

Funded by the European Union

EMN European Migration Network

2026.47 Researchers' residence permits and gaps in hosting agreements

European Migration Network Ad-hoc query

October, 2026

AD-HOC QUERY ON 2026.47 RESEARCHERS' RESIDENCE PERMITS AND GAPS IN HOSTING AGREEMENTS

REQUESTED BY EMN NCP FINLAND ON 20 AUGUST 2026

COMPILATION PRODUCED ON 27 OCTOBER 2026

Exported for: Unrestricted Dissemination

Responses from: EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Bulgaria, EMN NCP Croatia, EMN NCP Czech Republic, EMN NCP Estonia, EMN NCP Finland, EMN NCP France, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Greece, EMN NCP Hungary, EMN NCP Ireland, EMN NCP Italy, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Netherlands, EMN NCP Poland, EMN NCP Portugal, EMN NCP Serbia, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Slovenia, EMN NCP Spain, EMN NCP Sweden **(24 in total)**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Finnish Immigration Service is conducting this query to understand the practices of different Member States regarding researchers' residence permits based on directive (EU) 2016/801.

In the preamble to directive (EU) 2016/801 it is stated about authorisations for researchers that (9) "…Member States should issue an authorisation on the basis of the hosting agreement or the contract if the conditions for entry and residence are met". Article 18 of the directive connects the duration of authorisations with the duration of hosting agreements by stating "the period of validity of an authorisation for researchers shall be at least one year, or for the duration of the hosting agreement where this is

shorter. The authorisation shall be renewed if Article 21 does not apply."

Finland has interpreted the directive as implying that a researcher's residence permit, granted in accordance with the directive, can never, not even retrospectively, be granted for a time when the researcher has not had a valid hosting agreement / contract. Consequently, when a researcher transitions from one research organization to another there is a possibility that a gap between hosting agreements / contracts can lead to a gap in the continuity of the residence permit.

In the legal context of Finland, this interpretation has consequences for researchers when they apply for permanent residence and/or citizenship, which require continuous residence without gaps in residence permits.

The present query is primarily aimed at gathering information about the practices of Member states related to gaps in hosting agreements/contracts, when researchers apply for extended/continued permits for research.

This information will be used to compare different national practices and support evidence-based policymaking in Finland.

The Finnish Immigration Service kindly asks the national EMN contact points to direct these questions to the most relevant authorities in their country to ensure accurate responses.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

We would very much appreciate your responses by **24 September 2026**.

1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate.

2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the

expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)?

3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract?

4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain.

RESPONSES

		Unrestricted Dissemination ?	
	EMN NCP Austria	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. Yes. In Austria, the 'Residence Permit – Researcher' must be issued for a period of two years, unless the admission agreement specifies a shorter duration. In such cases, the residence permit must be issued for a period extending three months beyond the duration of the admission agreement (Art. 43c para. 5 Settlement and Residence Act). ---

			Source: Ministry of the Interior 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher’s residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? In accordance with Art. 20 para. 2 of the Settlement and Residence Act, the period of validity of an extended residence permit begins on the day following the last day of the previous residence permit, provided that no more than six months have elapsed since then, even if this results in a brief gap in the admission agreement. In the case of a new research institution, this constitutes an application for a change of purpose, and the new residence permit must be issued from the start of the new admission agreement. Lawful residence in the federal territory during the period between the expiry of the previous residence permit and the start of the period of validity of the newly issued residence permit must be established ex officio by means of a decision at the same time as the permit is issued, provided that the application was submitted before the expiry of the previous residence permit. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? See the answer to question 2 ---

			Source: Ministry of the Interior 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. n/a --- Source: Ministry of the Interior
	EMN NCP Belgium	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. The residence permit is granted for the same duration as the work permit, which is based on the host agreement/contract of the researcher. (source: Belgian Immigration Office) 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? (Please note: In Belgium, for single permit applications, the regions are responsible for granting work permits, while the issuance of residence permits is a federal competence (of the

			Belgian Immigration Office). The application for the work permit is processed first, after which the application for the residence permit is processed. If both application result in a positive decision, the individual is granted (the renewal of) a single permit.) If the residence permit expires during the procedure for renewal, the person will receive an Annex 49 which allows the individual to await the decision of their renewal procedure on the Belgian territory. The Annex 49 is granted at the municipality if the individual can provide a decision from the regional authorities that their application for renewal (of their work permit) is admissible, together with their previous single permit. The Annex 49 is valid for 30 days and can be once renewed for an additional period of 30 days. If both the work permit and the residence permit (i.e. the single permit) are granted but the starting date of the host agreement/contract is in the future, the individual may be required to leave Belgium and come back to Belgium with a new visa. The Annex 49's purpose is to allow the third-country national to stay in Belgium while the Administration takes a decision, but it is not a document that allows the worker to stay in Belgium beyond the date of that decision if the starting date of the new hosting agreement/contract is sometime in the future. Remaining in Belgium for that period of time would be regarded as an abuse of process and of the Annex 49. They would be staying irregularly in Belgium between two positive decisions. NOTE: If, in the context of renewal of a single permit, the new work permit is granted and the start date of the new host agreement/contract starts while the individual is residing in Belgium with an Annex 49 and still awaiting the decision from the Belgian Immigration Office regarding their residence permit, the individual is already allowed to start working again under their new host agreement/contract. In this case, the individual will simply need to obtain a new Annex 49 from their municipality that grants access to the Belgian labour market, as the initial Annex 49 issued does not provide such access. (source: Belgian Immigration Office)

			3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The starting date of the new residence permit will be the same as the starting date of the new hosting agreement/contract, since the single permit is a single procedure in which the work permit is directly linked to the residence permit. (source: Belgian Immigration Office) 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. YES, if the single permit is granted and the starting date of the new hosting agreement/contract is in the future and the person is required to leave Belgium and re-enter with a new visa, the gap between residence permits (i.e. the single permits) means that their residence is interrupted, which affects the requirement of continuous residence to obtain a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship in Belgium. NOTE: In the context of the renewal of a single permit, the residence will not be considered interrupted if one is residing in Belgium with an Annex 49 and has already received the work permit and started working under the new hosting agreement/contract while awaiting the renewal of the residence permit and obtaining the new single permit (see also Q2). (source: Belgian Immigration Office)

	EMN NCP Bulgaria	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. In compliance with Art. 24b, para 2 of the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria (LFRB) the permit shall be issued for a period of not less than one year. Where the duration of the research development contract is shorter than one year, the permit shall be issued for the duration of the contract. However, researchers have the right to stay in Bulgaria provided they have registered as job seekers before the Employment Agency within 7 working days after the completion of a research project. These foreigners may be issued with residence permit for a period of up to 9 months Art.24b, para 18 of the LFRB. In cases where they signed new contract within 9 months period there won't be an interruption of their stay in the country. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Please see the answer to Q1. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract?

			Please see the answer to Q1. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. In case where there is a gap between the residence permits issued to foreigners, these gaps affect the possibility to be granted with a right of permanent/long-term residence in Bulgaria.
	EMN NCP Croatia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? An application for the extension of a temporary residence permit must be submitted no later than 60 days before the expiry of the current temporary residence permit, at the police administration or police station corresponding to the third-country national's place of residence. If a researcher submits an application for the extension of temporary residence in a timely manner but submits the new hosting agreement for example after the aforementioned

			statutory deadline, temporary residence will be granted starting from the effective date of the new hosting agreement, provided that all other statutory conditions for the extension of temporary residence are met at that time. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? If a researcher submits an application for the extension of temporary residence in a timely manner but submits the new hosting agreement for example after the aforementioned statutory deadline, temporary residence will be granted starting from the effective date of the new hosting agreement, provided that all other statutory conditions for the extension of temporary residence are met at that time. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. No. If a researcher timely submitted an application for the extension of temporary residence prior to the expiration of their valid temporary residence (and that application was ultimately approved), then there is no break in the continuity of temporary residence. For the granting of long-term residence, it is essential that the third-country national has resided legally and continuously in the Republic of Croatia for five years immediately preceding the submission of the application.

	EMN NCP Czech Republic	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. A long-term residence permit is issued with a period of validity corresponding to the hosting agreement (for the purpose of the stay). 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? If a new hosting agreement is made and a gap is identified when renewing a researcher's residence permit, the decision will depend on the duration of that gap in relation to the researcher's total length of stay and whether the purpose of their stay in the country has been fulfilled. Such cases are assessed individually, considering other factors (e.g. the impact on the foreign national's family and private life). As long as the purpose of the stay has not been breached for most of the previous period of residence, the gap itself is not a reason for refusing to extend the stay. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract?

			If an application for an extension of stay is submitted whilst the current permit is still valid, the new permit shall be issued so that its validity period follows on from that of the previous permit. This procedure also applies where a gap is identified between the hosting agreements and the application is not rejected in its entirety. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. NO. If a researcher's residence permit is extended even though a gap has been identified between hosting agreements, this does not interrupt the continuity of the foreign national's residence in the country.
	EMN NCP Estonia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. yes. Residence permits are granted for a specific purpose and for a period corresponding to the duration of that purpose. Therefore, if the purpose is to come to Estonia to carry out research under a specific contract, the residence permit can be issued for the corresponding period. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting

			agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Once a temporary residence permit for employment as a researcher expires, a temporary legal basis for stay of 270 days applies. This provision stems from the Students and Researchers Directive, which has been transposed into Estonian legislation. During this period, the person is permitted to stay in Estonia, work and study. This means that they may also continue their research work. If the person needs to continue working as a researcher beyond this period, they must submit a new application for an extension of their residence permit, together with all the required supporting documents. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? A person may apply for an extension of their residence permit. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. Yes, it does have an impact, as the period of residence in Estonia under a temporary residence permit is also taken into account when applying for a long-term resident's residence permit.

	EMN NCP Finland	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? The residence permit is granted from the start date of the new hosting agreement / contract. However, the researcher is told in advance of any possible gap between the validity of the old and the new hosting agreement / contract, and is given the opportunity to supplement the application (e.g., provide a revised agreement / contract). 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? From the start date of the new hosting agreement / contract. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term

			residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. YES. The gap between residence permits will be considered and it may affect negatively if applicant is applying for a permanent residence permit or Finnish citizenship.
	EMN NCP France	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO In France, the validity period of the residence permit for research purposes is equivalent to that of the hosting agreement, even if it is less than twelve months. When the individual resides outside France, they enter the territory with a long-stay visa serving as a residence permit (Visa Long séjour valant titre de séjour, VLS-TS) with a maximum duration of one year, which must be validated on the Digital Administration for Foreigners in France (Administration Numérique des étrangers en France, ANEF) within three months of their arrival. At most two months before the visa expires, they can apply for a residence card with the designation "Talent – researcher" or "Talent – researcher mobility program" for the remaining duration of the hosting agreement or for the duration of any new hosting agreement concluded by the individual, up to a maximum of four years. When the individual already resides in France, they submit an application on ANEF for a residence card with the designation "Talent – researcher" or "Talent – researcher mobility program," issued for the duration of the hosting agreement, up to a maximum of four years. The validity period of the residence permit for research purposes cannot exceed that of the hosting agreement. However, in the case of involuntary job loss (such as non-renewal of a hosting agreement), the individual can apply for the renewal of their residence permit with the

			designation "Talent – researcher" or "Talent – researcher mobility program" for the duration of their entitlement to unemployment insurance benefits. Similarly, upon the expiry of their "Talent – researcher" or "Talent – researcher mobility program" permit(s), individuals who have completed their research or university-level teaching work can extend their stay in France under a temporary residence card with the designation "job search or business creation" for a non-renewable period of one year. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? According to French regulations, applications for the renewal of "Talent – researcher" or "Talent – researcher mobility program" residence permits must be submitted online via ANEF at the earliest four months and at the latest two months before the expiry of the VLS-TS or the residence permit to be renewed. Therefore, individuals must submit their renewal application at the latest two months before the end of their hosting agreement. If the new hosting agreement is not available at the time of application, or if there is proof of involuntary job loss, the competent prefectural services processing the application may decide to issue a digital certificate of extended processing with a maximum duration of three months, which extends the rights attached to the residence permit to be renewed. The processing will be finalized, and if applicable, the permit will be issued once all supporting documents have been provided by the individual.

			3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The renewed permit is issued starting from the date the processing is finalized by the competent service. If the processing is finalized after the expiry of the permit to be renewed, the prefect may decide to issue a certificate of extended processing, which extends the rights attached to the permit to be renewed. This document is issued as a right provided that the application is submitted by the individual within the deadlines set by the regulations and that it is complete. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. NO, but under conditions. In principle, there should be no gap in rights between the expiry of one residence permit and the start of another. A third-country national wishing to obtain a long-term EU residence permit must apply before the expiry of their current residence permit. If their permit expires, the prefecture will issue a receipt while their long-term EU residence permit application is being processed. Furthermore, if the third-country national leaves France and returns later, periods of absence within the 5 years are still permitted. Under the general scheme, these absences must not exceed 12 consecutive months and must not total more than 18 months over the 5-year period. For the specific case of holders of the "EU Blue Card," a period of absence of 12 consecutive months, not exceeding a total of 18 months over the 5-year period, is allowed.

			Regarding naturalization, a minimum residence period of five years in France is also required (with exceptions). This residence period must be continuous and immediately precede the submission of the naturalization application.
	EMN NCP Germany	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. Pursuant to Section 7(2) of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), a temporary residence permit is to be issued for a limited period, taking due account of the intended purpose of residence. In accordance with Section 18d of the German Residence Act, the period of validity of a residence permit issued for research purposes generally corresponds to the duration of the research activity. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? If a foreign national applies for an extension of their residence title or for a different one before the current residence title expires, the existing one is deemed to remain valid from the time of its expiry until the foreigners authority has taken a decision on the application (Section 81(4) of the German Residence Act). Foreign nationals may be issued with a provisional residence document (Fiktionsbescheinigung) confirming the continued validity of their residence title pending a

			decision by the competent foreigners authority on their application. In most cases, the Fiktionsbescheinigung is valid for a sufficient period to bridge the gap between two research activities. Moreover, a foreign national may be granted a temporary residence permit after completing research activities carried out on the basis of a residence title under Sections 18d or 18f of the German Residence Act (residence permit for research or for mobile researchers in the context of intra-EU long-term mobility). This residence permit can be issued for up to 18 months. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The competent foreigners authority may grant the new researcher’s residence permit retroactively if this is in the legitimate interest of the foreign national. The earliest possible date from which the residence permit may take retroactive effect is the date on which the foreign national applied for a new residence title or an extension of the previous residence title. Retroactively issuing a new residence title may be in the legitimate interest of a foreign national if it is necessary to satisfy a continuous lawful residence requirement. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. NO. For entitlement to naturalisation, a foreign national must, as a general rule, have been lawfully and ordinarily resident in Germany for at least five years (Section 10 of the German

			Nationality Act – Staatsangehörigkeitsgesetz). While the requirement of ordinary residence is met where the person has resided in Germany for at least five years, with only short periods spent outside of Germany, during that time, the requirement of lawful residence is met, if viewed retrospectively, the foreign national was not required to hold a residence title throughout that period or their residence was provisionally authorized in accordance with Section 81 (4) of the German Residence Act. Interruptions in lawful residence are disregarded only where they result from the foreign national's failure to apply in due time for the initial issuance or subsequent extension of the residence title. Other interruptions to lawful residence are not disregarded. To be granted a permanent residence permit, a foreign national must have been lawfully resident in Germany for the required period, which is generally five years (Section 9 of the German Residence Act) or three years as a researcher (Section 18c (1) of the German Residence Act). In accordance with Section 85 of the German Residence Act, interruptions to lawful residence for up to one year may be disregarded.
	EMN NCP Greece	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. According to migration legislation (article 111 of Migration Code/L.5038.2023, GG. A'81), the researcher's residence permit is valid for the duration of the hosting contract. If the contract is less than twelve (12) months, a one-year permit is granted.

			2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher’s residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? According to migration legislation, if the hosting agreement is extended, the residence permit is renewed for an equal period of time. Since the validity of the researcher's residence permit is linked to the duration of the hosting contract, any extension of the hosting contract shall be in continuity of the previous one. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? According to migration legislation, the application for the renewal of a residence permit is submitted within two months before its expiration and the permit begins from the expiration of the previous permit. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. N/A

	EMN NCP Hungary	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. According to Section 44, Paragraph (3) of Act XC of 2023 on the General Rules for the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals, the validity period of a residence permit for the purpose of research shall be at least one year, but shall not exceed two years; or shall correspond to the validity period of the hosting agreement if the validity period of the hosting agreement is less than one year. According to Paragraph (4), the validity period of a residence permit for the purpose of research may be extended by a period corresponding to the duration of the hosting agreement, not exceeding two years. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? If the gap is for a short period of time, the immigration authority issues a temporary certificate until a new residence permit is issued, thereby legalising the third-country national's stay in Hungary. If the period between the research programmes is more than 90 days, the residence permit application is denied, and the applicant must apply for a residence permit in their home country.

			3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The immigration authority issues the residence permit from the start of the research programme; the short period of time will be legalised by the temporary residence certificate. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. No. Due to the issuance of a temporary residence certificate, the stay of the third-country national will not be interrupted.
	EMN NCP Ireland	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)?

			Irish immigration Authorities would renew under the new permit; Small gaps are acceptable. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The dates of the residence permits are aligned to the Hosting Agreement. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. No. Small gaps are acceptable.
	EMN NCP Italy	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No, the duration of the residence permit for scientific research in Italy is equal to the duration of the research programme specified in the hosting agreement. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous

			residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? N/A 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? N/A 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. N/A
	EMN NCP Latvia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. Under the new Immigration Law (was adopted on 15 September 2026) the Republic of Latvia does not grant a researcher residence permit for a period exceeding the duration of the hosting agreement or scientific cooperation agreement. The main conditions regarding the duration of researcher residence permits under the new regulations are as follows: Link to the

			agreement; A temporary residence permit is issued for the duration of the scientific cooperation agreement or hosting agreement. Under the new Law, the maximum duration of a single residence permit for researchers has been reduced to a maximum of 2 years (compared to up to 5 years under the previous regulations), unless the term of the agreement is shorter. Thus, the validity period of the permit is always limited by the actual duration of the hosting agreement or agreement and cannot exceed it. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher’s residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Under the new Immigration Law (which entered into force on September 15, 2026), the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) would, in this situation, refuse to extend (renew) the residence permit on the previous legal basis and would require a new initial application—or apply transitional provisions if the researcher were exercising their statutory right to seek employment. The actions taken by the Republic of Latvia and the legal consequences in this situation would be as follows. Violation of the principle of status continuity. The new law strictly links the validity period of a researcher's residence permit to a valid hosting agreement or contract. If a gap of even one week occurs, the OCMA considers that the legal basis for residing in the country as an active researcher has temporarily lapsed. Since the new agreement only takes effect after a week, the authority cannot issue a permit extension that covers this "gap" period. Under immigration procedures, a third-country national has the right to apply for a renewal of their residence permit either while the current permit is still valid or within 90 days after its expiration. The third-country national is permitted to physically submit documents for a new

			permit (based on a new contract). This 90-day period grants the right to submit an application in Latvia, but does not automatically confer the right to work or reside in the country without a valid residence card while the application is being processed (a process that can take up to four months under the new law). To avoid the risk of irregular stay or administrative penalties due to a one-week gap, the researcher has option ask the new research organization to change the contract start date so that it aligns exactly with the day following the end of the previous contract (even if the actual work begins a week later). 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? In accordance with the new Immigration Law OCMA will issue the new researcher residence permit with a start date corresponding to the commencement of the new hosting agreement/contract, rather than the expiration date of the previous permit. The OCMA operates based on the following strict legal principles: linkage to the legal basis. The effective date and validity period of the residence permit directly depends upon the legal grounds. Since the new agreement does not come into effect for another week, the OCMA lacks the legal basis to issue a researcher permit with a start date that would cover a period during which the contract is not yet in force. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain.

			Yes. The break will affect the fulfillment of the continuous residence requirement. Break in legal status: If a gap of even one week occurs in the validity of residence permits (a period without a valid ID card or permit), the period of continuous residence is legally interrupted. The OCMA will treat this as the start of a new 5-year period, commencing on the date the new researcher permit takes effect. Even if a researcher spends that week in Latvia legally—whether under a short-stay Type C visa or visa-free arrangements—that time and status do not count towards the 5-year qualifying period for EU long-term resident status, because a visa is not a temporary residence permit. Since this one-week break in researcher status will prevent the timely acquisition of a long-term residence permit, it will also automatically and proportionately delay the moment when the person can apply for Latvian citizenship.
	EMN NCP Lithuania	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. YES. In Lithuania, a temporary residence permit for a researcher is issued for two years or, where the duration of the person's employment as a lecturer or researcher is less than two years, for a period six months longer than the duration of the employment. The temporary residence permit may be renewed if the third-country national continues to carry out research and experimental development activities (Article 49^2(3) of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners). 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the

			renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Since temporary residence permits for researchers in Lithuania are generally issued for a period extending beyond the duration of the employment contract, such cases have not occurred in practice. In addition, an application for a new temporary residence permit may be submitted in advance, meaning that the new permit could be issued from the beginning of the new employment period. If such a gap nevertheless arose, the person could also seek to adjust the start or end date of the employment contract, where appropriate. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The new researcher’s temporary residence permit would begin from the start date of the new hosting agreement or employment contract. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. YES. A genuine gap between residence permits would affect the fulfilment of the continuous residence requirement. However, as noted above, such cases have not occurred in practice. Where a foreigner holding a temporary residence permit submits an application in due time for the renewal of that permit and, through no fault of the applicant, the application is not

			examined or a decision is not taken before the existing permit expires, a digital foreigner registration certificate (SURP) is issued. In such a case, the period concerned is not considered a break between residence permits and therefore does not affect the fulfilment of the continuous residence requirement.
	EMN NCP Luxembourg	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No, according to Article 64(2) of the amended Act of 29 August 2008 on the free movement of persons and immigration, the holder of a residence permit as a researcher shall be issued with a residence permit valid for a period of one year, or for the duration of the research project, and renewable provided the conditions for obtaining it continue to be met. The start and end dates of the research activity must be specified in the hosting agreement (article 66 (2) d 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Normally, the researcher is notified by the Directorate-General for Immigration in good time (2 months before the residence permit expires) to renew their residence permit, and generally speaking there should be no gap in cover. Should they change research organisation, they must submit the new hosting agreement with the new research organisation in order to be granted an extension to their residence permit.

			3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The residence permit is granted from the date of the new hosting agreement. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. Yes, when applying for Luxembourgish nationality, applicants must generally, for applications for naturalisation and declarations of option, provide evidence of lawful residence in Luxembourg for at least five years, the last year of which, immediately preceding the application, must be uninterrupted.
	EMN NCP Netherlands	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. The permit is valid for the same duration as the host agreement/contract, up to a maximum of 5 years. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting

			agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? The Netherlands has interpreted the directive as implying that a researcher's residence permit, granted in accordance with the directive, can never, not even retrospectively, cover a period during which the researcher did not have a valid hosting agreement/ contract. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? From the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. YES. If there's a gap between residence permits, this will be taken into account and may negatively affect an application for a permanent residence permit or Dutch citizenship. However, if an application for extension is submitted within four weeks (following the expiration of the residence permit), this does not necessarily result in a gap in legal residence. The condition, though, is that all requirements must be met starting from the date the previous permit expired.

	EMN NCP Poland	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. According to Article 98 of the Act on Foreigners a duration of residence permit depends on the length of purpose of stay, but cannot be granted for period shorter than 3 months and longer than 3 years. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? According to Act on Foreigners the application for residence permit should be submitted at least on the last day of legal stay on territory of the Republic of Poland. The short gap between expiration of the previous permit and the start date of the new hosting agreement doesn't affect the residence permit proceedings. In such situation the new permit will be valid from the date of new agreement till its end, but no longer than for 3 years. We have asked all 16 local governors (voivodes) competent in legalisation of stay, and many of 13 answers we received shows that in practice such problem doesn't exist due to the length of the proceedings. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract?

			The residence permit is than granted from the start date of the new hosting agreement. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. According to the Act on Foreigners continuous residence requirement is filled when the absence on the territory of the Republic of Poland within 5 years before submitting the application is not longer than 10 months (one trip cannot be longer than 6 months). The same regulation states that the stay of foreigner is considered as legal if the application for residence permit was submitted before the last day of legal stay and till the final decision in the new procedure. It shows that the main focus is placed on continuity of stay rather than periods of hosting agreements.
	EMN NCP Portugal	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. NO. Under the terms of the Foreigners Law in its current wording (Law No. 23/2007, of July 4, as amended), the residence permit granted to researchers is valid for two years, renewable for equal periods, or for the duration of the hosting agreement, if this is less than two years. The residence permit granted to researchers covered by European Union or multilateral programs that include mobility measures is for two years or for the duration of the hosting agreement, if this is less than two years, except in cases where the researchers do not meet the conditions of Article 62 (which defines the conditions for granting a residence visa) on the date of granting, in which case it should last for one year.

			2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher’s residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? Changes in the employment status or hosting agreement do not affect the validity of the granted residence permit or its renewal; that is, in these cases, the residence permit is renewed, provided that all other legally required conditions for residence permit renewal are met. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The issue date shown on the renewed residence permit corresponds to the date on which the decision to grant the renewal application is made. The period for counting the time of residence is not interrupted. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. N/A

	EMN NCP Serbia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. The Law on Foreigners stipulates that if scientific research or other scientific and educational activity lasts less than three years, temporary residence shall be granted for the duration of the research work or other scientific and educational activity. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? In the specified case, the extension of temporary residence on the grounds of scientific research work shall follow continuously from the validity period of the previously granted temporary residence; that is, the new residence shall be valid from the first subsequent day following the expiration date of the previous residence, and the extension of temporary residence shall be granted until the expiration date of the concluded contract. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The competent authority shall grant the temporary residence on the grounds of scientific research work in such a manner that it follows continuously from the validity period of the

			previously granted temporary residence; that is, the new residence shall be valid from the first subsequent day following the expiration date of the previous residence. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. N/A.
	EMN NCP Slovakia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? In case that the third country national applies for the renewal of temporary residence before the expiry of the validity of the stay, his/her stay is considered authorized until the decision on the application is made. A short time gap between the end of the original agreement and the validity of the new one does not affect the legality of the stay, provided that the legally stipulated conditions have been met and the application for the renewal of temporary

			residence has been submitted on time. The renewal of temporary residence is tied to the period of validity under the new hosting agreement. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher's residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? See response to question 2. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. If the third country national submits an application for renewal in time before the expiry of the validity of the permitted temporary residence, his/her stay during the procedure is considered authorized. This means that he/she fulfils the condition of continuous residence in the Slovak Republic.
	EMN NCP Slovenia	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a

			researcher’s residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? If the gap would be so short (e.g. one week), we would probably wait before making a decision on renewal and decide once the new hosting agreement/contract was already in force. When an application for an extension is submitted, TCN is issued with a certificate confirming that the application has been submitted; this allows him/her to remain in the country after their permit has expired until a final decision on the application has been made. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? From the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. No. If there are interruptions during which the foreign national does not hold a valid permit, provided that these are shorter than six consecutive months and do not exceed a total of ten months, this intervening period would nevertheless be counted towards the five-year period of uninterrupted lawful residence (see our EMN Ad-Hoc Query 2024.13).

	EMN NCP Spain	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No, as a general rule. In Spain, the researcher's residence authorization is linked to the research activity described in the hosting agreement or employment contract. The legal basis for this answer is Article 72 of Law 14/2013 of 27 September on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation, which requires the hosting agreement or employment contract to specify the starting and ending dates of the research activity or its estimated duration. In this regard, the provision expressly establishes that the period of validity of the authorization shall be three years or, where the hosting agreement or employment contract has a shorter duration, the validity of the authorization shall correspond to the duration of such agreement or contract. Therefore, the duration of the permit is intended to correspond to the duration of the research project supported by the hosting agreement or employment contract. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)? The way Spain would handle this situation depends on the specific circumstances of the case. If the third-country national, as the holder of a researcher's residence permit, applies for its renewal before the permit expires, he or she must provide an employment contract or evidence of the professional relationship demonstrating that the conditions that gave rise to

			the authorization continue to be met. In addition, the sponsoring or host entity must remain the same and the applicant must continue carrying out research activities, even if under a different contract or research project. Where the new employment contract or hosting agreement with the same entity begins a few days after the expiry of the initial authorization, this would not prevent the renewal from being granted. Furthermore, the application for renewal may be submitted during the sixty calendar days preceding the expiry date of the authorization or within the ninety calendar days following its expiry, without prejudice to the initiation of possible sanctioning proceedings. However, if the researcher intends to move to a different host entity, he or she would be required to apply for a new residence authorization rather than a renewal. On the other hand, where the purpose of the renewal was to seek a job, once the research activity was finished, the holder of the permit could remain in Spain during a twelve-month period with the aim of finding a job related to the researched field or to start a business. In this case, 60 days prior to the expiry date of the validity of the authorization (and during the 90 days following the expiry, although this case would mean the corresponding sanctions) the researcher should communicate the UGE-CE his or her desire to remain in Spain with this intention. Before granting the authorization, the UGE-CE verifies with the research institution that the research activity has been completed and checks that the researcher holds health insurance and has sufficient financial resources. The mere submission of this notification extends the validity of the previous authorization until a decision is issued on the application. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract?

			As in the previous question, the answer depends on the specific circumstances. In the first scenario, where the holder of the residence authorization enters into a new hosting agreement with the same research institution and applies for renewal, the validity of the previous authorization is extended until a decision is adopted on the application. Once granted, the authorization will be renewed for a period of up to two years. Where the researcher changes host institution, he or she must apply for a new authorization rather than a renewal. In that case, the new authorization would take effect on the basis of the new hosting agreement and the corresponding authorization decision. Finally, where the holder of the residence authorization intends to seek employment after completion of the research activity and the relevant application has been submitted while the initial authorization remains valid, the validity of the original authorization is extended until the new authorization is granted. In cases where the validity of the previous authorization has been extended by operation of law during the processing of the application, no interruption of lawful residence occurs. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. Yes. A gap in the period of legal residence may interrupt the continuity requirement and could therefore adversely affect an application for long-term residence or nationality by residence. However, it should be noted that the submission of either an application for renewal of the researcher authorization or a notification of the intention to remain in Spain during the twelve-month job-search period extends the validity of the previous residence authorization. Therefore, in such cases, the researcher would not experience a gap in his or her period of

			legal residence. Spanish long-term residence requires five years of legal and continuous residence in Spain. If there is a period during which the individual does not hold a valid residence authorization, the Administration may consider that the continuity requirement has been interrupted. Article 32 of the Organic Law 4/200 and article 176 of the Regulation implementing the Organic Law state that long-term residence is granted to foreigners who have had legal and continuous residence in Spain for five years. In the same way, article 22 of the Spanish civil code, when regulating citizenship by residence, it requires it to be legal, continuous and immediately prior to the application.
	EMN NCP Sweden	**Yes**	1. Does your country grant researchers' residence permits for durations beyond the validity of hosting agreements/contracts? YES/NO. If yes, please elaborate. No. The last day of the residence permit corresponds with the last day of the hosting agreement. It is the Swedish Migration Agency's interpretation of the relevant paragraphs in the aliens act, which incorporates directive (EU) 2016/801, that a permit as a researcher cannot be granted beyond the last day of the hosting agreement. 2. How would your country handle a case where a third-country national holding a researcher's residence permit, before the expiration of the residence permit requests the renewal of it, but there is a gap (e.g., of one week) between the expiration of the previous residence permit and the hosting agreement/contract and the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract (e.g., a researcher starts working for a new research organization)?

			The application for a renewal will be deemed to have been received on time since the application is made before the expiration of the residence permit. But if there is a gap, the validity of the new residence permit will correspond with the start and end date of the new hosting agreement. Since the new permit cannot be issued before the start date of the hosting agreement, a gap will mean that there is a time period where it is not possible for the Swedish Migration Agency to make a positive decision in the case. If it is a shorter gap, e.g. one week, it is usually not a problem. But if there is a longer gap, e.g. a month or more, there may be a lack of legal ground for the stay in Sweden during the gap and the application can therefore be rejected. In those cases the Swedish Migration Agency will contact the researcher and explain that a permit cannot be issued before the start date of the hosting agreement and the consequences of that. 3. In such a situation, does your immigration services grant the new researcher’s residence permit to begin from the expiration of the previous permit or from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract? The validity of the new residence permit will correspond with the start date and the end date of the new hosting agreement. 4. In case the new residence permit is issued only from the start date of the new hosting agreement/contract and there will be a gap between the residence permits, will the gap affect the continuous residence requirement, when the third-country national applies for a long-term residence permit and/or citizenship? YES/NO. Please explain. There are two different calculations by which a researcher can fulfil the time requirement to

			obtain a permanent residence permit. There is one ground where the researcher must have had a temporary permit for three consecutive years when the application for a permanent permit is made. This requirement cannot be met if there is a gap in the three-year period. There is another ground for permanent residence permit where the researcher must have had a temporary permit for a total of four years during a seven-year period. This requirement can be met even if there is a gap, or multiple gaps, in the permit period. One of the requirements for obtaining Swedish citizenship is that the applicant has a permanent residence permit. As stated above, it is possible to obtain a permanent residence permit after a total of four years during a seven-year period even if there is a gap in the permit period. Another requirement for citizenship is that the applicant has resided in Sweden for a certain period of time, normally eight years. If the researcher has resided legally in Sweden, which can be the case even if there is a gap in the permit period due to a gap in the hosting agreements, the gap does not, generally, affect the assessment of whether someone has resided in Sweden for a certain period of time. In summary, even if there is a gap in the permit period as a researcher it is possible to obtain a permanent residence permit or Swedish citizenship.

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