

As in Serbia and Montenegro national association of PhD candidates is not established yet, it was not possible to answer questions directly related to activities of these associations. Other answers mainly reflect general opinion of researchers involved in PhD studies.

Part One

1. In comparison with the last year, the situation of PhD candidates and junior researchers has been slightly improved. The need of young researchers for mobility and professional training was better recognized and several programmes were offered. Very significant step forward are scholarships which Ministry of Science and Environment offered to post-docs (the first time last year) wanting to spend a year abroad. Similar scholarships (for shorter period) were offered to PhD candidates. There is also evident better international cooperation between institutions.
2. The main improvement which would be very welcome by PhD candidates in our country would be better funding (higher salaries or scholarships) and improved supervising standards.
3. The hottest topics (related to Higher Education and Research & Development) under discussion in our country are Bologna process, and brain drain.
4. Although national association has not been established yet, PhD candidates were involved in activities of European researchers, mainly through Eurodoc, as well as through activities of Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA).
5. Not applicable – not association.
6. PhD survey has not been made, but it is seen as a possible activity of future association. Data of other countries could be useful for comparison.
7. For researchers of our country it would be useful if it would be paid a larger attention by Eurodoc policy to the issues such as scientific visa for researchers from third countries and if it would be supported broader access of researchers from non-EU European countries to researching programmes and projects.
8. As Bologna issues related to the Doctoral Level are at the very beginning in our country, there are not reliable data which could indicate how the application of the “Bologna Process rules” would affect the Doctoral Level.
9. Insertion of the Doctoral level as the 3rd cycle of Bologna process is expected to bring several benefits, primarily related to better structure of PhD studies, better supervision standards and improved mobility. However, there is a fear that employing status of PhD candidates (involved in teaching at universities) might

- be changed to the student status, without pension security and similar benefits of employees.
10. The Lisbon strategy does not affect significantly policy of our country, as it is not EU member. It is belief that accessing process or strengthening scientific cooperation could improve this.
 11. PhD candidates involved in teaching activities at Universities are considered as employed. Also, many candidates are employees at other institutes or industry. Their advantage is employee status, but disadvantage is that they spend much time on activities which are not related to their thesis in any way.
 12. Employee status is preferred, because it brings many benefits related to pension rights, fees for PhD studies, and much better position at a department.
 13. Currently there is not action in our country to implement standards that would accommodate standards outlined in the Eurodoc supervision and training Charter. Implementation of some standards would be very useful.
 14. Doctoral thesis is official publication in our country, which form can vary within different fields. Examination is public and it also varies in style and length in different subject areas or institutions.
 15. Entry requirements for all PhD programmes are the same, except for art universities, where special skills may be required.
 16. I am not aware of any outside agency, forum or similar, which measure quality assurance in our institution. However, it is possible to consider that standards on research degrees in our country are monitored by scientific councils at faculties and universities.
 17. The main opportunities for the mobility of researchers are the scholarships of the Ministry of Science and environment, as well opportunities related to the FP6 programs.
 18. Awareness of young researchers about possibilities of the various exchange programmes is better in comparison with the previous year. This can be additionally improved by organizing thematic meetings and financing the participation of young researchers to international meetings.
 19. National grants offered to enhance mobility of national researchers are those of the Ministry of Science and Environment.
 20. Principally, there is possibility for foreign researchers to receive a grant to come to our country.

21. I am not aware that there is any institutionalized “Joint degree programmes” for European and international PhD’s in our country.
22. We are aware that the EC is about to release the European Researcher’s Charter and a Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers and these documents should be supported.
- 23.
24. Not applicable now.
25. We are not aware of initiatives related to the gender issues at the PhD level. The reason for this is probably that the gender imbalance is not high at many institutions.
26. Data on differences in the gender distribution between comparable positions in academia and other sectors are not available, but probably that this distribution exists.

Part two: Figures

1. Data not available
2. Data not available
3. For getting into PhD programme is necessary to hold Master’s degree. Official data on average age of students entering doctoral programmes are not available. Reason for that is that candidates are not registered from the beginning of their work, but from the moment when they already produce some results which can confirm that their thesis will give appropriate contribution to the science. (This may be changed by new law on higher education, which is in procedure of consideration now).
4. Data not available
5. The length of PhD programmes is not defined. Official data for average time from start to finish are not available. Average active time spent to complete the PhD Programmes varies widely with disciplines and it is probably the shortest within humanities. Application procedure for PhD programmes (full and part-time) is the same for all, although in practice there is possibility for part-time modes.
6. As duration of PhD studies is not defined, it is not possible to estimate percentage of PhD candidates who complete their PhD within allotted time period.

7. There are not data on PhD candidates who withdraw. This particularly because candidates are not registered from the beginning of their work on PhD thesis.
8. PhD candidates are registered at their faculty (university). For more details see Part two: 3.
9. Generally, there are two types of PhD candidates: with scholarships (not employed) or with salary (which are related to teaching, research, or non-academic activities). PhD candidates generally do not have benefits which have undergraduates or Master students. They have to pay fees, unless they are employed at the same institution in which they work their PhD. The amount they pay may vary from institution to institution and it is higher for foreign students.
10. No data available on proportion of PhD candidates who get funding for their research activities. There are several types of funding: scholarships, salaries for teaching (at faculties) or for research (mainly at institutes).
11. Average stipend / salary of the PhD candidates with funding is about national average salary.
12. Although official statistics is not available, generally is considered that there are more PhD candidates having workers rights and duties. The rights and duties are the same like for other employees (social, health insurance, pension insurance, unemployment benefits, taxes).
13. Official statistics for proportion of PhD candidates that practice teaching during their PhD programme is not available, but it is considered that majority is involved in it. They are paid for their teaching duties, and not for doing their PhD's.
14. Official data are not available. However it can be considered that the amount of time spent on this activity is about 20 hours per week, here 10 hours in average directly in teaching and other 10 hours for preparations, consultations and related activities.
15. Data on proportion of PhD candidates involved in collaboration between academia and industry during their PhD is not available. However, this cooperation is mostly related to engineering (or basic) sciences.
16. Data not available
17. Official data not available, but it is considered that majority, which already have been working in academia, remain working there after they defended their PhD.
18. Data not available

19. The average salary of young doctors is slightly higher of PhD salaries in academic sector, but in private sector, doctoral title usually do not bring any higher salary.
20. Not applicable – national association does not exist.