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Editor's note

Dear Readers,

It's been a long journey since you last received our newsletter. A new General Board was elected, the Eurodoc Annual Conference took place in Lisbon and the Baku Forum was a tremendous success with many Eurodoc members represented.

However, these are just some details of all the activities that took place during the last months. In this Newsletter all of you will get the opportunity to see some of the activities of Eurodoc members and news from some Eurodoc partners. Apart from all those activities mentioned before, it is also important to tell you that we will make a huge effort to publish a new newsletter in a regular way. We are completely aware of the importance that this platform has to improve the internal communication among Eurodoc members and also to reinforce our relationship with external partners.

Ivo Neto, Portugal

About Eurodoc

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 all 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**, organise 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**.

Meet the Eurodoc Board

At Eurodoc's Annual General Meeting, which took place on April 6-7, a new Eurodoc Board was elected. [Slobodan Radicev](#) (Serbia) was re-elected as President of Eurodoc, with the other positions being filled by [Kristina Majsec](#) (Vice-president - Croatia), [John Peacock](#) (Secretary - Belgium), Patrick Tuijp (Treasurer - The Netherlands), and [Jovan Shopovski](#) (Macedonia), [Marcin Styrna](#) (Poland) and [Ivo Neto](#) (Portugal) as General Board Members.

Eurodoc Annual Conference 2013



Europe's Grand Societal Challenges The Role of Early Stage Researchers

EURODOC'13 held four plenary sessions with distinguished speakers from various national and international organisations.

The topics were:

- Plenary session I: The EU 2020 Framework Programmes for Research and Sustainable Innovation
- Plenary session II: Growing in a Healthy Environment: New trends in Research
- Plenary Session III: Working and research within the Framework of a Sustainable Society
- Plenary Session IV: Science, Communication and Social Change.

The working conditions of young researchers, their future perspectives and the role of scientific research in society were the main topics debated at the EURODOC'13 conference that took place at the Fundação Caloust Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal, between 4th and 5th of April, which hosted 300 researchers from different countries.

The event was jointly organised by EURODOC (The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers) and the Portuguese Association of the Grant-holding Researchers (ABIC- Associação dos Bolseiros de Investigação Científica), with the theme "Europe's Grand Societal Challenges: the role of Early Stage Researchers". The conference was opened by Slobodan Radicev, president of Eurodoc, and André Janeco, president of ABIC.

Members of EURODOC (35 national associations of doctorates and young researchers from 34 countries of the European Union and the Council of Europe) highlighted the economic situation in Europe, and the challenges that researchers, in the beginning of their career, have to face. Slobodan Radicev said that: "We have to fight for our rights and our role in and outside research institutions, no one else is going to do that for us. We need to take responsibility and give our maximum to make Europe and all European societies a better place for research and living."

André Janeco stressed the fact that this conference was held for the first time in Portugal, "a country with its difficulties and its particularities in research, but also in economic, social and labour conditions". He expressed his hope that "we can reinforce wider visions on justice and solidarity policies in Europe".

News from member associations

May: A month to fight for Young Researchers

ABIC, the Portuguese Association of Grant-holding Researchers organized, during the month of May, a host of activities throughout all the research institutions of the country. Under the theme "The Future is not Constructed with Precarious Science", the main goal was to fight for the dignity and value of those who are working with research grants.

The campaign advocated for labour contracts for researchers and the defence of a fair and regulated remuneration for all the work they do. There was also space for claims against the exclusiveness basis of work, which is seen as a restriction on professional and personal development.



“Stronger and closer to our goals”

To the President of ABIC, André Janeco, these activities, “have as a goal to call to the attention of the whole society the difficult situation in which young researchers are living... We also intend to reach government with our claims, in order to value scientific work and fight the precarious conditions of living that we are all facing”. The ABIC president was quite confident about the action: “I am confident that researchers made one more step towards changing this situation”. “The 10 years of ABIC, and the recognition that we have to fight for researchers, allows us to believe that in the end we are stronger and closer to our goals”, concluded André Janeco.

These initiatives fall within the plan of activities prepared by ABIC for the year 2013 in order to make Portuguese society, as well as political forces, aware of the importance of the work done by scientific researchers in the country’s development. “The Future is not Constructed with Precarious Science” is the theme chosen for the campaign that took place during the month of May.

The first activity was realized during the 1st of May. Researchers were invited to join protest initiatives taking place across the entire country and fight for a new status as normal workers, a position long advocated by ABIC. Throughout the month of May the members of this association have signed a postcard with claims that have passed throughout the country. In this document were specified practical problems of researchers and the consequences of those problems for society. The ‘Photoprotest’, an initiative that had a lot of success in previous years was reissued. ABIC aims to demonstrate the importance that researchers have in the institutions where they work, and also to the National Scientific System.

Ivo Neto, Portugal

News from member associations



National Library
of the Czech Republic



Education and Culture DG

Culture Programme

National Library of the Czech Republic now offers eBooks on Demand (EOD) service, enabling their collections of copyright free books to be ordered as e-books on users’ request from any part of the world. Thus the EOD network now assembles 36 European libraries from 12 countries.

Items to be requested for digitisation from the Czech National Library can be found from the EOD search engine :

<http://search.books2ebooks.eu/Search/Results?lookfor=&type=AllFields&filter%5B%5D=institution%3A%22nkr%22&view=list>

or separately from original catalogues:

- NKC - Electronic Catalogue of the National Library of the Czech Republic

<http://aleph.nkp.cz/eng/nkc>

- STT - Incunabula, Early Printed Books and Maps 1450-1800 <http://aleph.nkp.cz/eng/stt>

- SLK - Electronic Catalogue of the Slavonic Library <http://aleph.nkp.cz/eng/slk>

The collection of the Czech National Library contains over 6,6 million items, including 18 893

historical documents. Important part is National Conservation Collection, which has been built on the basis of the legal deposit right since 1805. Items of the Slavonic Library are also offered, including Slavistic publications in the fields of history, philology and political sciences, as well as selected poetry and fiction.

Now altogether five libraries from the Czech Republic offer their collections for digitisation on request, including also the Academy of Sciences Library of the Czech Republic, National Library of Technology, Research Library Olomouc and one library who also offers reprints - Moravian Library in Brno.

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News from Eurodoc Partners

Young project managers in the consortium – does the age difference matter

Consortium building and the involvement of the best experts is one of the most important steps of the project development. The project team is working hard together for several months on the proposal to be successful and to receive a positive evaluation. As a result of the persistent and thorough work we arrive to the kick-off meeting where the partners can meet for the first time. This will be the first event where you can meet with all the experts you worked with previously, and with further colleagues who will be responsible for the project implementation at the partner organisation. It happens more and more often that your contact person is a young project manager, a young researcher, who is supposed to have the general overview of the project structure; who is responsible for the deliverables and their timely submission; for the budget control and for the monitoring of the project activities. This young manager will participate in the project meetings and represent the position of his/her institute.

In many cases the young project manager can hit the wall, because the senior, more experienced managers and researchers do not treat her/him as an equal partner. How can we overcome this gap? How can a young manager/researcher get accepted? What is the best attitude from the senior researchers?

Although in many cases we do not pay a particular attention to this issue but it is important to handle it from the beginning because the conflicts may hinder the implementation of the project.

The possible solution needs to be approached from two sides, as the attitude of the young researcher is just as important as the senior researcher's attitude. As I am one of the young managers with 3.5 years of experience I believe that the young, less experienced person has to make the first steps. A lot depends on our style/attitude while we are expressing our opinions and suggestions. It is not surprising that young people have different understanding of the world and they would use new innovative approaches, which don't necessarily reflect the views of the seniors.

In this case it is important to bear in mind that the "self-assertive" "I will change the world" behaviour is not the best way to enforce our interest but the calm, professionally sound arguments and the well considered actions that reflect our full commitment and "lowliness" is much more effective.

I believe that the forward looking professionalism (in line with our experience), the commitment and the respect to the senior colleagues may help you soon to be treated as an equal partner.

I have to highlight that the attitude of the senior researcher is also important. They should be able to accept that not all the young managers are "Pretenders", and the new approach of the young people can be an added value during the project implementation.

Young people should get professional help and guidance, which not only supports the skills development of the young researcher but the conflict-free cooperation and the supportive environment contributes to the project...



achievements. If the seniors cannot treat the young colleagues as equal partners, they should become tutors, mentors.

During my first project due to age and experience difference I've had to go through some difficulties but as I mentioned above, it is possible to surmount to this. I am grateful to my partners that they were helpful, partly this is the reason why we are still good colleagues.

I'm sure that most of us have been in a consortium where the partners with different age and years of experience worked together. Does the age difference or the different level of experience cause any problem for you? If yes, how did you overcome this situation? What was the good solution? Was there any good solution?

If you wish, please share your thoughts, comments! Let's help each other!



Ms. Krisztina Tóth, Europa Media

Grad Resources

The isolating nature of doctoral programs and research makes it extremely difficult to get messages of support to the doctoral students who need them most. We hope that young researchers will find articles and resources on our site to improve the quality of life for every student, Crisis-Care for those who are at a point of despair and a source of support from our e-mentors or a local faith community group where available.

Grad Resources is a source of support for the personal, emotional and spiritual needs of young researchers and doctoral students everywhere. The website (www.GradResources.org) has a variety of articles that speak to the challenges that keep so many students from completing their advanced degree. However, for some, the grad pressures become more than an article can address.

In 1998, Jason Altom, a 27-year old doctoral student from Harvard felt overwhelmed by his program and oppressed by his advisor and took his own life. In response to Jason Altom's tragic story, Grad Resources launched the National Grad Crisis-Line in 1999. Today, The Crisis-Line helps doctoral students reach confidential, free telephone counseling, provided by trained staff who understand the unique needs of young researchers. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. It is a voice of support whenever and wherever students need it most.

You can SKYPE the Crisis-Line at 800-472-3457.



Baku (Azerbaijan) Conference

[New Challenges in the European Area: Young Scientist's 1st International Baku Forum](#)

Between 20th and 25th Baku received the *Young Scientist's International Forum*. This event was organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan Young Scientists, Postgraduated and Masters Union (AYSPMU) in collaboration with Eurodoc.

With the theme "New Challenges in the European Area: Young Scientist's 1st International Baku Form", this event joined almost 300 researchers from all over Europe.



This conference was organized with the purpose of promoting cooperation between young scientists and researchers from different European countries and disciplines. On the other hand it was an important time to develop new relationships, exchange scientific information and create suitable conditions for the performance of interdisciplinary research in the future.

During the meeting all the researchers had the opportunity to follow five different parallel sessions within the theme “Crossing of interest: European young scientist’s experimental works – methods and results” :

1-Economy and sociology: business development of science and scientists, problems and new methods; scientist’s cooperation with business & economic structures and integration.

2-Technical sciences: new works in technical, nano technology, ICT spheres.

3-Medicine, biology and chemistry: European young scientist’s scientific works and results in medicine, chemistry & biology.

4-Ecology and agrarian: protecting biodiversity, soil contamination, degradation, good state of the water.

5-History, philosophy, culture: European young scientist’s cooperation between humanitarian spheres.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit Shamaxi Astrophysical Observatory in Shamaxi district and a tour was organized of the old town of Baku- Icherishaha .

This Forum was a great opportunity to strengthen the existing young scientist networks within the European Research Area and facilitate the establishment of new international cooperation.

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