

## CEC-WYS Seminar on Responsible Conduct of research and Science Communication

23-27 January 2006, Bratislava, Slovakia



The second CEC-WYS Seminar on Responsible Conduct of Research and Scientific Communication took place in the beautiful setting of Smolenice Congress Center of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (<http://www.kcsmolenice.sav.sk/en/>). The seminar was organised within the framework of the European Project CEC-WYS ([www.cec-wys.org](http://www.cec-wys.org)) for early career researchers – women and men.

### The objectives of the seminar were:

- to provide young researchers with the opportunity to exchange ideas and views related to issues in the Conduct of Science – in particular gender issues in science, project and knowledge management, ethics and supervision-, to reflect on their own practice as researchers, mentors, supervisors and teachers and to obtain further training in these areas.
- to allow all participants to benefit from the experience of their colleagues for the conduct of their research projects and their career development - in particular through practical hands-on workshops providing training in soft skills.
- to allow participants to meet with experts from different countries and to network.

### The five-day seminar comprised of:

- **Two workshops -held in parallel, each involving 8 researchers and facilitated by an interdisciplinary team of experts-researchers.** Participants

were invited to work on their own research projects, addressing practical problems, ranging from developing arguments to communicate the scientific and social interest of their research to ethics and the art of supervision. Facilitators enhanced dialogue, reflexivity, collective learning. In the process, participants were expected to develop and build “transferable and soft” skills.

- **One half-day session on Written Communication:** practical exercises were conducted using participants’ written productions (abstracts, summaries, posters, introductions of scientific paper or proposals) with a final written exercise in the form of the abstract of a scientific paper or of a research proposal. The written productions were reviewed collectively.
- **One full-day session on Career development,** addressing the following issues: defining career goals, exploring skills and competencies, identifying development needs, action planning.

### Participating researchers were expected to

- **Send written documents presenting their research projects** in the form of abstracts, summaries, full-length papers, posters, research proposals. Photocopies of extracts were made with the agreement of authors, to be used as support material for group work.
- **Bring to the venue posters** as supports for information and material for discussion.
- **Prepare questions** on issues they want to be addressed.

### Participation details

Applications were from five countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Participants were selected on the basis of an application questionnaire, including a motivation letter.

Trips, accommodation and meals were covered within the framework of the CEC-WYS European project.

### Seminar organisers and experts

The seminar was organized by **Marie-Claude ROLAND**, Linguistics and Research Practices Unit, Coordinator of Young Researchers’ Training Programme, French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA-Paris, France) and **Eszter Papp**, EU and Quality Manager, Tudományos és Technológiai Alapítvány, Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation, Budapest, Hungary. For more information please contact: [marie-claude.roland@wanadoo.fr](mailto:marie-claude.roland@wanadoo.fr), [roland@paris.inra.fr](mailto:roland@paris.inra.fr), [eszter.papp@tetalap.hu](mailto:eszter.papp@tetalap.hu)

The experts were:

**Martine CHAMP** is a research director from the department of Human Nutrition, INRA Nantes. Her research interests are with in vivo short-chain fatty acids metabolism and the impact of peri-natal feeding on gut maturation in new born babies  
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**Frédéric GARCIA** is a research director from the department of Applied Mathematics and

Informatics, INRA Toulouse. His research is in artificial Intelligence (planning, machine learning) with applications to agroecosystems modelling and management.

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**Nadine HILGERT**, PhD, is a researcher from the department of Applied Mathematics and Informatics, INRA Montpellier. Her research concerns the development of statistical tools for modelling, estimating and controlling dynamic systems in the context of resource conservation and sustainable development

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**Janet METCALFE**, PhD, is director of the UK Grad Programme and is a key figure in the promotion of Postgraduate Skills Training in the UK.

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**Marie-Claude ROLAND** is a linguist with a PhD in Language Science and Didactics; a specialist in science communication, she has developed a methodology for building research projects and coordinates a training programme for young investigators and supervisors

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**Ivan SACHE**, PhD, is a researcher from the department of Environment and Agronomy, INRA Grignon. His research interest is in plant and animal epidemiology

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**Eniko VARGA** is a project manager in information technology. She participated in the Information Management Leadership program, where she held several jobs in the IT area, leading projects in manufacturing, engineering, IT security  
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**Jolan VELENCEI** is a Lecturer at Budapest University of Technology and Economics and a Senior consultant in DoctuS Consulting, Budapest. Her main research fields are Decision Support, Problem Solving, Knowledge Management. She co-developed DoctuS Knowledge Based System and Knowledge Galaxy Cmap tools.

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## What they said....

*Participants have assessed the Bratislava seminar. Following are some of their enthusiastic comments!*

- What I have learnt during the seminar: I should become a researcher having the skills of it by validating and improving my soft skills. I will do that!

- Even if I had not a clear image on the expected results from the seminar, my expectations were projected in the same line with other seminars attended. I didn't expect interdisciplinary approach and so many useful methods to be presented. In a nutshell, I wanted to come back with a clearer picture on my PhD and from this point of view the training seminar has fulfilled my expectations completely.

- This training seminar was my first opportunity to 'work' together with fields which I will probably not 'meet' again soon in research projects. My attitude regarding the relation between science and society has also changed after the seminar in the meaning of promoting a science-in-society approach
- The seminar has "opened" my eyes regarding the position and the role of the researcher in the society, and his responsibility. Also, during the reflective practice, I began to think more about the relation between my personal wishes, dreams, priorities, career, and the real life, and how I can change the situation. It was useful to have a notebook for the reflexive practice, where we can record our thoughts, and development through the time.
- Working on mind maps in our working group was wonderful. Each participant was of a different profession, with different projects and approaches to their problems. I intend to use this method in the future, in discussions and when writing papers
- I have never participated in a workshop/seminar like the Bratislava seminar. It took me about a day to understand the importance of active participating. I would like to express my thanks for the possibility to participate in the seminar and also for the possibility to get help how to validate my skills and how to improve them. Thank you very much for it
- It was a week with plenty of reflections, individual or in small groups!!! I am even more aware about the importance of a clear message!!! I was amazed to see that things that appear clear to one can be so unbelievable (mis)interpreted by another!!! I will pay more attention to that in the future, both in communicating research and daily life. The brainstorming around the career has helped me to set up my priorities and has stressed the importance of personal motivation (as result of doing something you really like, according to own skills). I'm planning to take care of my life-balance now ☺
- I am wondering how my supervisor would react during this kind of training seminar. I will probably not have the chance to experience but it could be useful for both parts involved.
- The environment created was very enthusiastic
- Thanks for sharing your knowledge with us! It was a productive and pleasant week.
- I considered the seminar very useful for young researchers, that's why we formed a team of people willing to organize other events with the same topic