

Newsletter #7 October 2009



The European Council of Doctoral
Candidates and Junior Researchers

Dear Readers,

This issue of the Eurodoc Newsletter will keep you up to date about developments in Eurodoc activities in this past summer and early autumn.

First, however, let us cordially invite you to an event in spring 2010: the Eurodoc Annual Conference and General Meeting will take place in Vienna on 11th-15th March 2010. Read on about the conference in the invitation by Nikola Macharová, the President of Eurodoc, below on this page.

Reflections on conferences where Eurodoc took part cover the period from May to September, including reports on a conference on "The Model of Functioning for the PhD Studies: Good Practices at the PhD Studies" organised by Polish

doctoral candidates (page 3) and the Swedish Presidency Conference "The Knowledge Triangle Shaping the Future of Europe" (page 4).

You can also find out about a new partnership between DRIVER and Eurodoc which further testifies to Eurodoc's support for the open access paradigm in scholarly communication (page 4) and we continue in presenting our members. This time, it is the Association of PhD Candidates of Cyprus, a young, yet advanced member of Eurodoc (page 5).

Finally, we did not forget a list of upcoming events which we newly extended with tips for interesting reading (page 6).

Elena Xení and Jan Holeček

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EURODOC CONFERENCE 2010 IN VIENNA

Save the date!

Eurodoc Annual Conference 2010, Vienna, Austria, 11th-15th March

Dear Sir or Madam,

Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Young Researchers will hold its annual conference in March 2010 in Vienna, Austria. We cordially invite you to participate and kindly ask you to save the date: 11th-15th March 2010!



"Stocktaking and Prospects: Doctoral Training and Research - the Link between EHEA and ERA"

Eurodoc 2010 will be embedded in a series of high-level events around the Bologna-Process Ministerial Summit. 150 to 200 young researchers and policy

makers from more than 32 European countries are expected come to Vienna to engage in fruitful discussions and to work on recommendations for the future of research training beyond 2010.

Eurodoc Survey

The results of the Europe-wide survey on conditions for doctoral candidates, the first of its kind, will be presented at Eurodoc 2010. Eurodoc started this major undertaking in 2008 to counteract the shortage on real comparable data on crucial topics like motives for pursuing a doctorate, academic environment, gender bias, career paths, funding, training and supervision, transferable skills and mobility.

There will also be a session on research opportunities in Central, Eastern

and Southern European countries and a fair with stands and posters allowing institutions, projects, and companies to present their activities. Please find more information concerning the programme and confirmed speakers at

<http://eurodoc2010.doktorat.at/>

Do not hesitate to contact the conference team for any further inquiries at eurodoc2010@doktorat.at

We would be happy to welcome you at the Eurodoc Conference 2010 in Vienna!

Kind regards,

Nikola Macharová,
President of Eurodoc

on behalf of Eurodoc and
the Eurodoc 2010 organising committee

Second Annual Meeting of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 4th–5th June 2009

The European University Association's council for doctoral education has about 147 member institutions and growing. It arranges an annual meeting, as well as two workshops on topics related to doctoral education each year.

The meeting in Lausanne was the second annual meeting of the CDE since its founding last year. The main purpose of the meeting was to give participants from universities all over Europe an opportunity to discuss issues and share best practices within the field of doctoral education.

Present from Eurodoc were Nikola Macharová, Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen, Karoline Holländer and Sverre Lundemo.

During the first session, the speakers gave speeches on their experience with doctoral education from different angles. We were for example given an introduction to the doctoral education systems of Canada, Australia and the US, and how these differed from the third cycle in the Bologna process.

There were six different working group sessions (supervision in structured programmes, research careers, interna-

tionalisation, research assessment and doctoral education, collecting data on doctoral programmes, and the role of networks in European doctoral education), all of which were run twice in order to give people the opportunity to attend more than one topic. The Eurodoc participants split into different sessions to be able to provide input to as many discussions as possible.

The content of the workshops was dominated by participants presenting problematic issues or good experiences from their institutions. To a much lesser extent there was a focus on general issues related to doctoral education within the topics and how to mitigate these.

Some key points in the plenary after the group sessions were focusing on motivations, benefits and challenges for collaboration in doctoral programmes, and the implementation of transferable skills in doctoral education and how to make these skills valued.

Karoline Holländer (outgoing Eurodoc President) and Nikola Macharová (current Eurodoc President) had a joint speech where they presented Eurodoc's

opinion on the status of and future focus areas within the six different working group topics. The speech was very well received, and resulted in Eurodoc being asked to provide a copy of this speech for the EUA web pages (see also <http://www.eurodoc.net/>). In addition, there were presentations on, among other things, the cooperation between industry and institutions in doctoral education, and about the importance of e-science. Various speakers presented opinions on topics such as quality in supervision and mentoring, the issue of "professional doctorates" and the importance of getting a better diploma supplement.

The outcomes of the workshops were presented, session by session. For several sessions, a returning issue was the need for common terminology and a sharing of best practices. CDE will work more with these outcomes in order to suggest tools or a system which could facilitate this. The next annual meeting in CDE will focus on the Salzburg principles (Salzburg 2.0).

Sverre Lundemo

European Research Career Fair 28th May 2009, Berlin Freie Universität

The RESEARCH fair was a part of a three days conference related to the 10th anniversary of the French German University (UFA-DFH), which was why it was more a German-French than a Pan-European event.

The Fair Conference was about the role of enterprises in the research, their need of doctorates and what skills they expect from them to have. It was opened by Prof. Dr. Jochen Schiller (Vice-President, Freie Universität, Berlin), Prof. Dr. Otto Theodor Iancu (President, Franco-German Forum) and Jacky Chate-lain, (CEO, Deputy-CEO, Apec).

Topics discussed included

- Research in Europe: How to Meet the Challenges of the Lisbon Strategy
- The Key Issues in Research for European Companies for the Next 20 Years
- Companies, Research Centres and Universities: How can they work together? Complementarities of the tri-

partite relation, the stumbling blocks to avoid, how to make a win-win relation?

- Researchers and Company: How to Understand each other? How do Researchers Figure out Working in a Company? How to Help Doctorate to Integrate Companies? Which are the Expected Skills?

Many universities, companies and other organizations took part in the research fair. This event provided European researchers with a great chance to network and to explore possible career opportunities. The fair participants were: actors from public research associations (e.g. German DFG), networking associations (e.g. EURAXESS, the French APEC), many French and German Universities, and a few French enterprises (Total, Areva, l'Oréal, and Thales).

Eurodoc was represented at the last round table by Nadia Koltcheva, Vice

President of Eurodoc. Nadia Koltcheva and Paule Biaudet (director of the graduate schools of the Paris University 6) pointed out that doctorate holders do not only have a deep knowledge of their research subject, but also bring in a lot of transferable skills to an enterprise, which enables them to perform tasks other than research, e.g. filling higher positions in the management. In making the doctorate holders and enterprises becoming aware of this, the universities have to play an intermediate role between the two, e.g. offering training of doctoral candidates in presentation and communication skills. The discussion was fruitful, and interesting questions and issues were raised by the auditorium, issues which Eurodoc will address in its future actions.

*Nadia Koltcheva,
Darius Köster*

The Model of Functioning for the PhD Studies: Good Practices at the PhD Studies 5th–7th June 2009, Warsaw, Poland

Good Practices in the framework of Doctoral Studies was the subject of the three days conference organised by Warsaw Agreement of the PhD students (<http://www.wpd.waw.pl/>) and National Doctoral Students Representation (<http://www.krd.org.pl/>). The conference took place at Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education, and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. Honorary Patronage of conference were Minister of Science and Higher Education, Barbara Kudrycka and President of Warsaw – Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz. Doctoral candidates from 27 universities in Poland participated in this conference.

Kinga Kurowska, Warsaw University of Technology (Chairwoman), Dorota Zaręba, Warsaw University of Life Sci-

ence (Secretary) and representatives of PhD Student Councils were the members of the Organizing Committee that along with volunteers put much effort towards the success of the event. With great enthusiasm they made sure not only to provide high level plenary and thematic sessions but also a rich cultural programme, giving the participants a chance to further network.

Eurodoc contributed to the first day's plenary session with a speech on "Good Practices in Doctoral Studies" (prepared and presented by Elena Xenii), where some definitions of good and best practices were provided and reasons for encouraging good and best practices as well as ways to identify and implement best practice were discussed. As these practices can be encountered in various contexts in the realm of doctoral educa-

tion, various examples for some of these contexts were given in the end of the speech. Eurodoc also took the chance to present its future activities and invited the participants to join Eurodoc in coming events.

As a result of the conference a set of postulates and good practices in several areas (organization, recruitment, studies programme etc.) of PhD studies was created. "The Model of Functioning for the PhD Studies: Good Practices at the PhD Studies" proceedings will appear soon.

For further information please contact: Magdalena Kępińska-Jasny (mkepinska.jasny@gmail.com).

*Elena Xenii, Eurodoc
Magdalena Kępińska-Jasny,
Warsaw Leon Koźmiński Academy*

Vitae Researcher Development Conference 8th–9th September 2009, University of Warwick

Launched in June 2008, Vitae built on the previous work of the UK GRAD Programme and the former Higher Education Researcher Development group. Vitae plays a major role in innovating, sharing practice and enhancing the capability of the higher education sector to provide professional development and training of researchers.

This conference on researcher development brought together people and expertise to build on this to strengthen the academic base, economic and cultural prosperity and our place in the global research environment.

The conference addressed the strategic and practical implications of the following themes:

- Sustaining the investment in researchers in order to build research capacity and remain globally competitive.
- Research and evaluation relating to the impact of researcher development and of researcher careers.
- The implementation of the Concordat, including the benchmarking process.
- Latest developments in policy relating to postgraduate researchers.
- Practice to support researcher skills and career development.

A number of initiatives and projects that were launched and explored at the Vitae conference included amongst others: the launch of the aggregate results of the Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) 2009, a summary of the Higher Education Academy Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRESS) 2009 and the publication of the "Rugby Team Impact Framework: one year on" report, which provided an overview of known completed and planned evaluation activity relating to research training and development since publication of the Impact Framework.

Updates from international speakers included the Carnegie Initiative, a five year project with 106 doctoral granting departments from US universities across six disciplines and the EUA DOC-CAREERS report "Collaborative Doctoral Education: University-Industry Partnerships for Enhancing Knowledge Exchange" (2009) involving 33 universities, 31 companies, and 18 other stakeholder organizations, from 20 different countries across Europe.

Added to the programme was a dedicated exhibition time with opportunities for sharing practice and attending a

range of 'fringe sessions'. The 'fringe sessions' presented work in progress and recently completed work, making known new ideas or best practice(s) and building networks. Eurodoc contributed in two fringe sessions, presenting preliminary results of the Eurodoc online Survey on the Situation of Doctoral Degrees in Europe (prepared by Eurodoc Survey Expert Group and presented by Elena Xenii) and a study on the Positive Criticism as a Best Practice in Doctoral Supervision (prepared and presented by Elena Xenii). Both sessions were much attended generating discussions and giving a chance on comparisons with other attempts and further networking.

This by all means well organised event was a useful experience and an enjoyable academic happening. It provided Eurodoc with opportunities for introducing its aims and objectives to groups and individuals that were not informed about it before, it informed the audience about its coming activities and eased networking on a research development level.

Elena Xenii

Swedish Presidency Conference “The Knowledge Triangle Shaping the Future of Europe” 31st August – 2nd September, Gothenburg, Sweden

The aim of the conference was to discuss the concept “The Knowledge Triangle”, which refers to the interaction between research, education and innovation. The conference intended to contribute to a long-term process to develop and implement the knowledge triangle in practice. It also aimed to inspire changes in the European higher education system and its relationship with industry and the public sector.

In this event Eurodoc was represented by Nikola Macharová, Ing-Marie Ahl, Bruno Gomes da Silva and Peter Kristöfel.

As it was underlined, to be able to address the global challenges, major innovations are needed. These innovations must be developed fast to achieve a sustainable European society and to increase the global competitiveness of Europe. Universities must integrate innovation and entrepreneurship while maintaining education and research as core activities. All stakeholders must strengthen their capacity to transform the new knowledge into products and services.

The increasing need for quick knowledge transfer requires smooth and fast interaction between research, higher education and innovation. There is also an increasing demand for competence and lifelong learning. The implementation of the knowledge triangle is necessary to fill these needs.



Member states should make policies and steering mechanisms that encourage interaction. The funding of higher education, research and innovation activities should be increased in times of economic crisis and support initiatives that contribute to the realisation of the knowledge triangle.

Autonomy allows universities to develop their profiles and business models. Diversity should be considered as an asset. Academic attitudes must change and mobility must increase. Mobility between different sectors should be regarded as a merit.

Nikola Macharová, president of Eurodoc, gave a speech in the session “We

are the Future” about the role of doctoral candidates in the knowledge triangle. Ligia Deca from the European Students Union (ESU) also presented their point of view.

As it was pointed out, the role of doctoral candidates in the knowledge triangle should be emphasized. They are an important link between education, research and innovation. This topic was also discussed in a workshop arranged by Eurodoc and the Swedish doctoral organisation SFS-dk, as a satellite event.

Ing-Marie Ahl

PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

Memorandum of Understanding between DRIVER and Eurodoc



Eurodoc and DRIVER have identified demand for cooperation in order to progress and enhance the impact of European research

within the global research community and in more specific terms to improve awareness of Open Access among researchers.

DRIVER, a joint initiative of European stakeholders, co-financed by the European Commission, sets up a technical infrastructure for digital repositories and facilitates the building of an umbrella organisation for digital repositories. DRIVER relies on research libraries for the sustainable operation of repositories and provision of high quality content through digital repositories.

Sverre Lundemo has been negotiating with DRIVER on behalf of Eurodoc and

has announced with much satisfaction the signing up of the Memorandum of Understanding between DRIVER and Eurodoc in the month of August. The memorandum was signed by Nikola Macharová and Sverre Lundemo.

*Elena Xenia
Sverre Lundemo*

For further information on DRIVER, visit <http://www.driver-community.eu/>, please.

Association of PhD Candidates of Cyprus

The Association of PhD Candidates of Cyprus (APCC) is a non-profit association located in Nicosia. It has been established on 19th March 2008 and joined EURODOC at the Annual Eurodoc Conference in Fribourg in the same year.

As stated in its statute APCC aims at:

- 1) Promoting science and research in higher education
- 2) Improving study and research conditions for PhD candidates and young researchers
- 3) Strengthening relationships between young and experienced researchers
- 4) Supporting networking between PhD candidates and young researchers in a European and international level
- 5) Informing PhD candidates and young researchers on new trends and achievements with regards to research and science
- 6) Notifying PhD candidates and young researchers on recent issues at a national and international level
- 7) Acknowledging the role of PhD candidates and young researchers in the promotion of scientific research
- 8) Improving PhD candidates and young researchers' professional perspectives
- 9) Supporting future PhD candidates and young researchers

The aforementioned aims and objectives shall be achieved by:

- 1) Promoting research by organizing scientific conferences and seminars involving PhD candidates who are supposed to present their work
- 2) Organizing conferences and workshops aiming to inform PhD candidates on European programs and funding
- 3) Developing and sustaining a member network with private and public sectors and services in order to inform, PhD candidates and young researchers on scientific issues supporting their research and enhancing their involvement in social service programs and actions.

For the years 2008-2010 the APCC board consists of the following doctoral candidates: Adamos Adamou, President

(School of Economics and Management, University of Cyprus), Marilena Trimithiotou, Vice President (School of Sciences, University of Cyprus), Elena Xenii, Secretary (School of Modern Lan-

guages, Salford University, Greater Manchester, UK), Sofia Andreou, Treasurer (School of Economics and Management), Alexandros Kyriakides, Board Member (Polytechnical School, University of Cyprus), and Panagiota Charalambous Board Member (Philosophical School, University of Cyprus).

Amongst its activities throughout the



first year of its establishment, APCC can note its representation at the EUPIDE-UNICA Conference 2008 at Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, Rennes 2008 Conference on Young Researchers under the auspices of the French Presidency of the European Union, The World Federation of Scientific Workers Symposium 2009 in Universite del' Est in Paris and Eurodoc Annual Conference in Slovakia in 2009 and Prague 2009 Conference for Young Researchers under the auspices of the Czech Presidency of the



European Union. APCC participated in the first online survey on doctoral education, whereas one of its board members was its Press Officer. At a national level APCC organizes two academic events on

Doctoral Students' and Young Researchers' Issues per academic year and issues a newsletter annually. In the coming year it is planned for APCC to contribute further to the academic life of the island of Cyprus by broadcasting on research issues at the University of Cyprus Radio Station.

A year after its establishment, Elena Xenii, Secretary of APCC, was elected as the Secretary of Eurodoc during Eurodoc Annual Conference 2009 in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. Since then, Elena Xenii has represented Eurodoc in: "The Model of Functioning of the PhD Studies. Good Practices at the PhD Studies" Conference held in Warsaw, Poland in June 2009, VITAE Research Development Conference 2009 held at Warwick University,

UK in September 2009 and she has recently been appointed the Eurodoc representative in ESOF. Amongst various responsibilities, Elena Xenii, has been the co-editor of Eurodoc Newsletter 6 and Newsletter 7 and a member of the survey expert group.

APCC's activity is supported by The Rectorate of the University of Cyprus and The Ministry of Education and Culture, who have been its main sponsors since its establishment. Further information on APCC aims and objectives or activities and plans can be reached at <http://www.cyphd.org/>

ASSOCIATION OF PHD CANDIDATES OF CYPRUS (APCC)

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eurodoc'10

VIENNA march 11-15

30th October - 1st November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Symposium on "Thailand - EU cooperation in higher education: common interests and shared commitments" as a part of the European Higher Education Fair - <http://www.ehef-bangkok09.org/>

9th-10th November 2009, Cavendish Conference Centre, London

International Conference on Professional Doctorates, Jointly hosted by Mid-

dlesex University and the UK Council for Graduate Education

<http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/profdocs>

19th-21st November 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

EUA Fourth European Quality Assurance Forum - <http://www.eua.be/events/eqaf-copenhagen/home/>

27th-28th November 2009, Bonn University, Germany

Eurodoc Survey Workshop - <http://www.eurodoc.net/>

11th-15th March 2009, Vienna, Austria

Eurodoc Annual Conference and General Meeting
<http://eurodoc2010.doktorat.at/>

2nd-7th July 2009, Torino, Italy

ESOF 2010 - Euroscience Open Forum - <http://www.esof2010.org/>



INTERESTING READING

DOC-CAREERS Report

The EUA DOC-CAREERS report, where Tim Brown was standing on the steering committee on behalf of Eurodoc, is now publicly available. It can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.eua.be/research/doctoral-programmes/doc-careers/>.

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, re-

search, 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
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For more information on Eurodoc visit <http://www.eurodoc.net/> or make an inquiry at board@eurodoc.net

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