

ERN Exchange Programme 2021-2022

Knowledge sharing and stimulating collaboration between health care professionals in European Reference Networks (ERN). That is the aim of the ERN Exchange Programme 2021-2022, funded by the European Commission. In the coming two years, three editions of exchanges will take place. The first edition will start in March 2021. Ecorys Ltd will support all European Reference Networks with the design and logistics of the Exchange Programme of the European Commission.

Exchange packages

34x 

for small-sized ERNs

44x 

for medium-sized ERNs

55x 

for large-sized ERNs

A single package provides compensation for



The standard duration of the visits is 5 working days for 1 person



Travel arrangements  **Travel insurance**



Per diems for subsistence costs (200 euro per working day)

-  it includes: the cost of accommodation, food and local transport
-  it doesn't include: insurance for professional liability for visitors and any costs incurred by the hosting health care professionals (HCP's)

Editions of the programme

The packages can be spent during the three editions:

- **March – August 21,**
- **September 21 – Feb 22,**
- **March 22 – August 22.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, probably a limited number of packages will be used during the first edition.

Content of the visits

The exchange programme is meant to meet goals and strengthen capacity on the network level. It is not meant for research nor for individual development (though this may be a secondary effect of the exchange programme). The thematic scope includes medical practice and skills but also organisational aspects of a network. Each ERN defines the strategic goals and priorities of the exchange programme, according to the specific situation of the network. These goals and priorities include:

- **geographical scope** (priority countries/HCP's, equal distribution over countries);
- **professional groups** (medical specialists, nursing staff, lab staff, others);
- **thematic coverage** (clinical aspects, psychosocial support, organisational strengthening)

It is the responsibility of each ERN to:

- Define the goals to address and corresponding priorities for the exchange programme by mid-February 2021;
- Collect needs and proposals for exchange visits;
- Identify traveling professionals and hosting centres;
- Decide which proposals will be rewarded, in consultation with the EC and Ecorys.

The account managers from Ecorys are available to support you with advice, assistance and practical tools in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Who is eligible?

Health professionals working in the ERN centres are eligible for the programme – this includes all disciplines related to the relevant expertise area of the ERN. Formally affiliated member HCPs are also eligible for exchange visits.

However, it is up to the ERN coordinator to decide on their participation. HCPs that applied to become a member of an ERN are eligible for exchange visits upon formal approval of their application. Patient representatives, professionals coming from a third country and professionals that are not affiliated to the ERN are not eligible for exchange visits. Equally, hosting centres should be approved members of the ERN. Exchange visits to (members of) other ERNs are allowed. Visits to centres outside the EU27 + Norway are not foreseen.

Distribution of packages in relation to COVID

The exchange visits will be organised in 3 editions, from March-July 2021, September 2021-February 2022 and March-July 2022. The original projection was to use 20% of the packages in the 1st edition and 40% in the 2nd and 3rd edition. Due to COVID19-related travel restrictions, the share of packages in the 1st edition may be lower than projected. An even distribution of packages over the 2nd and 3rd edition is recommended to learn from experiences as well as to avoid underutilisation of packages. Unallocated packages will be subject to redistribution.

Costs and compensation

Ecorys will **organise and manage travel** arrangements and provide administrative support for travels, including the provision of tickets, travel insurance and an information kit. Beneficiaries (visitors) will receive an allowance of 200 euro per working day at destination to cover costs of accommodation, food and local transport. Weekend days are not included. Visitors are expected to book their accommodation. Allowances will be wired as lump sum on the first day of the exchange visit, upon confirmation of arrival by the hosting HCP.

SUPPORT FROM ECORYS

Ecorys will assist in the design of the exchange programme, to strengthen your network, facilitate the collection of exchange needs and capabilities and take care of financial and logistical arrangements for the implementation of the visits.

Healthcare consultants from Ecorys will serve as account managers and provide advice & assistance in the start up and operationalisation of the programme. Specifically, the account managers help structuring the exchange programme into a well-organized project, including specific aims in line with the needs and priorities of the respective ERN, definition of the scope, governance and a work plan. Also, the account managers will provide content for a communication campaign within the network and an online tool to facilitate collection of exchange needs.

Additionally, logistic managers will provide financial and travel arrangements for visiting professionals. Lastly, they will monitor for learning and optimisation of the programme, which includes the collection and storage of data on visits, characteristics and experiences, summary reports after each edition of visits (by ERN and overall) and evaluate with ERNs to incorporate lessons learnt in the next edition.



Require further clarification?



Consult the FAQ

Didn't find the answer you are looking for? Do not hesitate to contact your account manager.