

ERN Exchange Programme 2021-2022

The ERN Exchange Programme is designed to share knowledge and stimulate collaboration between professionals in the European Reference Networks (ERNs). Now the number of COVID infections has decreased, society is opening up and travelling is possible again, we are happy to announce that the ERN Exchange Programme has been resumed per 1 April 2022. Ecorys will support all European Reference Networks with the design and logistics of the Exchange Programme, funded by 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

 **Each package consists of 5 visit days. In practice, exchange visits vary from a few days up to 6 weeks, depending on the purpose of the exchange.**

 **Travel arrangements**

 **Daily Allowance (200 euro per working day)**

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

The official closing date for exchange visits under this Programme is 31 December 2022. So there are 8 months left to organise and implement exchanges. We encourage all networks to make use of this opportunity. If you need any advice or help to elaborate exchanges, don't hesitate to contact your ERN coordinator/ manager, or the Ecorys support team (ERNexchange@ecorys.com).

Goal of exchange visits

The exchange programme is meant to meet goals and strengthen capacity on the network level by sharing expertise, experiences and highly specialised knowledge under the scope and frame of the 24 European Reference Networks. 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 defined the strategic goals and priorities of the exchange programme, according to the specific situation of the network.

Possible options for exchange visits

- One (or more) health care professionals go on an exchange to enhance clinical skills. The evaluations of visitors in these exchanges are very positive.
- Group meetings/visits are eligible as long as the proposed exchanges are in line with the goal of the contract as described above.

Who is eligible?

Health professionals working in the ERN centres (including all disciplines related to the relevant expertise area of the ERN), project managers of the ERN and patient representatives are eligible for exchange travels provided the objective of the visit is relevant.

Eligibility of affiliated member HCPs for exchange visits is up to the decision of the ERN coordinator. New member HCPs that have joined the ERN early 2022 are also eligible for exchange visits.

Professionals coming from a third country and professionals working for HCPs 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 HCPs outside the EU27 + Norway are not foreseen.

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, if the signed Mobility Agreement is provided to Ecorys at least two months prior to the start of the exchange. Visitors in this case will also have the choice to book their own travel tickets and ask for reimbursement. When the signed Mobility Agreement is shared less than two months prior to the start of the exchange, the visitor is responsible for arranging his/her own travel. They will be reimbursed for their costs (with a maximum budget).

In all occasions, beneficiaries are expected to book their accommodation and cover the costs from the daily allowance compensation.