

Brussels (B), June 23, 2010

Izabela Stanisławiszyn highlights the areas for improving doctoral programmes at the Bologna Seminar on Doctoral Studies in the European Higher Education Area

Izabela Stanisławiszyn, Eurodoc President, participated in the Bologna Seminar **Doctoral Studies in the European Higher Education Area**, which took place in **Warsaw** on **17-18 June 2010**.

The seminar was aimed to discuss the latest developments in doctoral studies in Europe, to exchange experience on present models of doctoral studies, to discuss pros and cons of the introduction of ECTS¹ for doctoral programmes, to discuss quality indicators for doctoral studies and possible models of accreditation and quality assurance.

In her speech «Doctoral studies from a doctoral candidate's perspective», Eurodoc President suggested that doctoral programmes should attempt to define a mission or vision shared by all partners which is to facilitate the process of turning doctoral candidates into excellent researchers. She also urged to provide a clear administrative structure for doctoral programmes, candidates and supervisors, and offer a clear status for doctoral candidates. Collaboration among major partners should ensure critical mass and help overcome the isolation of young researchers.

In addition, Izabela emphasised that the sufficient teaching and transferable skills training as well as enhanced opportunities for mobility, international collaboration and inter-institutional cooperation are amongst top areas for improving the quality of doctoral programmes.

¹ ECTS - European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

Izabela Stanisławiszyn underlined the need to clearly discern doctoral education from the 1st and 2nd cycle of the Bologna Process and called for the recognition of the professional status of doctoral candidates in Europe.

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.

Eurodocs 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 cooperation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers within Europe*
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