netherlands) Frank Heemskerk led research groups in the USA (National Institutes of Health) and France (Pasteur University, Strasbourg), resulting in an academic background of 15 years in neurochemistry and pharmacology. After that he joined a small bio-pharmaceutical company in Belgium, world leader in R&D for HIV drug discovery, development and diagnostics. As Director for Research Coordination & Funding, he was responsible for the Coordination, Management and Administration of all publicly funded Research projects in the company and the external Research collaborations. In this position he supported the growth of the company from 28 to more than 250 employees over 4 years, through a merger between 2 companies, multiple private placements and finally an acquisition by a large pharmaceutical company.

He serves regularly as a consultant to the European Commission, the Flemish government and is currently President of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA). In the summer of 2002 he founded his own company (RIMS), through which he offers his expertise independently, providing various management services and training focused around industry-academic research collaborations in the Biotech/Pharma sector.

MARIE-GABRIELLE SCHWEIGHOFER

Director of Association Bernard Gregory

After a PhD in atomic and molecular physics, Marie-Gabrielle Schweighofer has held various positions in research management, in particular in researchers and laboratories assessment, science policy and science indicators.

Since four years, Marie-Gabrielle Schweighofer has been the head of the French association Bernard Gregory (ABG). The mission of this association is to bring together academic and business spheres by supporting the professional mobility of recent PhDs into the business world.

SANIN HASIBOVIC

Project Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina, South-East Europe Association

Sanin Hasibovic was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he graduated from secondary school (humanistic orientation) in 1995. After obtaining diploma from German secondary school qualifying for university admission in 1998 he enrolled at the Free University Berlin. He has recently completed his degrees in Eastern European Studies (first minor) and Applied Economics (second minor) and is currently graduating in Communication Sciences (major), specialising in international media policy. His other scientific interests focus on transformation theory, democracy promotion/protection, international relations, media assistance, anti-globalization movement, human rights etc.

His work under the auspices of different organisations (mostly NGOs and IGOs) has given him a wealth of experience in different fields of interest, including a wide variety of topics ranging from migration issues, election supervision to interethnic reconciliation and post-traumatic stress disorder. With the Carl-Duisberg-Society and Action Reconciliation Service for Peace from Germany he organized and implemented preparatory workshops for German volunteers going to Bosnia and Kosovo. At present he is working for the Berlin-based South-East Europe Association, coordinating EU-sponsored projects in Bosnia. Until recently he has also been working as a student assistant for the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) within the working group "Political Communication and Mobilisation, where he conducted content analyses of international newspapers and evaluated semi-standardized interviews. He is a member of the South East Europe Society, amnesty international and OXFAM Germany.

IVAN MONTANARI

Marie Curie Fellowship Association, Bruxelles

Ivan Montanari studied Chemistry at the University of Bologna in Italy. After spending a year at Utrecht University in the Netherlands as an Erasmus student he graduated with a thesis in supramolecular photochemistry. He then went on to Imperial College, London UK where he got a PhD on "Competing Electron Transfer Pathways in Molecular Solar Cells" partially funded by a Marie Curie B20 fellowship. He then moved to the private sector working for more than a year as an energy consultant to Small and Medium Enterprises in Tuscany, Italy. He has recently been elected to the MCFA Board where he is heading the Career Development Committee, and he's currently making un his mind between academia and industry once again.

DUSAN PESTOTNIC

Marie Curie Research Fellow at Siemens AG, Germany

Dusan Pestotnik was born in 1976 in Kranj, Slovenia where he also finished basic and secondary school. After a few years of getting of experience in Industry he started in 1998 the Bachelor of Science at Hogeschool of Utrecht, Netherlands where he took part in the ' ' Leonardo da Vinci' ' exchange program. After finishing his BSc in 2002 he sta to work at Siemens CT MM1 with a Marie Curie Industry Host Fellowship. His recent work is based on research on and development of polymeric optical components.

DAGMAR M. MEYER

Marie Curie Fellowship Association, Bruxelles

Dagmar M. Meyer studied mathematics at the Universities of Heidelberg and Cambridge. The work for her doctoral dissertation on a problem in Algebraic Topology was done mostly at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Max-Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn. After her PhD she spent two and a half years at the University of Paris 13, first with a fellowship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then with a Community funded Marie Curie fellowship. In 2001 she returned to her native Germany where she currently holds a temporary position as Assistant Professor at the University of Göttingen. Since her time in Paris she has been actively involved in the Marie Curie Fellowship Association, first as one of the French national co-ordinators, then at European level holding various positions within the Administrative Board. She is currently the Chair of the association.

Dagmar is particularly interested in issues related to the career development of young reserchers and how to improve the framework conditions in this respect at a national and European level.