

Brussels (B), June 22, 2010

Eurodoc President speaks for the recognition of professional status for doctoral candidates in Europe at the annual meeting of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education

Izabela Stanisławiszyn, Eurodoc President, attended the third annual meeting of Council for Doctoral Education of the European University Association (EUA-CDE) on 4-5 June 2010 in Berlin. More than 200 university leaders, heads of research schools, politicians, policymakers from more than 35 countries gathered together at the conference to discuss the development of doctoral education and the implementation of the Salzburg principles, and the needs of further reforms in the doctoral education in Europe.

During the plenary session ***The Salzburg principles in perspectives*** Izabela Stanisławiszyn expressed her doubts about the effectiveness of ECTS¹ as a tool for measuring the quality of doctoral education since any measure of the kind should not be detrimental to research component of the doctorate in order to leave space for originality, creativity and independence of young researchers.

She pointed out that the time between admission and completion of PhD programmes varies in different disciplines, therefore the standard rules on the length of doctoral education of 3-4 years under the Salzburg principles have to be reviewed.

Eurodoc's President also emphasised the need for appropriate measures to

¹ ECTS - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

increase the mobility using the data from the Survey of the situation with doctoral candidates in Europe conducted by Eurodoc in 2009. The suggested measures should include appropriate funding as only 30% of the surveyed doctoral candidates have full funding while going abroad; portability of grants and social security system benefits; appropriate composition of foreign periods into the doctoral education as 70% of the surveyed doctoral candidates find the problems with re-integration to be a barrier while doing doctoral programmes abroad.

Throughout the event Izabela Stanisławiszyn made a special effort to reinforce Eurodoc's view on the recognition of the professional status of doctoral candidates in Europe and urged the research community to stop referring to doctoral candidates as PhD students or doctoral students as it undermines their professional status. She called for the common use of Doctoral Candidate and Ph.D. Candidate in Europe instead of doctoral student or Ph.D. student so as to avoid the attribution of student's context into doctoral candidates' issues in Europe.

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 Ph.D. candidates and young researchers.

Eurodocs 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*

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