



Innovations in Europe: From Academia to Practice and Back

Eurodoc Annual Conference
25th–28th March 2009, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia
(press release, February 2009)

Since 2001, Eurodoc organises its Annual Conference and General Meeting in different European countries. In 2009 – for the first time in its history – Eurodoc brings its conference to one of the new member states of the European Union. The event will be hosted by Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, from 25th to 28th March 2009 and is jointly organised by the Asociácia doktorandov Slovenska (ADS) and the Studentská komora Rady vysokých škôl (SKRVŠ), the Slovak and Czech members of Eurodoc.

The topic of the conference “Innovations in Europe: From Academia to Practice and Back” is structured around the main headlines of the Lisbon Agenda. One of the main goals of the Lisbon Agenda is to shape a strong knowledge-based economy in Europe to stay competitive in the global market. Academia has of course its stake in its creation. While doctoral candidates are mainly based in academia, they become more and more involved in other sectors as well. Doctoral programmes in Europe, especially those emerging lately, gain more and more structure to foster the employability of doctoral graduates by integrating soft and transferable skills into their curriculum.

Additionally, universities are establishing new ways of cooperation with industry to create stronger links between academia and practice. Doctoral candidates from different scientific fields are moving into industry after or while doing their doctorate, constituting a strong link from academia to industry. But what about ways back to academia to encourage knowledge transfer between science and industry and other members of society (e.g. NGOs) These questions will be discussed in the round table and the workshops on the first conference day.

The second day is devoted to another topic of the Lisbon agenda: the aim of creating a European Labour Market. Successfully establishing a market that consists of many different nationalities is a high ambition which per se bears a lot of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Speakers from different levels (institutional, national, European) involved in the daily discussion on this matter will provide key points in this context. Based on this general view, discussions in subsequent workshops will focus on specific challenges at individual levels.

Stakeholders from European policy makers in education and science and representatives of various research institutions from all over Europe are warmly invited as well as of course the main focus group of the conference: doctoral candidates and junior researchers.

Registration is open until 10th March: <http://www.eurodoc.net/2009/registration/>



Eurodoc Background

Eurodoc was founded in Girona (Spain) on 02/02/02. It is the European Council of doctoral candidates and young researchers. It takes the form of a federation of national associations of Ph.D. 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

For questions about the conference contact 2009@eurodoc.net.

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