

Editor's Note

Dear members and friends!

Just a breathe away from Eurodoc 2011 Annual Conference and AGM, Newsletter 10, hosts details on this coming event at Vilnius that is planned for March 31st-April 4th 2011. Future events on research in higher education and higher education issues are also noted and contributions of Eurodoc members in various academic happenings are reported and news from Eurodoc workgroups are shared.

Time is running... So, have you made all arrangements so as to meet up in Vilnius? If not then hurry up! March is on it's way! The Newsletter Editorial Team will make sure to mirror all happenings and developments for both, those that will be there and those that will be absent! Until then, enjoy Newsletter 10 and see you in Vilnius!

Contents of this issue:

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Editor's note | 1 |
| 2. Eurodoc conference and AGM | 2 |
| 3. The future of EU research funding ... | 3 |
| 4. Eurodoc members at conferences | 4 |
| 5. Upcoming events/conferences | 9 |
| 6. Meet a Eurodoc member - CJC | 9 |
| 7. Eurodoc background | 10 |

Eurodoc Annual Questionnaire

Taking the pulse of Eurodoc can be only done by taking the pulse of its members. This is one of the reasons of the annual questionnaire that all members have to fill about last year's situation of doctoral candidates and junior researchers as well as future actions.

This year some important changes have been included in the questionnaire: a specific block of questions about postdoctoral researchers and a special emphasis on the



expectations from Eurodoc. The outcomes are pretty interesting. First of all, there is a lack of knowledge or access to the statistical data about doctoral candidates in general that is more evident when we talk about postdoctoral researchers. This is a worrying fact. One of the most important reasons for this is that many countries don't have databases about doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers. If one country doesn't know the amount of these researchers working inside its borders, how can it promote better conditions for them?

In this subject there is still a lot to do and Eurodoc may help. One of the things that different members expect from Eurodoc is to be a stakeholder at European level and work in partnership with different European institutions to improve the situation of young researchers. This would be done at European level but the policies influenced

by Eurodoc should have an effect at national level. To make this a success the opposite should happen as well: spreading the word about the good practices in some of the European countries as an example to follow by others. Eurodoc is its national members and the national members are the ones who have to take one step forward to spread the positive actions carried out in their countries. Some of these actions have been pointed in the questionnaires and will be shared in the report that will be presented in our next AGM in Vilnius. In conclusion, the questionnaire is a very useful tool to take the pulse of Eurodoc and learn from each other. I just have to thank all the members who have sent the questionnaire to the board contributing to build a stronger and members orientated Eurodoc.

Marisa Alonso-Núñez

Annual Eurodoc Conference in Vilnius

Scope of Annual Eurodoc conference Vilnius, March 31st-April 4th, 2011

Why we will be there

This is the 10th, anniversary, Eurodoc conference since 2002. Every year at the international Eurodoc conference the representatives of the organization and guests from various countries evaluate and review what was done during the previous year, discuss the current topics and problems confronted by young researchers and PhD students, exchange their experience, analyze models and policies for research development and their implementation in Europe.

This year we gather in Vilnius to discuss about the situation and the future of a new generation in science, viewed through the prism of traditions. We expect to find the reasons which have distorted the essence of traditions and how this influences the activity of young scientists.

Summary of conference topics

Science: tradition vs. innovation. When Universities are viewed as educational factories, do the recent changes in the policy for PhD studies lead to the desired future Europe of Science and Innovation? How are young researchers treated in doctoral programmes? As "perpetual students" or as equal members of the research community which are granted their intellectual property rights? Can journal editorial boards not evaluate the progress of innovation or are just young researchers not able to express their new scientific results properly and thus the progress of innovation is stopped? What are the challenges for young researchers in Framework Programme 8?

- Vinod Subramaniam, Empa: Publication of scientific results vs. dissemination of innovation

- Stefaan Hermans, Head of Unit „Universities and Researchers“, European Commission: Eight Framework Programme (FP8)
- Thomas Jorgensen, European University Association: Salzburg principles II

smscience. In the outrageous dynamics of today's life researchers might choose to organize their research, but not to make science. They strive to keep the position in society, thus they may take a shallow attitude towards the rules of the system for fast result as an objective, publishing as much results as they can, participating in as much projects as they can, disseminating the knowledge they may not even have. What role take the young researchers in science now?

- Liutauras Gudžinskas, Vilnius University: What are the challenges for the new generation researchers?
- Fast career
- When publications are just a plus in CV of the young scientist

Business as usual? Science requires constant output and dedication, and the results are not achieved so fast. Business is based on experience and intuition, it requires constant running and fast or big awards. Yet they both see the potential of knowledge and compete what has the right to possess them. Is the collaboration possible in this situation? Maybe science should learn something from business? What can business learn from science when it comes to knowledge dissemination?

- Linas Eriksonas, Europarama: Business for idea or science for money?
- What can business learn from science and science can learn from business?
- Lidia Borell, European University Association

<http://eurodoc2011.ljms.lt/>



The future of EU research and innovation funding

2011 just began, but EU's policy makers are looking already beyond 2014. The revision of R&D funding instruments in context of the new multi-annual financial framework will also strongly affect young researchers.

Eurodoc is preparing a policy paper on the future of research and innovation funding at EU level. The full text of the Eurodoc paper will be released soon, but we can already present two of the main recommendations here:

Eurodoc calls to take the Charter for Researchers, EU's key initiative to strengthen the human resources base in R&D more serious. It should be the basis of all reflections in R&D funding.

Eurodoc also calls for a stronger involvement of grassroots organisations because the ERA should not be a construction solely conceived by administrators and policy makers. EU's research and innovation funding framework needs to be aligned to support projects of these organisations.

Eurodoc stands ready to contribute to the policy debate which has recently been launched by the presentation of a Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding by the European Commission.

Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner

Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

Conference of the Council of Europe "Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy: the Role of Public Authorities" **8th-9th November 2010, Strasbourg, France**

This conference was the first of a series of conferences organized by the Council of Europe aimed to develop a new project focusing on the role and responsibilities of public authorities in ensuring institutional autonomy. Rather than a detailed examination of specific issues, its purpose is to gain an overview of the current thinking on the issues related to the topic of the project. The idea is to gather diverse actors with an interest in the development of higher education and research in Europe, who would examine and discuss different aspects of the paradoxical relationship between public authorities, academic freedom and institutional autonomy. As a starting postulate, it is assumed that public authorities cannot be replaced in their role of defining the framework for the existence and living experience of these principles. Moreover, higher education institutions are understood as needing to be responsive to societal needs and to regulatory provisions in particular. In this framework, it is also clear that economic sector plays ipso facto a role. One of the envisaged outcomes of the project is to publish one or more is-

ssues on this topic in the Council of Europe Higher Education Series. These publications would be based on contributions to this and forthcoming conferences. Other aimed outcome is the issuing of a political statement, as well as the development of a policy recommendation.

The conference was a good opportunity to exchange the ideas on university freedom and autonomy of universities. I took this opportunity to talk to the representative of the Council of Europe about establishing cooperation with Eurodoc. By now Eurodoc is not a partner of the Council of Europe and Eurodoc is not on the list of institutions with which the Council of Europe works. The outcome of my talks was positive. Eurodoc is welcome to send the documents and apply to be a partner of the Council of Europe. Eurodoc is also welcome to apply for the observer status in the Steering Committee for the Higher Education and Research CDSER.

Izabela Stanisławiszyn

Marie Curie Actions for an Innovative Europe: excellence, mobility and skills for researchers **9th-10th December 2010, Brussels, Belgium**

On 9th and 10th December 2010, I participated in the EU Belgian Presidency conference "Marie Curie Actions for an Innovative Europe: excellence, mobility and skills for researchers" organized by the European Commission at the invitation of the European Commission.

The conference was opened by the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Mul-



Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

tilingualism and Youth Androulla Vassiliou and moderated by Jan Truszczyński - Director General of the Directorate General Education and Culture.

The conference was also the occasion to celebrate the fact that in 2010 Marie Curie Actions enhanced the career development of 50.000 mobile researchers.

Through the presentation of key figures and success stories, the conference "Marie Curie Actions for an Innovative Europe: excellence, mobility and skills for researchers" highlighted the major contribution of the programme to the European Research Area like:

- fostering *mobility*,
- enhancing *excellence*,
- strengthening *innovation*,
- and addressing *societal challenges*.

It was followed by a round table that provided an open dialogue between the different stakeholders and policy-makers who came up with different contributions to the future evolution of the Programme Marie Curie Actions to address efficiently the Europe 2020 strategy.

At the roundtable discussion, I supported the idea to add additional component for doctoral training in FP8 as well as I commented on the idea of allocating more funding to support industrial Phd. I highlighted the issue of Intellectual Rights Protection and

the need to elaborate a contract which will allow the researcher to retain the results of the research if it receives MCA funding. I also stressed that PhDs should be considered as professionals not students and the funding for doctoral training in MCA should embrace also the youngest researchers that are in the beginning of their scientific career not only the ones who are about to complete their doctorates and who are doctorate holders.

Later on, answering the question on possibilities of increasing the number of women in science, I underlined the need to introduce measures which will allow women to reconcile family and work life including rights to maternity leave, appropriate childcare facilities, reintegration of women coming back into scientific life after a period of maternity leave etc. I also emphasised that the family, children and childcare is the responsibility of both men and women and not only women should be identified with family life and childcare as it is the task for both men and women. Many people from the audience positively reacted to my words.

During my talks with representatives of the European Commission I was told that Eurodoc is welcomed to send official position paper with Eurodoc's view on Marie Curie Actions in the FP8 as well as position paper to the document Innovation Union.

Izabela Stanisławiszyn

EUA CDE Workshop DOC-CAREERS II project on collaborative doctoral education

9th-10th December 2010, Laussane, Switzerland

Following the impulsion of a first session in Ireland, this event held in Lausanne (Switzerland) on December the 9th, was the second session of EUA Doc-Career initiative. The main goal was to think, all together, how to bridge the gap between institutions, professionals and private entities

of the research area. As a matter of fact, young and early stage researchers (ESRs) are effectively at the heart of this very question, being the only actual link connecting all the partners.

Although the absence of university officials

Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

was to regret (except, obviously, the presence of officials from the host institution, the EPFL), the meeting was nevertheless one among few valuable experiences able to gather around the table almost all the actors from the field.

The Doc-Career round-tables are therefore a good occasion to promote and make the voice of ESRs understandable, as well as providing our partners, colleagues and potential funding sources, with a refreshing and systemic point of view, forging a "win-win" situation and a number of statements aiming to unfold numerous and unexpected solutions to the actual "crisis" of Research striking most of European countries.

The main topics during Doc-Career II in Lausanne were the following:

- Intellectual Property (IP) issues, when a PhD candidate has whether or not to share the outcomes and the exploitation of his/her results with the company/institution that funded the project (or the one tutoring the project)
- The research of "new partners" (intended as mostly from the private area)
- The necessity (or not) of maintaining a distinction between engineers and researchers (a very important question since most of the partners seem to be willing to unify both statutes. Eurodoc should, most certainly, have a position and conduct a reflexion about it)
- The creation of an institutional position, the "career advisor", able to drive efficiently the flow of ESR (another thing to discuss)
- The first draft, from EUA, of a bunch of "skills" supposedly defining "what" is a researcher (the idea behind this, noble after all, being to clarify and evaluate for private entities the potential "productive power" of the researchers as a whole)
- The creation of something like a "monitor for monitors", a highly developed

training for monitors. Mainly (coping with the idea of recruiting the PhD candidates within a true HR process), monitors would be trained to recruit and/or drive the PhD candidates more efficiently, reducing therefore the "wastes" (time, money...) in order to enhance both quality and productivity as well as realising sustainable investments when shaping fundings into proper stipends (salaries) for ESRs.

- The idea of having MSs and PhD candidates on the same statutes/level, considering PhD candidates as "MS with 3 years of employment" (another tricky way to present a good side - recognition of 3 years of employment - with a dark side - mixing MS and PhD on a student statutes basis, reducing the specific mission of a Doctorate, etc...)
- The idea (that Eurodoc might be opposed to) of giving away to the private entities the University sovereignty over PhD candidates monitoring and training (as it happens effectively through Baeland programs in Belgium)
- The "need" considering, the "catastrophic" situation, of keeping or not PhD candidates under "student" statutes (argument from Nele Bracke, from Ghent University).

All the previous ideas were mentioned, evoked or at best discussed between the people participating to the round-tables. Although nothing is fixed or either decided (the principle being to have an open discussion about all the possibilities, an important number of "dangerous ideas" have popped up here and there among a bunch, only, of excellent ones. This must be certainly caused by the necessarily narrow vision of each actor of the whole research area (struggling to include all its "different levels", when the position of PhD candidates offers them the possibility of understanding the challenges and the "big frame" where everyone can benefit from an intelligent collaboration.

Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

Eurodoc will be then very attentive and careful to show the interest of each and everyone when issuing a statement or proposing anything to the future Doc-Career III (3rd workshop), scheduled for April the 4th in Kaunas, Lithuania. Not to mention

that Eurodoc will have the possibility of its annual General Assembly (scheduled for the same period in the same country) to continue the cooperation a bit further.

Ludovic Garattini

EUA-CDE workshop "Mobility and Collaboration in Doctoral Education – international and inter-sectoral" **20th-21st January 2011, Budapest, Hungary**

When the last month more than 90 university leaders, experts and representatives of university networks gathered in winter landscape of Budapest, it was opportunity to share new information, views and discuss various questions related to mobility of doctoral candidates in Europe. The forth EUA-CDE workshop "Mobility and Collaboration in Doctoral Education – international and inter-sectoral" was hosted by Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), on 20-21 January 2011. Eurodoc was represented by Snežana Krstić, who gave a presentation in the plenary session "Obstacles and limits".

The workshop was a great opportunity to hear on several case studies related to mobility experience of individuals or certain re-

search group. There were also discussed institutional instruments to accommodate mobility needs and it was called for more and better overall visions and strategies at the institutional level. Particularly interesting were examples combining international and inter-sectoral (academy-industry) mobility, where was emphasized the need for high quality doctorates and human resources development in a long term.

During her speech, Snežana presented data based on Eurodoc survey indicating geographical or disciplinary differences, as well as considerations based on Mobility work-group discussions and the workshop on Mobility and Careers (held in Vienna, during Eurodoc Annual Conference 2010). The participants of the workshop were particularly interested in Eurodoc discussions related to the low awareness on the Charter & Code for researchers and obstacles coming from not transparent and inefficient recruitment procedures.

Discussing funding opportunities, Snežana underlined that more than half of mobile young professionals did not have opportunity to get an employment contract and that more than 20% had to use personal savings to fund their doctorates abroad. All these brought to conclusion that implementation of provisions defined by Charter & Code should be improved in all research institutions, and particularly is emphasized a need for EU institutions to recognize and implement their own policies.



ELTE University Library,
founded in 1561

Snežana Krstić

Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

4th Networking Conference for Asian and European Young Volunteers

8th-11th February 2011, Semarang, Indonesia

Background

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) have been organising various projects in the framework of the Asia-Europe Co-operation in Voluntary Service (VolunAET) Programme since 2001. Two components of this programme, The Asia-Europe Young Volunteers Exchange (AEYVE) and the Networking Conference for Asian and European Young Volunteers (NAEYV), bring together International Voluntary Service (IVS) organisations from both regions. During the AEYVE, the young volunteers participate in a training, field implementation and evaluation on Asia-Europe volunteering. The nine previous exchanges have brought interesting results in terms of social, economic and cultural development, as well as on the impact of IVS on the main actors: the young volunteers, local community and the hosting and sending IVS-organisations. In order to complement the capacity building (knowledge transfer and training) of AEYVE, the NAEYV was convened in 2007. The conference was designed specifically for heads (presidents, directors, board members, managers or coordinators) of IVS organisations

and tackled new fields of concern such as lobby and advocacy or networking and partnership building, impact, recognition and policies of voluntary service. The two complimentary activities have positioned ASEF and CCIVS as one of the main actors involved in the Asia-Europe voluntary service field.

Background of the conference

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), in cooperation with Indonesia International Work Camp (IIWC), organized jointly the 4th Networking Conference for Asian and European Young Volunteers (NAEYV), from 8-11 February 2011 in Semarang, Indonesia.

Other information

At the conference it was also discussed whether researchers can contribute in anyway to the improvement of international voluntary service by delivering some research and scientifically proved evidence for the impact of IVS on communities and environment as well young volunteers themselves. It was agreed that during the conference the possibilities of cooperation development between Asia-Europe Foundation and Eurodoc were discussed in terms of initiating project for the enhancement of collaborations between young researchers from Asia and Europe.

Izabela Stanisławiszyn



Eurodoc Members Participating at Conferences

Challenges and opportunities for students' participation in HE governance on the institutional, national and international level 21st European Students' Convention 15th-19th February 2011, Budapest, Hungary

From 15th until 19th February 2011 at the invitation of President Andras Bojarszky and Zsafia Zadravec from DOSZ (Hungarian Association of Doctoral Candidates), I participated in the 21st Students' convention- an event organized by ESU (European Students' Union) and HOOK (National Students' Union of Hungary).

I was the guest of our Hungarian Member Organization DOSZ to whom I extend once again my sincere thanking words. In the opening of the conference, I welcomed the

participants of the conference wished them a successful and productive conference.



The ESU conference resulted in the adoption of Students' Rights Charter and 21st students convention about the students governance in higher education.

Izabela Stanisławiszyn

Upcoming Events/Conferences

- Spring Wind 2011, Annual Conference for PhD and DLA Students, 15th-17th April 2011, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities, Hungary - Website: <http://dosz.hu/>
- International Higher Education Congress: New Trends and Issues (UYK 2011), 27th-29th May 2011, Istanbul, Turkey - Website: <http://www.uyk2011.org/defaultEN.asp>
- European Conference for Academic Disciplines, 15th-17th April 2011, Gottenheim, Germany - Website: <http://www.internationaljournal.org/germany.html>
- The Future of Education, 16th-17th June 2011, Florence, Italy - Website: http://www.pixel-online.net/edu_future/
- The Higher Education Academy, Annual Conference 2011, 5th-6th July 2011, East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, UK - Mail: conference@heacademy.ac.uk
- Education in a Changing Environment, 6th-8th July 2011, Salford, Greater Manchester, UK - <http://www.ece.salford.ac.uk>

Eurodoc Members News

Meet a Eurodoc member - DOSZ

The Association of Hungarian PhD and DLA Students (DOSZ)

The Association of Hungarian PhD and DLA Students (DOSZ) is the representing body of the students participating in the Hungarian doctoral education. It was founded in 1994 in the form of an association according to Hungarian law. The Association



approx. 200 members from universities from all over the country and 25 representatives at its general meeting. The daily work in the Association is carried out by six board members and a secretary.

Eurodoc Members News

The main decision-making body is the general meeting which usually takes place two times a year.

The principal fields of our activity:

- Organizing Conferences for PhD and DLA students – the most popular of them is the Sprnig Wind Conference hosted by one of the university cities of Hungary, intended to provide possibility for PhD students from all fields of research to present the summary of their research activity.
- PhD Student's Summer Camp – a three-day-event right before the beginning of the academic year intended to provide informative sessions as well as leisure programmes for first year PhD students, organized usually in one of the touristic regions of Hungary
- Drafting proposals and lobbying at governmental organisations in the interest of its members.
- Providing legal aid to PhD students

If you are interested to get in contact with us, either in order to provide us with information on international conferences organized by your university, or simply in order to get information on the PhD education in Hungary, please feel free to contact us.

Péter KENGYEL
secretary

Contact:

Website: <http://www.dosz.hu/>
E-mail: dosz@dosz.hu

DOSZ
Kossuth square 9. III. floor 1.
1055 Budapest

Phone: +36 1 222 1819
Fax: +36-1-220-3608

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

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