



EU Insight - RESAVER: boost to supporting researcher mobility

In August 2014, this newsletter's '[EU Insight](#)' section introduced the pan-European Retirement Savings Vehicle for European Research Institutions (RESAVER)[1]. This pension arrangement will enable researchers to remain affiliated to the same pension fund, even when changing jobs and moving between different countries within the European Research Area (ERA). Singled out as a priority in the [2012 Communication on ERA](#) [2], in which the European Commission pledged to "support stakeholders in setting up pan-European supplementary pension fund(s) for researchers", this initiative received two major boosts within the past months:

First, on 1 October, the consortium was launched that aims to establish this new pan-European pension arrangement [3]; and second, on 16 December, the Commission reported that a four-year, four million euro framework contract in support of creating RESAVER has been awarded to *Aon Belgium* [4] in response to the call for tender launched by the Commission in summer 2014.

Two major boosts to RESAVER establishment

The RESAVER consortium, a group of committed employers, will be working as an international not-for-profit association registered in Belgium. The founding members are: Central European University Budapest; Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CERIC-ERIC); Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A; Fondazione Edmund Mach; Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia; Technical University of Vienna; and the Association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU)[3].

The consortium plans to set up the pension arrangement with the first contribution being paid in 2015. The four-year framework contract awarded by the Commission in mid-December will cover the initial set-up costs. This will enable the consortium to roll out the single European pension arrangement across the European Economic Area by 2018.

By participating in RESAVER, employers will be able to sponsor a single European pension arrangement capable of delivering:

- Cross-border pooling of pension plans;
- Continuity of the accumulation of pension benefits as professionals move between different organisations and countries during their career;
- Lower overhead costs (and therefore improved member benefits) through economies of scale;
- Access to high quality investments regardless of the country where the employee is based (where legally possible), thereby improving overall member benefits;
- A pan-European risk pooling solution covering death benefits;



- A centralised portal for tracking and administering pension contribution [4].

“Mobile researchers face obstacles related to social security, in particular with regard to their pensions. [...] [B]y removing barriers to researchers’ mobility and ensuring safe and sustainable pensions for research professionals, [RESAVER] will contribute to the establishment of a European labour market for researchers.” European Commission, ERA Progress Report 2014 [5]

Sources and further information on RESAVER

[1] EURAXESS Links newsletter: [EU Insight - The Pan-European Pension Fund RESAVER](#), August 2014.

[2] European Commission: [2012 Communication on ERA](#), Brussel, 17 July 2012.

[3] European Commission press release: [New pan-European pension fund to boost researcher mobility](#), Brussels, 1 October 2014.

[4] European Commission press release: [Major contract to support new pan-EU pension fund](#), Brussels, 16 December 2014.

[5] European Commission: [European Research Area Progress Report 2014](#), Brussels, 15 September 2014.

[6] European Commission brochure: [“RESAVER – Retirement Savings Vehicle For European Research Institutions”](#)