

Press release: announcement

Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers from All Over Europe Are Coming to Vienna to Discuss The Future Of Doctoral Studies

Brussels (B), February 2010

*Stocktaking and prospects: Doctoral Training and Research
The Link between EHEA and ERA*

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

"For a couple of days in March 2010, Vienna will be the centre of the debate on Doctoral Studies throughout Europe", says Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen, Board Member of Eurodoc.

Every year since 2001, Eurodoc has convened an annual international conference for young researchers. This year the conference takes place in Vienna, Austria from 11th-15th of March. The aim of the Eurodoc conference is to provide a framework for young European researchers to meet with stakeholders from different fields and to engage in fruitful discussions on the construction of the European Research and Higher Education Areas (ERA and EHEA). "The goal is for researchers to act rather than just complain afterwards", adds Eurodoc President Nikola Macharová, "and doctoral candidates are in fact researchers at the start of their careers".

The framework topic of this year's conference is "Stocktaking and prospects: Doctoral Training and Research – The Link between EHEA and ERA". 2010 marks ten years since the European Research Area was introduced by the European Commission and it marks five years since the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers was released. This document collects a set of principles of good practice for researchers, research funding and research performing institutions with the aim of making the European Research Area more attractive. by Eurodoc Survey Workgroup Co-ordinator Karoline Holländer emphasizes the collaborative aspect: "Since more than ten years, Eurodoc has collected a lot of expertise from its 32 member organisations and its recent survey of doctoral candidates throughout Europe, and we are happy to share all this". Such an evidence-based assessment means collecting what has been achieved, but also asking what can be improved.

The first day of the conference will take up the topic "5 Years Doctoral Programmes in the Bologna Process": Do we have the right focus? What is missing? What have we learnt? Key stakeholders from academia and policy makers will give their input. Various workshops will follow on topics ranging from working conditions and career paths to recruitment and training for doctoral candidates, but also dealing with specific themes like the Open Access debate.

The second day of the conference is dedicated to discussion of how to achieve greater coherence in research policy in Europe to exploit the research potential of countries and regions which received less attention so far, including countries outside the EU. Key educational policy makers from all over Europe will give their perspective on the challenges and opportunities they see.

The remaining days are dedicated to the annual internal General Meeting of Eurodoc.

European policy makers in education and science and representatives of various research institutions will be present as well as the main focus group of the conference: doctoral candidates and junior researchers.

For the full program and registration please go to: <http://eurodoc.net/2010/>

Contact:

For questions about the conference please contact 2010@eurodoc.net or Zaza Nadja Lee Hansen, General Board Member for External Communication, EURODOC, board@eurodoc.net, phone: +45 28742869

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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 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 please contact 2010@eurodoc.net.

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