



## ERN EURO-NMD MOBILITY PLAN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

ERN Euro-NMD currently consists of 57 full members which are healthcare providers (HCPs) in 13 countries, 7 Associated National Centres from 6 countries, and 2 Coordination Hubs based in a further 2 countries. It focuses on highly specialised care and is structured in 5 disease areas. In 2021 it is expected to reach 85 HCPs from 25 Member States with the expansion of the Network. Additional expansion is expected later through new Affiliated Partners designated by Member States in countries where ERN Euro-NMD is not yet represented.

It is an objective of ERN Euro-NMD to promote the sharing of expertise and knowledge among its healthcare professionals in order to deliver against its goals, namely, improving equity of care provision across Member States and shortening time to diagnosis. With this aim, Euro-NMD will financially support the mobility of its healthcare professionals to undertake short-term visits at another Euro-NMD provider to exchange and acquire clinical and organizational expertise, build capacity, and increase and strengthen cooperation inside the network.

### 2. MOBILITY PLAN

#### ***2.1. ERN Euro-NMD Mobility needs***

ERN Euro-NMD foresees 3 types of exchanges for the Short-term Mobility and Exchange Programme:

1. Clinical training mainly addressed (but not exclusive) to Affiliated partners and members of the Coordination hubs
2. Trainings on highly specialized NMD related techniques
3. Organisation of multidisciplinary care for NMD patients

The exchange needs of health care professionals will be collected through an online tool. Also, HCPs that are that are highly-specialised in a particular area and willing to organise exchange visits will be able to manifest their offer there.

## **2.2. Financial support**

The financial support takes form of a total of 55 exchange packages, each covering for visits of 5 working days including per diems for subsistence costs (200 euro per night spent), travel arrangements and travel insurance. Per diems should be used to cover the cost of accommodation, food and local transport. Combining packages is possible, but please note that packages include per diems for working days. For days off, no compensation is foreseen. For visits of 2 or 3 weeks, this means the participant will receive 1000 euro per week (5 working days\*200 euro) to cover costs of accommodation, food and local travel.

Insurance for professional liability for visitors, as well as costs incurred by hosting HCPs are not included in an exchange package.

## **2.3. Eligibility**

The exchanges can only be facilitated between health professionals (medical specialists, nursing staff, lab staff, others) belonging to HCPs that are full members OR Affiliated partners of ERN Euro-NMD. Applicants need to be affiliated to an ERN Euro-NMD Full Member or Affiliated Partner Institution at the time when the application is submitted, as well as during the proposed period of the training stay.

In addition, it will be required from applicants:

- Minimal experience of 2 years in the field
- Fluency in English or in the local language of the hosting country
- Letter of acceptance by host department
- Letter of support by home Institution

## **2.4. Selection criteria**

Candidates who meet the eligibility criteria described above will be selected taking into consideration several elements such as:

- Relevance and impact of the exchange for the healthcare professional, home and host institutions
- Added value for the ERN Euro-NMD
- Appropriate training methodology (a training programme from HCPs will be requested)

Priority will be given to applications from:

- HCPs in smaller population countries
- HCPs in low-income countries (ITC countries)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Inclusiveness Target countries. Participating ITC countries in our programme are: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, and Slovenia.

## **2.5. Mobility Programme**

The ERN mobility programme is funded by the European Commission and is being organized with the support of Ecorys, who have been awarded the contract by the European Commission to run the programme for the 24 ERNs.

Over two years, three different rounds of exchanges will take place:

- March –August 2021
- September 2021 - Feb 2022
- March – August 2022.

The first round of visits is expected to begin in March 2021 (COVID-19 allowing). If March is too soon, this can be pushed back until after the summer. The exchange packages can be spent during the three editions but equal distribution among these editions is not necessary.

## **3. SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

- Agree ERN Euro-NMD Mobility Plan
- Hold meetings with Ecorys
- Test online tool
- Invite applications
- Assess applications
- Inform Ecorys of successful candidates
- Evaluate with Ecorys the visits and formulate improvement actions