

# EURODOC 2005 QUESTIONNAIRE

## BELGIUM French-speaking Community

Preliminary note –Among states with a federal structure, Belgium has given the largest degree of autonomy to sub-national entities who are fully responsible for higher education. (Dresner,2001).<sup>1</sup> Thus, it is generally appropriate to distinguish the situation in the French-speaking and the Dutch-speaking part of the country (for this one, answers to the questionnaire were sent by our second representative, Christophe Vandevelde).

### General questions and discussion

1. No significant changes for both PhD candidates and junior researchers. However, the organization or doctoral schools is evolving.
2. The development of a real carrier plan for young researchers and more funds for post-docs
3. the organization of doctoral schools and of the carrier plan for researcher
4. a survey on doctoral schools and PhD candidates conditions and the development of a website about PhD ([www.doctorat.be](http://www.doctorat.be); giving information to PhD candidates, PhD doctors and employers about fundings, how to present the PhD qualifications, ...)
5. Focus Research has three main types of activities :
  - o promoting public interest for sciences and scientific research (less activity for
  - o
6. a survey on PhD candidates conditions (work conditions, teaching tasks, fundings, ...) has been realized in 1997 and another is evolving at the moment; a survey on PhD doctors employment has been realized in 1999. Data about such surveys abroad would be benefit to join to our recommendations
7. maybe more information exchange in EU about PhD candidates conditions

### Bologna process and Lisbon strategy

8. The Bachelor cycle only began in September 2004 and the Master cycle will begin in 2006
9. Premature at the moment
10. Too fuzzy at the moment, no significant change compared to last years. Most scientists agree over the“Lisbon Strategy”and there is a political will to reach an investment in research of 3%of the PIB. In Belgian industries already finance 2/3 of the R&D. Thus it is the governments which have to do the effort. However, from 1996 to 2001 the public budget for R&D has only increased from 0,55% of the PIB to 0,60%. It should still increase.

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<sup>1</sup> Dresner S.(2001).A comparison of RTD structures in EU Member states.In S.Dresner & N.Gilbert (Eds),The dynamics of European Science and technology policies (pp.109-135). Aldershot,UK:Ashgate.

### **Labour conditions**

11. Three financial sources are available for PhD students, all with full social security and double status (employee and student)
  - About 40% are appointed as teaching assistant in the universities. The contract duration is two years and it can be renewed twice. Teaching and management charges are limited to a maximum of 50% of the occupation time.
  - Research assistant (about 40%) are appointed by the universities by means of external resources of various origins: research subventions by the various governments (federal, regional,...), contracts with industry, etc. Depending on the source of funding, appointment duration may be very short or appropriate for Ph.D completion. The majority of contracts are not submitted to federal taxes but include social and medical insurance. The net amount is about 1200 EUR per month for a full term employment (employer costs: 1800 EUR).
  - Research funds (Flanders: FWO Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, IWT Instituut voor Wetenschap en Technologie; French Community FNRS Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique, FRIA Fonds pour la Recherche dans l'Industrie et l'Agriculture) offer grants (1200/1300 EUR per month) with full social security system for a duration of maximum 48 months (one midterm renewal). These grants concern about 20% of the PhD Students. In 2001, 856 PhD students had a FRIA or FNRS grant, about 600 had a FWO grant and 550 an IWT grant. Very few PhDs are completed through personal resources (teachers, etc.) although the FNRS offers to professionals a final grant of one year to terminate the dissertation.
12. The employee status offers a better consideration by administration, public, ...

### **Supervision and Training**

13. No or only local concern or action. There is a need for the charter implementation
14. There is no standard for supervision and training at a national level. This depends on each university. Programmes are very different from one university to another one and even from one faculty to another one. The new model is based on an association of laboratories or teams called "doctoral schools". Each school has specific guidelines but at the moment, there is no real standard between each other.
15. there are large variations in routes; there is no other doctorates than the PhD research doctorate
16. there is no real audit of institutions about research degrees

### **International mobility**

17. in the French speaking Community, the main opportunities are the FNRS and EU Marie Curie grants
18. it is very informal; the website [www.doctorat.be](http://www.doctorat.be) aims at the improvement of awareness
19. they are too few compared to other EU countries
20. the same as in question 17 and also Belgian cooperation fundings. For foreign students, one year of special formation (called DEA as in France) is required
21. only few joint programs are organised or at the beginning; mainly with developing countries

### **Professional future**

22. the awareness is increasing; it is recognised as a good opportunity
23. not discussed now
24. no information and opinion now

### **Gender equality**

25. no initiatives has been implemented; only maternity leave has got better consideration
26. the equality is rather well respected for PhD candidates and young researchers but the proportion between man and woman increase with academic degrees probably due to deadlines for project submissions that are similar for men and women so that shorter careers are put in disadvantage

## **PART TWO : FIGURES**

### **In French-speaking Community**

1. 9 institutions
2. about 4500 PhD candidates; relatively constant for about ten years
3. 23 years old; the Master degree is the entry qualification
4. about 600 PhD examens; relatively constant; about 28 years old
5. nominal length : 4 years (length of general grants); active time : 4 to 5 years; the teaching assistants are considered to teach 50% and search 50% of time
6. about 50 % complete their PhD; no precise statistics are available
7. 50% withdraw, keeping their DEA diploma
8. the registration is made at university for all candidates
9. all the PhD candidates are considered as students (and also employee if any, therefore having a double status); all of them have fees of about 1000€ for the whole duration
10. 90% get funding; see question 11 (in part One)
11. see q 11; national minimum salary : about 800€
12. 95 % have full rights and no duties (no taxes)
13. about 35 % have teaching tasks but they are not separately paid for them
14. maximum 50 %
15. about 5%
16. very few incoming or outgoing PhD candidates and post-docs
17. 20 % continue working in academia (post-docs included)
18. no real statistic
19. in academia : about 2000€ in private : variable
20. there is no real membership, everybody is free to collaborate, ...