

Welcome

to the newsletter of the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. Here you can find recent news and events for early-career researchers across Europe. Our newsletter is a joint collaboration between the many members of Eurodoc and is distributed across 32 countries in Europe. Feel free to contact us with news, questions, opinions, contributions, and information on events for early-career researchers. Would you like to advertise in our newsletter? Contact us for information on our packages.

Eurodoc

is a non-party, non-profit, pan-European, grassroots federation of 32 national associations (NAs) of doctoral candidates (DCs) and junior researchers (JRs) in Europe. Eurodoc was founded in 2002 and aims to: represent all early-career researchers (ECRs) in Europe; improve the quality of training, research, and career development for ECRs; share information and organise events for ECRs; establish and promote cooperation between national associations of ECRs; inform and influence policy making for ECRs.

This issue

focuses on our conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26–29 April 2017 in Oslo, Norway. The theme was ‘Open Science: Challenges and Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers’ and involved distinguished speakers from major stakeholders in education and research as well as representatives from national associations from 22 countries in Europe.

Edited by Iryna Degtyarova & Gareth O'Neill



What Eurodoc means for ECRs? Map of mind AGM 2017
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Eurodoc Conference/AGM 2017 © Oleksandr Berezko



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Eurodoc 2017 Conference & AGM

The 2017 Annual Eurodoc Conference themed “Open Science – Challenges and Opportunities for Early-Career Researchers” took place from 26–27 April and was co-organised by Norwegian associations SiN and UiODoc and hosted by the University of Oslo. It was also greatly supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and several Norwegian higher education institutions (UiO, NIH, NTNU, NMBU, HSN, UiT, UiS, UiB). The Eurodoc Conference brought together a blend of Open Science visionaries, European Commission officials, international experts and stakeholders related to Open Science. The Eurodoc 2017 conference provided great insight to the processes behind open access science, highlighting the advantages, risks and problems involved with Open Science.

The Conference was opened by SiN Vegard Stenhjem Hagen, Eurodoc President Ewelina Pabjańczyk-Wlaziło, State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research Bjørn Haugstad and Rector of University of Oslo prof. Ole Petter Ottersen.

Eurodoc 2017 held five plenary sessions with speakers invited from ECRs associations, Eurodoc members and stakeholders from all around Europe who shared with us best practices, personal experiences and ways forward to a more open academia. Live transmission of key sessions was organized.

The conference was followed by the **Annual General Meeting**, composed of open part – presentations of key European academic stakeholders, and closed/internal part, during which Eurodoc Board presented the Annual Report, Annual Questionnaire Report and Financial Report to be discussed and approved by the AGM. AGM was traditionally chaired by Dante Micheaux (UK). It was an honour also to have the presentations made by David Oliva Uribe, Head of the EUA-CDE, Gordon Dalton, ICoRSA Chair, representatives of the Marie Curie Alumni Association, Euroscience, EIT Alumni and The Research Council of Norway, on Euraxess.

Furthermore, workshops entitled “Addressing equality among ECRs”, “Facilitating efficiency in the Organisation”, “Elaborating the framework for collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders”, “ECRs consideration on Research Integrity” were held and led by Eurodocers. Projects, structural changes (working groups), strategic aims goals for the upcoming year were discussed. A new Eurodoc Administration – the President, the Board, WGs coordinators, Advisory Board, other officers were elected for the term 2017/2018. New Board legally took over on the 1st June, after the expiry of the transition period.

The new 2017/2018 Board is composed as follows: Eurodoc President – Gareth O'Neill (PNN, the Netherlands), Vice-President – Ieva Krūmiņa (LZJA, Latvia), Secretary –

Conference Sessions

Session 1: Why Open Science Concerns Us All – chaired by Erlend Dancke Sandorf (SiN, Norway) with Pandelis Perakakis (University of Granada, Open Scholar) and Fabienne Gautier (EC, DG RTD) as speakers.

Session 2: Obstacles to Open Science and How They Can Be Overcome – chaired by Katharina Müller (THESIS, Germany) and Aidis Stukas (LSYR, Lithuania), Ieva Krūmiņa (LZJA, Latvia), Gareth O'Neill (PNN, The Netherlands) and Jan Palmowski (The Guild) as speakers.

Session 3: Organized as panel debate on topic What Steps Can Government and University Leaders Take to Promote Open Science? with the distinguished panellists: Katrien Maes (LERU), Alexander Jensenius (The Young Academy of Norway), Fabienne Gautier (EC, DG RTD), Maja Mise (Marie Curie Alumni Association), Ole Petter Ottersen (University of Oslo) and led by Jan Magnus Aronsen (The Young Academy of Norway).

Session 4: Academic Publishing: Time for a Paradigmatic Shift? – chaired by Filomena Parada (ABIC, Portugal) and Bonnie Wolff-Boenisch (Science Europe), Katrien Maes (LERU), Jon Øygarden Flæten (Norwegian Research Council) as speakers.

Antoine Dujardin (CJC, France), Treasurer – Farouk Allouche (CJC, France), General Board Members – Emanuele Storti (ADI, Italy), Eva Hnátková (SK RVŠ, Czech Republic), Péter Szabó (DOSZ, Hungary).

AGM set the following **strategic goals for the term 2017–2018** which will concern (1) Eurodoc's promotion of interests: to monitor and promote ECRs' career development in and outside academia; to monitor the structure and quality of doctoral training; to contribute to European policies on interdisciplinarity as well as on Open Science; to make Eurodoc contribution to research integrity, ECRs with special needs, mental health and well-being among ECRs; (2) Increase Eurodoc's external visibility and the (3) institutional development (i.e. to improve Eurodoc's structure and increase resources).

Next Eurodoc Conference and Annual General Meeting will be hosted by Finland (University of Tampere) in April 2018.

Authors: Iryna Degtyarova, Rachelle Esterhazy, Antoine Dujardin

Session 5: What We Can Learn from the Early-Career Researchers' Community – was led by Gareth O'Neill (PNN, The Netherlands) and speakers: Slobodan Radicev (Euroscience), Charlotte Teresa Weber (co-authors Melania Borit & Michaela Aschan; TODOS, Norway), Filomena Parada & Anna Tschaut (ABIC, Portugal/THESIS, Germany), Eva Hnatkova & Fulvio Rizzo (SK RVS, Czech Republic/FUURT, Finland).



Conference routine



Session 3 on "What Steps Can Government and University Leaders Take to Promote Open Science?"



Eurodoc meets stakeholders



New delegates training



Eurodoc Boards of 2016 & 2017



Transfer of Presidency: from Ewelina to Gareth

EURODOC AGM Workshop “ECRs consideration on Research Integrity”

The workshop was held during the Eurodoc AGM in Oslo on 28th, April 2017. It was led by Ukrainian team – Iryna Degtyarova (Board Member) & Yuliya Ovchynnykova (Inderdisciplinarity WG).

Yu.Ovchynnykova presented US case-study: research integrity in California, USA (an overview of the basic principles of research integrity in the US universities). I.Degtyarova made an overview of the key policy documents on research integrity in the EU, as well as good practices of stakeholder organisations (European Commission, Science Europe, EUA, LERU, etc.). Moreover Eurodocers have an opportunity to learn and discuss new European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

Undoubtedly research integrity is one of the most significant topics and policy priorities in Europe and in member countries! Eurodoc and NAs should concern it.

AGM voted to make it a strategic goal for the next 2017/2018 term. We fully support fundamental principles of research integrity and consider good research practices in all fields of research activities.

It would be important for Eurodoc to contribute to the Code of Conduct of Research Integrity as well as to contribute to

“Research integrity may be defined as active adherence to the ethical principles and professional standards essential for the responsible practice of research and academic activities”.



**The European
Code of Conduct for
Research Integrity**
REVISED EDITION



The Code is available via the link:

<http://www.allea.org/allea-publishes-revised-edition-european-code-conduct-research-integrity>

public discussions. Eurodoc could also launch a promotion campaign of Research Integrity Code as we do in C & C support. Thus we see this Code as a continuation of Charter & Code.

By accepting research integrity as a strategic annual goal for 2017/2018, Eurodoc proves All-European DCs and ECRs commitment to achieving excellence and the highest standards of integrity and research ethics in doctoral training and professional development in and outside academia.

Author: Iryna Degtyarova



See our Eurodoc Statement on Framework Programme 9 on recommendations for ECRs: <http://eurodoc.net/sites/default/files/attachments/2017/133/eurodocfp9statement.pdf>

Eurodoc Annual Goals for 2017/2018

A. Eurodoc's promotion of interests

- Increase awareness on mental health and well-being among ECRs
- Monitor and promote ECRs' career development in and outside academia
- Monitor the structure and quality of doctoral training
- Contribute to European policies on research integrity
- Contribute to European policies on interdisciplinarity
- Contribute to European policies on Open Science
- Address the situation of ECRs with special needs

B. Increase Eurodoc's external visibility

- Set up a list of Eurodoc's cooperating organisations and stakeholders and prioritise them
- Participate in projects and relations with cooperating organisations and stakeholders
- Strive for representation of ECRs in expert groups of accreditation commissions

C. Improve Eurodoc's structure and increase resources

- Activate and improve the visibility of the WGs as a whole
- Ensure the division of labour among board members
- Increase internal transparency and communication
- Formulate and implement a financial strategy
- Develop a formal agreement with Focus Research on the use of services and facilities

Meet the Eurodoc Board Members 2017/2018



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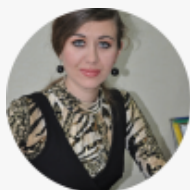
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Enrico Riccardi

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Katharina
Müller

Co-coordinator WG
Open Science



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Coordinator WG
Policy Research



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Careers



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Join the Eurodoc Working Groups 2017/2018

If you are interested in joining a Eurodoc working group then send an email to info@eurodoc.net:

- * WG Accreditation
- * WG Doctoral Training
- * WG Employment & Careers

- * WG Interdisciplinarity
- * WG Mental Health
- * WG Mobility

- * WG Open Science
- * WG Policy Research
- * WG Research Integrity

News from Eurodoc Members



The Constitution for Science: Systemic Changes in Science and Higher Education in Poland

Broadly understood, science and higher education in Poland is in the midst of very intense transformations, which is related to a series of multi-level problems that affects, among other, the level of innovation of the country against other EU countries. Poland is placed on the 39th rank among 128 countries in the 2016 Global Innovation Index, a ranking published by Cornell University in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Poland, having gained 44.2 points out of 100 points possible, has advanced in the ranking by seven places since 2015, however still being a moderate innovator [2] and staying behind countries from the region [1]. Therefore, it means that innovativeness of the economy still requires policy attention and scientific quality is still far from EU standards.

The Polish science and higher education could benefit from more openness to international collaborations, raising the quality of the public science base and nurture its international exposure, as well as from strengthening cooperation between academia and non-academic sectors. Intensive works has been undertaken on the amendments of the bill of the most important law regulating science and higher education in the country – Law on Higher Education, which was announced by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education at the end of 2016. The realisation of this is expressed by a series of thematic conferences organized in nine academic centres of the country, called The National Congress of Science. During the congress, the concept of a new statutory framework for higher education in Poland will be presented and discussed further. Each conference discusses key issues and challenges facing science and higher education, including legislative proposals developed by three independent teams under the draft Act version 2.0. The intention of these consultations is to discuss the main problems and challenges facing by Polish science, to review the research potential of Poland and to reflect on the priorities and tools in this area, taking into account important areas for debate and resolution such as [3]:

- internationalization of science and higher education;
- proposals for changes in the humanities and social sciences;
- intensifying cooperation between science, economy and public administration;
- career path and development of young academic staff;
- availability of education at the elite level in connection with high quality research;
- system and management in higher education.

This particular law and issues mentioned above directly affects early-career researchers, which are the main recipients of all national and European regulations and policies. During the National Congress of Science in September 2017 in Krakow, the Minister of Science and Higher Education presented the draft assumptions to the new Law on Higher Education.

Author: Ewelina Pabjańczyk-Włazło (KRD, Poland)

References

- [1] The Global Innovation Index 2016: Winning with Global Innovation, The Global Innovation Index 2016: Winning with Global Innovation, ISSN 2263-3693, ISBN 979-10-95870-01-2, available at: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2016.pdf
- [2] Research and Innovation performance and Horizon 2020 country participation for Poland 2016, Source: European Union, 2016, ISBN: 978-92-79-54881-9, doi: 10.2777/234308, KI-02-16-084-EN-N, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/country-performance/pl_research_and_innovation_performance.pdf#zoom=125&pagemode=none
- [3] National Congress of Science - <https://nkn.gov.pl/#!/nkn>



Academic Mobilisation in Italy

With the recent approval of the law for autonomous work by the Italian Senate of the Republic, the unemployment indemnity for holders of collaboration contracts finally becomes structural and it is definitely extended to postdocs ("assegnisti di ricerca") and doctoral candidates who are scholarship holders.

The indemnity represents a significant improvement of the current situation and responds – albeit partially – to the need for social protection for those working in precarious conditions in academia.

This sets a final, successful end to the 2-years long campaign #perchénoino. The initiative, promoted by ADI (Associazione Dottorandi e Dottori di Ricerca Italiani) and FLC-CGIL (Federazione dei Lavoratori della Conoscenza) included an intense path of mobilization made up of sit-ins, demonstrations and protest actions supported by a petition signed by more than 16,000 colleagues from all the Italian universities. The active sustain of so many colleagues has been fundamental to make our voices heard and demonstrates how important it is to strike together.

Although this achievement marks a great victory for all doctoral candidates and junior researchers who have been claiming for years the recognition of the dignity of their work, the full recognition of doctoral candidates and postdocs as workers, in accordance with the European Charter & Code for Researchers, is still yet to come. In particular, ADI and FLC-CGIL point out that the law does not include any form of protection against discontinuity of income for non-scholarship holders doctoral candidates and for many other knowledge workers in academy. All graduates who have started their course in 2014 are also not included, with an unacceptable disparity of treatment. ADI and FLC-CGIL will continue to fight for all those who are still excluded from this fundamental right.

Author: Emanuele Storti (ADI, Italy)

@<https://dottorato.it/733-perchenoino-presentiamo-in-massa-la-domanda-per-la-dis-coll>



Meet Eurodoc National Association Members

The Lithuanian National Associations of Young Researchers



Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers (LSYR) is a dynamic knowledge-based autonomous non-political and non-profit nation-wide organisation, established on February 20, 2002 and officially registered on May 12, 2003. Currently, it has more than 150 members (young researchers, scientists, and students) and 18 honorary members from different research fields and institutions all over Lithuania. The organisation's mission is "to encourage young people to become world-class scientists by establishing interdisciplinary scientific community, promoting science and by facilitating improvements in the system of science and education".

Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers is well-known in Lithuania because of their traditional events. One of the first, but already very popular event is the conference "**Lithuanian Forum of Young Researchers**". It is a great opportunity for young researchers together with politicians, researchers and entrepreneurs to discuss important issues. Here are some of the themes from previous years: "Does Lithuania Needs Scientists?", "PhD Studies in Lithuania in 2020: Prognoses and Vision", "Life After PhD" and other actual topics in science.

Another well-known event is the **Awards for Best Dissertation**, a competition for doctoral dissertations defended in Lithuania. This competition is supported by the President of the Lithuanian Republic and the awards ceremony takes place at the Presidential Palace (Vilnius).



President of Lithuania D. Grybauskaitė and LSYR on ceremony of the best thesis of the year



Conference "Smithy of Ideas 2017", organised with Association of Latvian Young Scientists

One of the most oldest events is the conference-camp "**Smithy of Ideas**", which was initiated to encourage communication and collaboration among ECRs from different research areas.

Also, LSYR not forgetting the youngest generation – pupils. We organize the summer camp called "**LSYR summer**". This camp encourage young generation (schoolchildren of 9–12 classes) to be interested in science and to become famous scientists one day.

Moreover, LSYSR helps to facilitate contacts among ECRs nationally and internationally, and to enhance their activities and possibilities; to promote sustainable exchange experience and scientific information; to contribute to improvement of the Lithuanian education system by active participation in various working groups; to act as the main representative organisation on behalf of ECRs in Lithuania.



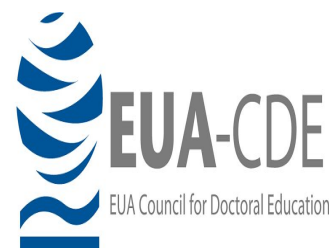
LSYSR chair dr. Milena Medineckienė, Conference at Lithuanian Government on Higher Education

Author: Milena Medineckiene (LSYSR, Lithuania)

Eurodoc Contributions to Events

10th EUA-CDE Annual Meeting

On 15-16th of July the 10th EUA-CDE Annual Meeting took place. The meeting was organised under the theme “Digitalisation: A Game Changer for Doctoral Education?” and was hosted by Tallinn University in Estonia. Eurodoc was represented at the EUA-CDE Annual Meeting by Ewelina Pabjańczyk-Wlaziło, Member of Eurodoc Advisory Board and Eurodoc President in the administrative term 2016/2017.

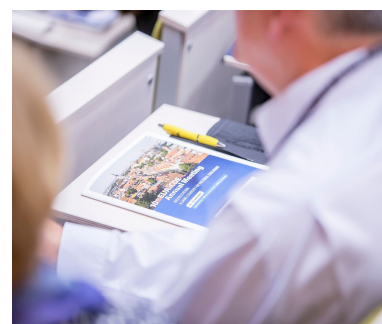


One of the main topics was to discuss the impact of digitalisation on doctoral education and the changing role and practice of research training in digital societies and universities. Societies in general, and universities in particular are facing a transformation brought by the proliferation of digital technologies.

For universities, this requires considering the impact of digitalisation on their different missions and doctoral education has an essential role to play given the crucial role of doctoral candidates and early-stage researchers in ensuring the base for knowledge production in the digital era.

The meeting highlighted various perspectives on the changing role of doctoral education in the context of digitalisation, offering concrete examples across different disciplines to show how doctoral schools are adapting their practices to keep up with digitalisation. Doctoral candidates and early-career researchers find themselves at the forefront of the digital transformation of research and the skills they acquire will be essential for their future careers, be they in academia or in key positions in other fields.

The conference programme and all of the presentations are available online: <http://www.eua.be/activities-services/events/event/2017/06/15/default-calendar/10th-eua-cde-annual-meeting>



Images: © EUA-CDE

The meeting also explored how universities can develop policies to support and guide young researchers in their endeavours in a coherent and responsible manner. The next EUA-CDE Annual Meeting will be held next year in Ljubljana on 06-08 June 2018 and the meeting theme will be “*Excellence through Diversity: Doctoral Education in a Globalised World.*”

Author: Ewelina Pabjańczyk-Włazło



Participants at EUA-CDE Annual Meeting

The Summer Session of the INGOs Conference of the Council of Europe

The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe is a body representing civil society. The Conference of INGOs constitutes a space for free and innovative participation of committed citizens and is the only assembly of NGOs playing an institutional role in an international intergovernmental organisation. Indeed, the Conference of INGOs is one of the four principle bodies of the Council of Europe besides the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Congress of Local Authorities.



Eurodoc joined the Conference in 2014 and recently, the board wanted to stress our interest in the Conference by appointing one of its members, Farouk Allouche, as permanent representative to the Council of Europe. Enhancing human rights, democracy, the rule of law and promoting European culture and values are the core values that explains Eurodoc commitment with the Conference.

The Conference is organized around three major committees: 1- Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges, 2- Education and Culture, and 3- Human Rights. The administration of the Conference organized a full week program including committees' meetings, different side events and plenary session. Beside electing new chairs and vice-chairs for the three committees (Box.1), the conference discussed reports of the board visits to member countries: Ireland, Turkey, Hungary and Cyprus. The Conference adopted the text concerning “Human Rights and Business”. Side events discussed Human Rights Defenders, Digital Technology incidence on Human Rights, Poverty, Europe-Mediterranean, fighting hate speeches, gender perspectives, History Teaching and the rights of the child.

Mrs. Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, deputy-general secretary of the Council of Europe exposed the importance of the Conference as a mirror of the actions of the Council. HE exposed the actual challenges and debates concerning the parliamentary corridor, intercultural cities, and the actions in favor of the victims of terrorism. HE congratulated the NGOs and local authorities' pioneer role in promoting human rights in Europe. Eurodoc representative raised the point about adopting a non-sexist Charter for French, as one of the two working languages. HE welcomed the suggestion. Besides, a working group at the Conference is constituted and coordinated by Mrs. Anne Nègre, gender equality expert at the Council in order to elaborate the Charter. Mr. Mohammad Cherkaoui, member of the UN panel of Experts has been invited to give a global view about Human Rights in the United States.

While serious Human Rights attempts are registered in several countries, NGOs are trying to play a role to push for a more open and human Europe. Some pioneer initiatives may serve as good

practices for citizens' commitment to public affairs especially the citizens' assembly in Ireland. To conclude, hopefully, where there are people willing to make a change, we still can wait for a better future. Hence, Eurodoc as an active partner for change will attend the upcoming events of the Conference.

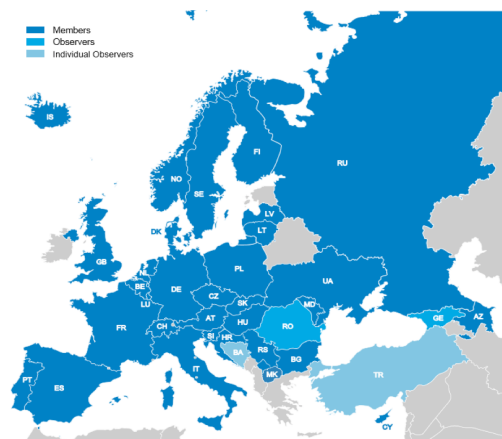
Author: Farouk Allouche (Eurodoc Treasurer)

Joining Eurodoc as a Member or Observer

Eurodoc currently consists of 32 national association members and 4 observers.

If you are interested in setting up a national association for doctoral candidates and/or junior researchers in your country or you are already a national association and would like to join our Eurodoc network then contact us for more information via info@eurodoc.net

If you are interested in getting involved in Eurodoc as an individual early-career researcher then contact one of our national association members for more information: <http://eurodoc.net/eurodoc-members>



Eurodoc Members and Observers 2017/2018

