

PROGRAMME

Boosting the Academic Career through International Mobilities (BECOME)

Overview

The BECOME programme aims to contribute to the development of the academic careers of teachers and researchers at POLITEHNICA University of Bucharest through international mobility.

International mobility is a tool to develop new partnerships, improve institutional capacity, as well as to carry out activities that contribute to the continuous professional development of academic staff.

The value of mobility is explicitly addressed within the 40 principles of the Charter and Code:

- *Employers and funders need to recognise the value of geographical, intersectoral, inter- and trans-disciplinary and virtual mobility, as well as mobility between the public and private sectors, as an important way to enhance scientific knowledge and professional development in all phases of a researcher's career.*

Last but not least, there are numerous scientific studies showing the benefits of brain circulation, of the interaction between heterogeneous scientific experiences.

Overall objective of the programme

Development of UPB's academic human resources through short-term mobility.

Programme components

The BECOME programme will have two main components, depending on the type of mobility supported:

- BECOME Outgoing (dedicated to UPB academic staff);
- BECOME Incoming (dedicated to researchers and professors from other partner universities coming to UPB as visiting professors, keynote speakers or to develop a research project proposal).

BECOME Outgoing objectives and activities

O1: Dynamise professional exchanges between UPB academic staff and international partners

A1.1. Facilitating a visit to a well-established research group - *BECOME Researcher*

- Access to research infrastructure.
- Access to groups of high performing researchers.
- Access to industry partners (with the signing of intellectual property protection agreements, such as partnership agreements from the BRIDGE competition organised by UEFISCDI). The need for such mobilities was supported in the consultation of the academic community in UPB.

A1.2 Facilitating teachers' visits to universities abroad to develop pedagogical and curriculum design skills - *BECOME Teacher*

O2: Stimulating international mobility of teachers, researchers

A2.1. Facilitating participation in courses organised by universities and/or international institutions for the development of professional skills - *BECOME Learner*

- Intellectual property courses for both researchers and support staff. For example, courses organised by the European Patent Office.



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- Training courses in Open Science (e.g. how to develop a Data Management Plan, mandatory in Horizon 2020 projects).
- Training courses to learn a new technique, new software, etc. (completed with a number of credit points - ECTS).

A2.2. Facilitating mobility of researchers and teachers for visiting professorships - *BECOME Scholar*

BECOME Incoming objectives and activities

O3: Fostering international cooperation in scientific research and education

A3.1. Invitation of prestigious experts from abroad to international conferences and workshops organized by UPB

A3.2. Invitation of prestigious international experts as *visiting professors* at UPB

A3.3. Invite researchers and teachers from international partners to develop a project proposal.

Possible sources of funding

- Special Situations Fund (SPF)
- Institutional Development Fund (Field 2: Internationalisation of higher education in Romania)
- Erasmus Strategic Partnerships KA1 Learning Mobility of Individuals
- MSCA

Recent UPB experiences

Engineer in Europe project, funded by FSS, through which travel to courses and conferences for UPB teachers was financed;

The project *Stimulating Interactions, Mobilities and Participation in Professional Exchange and Research Activities (SIMPAtiC)*, funded by FDI2019, in the framework of which teachers from abroad were invited to UPB to participate in summer schools, for working visits, etc. Outgoing mobilities of UPB teachers to participate in courses, study visits, exchanges of experience at universities abroad were also supported.

Project "Leadership and Internationalization for Development, Excellence and Success in Higher Technical Education" (**LIDERteh**), FDI2018, with similar objectives and activities to FDI2019.

The UEFISCDI **Researcher Mobility** Competition had an initial budget of RON 2,000,000 in 2019. According to the data published by the funder, the first list of applications submitted, containing applications registered on the first and second day of the competition until 08.00, contained 429 applications totalling RON 5,771,311. Subsequently, the budget of this competition for 2019 was increased to RON 9,500,000, with 503 projects funded out of the 826 submitted. The budget for a project is a maximum of RON 22,000. The funded activities eligible for funding in this competition are:

- Participation in a conference with a paper invited or accepted for presentation.
- Internship/training course abroad to understand/learn a new technique required to use existing equipment in the institution.
- *Open access* publishing.



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- Access to research infrastructures that do not exist in Romania (including libraries/archives/databases).
- Activities necessary to protect intellectual property rights.

Experiences of other universities

Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB) offers scholarships for visiting professors.

<https://icub.unibuc.ro/fellowships-for-visiting-professors/>

Member universities in the *Worldwide Universities Network*, offer short-term mobility (between 2 weeks and 3 months) worth up to £2,500 each, to develop research activity by accessing experienced research groups, facilities or rare datasets. For example, researchers from the University of Sheffield, the University of York, the University of Bristol or the University of Maastricht can participate in this programme.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationalpartnerships/wun/rmp>

<https://www.york.ac.uk/global/globalpartnerships/wun/research/rmp/>

The European Consortium of Innovative Universities has a mobility programme for researchers in the consortium to facilitate the development of collaborative research. Any researcher from a university that is a member of the consortium can apply for this programme, but early-career researchers are particularly encouraged. The maximum amount awarded is €5000/mobility.

<https://www.eciu.org/for-staff/researchers-mobility-fund>

The University of Rochester, has the PumpPrimer program, an internal grant designed to facilitate the development of consortia for large projects. A budget of \$5,000 is offered for short research mobilities (between one month and three months).

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/pumpprimer/>

The Young European Research Universities, which include Maastricht University, the University of Essex, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, etc., offer researchers affiliated to a member institution and in the early stages of their career (R1 and R2) a Research Mobility Award of €1,000 as a lump sum. A detailed report (second report) on the collaborations resulting from the mobility is to be submitted one year after the mobility.



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<https://www.yerun.eu/strategic-actions/yerun-research-mobility-awards-2019-2020/>