

PRESS RELEASE

Vilnius, Lithuania
April 5, 2011



The European Council of Doctoral
Candidates and Junior Researchers

NEW GENERATION IN SCIENCE: TOWARD A NEW FASHION ERA? Eurodoc annual conference and general meeting 2011

The annual conference of Eurodoc took place on March 31 – April 4, 2011, in Vilnius, Lithuania. This major European gathering of doctoral candidates, young researchers and policy makers was co-organised with the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR).

During the annual Eurodoc conference in Vienna in 2010, we looked back on achievements in the major policy agendas. One of the main outcomes of the conference this year was a focus on doctoral candidates as the essential link between European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Research Area (ERA). In 2011, the Annual Eurodoc Conference celebrated its 10th Edition, with the contribution of a large number of experts and organisations from politics, science, educational administration, higher education, business, and industry.

The Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania, Gintaras Steponavičius, the President of LSYR, Piotras Cimpmperman and the President of Eurodoc, Izabela Stanislawiszyn gave opening addresses. Further keynote speakers during three plenary sessions ("Science: Tradition vs. Innovation", "SMScience", "Business as usual?") included Katrien Maes, League of European Research Universities; Rolf Vermeij, University of Twente; Stefaan Hermans, Head of Unit "Skills", European Commission; Liutauras Gudžinskas, Vilnius University; Norbert Kroo, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Scientific Council of the European Research Council; John Wood, European Research Area Board; Linas Eriksonas, UAB Europarama; Algirdas Davidavičius, Mykolas Romeris University; Yolande van der Veer, Van der Veer Bv; and Lidia Borrell-Damian, European University Association.

During roundtables and workshops, Eurodoc delegates and other participants discussed such issues as research integrity for a new generation of researchers, new trends and techniques in supervising doctoral candidates, gender equality in science and open theses.

The most important conclusion of the conference is that there is indeed a new generation in science, that every aspect of both present and future doctoral issues must include this generation, and that a new fashion ERA is only possible with their proactive participation. However, Eurodoc does not forget that traditions are valuable in Europe. Considering both is crucial to understand how we can successfully combine traditions and innovations in research.

Therefore, this conference reinforced the status of Eurodoc as a key partner and main voice for doctoral candidates and young researchers on the European level.

At the Annual General Meeting, which took place on April 2-3, 2011 directly

after the annual Eurodoc Conference, a new Eurodoc Board was elected. The new President of Eurodoc is Ludovic Garattini. The new Board will work on strengthening the position of Eurodoc as a well-recognised stakeholder in the ERA and EHEA by representing the voice of Europe's doctoral candidates and young researchers. The Annual General Meeting took up a resolution aimed at harmonizing the doctoral programs across Europe.

The composition of the newly elected Board is as following:

- President: Ludovic Garattini (France)
- Vice-president: Zsófia Zadravecz (Hungary)
- Secretary: Georgios Papavasileiou (Cyprus)
- Treasurer: Raphaël Royer (France)
- General Board Member: Elena Golovushkina (UK)
- General Board Member: Sanne Lykke Lundstrøm (Denmark)
- General Board Member: Bruno Gomes (Portugal)

Eurodoc is pleased to announce that the next Eurodoc Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting will take place in Poland on March 21-25, 2012, and is organized by the National Representation of PhD Candidates in Poland (Krajowa Reprezentacja Doktorantów). The key theme of the conference will be "Funding - how to acquire scientific grants". The relevance and importance of Eurodoc and the community it represents is emphasised by increasing recognition of young researchers as core stakeholders and partners in policy debates. Considering the actions taken by the Council at the national and European level during the last few years, our participation is expected to rise significantly in the near future.

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 Doctoral 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,*
- *to take part in debates and assist in the elaboration of policies about Higher Education and Research in Europe,*
- *to establish and promote cooperation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers within Europe.*

Contact:

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Please, visit us at: www.eurodoc.net

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