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THE SOCIAL
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JOS BERGHMAN AND PAUL SCHOUKENS (EDS.)

One of the top priorities of the European Commission over the last couple of years has been the realization of a European Research Area (ERA). Researchers are stimulated to go to different countries and to broaden their knowledge by networking. The researcher's career is no longer 'static'; he/she is no longer staying at one university, but is moving from one country to another on a frequent basis and often for shorter periods of time.

In this publication we focus on the social security problems which researchers face when they have a mobile research career. We sketch the variety of social statuses across Europe and the different levels of social protection that go along with them, and deal with the technical arrangements that have been developed to co-ordinate social security. This book especially analyses the weaknesses and shortcomings of these technical co-ordination rules for researchers. Particular attention is given to the growing group of "third country nationals". The authors, however, do not only look at the present situation, they also made an attempt to develop alternatives.

This book is the collective work of different experts who participated in the Expert Group 'Social security, Supplementary Pensions and New Patterns of Work and Mobility' that was established in 2010 by the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission. It's intended for all those trying to improve the social security position of mobile researchers.

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