

Newsletter #11

October 2012



The European Council of Doctoral
Candidates and Junior Researchers

Contents of this issue:

Editor's note.....	1
Eurodoc Annual Conference 2013.....	1
News from Member Associations.....	2
Meet a Eurodoc Member Association	3
Eurodoc Communication Initiatives....	4
Call for Communication – Eurodoc Conference 2013.....	5
Articles from Partners.....	6
Eurodoc Background.....	7

Dear Readers,

It's been a long time since you last read our newsletter. There is not enough space in this editorial note to describe all of what has happened, so let the links* speak instead! Soon after our 2011 AGM, two new communication projects were initiated (find more information on page 4). The first [European Summit of Early Stage Researchers](#) took place in Strasbourg, France, on September 2011, during which the results of Eurodoc's [Survey I](#) were presented. Eurodoc contributed to the ERA public consultation with 5 policy papers, all of which are available [online](#). Last but not least, we had the chance to celebrate our 10th anniversary during the [Annual General Meeting 2012](#) in Krakow, Poland. Of course, more details on the [AGM](#) and the newly elected [board](#) are available on our website.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and look forward to receiving the next one!

Georgios S. Papavasileiou

*All the aforementioned links are to articles on our website: www.eurodoc.net

EURODOC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 IN LISBON

Save the date!

Eurodoc Annual Conference 2013, Lisbon, Portugal, 4th – 5th April

The next Eurodoc Annual Conference titled “Europe’s Grand Societal Challenges: The role of Early Stage Researchers”, is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal on 4-5 April 2013. The event is

organised in cooperation with ABIC (Associação dos Bolseiros de Investigação Científica).

The website is coming soon!

Do not forget to visit our [website](#) regularly for regular updates.

Do not hesitate to contact us at board@eurodoc.net for further information.

We will be happy to welcome you in Lisbon!



Actionuni on the board of the Swiss National Science Foundation since March 1st

Actionuni (www.actionuni.ch) of Switzerland has worked in the past years on the better recognition by the politics and the integration in political decision processes on educational and research issues. In order to be recognized as a stakeholder we have constituted ourselves as the national association of the associations of the non-professional research staff of the Swiss cantonal universities and technical national universities. Thus, we represent not individual members, but member organizations with defined roles in the universities. Since 2008 we are on the consultation list of the Swiss parliament for laws on higher education and research, and have been commented several law drafts either in written form or in hearings of parliament bodies. We have close contacts also to the rector's conference and are consulted by them as well as to the ministry of education (we made a survey similar to the Eurodoc survey on working conditions with 8000 respondents

<http://www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/dokumentation/publikationen/bildung/mittelbaustudie.pdf>).

One of our main partners is the Swiss Nation Science

Foundation www.snsf.ch. Recently, we were entitled to appoint a member to the board of the SNSF. This is the first time ever that young researchers are represented in the legal organs of the SNSF, and it makes sense as the SNSF dedicates a large proportion of its funding to young researchers. However, we would encourage all our partner organizations in Eurodoc to strive to integrate more into national political decision processes. Our experience is, that for lobbying it helps (i) to refer to the fact that you are members of Eurodoc, and that similar developments go on in many European countries (also try to send Eurodoc representatives to national meetings and conferences), (ii) that you organize yourself as body of university organizations in order to be 'representative' (as opposed to individual membership), and (iii) that you stress the fact that you have substantial contributions and unique knowledge to decision processes other stakeholders cannot deliver.

Odilo Huber, Switzerland



Charta for a new PhD culture

In 2011 several plagiarism scandals (among others with Karl-Theodor Guttenberg resigning from defence minister after being convicted of substantially copying from other sources in his doctoral thesis) have caused distrust and cast doubt on the value of the doctorate in Germany. As a result

of the immense, controversial societal reactions and the growing scepticism that doctoral candidates are regarded with, the German scientific community started discussing about the consequences for German universities. However, in the majority of the cases these discussions are carried out without those who are most affected by it, i.e. the doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the debate is very much characterized by a quality assurance approach that focuses on controlling doctoral candidates instead of higher education institutes and professors taking over responsibility.

Thesis, the German association for doctoral candidates and junior researchers, started a project in collaboration with Bildungsrepublik.de as bottom-up approach to aim for a different understanding of what it means to take over responsibility for the doctorate. An online-platform was created to start a discussion amongst doctoral candidates of how trust in the PhD can be restored and secured in the long run. Topics discussed turn on ethics in research to be taught during studies and doctorate, control mechanisms to detect plagiarism, or the single-supervisor and 'supervisor and reviewer in one person' practice at German universities, to name but a few. This is supposed to result in a Charta for a new PhD culture.

Anna Tschaut, Germany

Doktoranti Srbije

The Association of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers of Serbia (Doktoranti Srbije) is one of the newest members of Eurodoc; it joined in the Annual General Meeting, which took place on March 31st to April 4th 2011 in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was established on 2010 aiming to work on improving and developing the community of doctoral candidates and young researchers in the Republic of Serbia and to encourage communication, exchange of ideas and cooperation and to improve the contact between doctoral candidates and young researchers and the academia and industry, both at national and international level, by improving the flow of information within the organization.

The main activities of the organisation within the year 2011 were to expand its network in Serbia and become a member association of Eurodoc. In 2012, the national organization of doctoral candidates and young

researchers of Serbia continued expanding its network in Serbia and started working on reforming proposals together with National Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Serbia. Doktoranti Srbije conducts a survey on doctoral candidates in Serbia on annual basis. The results of this survey are presented during another major activity, the National conference on doctoral studies, titled 'Doctoral Studies in Serbia'. The organisation is well connected with key institutions and organisations in field of Higher education, and plays a key role on events related to doctoral studies and research.

At the previous Annual General Meeting of Eurodoc, which took place on March 21st until March 25th in Krakow, Poland the delegate of Doktoranti Srbije, Slobodan Radičev, was elected as the new president of Eurodoc.

The Association of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers of Serbia looks forward to an equally productive and successful

2013 and continued partnership with Eurodoc on various European-wide issues on research and education. Thanks to the success of the mentioned activities, the association received an honorary distinction



from the Serbian Ministry of Education and Science and recognition as one of the key partners in the process of reforming higher education in Serbia.

Doktoranti Srbije needs to express special gratitude to the Serbian Ministry of Education and Science, which, not only was one of the key partners in organizing all the aforementioned activities, but also actively supports our efforts towards our goals.

Doktoranti Srbije

The Association of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers of Serbia

Official website:

<http://www.doktoranti.org.rs>



Doktoranti Srbije

Meet the Board project

Last year, the board launched a new *Meet the Board project* in order to provide a platform for closer communication between Eurodoc and its members.



As a part of this project, Elena Golovushkina, a board member (2011-2012) had a meeting with the members of the German association Thesis in Kassel. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the problems of early stage researchers in Germany and

the steps that need to be taken to improve the situation. Also the opportunity for further collaboration between Eurodoc and Thesis was a topic of discussion during the meeting. That year was special for Thesis since it celebrated its 20th anniversary! Congratulations and we wish you many more years of productive work!



The next meeting within this project took place in Warsaw with the association KRD. Apart from the meeting with members of the association, Eurodoc also had the

opportunity to meet a representative from the Ministry of Higher Education of Poland. The discussion was based around such important issues as improvement of the situation of doctoral candidates in Europe, academy-industry partnership in Poland, obstacles to mobility and collaboration among researchers from different European countries as well the importance of further investment in research and innovation.

We look forward to meeting representatives of other Eurodoc members. If you have any questions or would like to meet members of the board, please contact us at board@eurodoc.net

Elena Golovushkina

Couchsurfing Eurodoc

Another project that aims to bring early stage researchers together was launched the same year. At the AGM 2011, several Eurodoc enthusiasts came up with the idea of a Couchsurfing Eurodoc project. If you are already the member of the Couchsurfing community, you know all the benefits of this. If you are not enjoying its advantages yet, here is your chance!

What?

Are you travelling a lot across Europe? Is it for conferences, seminars, just for fun? This is your chance to meet the locals with similar interests. You'll be able to meet up and discuss various issues with doctoral candidates and junior researchers from all across Europe, inspire

each other, share experiences and develop new projects. And as a bonus, you might get accommodation for FREE :)

How?

You can join Couchsurfing Eurodoc project, and meet doctoral candidates and junior researchers from 34 countries by

Option 1:

Sign up for our list by couchsurfing@eurodoc.net following these steps:

1. Send a message to sympa@council.eurodoc.net from the address you want to subscribe to the list.
2. In the subject line of your message, type in: subscribe couchsurfing Your Firstname Surname
3. Leave the message body blank.

If you have any problems with this process, email the board on board@eurodoc.net

Option 2:

If you are already a member of the Couchsurfing website, just join our group CouchSurfing Eurodoc

<http://www.couchsurfing.org/group.html?gid=47197>.

If you are not registered there yet, the procedure is quite simple and quick. We've been considering other websites like Bewelcome but CS website is probably the most popular and best service so far.

Let's start NOW! Use it any time you travel.

Elena Golovushkina

Europe's Grand Societal Challenges: The role of Early Stage Researchers

Eurodoc Annual Conference 2013

4-5 April 2013

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Lisbon, Portugal

Organized by:

European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (EURODOC) and Associação dos Bolseiros de Investigação Científica (ABIC)

CALL FOR COMMUNICATION

Eurodoc 2013 international conference theme is Europe's grand societal challenges. This event aims to promote an in-depth debate over a number of key issues the European Union (EU) identified for European research within the areas of sustainable innovation and knowledge-based economy. Specifically, Eurodoc and ABIC intend on discussing the role of early stage researchers in tackling issues like:

- a) Global warming, the tightening of energy supplies, security, ageing societies, pandemics and public health;
- b) The development of research helping to integrate citizens living in the EU by respecting differences, while reducing all sorts of communication barriers, discrimination, or marginalisation, that is, by contributing to consolidate a common European identity.

Eurodoc invites all interested researchers to apply to this call for communication. There are five available places, 2 in

plenary session II, 1 in plenary session III and 2 in plenary session IV, specified further below. Papers presenting a mix of theory and practice are especially welcome.

The EU has created programmes such as "Horizon 2020", as a means of boosting research, innovation and competitiveness in Europe. Horizon 2020 brings together EU research and innovation funding under a single programme. It focuses on turning scientific breakthroughs into innovative products and services providing citizens with business opportunities and better living conditions. At the same time it simplifies rules and procedures to attract more high level researchers and a broader range of innovative businesses.

Another example concerns the EU programme "Europe 2020", where Europe's growth strategy is outlined. Europe 2020 aims at developing tools to reach a more inclusive and sustainable economy being its goals set on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy. One of its structural axis is the framework "Energy 2020" containing five pillars for action: 1)

increasing the use of renewable energy;

2) developing the internal integrated market;

3) ameliorating safety and security in terms of production and transportation;

4) promoting research and innovation policies;

5) bettering the exploitation of geopolitical strength.

Having this in mind, Eurodoc 2013 annual conference will include four plenary sessions with distinguished speakers from various European, international and national institutions and organisations.

The topics are as follows:

- Plenary Session I: The EU Horizon Framework Programmes for Research and Sustainable Innovation
- Plenary Session II: Growing in a healthy environment: new trends in research (2 open calls speakers)
- Plenary Session III: Working and researching within the framework of a

Sustainable Society (one open call speaker)

- Plenary Sessions IV: Science, communication and social change (2 open call speakers)

In order to create an interactive debate, early stage researchers will present his or her personal viewpoint or research on the topic. All researchers interested in joining the debate of one of these sessions are welcome to submit an abstract proposal.

Abstracts of approximately 500 words, single spaced, excluding references, (no

header, footers or track changes) are invited by 15 December 2012 with decisions on acceptance to be made by a scientific committee within one month.

All abstracts will be peer reviewed. New and young scholars with “work in progress” on the above mentioned topics are welcome. Note that due to restrictions of space, multiple submissions by the same author will not be timetabled.

Abstracts should be emailed to the contact point:

call_lisbon2013@council.eurodoc.net.

Abstracts should include **FULL** contact details, including name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address. State the title of the plenary session to which you are submitting your abstract.

The communication will be no more than 15 minutes.

More details in the Webpages:

Eurodoc: www.eurodoc.net
ABIC: www.abic-online.org/

ARTICLES FROM PARTNERS

Are European projects for us?

EU projects are excellent chances for organisations to increase their international presence, expand their network base and obtain references on international project participation, all while working toward the common good of the European community. While participating has its advantages, it also has disadvantages. Here are some tips to help organisations decide if the time is right to join e.g. FP7 this last year or Horizon 2020 from 2014.

First, be sure that participating in FP7 fits with the organisation's strategy. It is not worth expending the effort in participating in a project if the project will not benefit the company or is in the future interests of the company. Participating in any FP7 project has advantages, but it also has

costs and therefore the project must be beneficial to the organisation.

- Make sure the project has a clear focus and can be implemented with relative ease. If the project requires huge investments, make sure the rewards / results will be worth the extra effort.

- Taking on new staff in order to run a project is always a great way to increase organisational capacity and is an eligible cost under FP7. An organisation may have the financial resources to participate in a project, but may lack the human resources.

- Participating in an FP7 project requires an organisation's own contribution. The funding rates for the Community programmes have increased, but in order to participate an organisation must have the financial capability to implement the project, as the funding rates are typically not 100%. In general an organisation is required to contribute between 25% and 50% depending on the type of funding scheme and

participating organisation. Be sure the organisation can cover its contribution!

- Become familiar with the entire process, from proposal development to project implementation to final reporting. Participation in an FP7 project is no light-hearted effort.

It takes a lot of time, effort, continuous planning and careful implementation and reporting. If an organisation cannot fully commit to the project in terms of required time and delivery, it should reconsider participation. Beginning with the proposal, the more detail and planned a proposal is, the fewer problems the consortium will have during negotiations and implementation.

*Ms. Gabriella Lovász
Europa Media Ltd.*

EURODOC BACKGROUND

Eurodoc was founded in Girona (Spain) on 02/02/02. It is the European Council of doctoral candidates and junior researchers. It takes the form of a federation of national associations of PhD candidates and young researchers.

Eurodoc's objectives are:

- To represent doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level in matters of education, research, and professional development of their careers.
- To advance the quality of doctoral programmes and the standards of research activity in Europe.
- To promote the circulation of information on issues regarding young researchers; organize events, take part in debates and assist in the elaboration of policies about Higher Education and Research in Europe.

- To establish and promote co-operation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers within Europe.

Contact details:

Eurodoc
The European Council of
Doctoral Candidates and
Junior Researchers
Rue d'Egmont 11
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium



For more information on Eurodoc visit
<http://www.eurodoc.net/> or make an inquiry at
board@eurodoc.net

Editor: Georgios S. Papavasileiou

Pictures: Doktoranti Srbije (p.3.), Elena Golovushkina (p.4.)

Logotypes: Respective owners