

DELOS Researcher Exchange Program

The exchange of researchers between organizations working on joint projects is certainly one of the most effective ways to achieve integration of the working teams and exchange of skills and results. For "exchange of researcher" is meant the visit of a researcher from one DELOS member to another, for a period ranging from a few weeks to a few months.

To facilitate the implementation of such exchange programs, DELOS is providing some funding to cover the additional expenses that might be required for the exchange. It is expected that DELOS members will use the money received from the European Union (in the frame of the DELOS NoE) to cover most of the expenses related to the exchange, and the additional funding will be used (if needed) to cover additional expenses, mostly related to traveling.

The additional funding is administered by ERCIM (the NoE Administrative Coordinator). For the year 2004, the DELOS contribution (to be claimed following the ERCIM rules for reimbursement) is as follows:

- reimbursement of 1 round trip travel from the place of work (normally the sending organization) to the receiving organization;
- payment of a lump sum of 500 EUR for each week (five working days) of visit.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity, the following steps have to be performed:

- 1) the sending organization will agree with the receiving organization the purpose and the duration of the visit (for 2004, from 2 to 4 weeks);
- 2) the sending organization will send a request for support to its cluster coordinator, specifying the duration and the expected results of the visit (one or two pages at most), and attaching the agreement of the receiving partner;
- 3) the cluster coordinator will estimate the relevance of the visit for the Joint Program of Activities and, if in agreement, will forward the request to the Scientific Board;
- 4) the Scientific Board will approve the request (or reject with motivations) within two weeks from receipt of the request;
- 5) the visiting researcher will start the visit within one month from approval;
- 6) at the end of the visit, the visiting researcher will send a brief report of the results achieved to the his/her cluster coordinator;
- 7) the visiting researcher will request reimbursement from ERCIM, following the ERCIM rules.

The Scientific Board will allocate the budget available for this program basically on a first come, first serve basis, taking into account the overall relevance of the visit for the DELOS Joint Program of Activities, and a fair distribution of funding among the DELOS members and the DELOS research clusters. In the selection of the proposals the Scientific Board will also take into account the 'gender balance' and, all other conditions being equivalent, preference will be given to visits of female researchers.

Although the Researcher Exchange Program is mainly intended to facilitate integration among DELOS members, the DELOS contribution can be granted also in cases where the sending organization is not a DELOS member (the receiving organization has to be a member). Of course, also in this case the purpose of the visit has to be relevant to the DELOS Program of Activities (see "Work Programme" on this site). If you are not a DELOS member, and are interested in participating to the DELOS activities, either through the Researcher Exchange Program, or through joint research, please send a proposal for cooperation to the chair of the DELOS Scientific Board, namely Dr. Costantino Thanos (thanos@isti.cnr.it).