

# eurodoc

## Newsletter #6 · May 2009

Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of the Eurodoc Newsletter the 2009 Eurodoc board is publishing. Myself, I am not good in goodbyes, but I know how to cordially thank the leaving board and secretariat members as well as the creators of last years' Eurodoc Newsletters, Stephan Kurz and Jan Holeček! Their voluntary work throughout last year and their future support is and will be more than appreciated.

In this issue – that would have never made it to take flesh and blood without my colleague's and good friend's help, Michael Socratous, Doctoral Student in Educational Management, Department of Education, University of Cyprus – you will find amongst others:

The new board members' profile, reports on Eurodoc representatives in major European events, Eurodoc survey news and various coming events.

I would like to thank everybody for their contributions and welcome you all to send us your articles and coming events' advertisements for the next Eurodoc Newsletter that will not be showing up before this coming autumn.

As the heart of summer is approaching in many neighbourhoods of the world where Doctoral Students and Junior Researchers are, let me take a chance to wish you all the best for this summer.

*Elena Xení*

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## EURODOC NEW BOARD AND SECRETARIAT FOR THE YEARS 2009–2010

### Waving Goodbye to the Old Board & Secretariat Members and Welcoming the Newcomers

At the General Assembly, which took place directly after the Annual Eurodoc Conference in Banská Bystrica (SK) a new Eurodoc Board and Secretariat was elected. The new President of Eurodoc is Nikola Macharová, doctoral candidate at Nitra, Slovak Republic. Nikola, coming from a position in the Slovak Doctorands Association's board, is working on her doctoral thesis on "Life Long Learning in Management of Cultural Institutions".

The composition of the newly elected Board is the following:

- President: *Nikola Macharová* (Slovakia)
- Vice president: *Nadia Koltcheva* (Bulgaria)
- Secretary: *Elena Xení* (Cyprus)
- Treasurer: *Darius Köster* (France)



*Nikola Macharová, Karoline Holländer and Jan Holeček in Banská Bystrica*

- General Board Member: *Ing-Marie Ahl* (Sweden)
- General Board Member: *Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen* (Denmark)
- General Board Member: *Sverre Lundemo* (Norway)

The Secretariat for the years 2009–2010 is noted below:

- Secretariat Coordinator: *Jan Holeček* (Czech Republic)
- Mobility Working Group: *Enric Rodriguez* (Spain) and *Celine op den Kamp* (Netherlands)
- Surveys Working Group: *Karoline Holländer* (Germany)
- Gender Equality Working Group: *Marisa Alonso Nuñez* (Spain)
- Career Development Working Group: *Nora de Vries* (Netherlands)
- Policy Officer: *Marko Limbek* (Slovenia)
- Voting Officer: *Anna Schiller* (Austria)
- Branding and Marketing Manager: *Francis Vella* (United Kingdom)

## Who is Who: Meet the New Eurodoc Board

**PRESIDENT****Nikola Macharová**

Nikola was born and lives in Trenčín, Slovakia. She studied Management of Culture and Tourism at University of Constantin the Philosopher in Nitra, Slovakia. Now, she is in

her second year of her PhD studies in culturology (Lifelong learning programmes for managers of culture institutions). In 2008, she was a board member of ADS (Slovak PhD Students' Association) and a Eurodoc Delegate.

After graduating she worked as a director of a hotel in Trenčín, later as a PR and Marketing manager of a water management company where she could get practical experience in marketing, PR and communication. Thanks to different projects financed by the European Social Fund, realised at Alexander Dubcek University of Trenčín, she became familiar with project management. As a coordinator of several activities, she was focusing mostly on cooperation between academia and industry and organized several job fairs for students of Alexander Dubcek University.

Now, she is working as a part-time lecturer at the university (Sociology, Project Management) and is an Erasmus coordinator for student internships.

In her free time, she helps the Trenčín Foundation (a community foundation in Trenčín) in fundraising and realising different projects.

As the president of Eurodoc, she will focus on improving communication as a keystone for both internal and external collaboration and for strengthening the position of Eurodoc as a well-recognised stakeholder in the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area.

**VICE-PRESIDENT****Nadia Koltcheva**

Nadia Koltcheva has master degrees in Psychology (Clinical Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, University of Sofia "St. Kl. Ohridski") and

in Human Resource Management and Development (School of Management, New Bulgarian University). In 2005 she obtained a Doctoral degree in Experimental Psychology at University of Sofia "St. Kl. Ohridski".

Currently Nadia works as a researcher at New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria. She has teaching activities at both New Bulgarian University and University of Sofia.

Nadia is a holder of a fellowship by Queen Jadwiga's Fund and has specialization in Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland and of a UNESCO Research Fellowship. She has carried out research on University Teachers' Training and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in RISBO, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She has more than 25 publications in the field of education, psychology and the development of researchers. She was a member of the editorial board of "Psychological Newspaper" (2002–2005).

Nadia has strong interests in staff and educational development, quality assurance and quality enhancement, higher education development, teachers' training, education, etc. She is experienced in project work and project management. She was a coordinator of NETTLE Project for University of Sofia. She has experience in coordination, administration and guidance of people, projects and events.

Nadia was a founder of Association of Doctoral Students in Bulgaria (2002) and of the Association of Young Psychologists in Bulgaria "4<sup>th</sup> of April" (1998),

being its chairwoman from 2000–2005. She was a Bulgarian Eurodoc member in 2007, 2008 and 2009. In 2009 she was elected as a Eurodoc Vice-President.

**SECRETARY****Elena Xenii**

Elena is a Teaching Assistant in Language Pedagogy at the Department of Education, University of Cyprus and a Language Arts Guest Teacher (Enseignant

Vacataire) at the BPSE, University of Luxembourg. She holds a BA in Educational Studies (University of Cyprus), a Diploma in Writing for Children and Young Adults (Institute of Children's Literature, Connecticut, USA) and an MA in Translation Studies (University of Surrey, UK). She is currently a PhD Candidate at the Department of Modern Languages, University of Salford, Greater Manchester, UK.

Her teaching activity focuses on language arts in pre-primary and primary education environments, as well as the theory and didactics of literature for children and young adults. Her research activity focuses on the theory and didactics of literature for children and young adults and aspects of the theory and didactics of translatology.

Elena is a founding member of the Association of PhD Candidates of Cyprus (APCC) and has been serving as the Secretary since 2008. She has been the Press officer of the Eurodoc first online survey on doctoral education in Europe.

As a Secretary of Eurodoc for the years 2009–2010, Elena will support the enlargement goals of Eurodoc, strengthening the position of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers as a key stakeholder in the European Research Area and the European Higher Education.

## TREASURER

### Darius Vasco Köster



Darius was born in Berlin, Germany, and conducted his studies in Physics from 2002 to 2006 in Leipzig. After internships in diverse fields such as solid state physics,

super conductivity and conception of ultra high vacuum chambers, he finally got into touch with biophysics, and wrote 2006 his master thesis about "Lipid Nanotubes for Probing Cell Membrane Reservoir". This was done during an internship at the Curie Institute in Paris, France, and he continues his stay with its PhD project (2007–2010) entitled "Cellular Responses to Mechanical Stress: Interplay between Membrane Tension and Membrane Dynamics", and which is done in a framework of a double-PhD (co-tutelle de thèse) between the University Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6) and the University of Leipzig.

Besides his research activities, he is an active member of the PhD candidates' association of the Curie Institute (ADIC) since 2007. In 2008 he became member of the French young researchers association (CJC), and its delegate to the European young researchers association, Eurodoc. In 2009 he was elected as treasurer of Eurodoc for the period 2009/2010, and he aims to continue the work of the old board to establish stable funding of Eurodoc activities in fortifying the relations with sponsors and national researcher organizations.

## GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

### Ing-Marie Ahl



Ing-Marie was born in Norrköping, Sweden in 1974. After elementary school she worked as a groom at several different stables and also studied natural science until

1998, when she had her first child. She received her Master of Science in bio-

chemistry at Linköping University in Linköping, Sweden in 2002. During this period she spent her summer vacations working as a guide and administrator at Kolmårdens Djurpark AB. Directly after her degree in Biochemistry she started her PhD studies in medical cell biology and she is now in her final year. In 2004, she got her second child.

During her time as a PhD student she has actively represented doctoral candidates in different boards and committees at different levels at Linköping University. In 2007/2008 she was vice president of the Swedish association of doctoral candidates, with a special responsibility for career development issues. In 2008/2009 she focused on her PhD project but continued to be a board member of the national organisation and also became a Eurodoc delegate. Since 2008 she has been a board member of the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education.

In her free time, she has worked as an aerobics instructor for several years. Together with her husband she breeds and trains trotting horses and she also does the bookkeeping in this company.

As a board member, she will focus on the contact with present and future partners of Eurodoc and the planning and organization of workshops and conferences.

## GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

### Sverre Lundemo



Sverre Lundemo was born in Lillehammer, Norway. He first started studying ecology and natural resources management at the University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway. In

2004 he obtained a Master degree in natural resources management from the same university with the thesis "Spatial variation in pollinator visitation and pollen limitation on female reproductive success within a population of an alpine species". During his studies he also stayed at University of Tromsø and University of Alaska, Fairbanks for shorter periods of time. After working as a field researcher for a short time in 2005, he entered a teacher training programme at the University of Life Sciences.

Since December 2005, he has been a Ph.D. candidate at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. His research, titled "Comparative studies of genetic structuring in Scandinavian populations of *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *A. lyrata*" focuses on population genetics in plants.

In 2008 he joined both his university's association for doctoral candidates (DION), as well as the Association of Doctoral Organizations in Norway, as a board member. As a general board member in Eurodoc for the period 2009/2010, Sverre wants to continue the work of the previous board on consolidation of the organization by re-establishing contacts with inactive members.

## GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

### Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen



Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen studied IT engineering in Copenhagen. She did her internship and bachelor project in Canada. During this period the topic of out-

sourcing of IT and management of this process caught her interest. Subsequently her master degree was done in the area of production and management with a master thesis completed in 2007 on IT outsourcing to India. Throughout her master education case studies has been prevailing which has meant a close collaboration with industry. After briefly working for the Danish IT and Telecommunications Agency she started her PhD studies at the Technical University of Denmark. Her thesis is on offshoring and outsourcing of engineering tasks and the project is scheduled to run until 2011.

She has been involved in various student policy bodies throughout her studies and currently holds a vice chairman position in the PhD Association at her University and a chairman position in the PhD Association at her faculty. As a board member of Eurodoc she wants to focus on career development through best practice examples from Scandinavia and internal administration.

## Conference of the European Ministers Responsible For Higher Education, 28th-29th April, Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve

The conference in Leuven/Lovain-la-Neuve was the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on the Bologna process since the Bologna declaration was signed by 29 countries in 1999. At present, 46 countries have joined this process. The main product of the conference was the communiqué, stating the intentions and priorities for continuing the cooperation within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) for the next decade.

As one of the opening speakers, the Czech minister emphasized the importance of Bologna in changing the educational system, and how the higher education institutions (HEIs) of Europe would play a crucial role in the economic recovery process. To adapt to the ever-changing environment of today's society, transferable skills are important, and a focus on lifelong learning is necessary. These were also focal points for the opening speech of the European Commission (EC).

Partners of the Bologna follow-up group (BFUG) gave presentations and reflections on the progress of implementation. This included European Students union (ESU), European University Association (EUA), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) and European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Afterwards, ministers/heads of delegations from participating countries were given the opportunity to comment on the content of the communiqué and come with suggestions for changes. Most of the ministers were on

overall satisfied with the communiqué, only a few paragraphs lead to discussion, mainly funding, mobility and classification of HEIs.

The plenary session was followed by parallel sessions where the ministers were discussing the suggested changes in smaller groups to try to reach an agreement. After this, everyone gathered once more in plenary for feedback from the sessions and finalisation of the communiqué. ESU tried to implement more changes into the document, especially on making sure that private founding sources should not hinder students from entering and completing higher education. Germany tried to focus more on getting private contributors to take a bigger responsibility in funding HE, instead of focusing on students, but to no avail. In the end, this part of the paragraph was not changed.

Some new changes were implemented into the communiqué, notably the rephrasing of the 20% mobility goal by 2020 for each country to instead apply to the EHEA as a whole (par. 18), an increased focus on the teaching quality of study programmes at institutions (par. 14), recognising teachers as key players and a target group for mobility (par. 19), emphasizing quality assurance (QA) and recognition of education as priorities (this as a response to the discussions on classification) (par. 22), and an emphasis on public funding as the main funding body of HEI's (par. 23).

The reason for changing the mobility goal slightly was to accommodate the

worries of some countries regarding the realism of this goal for their part. Still, mobility was emphasized by many of the ministers as very important, together with life-long learning and equal access to higher education. Paragraph 22 could had a focus on transparency tools and classification. Some argued that classification could lead to ranking lists and this became the subject of much discussion. Many countries, and especially ESU and EURASHE argued that ranking lists was not the way to go, whereas other countries, as well as the EC and EUA was viewing ranking lists as unavoidable and a good way of comparing institutions.

Next day, the conference moved to Lovain-la-Neuve, where the communiqué was formally adopted. This was followed by the new Bologna Policy Forum, in which the ministers of the Bologna countries could exchange ideas and thoughts with representatives from other parts of the world. This has been initiated responding to the growing interest for the Bologna process in other regions. At the policy forum there mainly was a plenary session where all the invited speakers spoke of their interest in the Bologna process and further cooperation. As a result of this forum, a statement was presented. A suggestion to implement a sentence about recognising the importance of stakeholder involvement in the work for developing higher education was not included due to "time shortage", though this was seen as an important statement. The participating countries agreed on the statement and that they where to meet again in Vienna, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The next forum will, as in Leuven/Lovain-la-Neuve, be preceded by a special ministerial conference in Budapest/Vienna on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

The BFUG will work to prepare a work plan for the period to 2012, when the next regular ministerial meeting will take place in Bucharest, Romania 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April. This plan will build upon the priorities stated in the communiqué adopted in Lovain-la-Neuve.

*Sverre Lundemo, Norway*

## EURODOC SURVEY



**Eurodoc Survey closing soon!**

<http://www.eurodoc.net/survey/>

Czech Presidency Conference “Researchers in Europe without Barriers”, 28<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Prague

The conference aimed to build on the momentum created by the European Commission and the French Presidency in line with the EC Communication “Better Careers and more mobility: a European Partnership for researchers”, which identified main drawbacks for the development of researchers’ careers and mobility in Europe and suggests possible pathways within the framework of Partnership between the Commission and the Member States.

Given the slow progress in realising the ERA (e.g. take-up of Charter and Code, recruitment and employment conditions), and as one outcome of the 2007 Green Paper “The European Research Area: New Perspectives”, the EC has launched a new approach in 2008: A partnership between the EC and the Member States in order to ensure the implementation of actions. This “Partnership for researchers” comprises four key areas where measureable progress should be achieved by the end of 2010:

- Open recruitment and portability of grants (promotion of job database EURAXESS)
- Social security and supplementary pension needs
- Employment and working conditions (flexicurity principles)
- Training, skills and experience (national skill agendas, links academia-industry)



*Nikola Macharová, President of Eurodoc, in Prague*

The ministers of Portugal and Luxembourg, Gago and Biltgen, were asked by their colleagues (Competitiveness Council) for a report to propose priority areas for the implementation of the partnership for researchers, a report which they delivered in December 2008. These areas are:

- Increase the number of students in science and technology related subjects
- Increase the number of PhD candidates
- Attract and retain more science and technology students and researchers (from Europe and rest of the world) including “employment contracts with an adequate remuneration to all researchers”
- Legal, administrative and funding framework

These initiatives were the focus of Commissioner Janez Potočnik’s speech at the conference. He also sees a shift in

policies since governments invest more in R&D despite the crisis. In the discussion, he supported the idea of taking the number of research contracts as indicator to measure progress within the “Partnership for Researchers”. Eurodoc president Nikola Macharová stressed Eurodoc’s support for the aims of the Partnership, but also pointed out that the ERA activities should not only be restricted to the EU member states. Other presentations of the conference focused on research climate and attractiveness of the European Research Area, on creating better

environment for researchers in Europe, on fostering young talents for research and their engagement in ERA and on developing of research skills and entrepreneurial mindset among young researchers. The imbalance between EU member states in terms of research performance was pointed out several times during the conference. The new member states often lack adequate research infrastructures, leading to brain drain and subsequent loss of financial support (“Two speed Europe”). In order to overcome this situation, the EU should support struggling member states in building modern research infrastructures.

*Andreas Fritsch, Austria*

## MEET EURODOC AT UPCOMING EVENTS

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Research Career Fair, Berlin, Germany**

<http://www.researchcareerfair.com/>

**4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> June 2009, University of Lausanne, Switzerland**

Annual Meeting of the EUA Council for Doctoral Candidates – <http://www.eua.be/events/eua-cde-annual-meeting>

**5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw, Poland**

A Conference on “The Model of Functioning of the PhD Studies. Good Practices at the PhD Studies” – <http://wpc.waw.pl/conference/>.

**4<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Prague, Czech Rep.**

34<sup>th</sup> FEBS Congress – Life’s Molecular Interactions <http://www.febs2009.org/>

**18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> September 2009, The Technical University of Denmark, Denmark**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Rectors and Presidents of European Universities of Technology, “Climate Change, Sustainable Energy and the Roles of European Universities of Technology” – <http://www.crp-eut.org/>

**15<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Athens, Greece**

Euroscience Mediterranean Event 2009 – <http://www.esme2009.org/>

Report on Eurodoc Conference 2009, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> March

The Annual Conference and General Assembly of Eurodoc, the European Association for doctoral candidates and young researchers, was held from 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> March at the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. It was hosted by the Asociácia Doktorandov Slovenska (ADS, Slovak PhD Students' Association), whereas the Czech organization Studenská komora Rady vysokých škol (SKRVŠ, Students' Council of the Chamber of Higher Education Institutions) was involved in the organization.

### Conference

The conference entitled “Innovation in Europe: From Academia to Practice and Back” focused on issues of intersectoral mobility. The focus of the presentations and discussions was put on the creation of a unified labor market for researchers and on the need for increased investment in research and development. In particular, Europe's lagging behind in achieving its ambitious Lisbon Strategy has been identified as a stumbling block. The EU Commission will make further efforts to create better conditions for young researchers to improve, e.g. with regards to the issue of social security and the implementation of the “European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers”.



Anneli Pauli (EC, DG Research) and Jean-Patrick Connerade (Imperial College, London) after their keynote speeches

### Workshops

#### Fostering Cooperation

##### Between University and Industry

Presented were case studies of collaborations between the academic and private sectors, from which, ideally, both will benefit. At Lancaster University (UK) postgraduate students have the option to spend one year in a company, or even to establish their own businesses. At the University of Žilina (SK), there is a

“Science and Technology Park”, which helps start-up companies and encourages good business ideas of students and doctoral candidates. A study of intersectoral cooperation in Flanders showed that the chances of intersectoral mobility are often overlooked due to lack of information. Furthermore, intellectual property rights is an important issue, especially for industry partners.

#### Success Stories of Intersectoral Mobility

ScanRobot is an automatic book scanner, which the young Treventus company, a spin-off company of the TU Vienna, has developed. A representative of this company presented the company he co-founded and outlined the development history of the idea from the laboratory to the finished product. The development of a sound business plan and securing intellectual property rights (patents), are crucial steps on this

way. In addition, it needs a lot of motivation, enthusiasm and teamwork for the successful implementation of such a project.

#### Lisbon Strategy and Innovation Policy

Theme of this workshop were current developments in the EU to achieve the Lisbon objectives. The COST program

(European Cooperation in Science and Technology) was presented. Trends in the

European labour market and the contribution of the regions and the universities were discussed. In summary, it was found that the national commitment is often unsatisfactory,

even though investment in research and development results in long-term growth and creates jobs.

#### The Role of Universities in the Innovation Economy

The mission of the universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was discussed: Should these only foster and administer innovations or act as “players” themselves? How does the protection of innovation combine with the open nature of universities? The diverse needs of society, politics and industry are an additional challenge.

Thomas Jørgensen presented the perspective of the European University Association on modernisation of the universities and the reform of doctoral programmes therein.

#### General Assembly

Eurodoc 2009 General Assembly started with the “Annual Board Secretariat & Presidential Report”. Moving to further internal issues it ended with the election of the new board for the years 2009–2010.

The next Eurodoc conference will be hosted by ÖH Doktorat – doktorat.at from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in Vienna. Further information will be given in the next issue of Eurodoc Newsletter.

Andreas Fritsch, Austria



Gertjan Tommel (Eurodoc) introducing a plenary session

## Young Researchers' Lobby in the Kremlin

*Eurodoc Member Russian Union of Young Scientists report on their recent successful activities.*

The Russian Union of Young Scientists is an All-Russian non-governmental organization established by the Congress of Young Researchers and Scientists of Russia, that took place on October 20–21, 2005, gathering more than 700 delegates that represented over 500 higher education institutions, research organizations and scientific centers from 77 regions of Russia.

The principal objectives of the Russian Union of Young Scientists are the following:

Development and realization of measures with the aim of strengthening the creative potential and social activity of young people engaged in the sphere of science, research and education;

Consolidation of young intellectuals in order to coordinate the development of well-grounded proposals concerning the improvement of various spheres of Russian society;

Development of cooperative relationships, both working and informal, among representatives of Russian researchers' community.

In recent years the Russian Union of Young Scientists has submitted proposals concerning the improvement of the scientific and technical expert examination system, the realization of the National Project "Education", increasing academic mobility, and solving young researchers' dwelling problems.

Among the Union's most recent initiatives that have been supported and implemented by Russian high authorities, the following are worth mentioning:

On July 30, 2008 the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, signed the Decree of Russian Federation President Prize in Science and Innovation for Young Scientists, supporting the proposal announced on March 19, 2008 by a representative of the Russian Union of Young Scientists at a meeting of the Presidium of the Presidential Council for Science, Technology and Education.

According to this Decree, three Russian Federation President Prizes in Science and Innovation for Young Scientists were established in the amount of



*From left to right: Kinga Kurowska (Poland), Nikola Macharová (Slovakia), Elena Rybalkina (Russia) and Elena Xení (Cyprus) in Prague*

2.5 million rubles each (about 70000 EUR), to support young specialists and researchers and to encourage their activity in the sphere of innovation.

The Presidential Prize will be granted from 2008 onwards to Russian citizens for their significant contributions to the development of national scientific research and innovations to stimulate the laureates' further researches and provide favorable conditions for new achievements in the spheres of research and innovation.

On July 28, 2008, the Government of Russia approved a Federal Target Program, on "Human Resources for Science, Research, Education and Innovation in Russia" for 2009–2013. The overall budget of the Program is 90.454 billion rubles (about 2.5 billion EUR).

The Program aims at creating conditions for effectively managing human resources in the sphere of research and education, as well as attracting young people to science, research, education and high-tech, and preserving the intergenerational continuity of the process.

The representatives of the Union actively participated in developing proposals for the Program, many of which were included in the final version of the document. The Chairman of Council of the Russian Union of Young Scientists,

Dr. Alexander Scheglov, was included by the government in the interdepartmental working group responsible for developing the draft version of the Program.

It is also worth noting that the Union played an important role in developing the Human Resources Program. Though being represented in the working group by only one member, those in the Union who were interested had an opportunity to submit their proposals concerning which the measures needed to be taken and issues that had to be taken into consideration when developing the draft document.

Participating in the program's development, the Union placed a special emphasis on young scientists' and researchers' interests. In particular, our organization succeeded in including the requirement of reserving no less than 50% of the remuneration for labor on research projects for young participants, insisting that some contests are to be specially organized for young scientists and researchers, etc.

All these facts illustrate the high importance of the activities of the Russian Union of Young Scientists in the interests of young scientists and researchers in Russia. It is our hope to be able to continue to play an important role not only at a national level.

*Rybalkina Elena,  
Eurodoc Coordinator in Russia*

## Prolonging the Survey till 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009

Eurodoc is conducting a Europe-wide survey of doctoral researchers – the first survey of doctoral researchers on this scale – in cooperation with the International Centre for Higher Education Research at the University of Kassel. The survey that launched on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 is now prolonged until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

This is the first survey of its kind and roughly 100,000 European doctoral researchers have already been asked to take part.

Referring to the main aims and objectives of the survey in question, Karoline Holländer, last year's Eurodoc President and this year's survey workgroup co-

ordinator and survey expert, explains that the survey will help to answer major questions concerning doctoral education in Europe *"with the clear aim to improve the situation of doctoral candidates"*. Karoline Holländer, calling for everybody's participation notes: *"We invite all doctoral candidates to take part in the survey, in order to use their right to participate in the Bologna process."*

Max Reinhardt, last year's survey co-ordinator, and a Eurodoc survey expert, talking about the main aspects of the online survey mentions that *"The survey covers a broad range of aspects concerning young researchers."* The topics include qualification requirements, career

paths, funding schemes, models of training and supervision, working conditions, expected and achieved results of scientific work and mobility.

The survey was welcomed by a great number of doctoral researchers who joined this research attempt with much enthusiasm. If you belong to those who haven't taken a chance to participate and wish to do so, let us remind you that you will find the online survey at: <http://www.eurodoc.net/survey/>. The deadline has moved to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2009. So go ahead, there's still time for that!

Nikola Macharová, Slovakia  
Elena Xení, Cyprus

## CELEBRATING RESEARCH IN BERLIN

For the first time an event entirely dedicated to researchers' careers will be held in Berlin this May, 28<sup>th</sup>. This Franco-German initiative is a major event aimed at promoting R&D activities across Europe. Together the Franco-German Forum (FFA), Association pour l'emploi des cadres (APEC) and the Franco-German University (UFA) are expecting **60 exhibitors and 1,500 doctorands** for this European event.

This event will provide European re-

searchers with a **great chance to network** and to see what sort of **career opportunities** are open to them. More than a **recruitment career fair**, the event will allow researchers to build their career plans. Many **large European firms** such as Areva, Total, Thales, the CEA, etc. will be present.

The European Research Career Fair allows researchers to:

- **Exchange** ideas with other researchers and research centers

- **Meet research organisations which are recruiting**
- Benefit from the **advice** of researchers and organisations about careers and **European mobility**.

With the support of the European Commissioner for Research Janez Potočnik, the European Research Career Fair focuses on the major issues of research in Europe thanks to a **series of conferences**, round tables and keynote speakers.

## 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, 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 details:

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