



EU Insight - The Pan-European Pension Fund RESAVER

One of the main goals of the European Research Area (ERA) strived for by the European Union (EU) is the implementation of “[a]n open labour market for researchers” which encompasses “facilitating mobility, supporting training and ensuring attractive careers” [3]. The free circulation of researchers, scientific knowledge and technology as called for in the Lisbon Treaty and European Council Conclusions is the key “through which the Union and its Member States strengthen their scientific and technological bases, their competitiveness and their capacity to collectively address grand challenges” [3].

However, being mobile often causes challenges to researchers, as for example amongst others, gaps can arise in their social security protection and the transfer of their pension rights when moving between different countries.



Initiatives to establish a pension scheme for mobile researchers

National efforts

One pilot initiative is the “Find you pension” portal which is part of the *Supplementary pension institution of public sector employees in Germany (VBL)* project 'Partnership for researchers'. The aim is to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers employed in the public sector with regard to their pensions. The core issue is to improve information services for the target group of mobile scientists.

Furthermore, the European Commission (EC) is supporting a consortium of employers, through Horizon 2020, in creating a single European pension arrangement (RESAVER) that will offer a defined contribution plan, tailor made for research organisations and their employees.

RESAVER – Retirement Savings Vehicle for European Research Institutions

In the 2012 ERA Communication, the European Commission made a commitment to support employers in removing pension as an obstacle for researchers’ mobility by “supporting stakeholders in setting up a pan-European supplementary pension fund for researchers”. Therefore, the EC is backing up a consortium of employers, through Horizon 2020, in creating a single European pension arrangement (RESAVER) that will offer a defined contribution plan, tailor made for research organisations and their employees.



At the end of June 2014, the Commission published a detailed brochure [1] and website section [2] on the EURAXESS Rights webpage which can be accessed via: rights.euraxess.org. The website and brochure contain information on

- (1) what RESAVER is;
- (2) what RESAVER offers;
- (3) who should consider participating;
- (4) what the advantages and challenges are;
- (5) and what needs to be done to participate.

It also has a FAQ section.

Next steps

Currently, the European Commission's "call for tender" to find a contractor able to provide technical assistance and expertise in the creation of the cross-border 2nd pillar IORP and the complementary country-specific insurance arrangement is open. The four year framework contract is expected to be awarded during the autumn of 2014.

In September 2014 an ad hoc employer consortium will be registered as an international non-profit organisation in Belgium. The employer consortium will promote the concept and prepare the ground for the establishment of RESAVER in 2015.

The European Commission will organise a series of seminars to inform employers on the possibilities and benefits offered by RESAVER. The next seminars will be held in Vienna on 29 October 2014 and in Copenhagen on 4 December 2014.



Sources

[1] European Commission brochure: "[RESAVER – Retirement Savings Vehicle For European Research Institutions](#)"

[2] EURAXESS Rights' website: "[RESAVER – A Pan-European Pension Fund](#)"

[3] European Commission website: [European Research Area – Open market for researchers - RESAVER](#)

[4] European Commission: "[2012 ERA Communication](#)"