

Contents:

Editor's note.....	1
Save the date.....	1
European Young Researchers Platform EYRP/ EduCoach.....	2
Towards a Maastrich for research.....	3
News from member associations.....	3
Meet the KRD.....	5
New from Eurodoc partners.....	6
The Open Access Button.....	7

Editor's note

Dear Readers,

The new EURODOC Newsletter brings us the first glimpse of the next Eurodoc conference, to be held in Budapest, Hungary next March. This will be a new opportunity to discuss the conditions of early stage researchers all over Europe and the prospects for the future.

In this Newsletter it is also possible to find the opportunity to better know some of the activities of our partners from Lithuania and Poland. Open Access is also a topic discussed in the new edition along with other topics from our external partners.

Ivo Neto, Portugal

About Eurodoc

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

Eurodoc's objectives are:

- To **represent doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level** in all 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**, organise 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**.

Save the date. Eurodoc 2014.



The **next Eurodoc conference will be held in the Hungarian capital Budapest from 25th to 27th March 2014**. The conference will bring together young researchers from across Europe to discuss the situation of young researchers and how we can best face the challenges ahead.

The conference is **organised by Eurodoc and Dosz** (The association of Hungarian PhD and DLA students). Prof. Dr. József Pálinkás, the president of the Hungarian academy of sciences will be the patron of the event.

European Young Researchers Platform - EYRP

Due to the restructuring of universities and the economic downturn, **young researchers face a decrease in long-term positions, funding and in general job security.** Euroscience, Marie Curie Fellows Association, Eurodoc and several individuals propose to **create a European Young Researcher Platform**, where representatives of institutions, young researchers associations, and individual stakeholders can **share information, identify synergies, and complement each other's activities to improve the career perspectives of young researchers.** This Action will impact three key areas: science development, policy making and capacity building. To reach these general objectives we will use workgroups to achieve five main tasks: 1) harmonization of data 2) capacity building 3) political innovation 4) direct support and representation of researchers 5) information sharing. By improving the career perspective of young researchers, this action will contribute to the sustainable excellence in European research output and innovation.



The first meeting of EYRP members was held during the Eurodoc conference and AGM in Lisbon earlier this year. Beside the meeting one of leading person from EYRP initiative Pauline Mattsson has a speech in first plenary session on the role of young entrepreneurs in the knowledge-based economy topic.

Slobodan Radicev, Eurodoc president

EduCoach offers online advice for anyone wishing to study in Europe

With the aim to make it easier for prospective students and young researchers from all around the World to receive detailed and personalized advice on international study opportunities in the EU, the EduCoach project has created a comprehensive online counselling platform. The platform will help thousands of young people get direct professional advice on more than 25,000 study programs in over 1,200 universities in 40 European countries.

One of the major barriers to studying abroad continues to be the lack of accessible and relevant information. EduCoach provides personal advice right at the place where it is needed most. While potential students are searching for study information online, they will be able to chat in real time with a study abroad expert. Students are provided with customized information and tailored, interactive advice on studying abroad. The resources and study advisors on the EduCoach platform cover such important topics as application requirements, visas, accommodations, language, and more.

The EduCoach partners have established a dedicated chat platform in English to advise students interested in Erasmus Mundus, as well as three other specialized chats offering general counselling on studying in Europe in English, Russian and Arab languages.



Towards a Maastricht for Research

The present voluntary approach to **realising the European Research Area is too modest, and more binding measures are needed** says a **group of MEPs**. Their manifesto, which was launched at an event in the European parliament on 16th October, calls for a **more ambitious approach, suggesting an EU framework directive as an appropriate instrument to making ERA a reality**.

A legislative approach to ERA has never been ruled out by current EU research commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, but she has thus far chosen to proceed down the softer route with nonbinding agreements. Any decision to proceed down a legislative route will now be left to her successor, and Geoghegan-Quinn has pledged to have the tools in place to allow her successor to press ahead with this if necessary.

In the manifesto the authors highlight a number of areas that they believe need attention in order to better coordinate Europe's fragmented research programmes. These include introducing common standards for funding schemes, ensuring the portability of national grants, better coordination of social security and pension schemes, as well as creating a future generation of European researchers through, for example, more support for innovative transnational doctoral programmes.

Some remain sceptical that a legislative approach is necessary. The European University Association, for example, believes that more time is needed to determine if the current voluntary measures will work. They point to the bologna reforms as an example of how changes can be implemented without a directive. Others, such as Kurt Deketelaere disagree on the effectiveness of voluntary measures, saying that "It would be naive from the side of the commissioner to think we can realise the ERA solely through voluntary measures."

European governments aim to complete ERA by the end of 2014.

News from member associations : LYSR

The Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR) is implementing a project **supported by the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme**. This project aims to **strengthen Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers as network of scientists and other researchers**.

A project manager Vilma Petrikaitė presents project as composed out of variety of different actions. These actions will allow to identify needs of LSYR members, strengthen internal and external communication, develop partnership between Lithuanian and Swiss young researchers in the field of science policy and funding. Also, under this project traditional camps will be organized, researchers will be able to develop interdisciplinary research projects.

"Partnership with researchers from other countries is very valuable experience. It helps to gather experience and to achieve one of the main aims of LSYR – creation of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional society among Lithuanian scientists that would unite members both students of science



News from LYSR cont'd

and researchers, scientists who work in Lithuania, and those who do research outside. We aim to create both formal and non-formal networks among them", – says dr. V. Petrikaitė. - "The value based society (of young researchers) might become a breakthrough in science policy."

By opinion of V. Petrikaitė, it is not an easy neither short process. Investment to the skills of researchers, institutional strengthening and culture of representation and participation requires systematic and continuous effort.

Crisis Line

The national Grad Crisis-Line was set up in 1999 to provide doctoral candidates with free and confidential telephone counselling. Trained staff who understand the needs of young researcher are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

You can SKYPE the Crisis-Line at 800-472-3457.



LSYR celebrates 10 years representing Lithuanian researchers

This year the **Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR)** is celebrating a 10 year anniversary! LSYR is a **dynamic knowledge-based autonomous non-political and non-profit nation-wide organization, open to young researchers, scientists, and students from various science and research fields.** The main goals of the organization are facilitating the contacts among young scientists nationally and internationally, enhancing the scope of their activities and possibilities, setting up an open forum for discussions, propagating systemic exchange of scientific information, contributing to the improvement of the Lithuanian



Her Excellency President of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė with Members of the LSYR Board and the winners of best Doctoral Thesis competition.

education system by actively participating in various interest working groups and acting as the main lobby organization on the behalf of young scientists and researchers in Lithuania.

During the decade of active representation of young researchers LSYR has organized hundreds of discussions and seminars, initiated and successfully implemented dozens of projects with Lithuanian Government, Universities, partners from European Union and abroad, initiated series of best Doctoral Thesis and Master Thesis awards. LSYR is always interested in networking, sharing of experience and collaborating to change the environment for better tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to contact LSYR with your ideas!

Chairman of the Board Ramojus Reimeris
Ramojus@ljms.lt

News from member associations : KRD from Poland

The National Representation of PhD Candidates in Poland (KRD - Krajowa Reprezentacja Doktorantów) is a nationwide representative and exponent of the interests of PhD candidates in Poland. KRD has the right to express opinions and present proposals in cases relating to the situation of PhD candidates, including the opinions of normative acts for PhD candidates.

KRD main goals are:

- Represent PhD candidates in government,
- Represent PhD candidates on international conferences, symposia and conventions,
- Defend the rights of PhD candidates,
- Collaborate with scientific centers to support the scientific activities of PhD candidates,
- Support initiatives of PhD candidates,
- Build cultural and social relationship between scientific institutions and universities in Poland and Europe.

The structures of KRD are:

➤ **Board**

The board consists of 7 persons who are elected at the national convention. The main task of Board is the management of the structures of KRD. The meetings of the Board are organised once per month in different cities throughout Poland, thereby encouraging greater participation from doctoral candidates.

➤ **Review Board**

The review Board consists of 5 persons who are elected at the national convention. The main job of this commission is to ensure all the structures in KRD are working in accordance with the law and other regulations.

➤ **Representatives**

KRD has representatives in many different committees: eg. Polish Accreditation Committee, Higher Education Council, Sejm and Senate commissions, Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland.

➤ **Agreements** between :

- o Universities (e.g. medical, technical)
- o Local Universities (e.g. Cracow, Warsaw)

In all structures about 150 PhD candidates are active in KRD.

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News from Eurodoc Partners

What makes a training different from the others?

A wide range of training programmes is available for those who would like to learn or develop their professional skills. Almost everything is available; you can apply for one day or one week course with theoretical or practical focus, you can choose a lower price level or very expensive training courses, organized in-house or off-site.

I assume that everyone has some training experience, which is not always positive. In many cases typical sentences come into our mind after a training course, like: *"it would have been great if..."* or *"I would not have done that but..."*

Me, as a new member of the Europa Media team already had some prior knowledge and know-how thanks to my previous project management experiences. I have to say though that this was the first time when I really felt that I gained a comprehensive practical and theoretical knowledge, which can be easily used during my everyday work.

The Summer Academies, called "European Funding Academy 2014-2020-Summer Edition" this year, have a long tradition. This time 35 experts from 15 countries participated in the training. For the majority of the participants – including myself – this was the first Europa Media training but there were some experts who had already participated on previous courses. The "returning participants" ensured the "newcomers" from the beginning that this training would be different from the others; they had good reasons to be there again. During the four-day training it was proven for me that it is absolutely true.

How was it proven?

Excellent professional content

The content of the training was developed with an outstanding quality that covers the whole project lifecycle from the call analysis and the proposal development through the project evaluation and implementation until the EC audits. We heard two excellent lectures about the EU Funding System 2014-2020 and the EU Programmes of 2014-2020. The trainers

collected all available information about Horizon2020 to share with us. I believe that this information had added value considering that we are really close to the official launch of Horizon2020.

Excellent trainers

If I should choose one word to describe the trainers I would say: authentic. Authentic because of the years/decades of hands-on experience, real professionals (project managers and coordinators) who's day to day job is to turn innovative ideas into competitive proposals, to manage the implementation of these projects and to assist project partners in any financial and administrative issue. As they have already experienced all the examples they taught us we couldn't ask a question they did not know the answer to. Their own stories made the curriculum more interesting and more understandable, so I am sure that I will always remember the good tips from the anecdotes. I think we all who were there agree that they are not just excellent trainers but also good people with a good sense of humour who became your friends by the end of the first day, hosts who always have a kind word to you. After all of this who wants a lecturer in suit and tie who you hardly dare to address.

Innovative training approach

Finally here is a training where you are not just sitting around and listening during the four days! Learning by doing is an excellent approach for the workshops! The workshops were focused on real life examples. As a team we had to develop a project concept, than we had to evaluate a proposal individually, finally we solved financial and managements situations ourselves. Personally I learned a lot during these workshops, and it was a unique experience to work with experts who have not met before, who have different professional background and experience but still able to work together as a team to reach our common goals....

... **Informal training; pleasant atmosphere; excellent social events** >

Perfect balance between the training and the social events - Europa Media understands the importance of it. I think it was important for the 35 participants to make new acquaintances during the 4 days, to know better those with whom they may enter into joint projects in the future! The social events were perfect for this! During the wine tasting, folklore program and the dinner at the Balaton we had a chance to get to know each other better, to have a chat with a glass of wine, and learn to say "egészségedre=cheers" in 15 languages.

Excellent participant >

I hope that everyone agrees that we were an excellent team, a group of experts who are excellent in their field but also great people.

I think that this is why this training will be a very special experience, because we were enriched by not only professional knowledge but also with professional and personal relationship.

So, why was this training different from the others?

- Excellent training concept and outstanding content;
- Experienced trainers;
- Innovative training approach;
- Pleasant atmosphere; excellent social events;
- Last but not least, a great team of participants with whom I hope we can have a project soon!

Ms. Krisztina Varga-Tóth
Europa Media



The Open Access Button

Everyday, people are denied access to research behind paywalls. People are denied access all the time, but the problem is invisible. The **Open Access Button** has been developed to make the problem of paywalls impossible to ignore. The button **tracks and maps the paywall problem collecting truly invaluable data on its scale.** The button will also **help you find an openly available copy of the paper you want**, helping you to work within the broken system.

Website: <http://oabutton.wordpress.com/>

twitter: [@OA_Button](https://twitter.com/OA_Button)

The open access button is a project supported by the [right to research coalition](#) and [Medsin UK](#).



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