

Eurodoc 2008 Questionnaire

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 - *Organisation:* SiN
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

▪ **Deadline for submission of answers:** 03/02/2008 17:00 CET

▪ **Email address for submission:**

administration@council.eurodoc.net

Specify in the title of your email: QUESTIONNAIRE and please add the NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY

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Part One: Present Status / General Questions

1. Have there been any changes in the status and/or conditions of doctoral candidates in the past year? Have there been any major changes in Higher Education or Research policies in country the past year? If yes – how have this affected the conditions of ESR's?

YOUR ANSWER No

2. What are the major concerns of doctoral candidates in your country? And how is your association trying to address them?

YOUR ANSWER Extension of the PhD-contract due to taking care of a sick child or yourself being sick shorter than 14 days continuously is a concern. Terms connected to the 25% duty work is also a concern. We try to address these questions through different channels into the Ministry of Education. The activity of the national organisation is, however, at a minimum level at the present time, so not a lot of work is being done.

3. What have been the major projects for your association this past year?

YOUR ANSWER SiN has been involved in a Government report on researcher education and recruitment. SiN has also answered a hearing from the Ministry of Education.

4. Does your association feel that being a part of Eurodoc has been fruitful this past year? - If yes, in what way? If not, why not?

YOUR ANSWER Due to the low activity of SiN, the involvement in Eurodoc has been rather low.

Part Two: Thematic Questions

A. Career Development

1. How are the interests of doctoral graduates who end up working outside academia represented in your country? Are there any organizations representing doctoral graduates who have left academia?

YOUR ANSWER ☹ They are basically represented through labour unions (Tekna and Forskerforbundet) that represents masters and doctoral graduates both within and outside academia. Apart from labour unions, there are no organizations for doctoral students leaving academia.

2. Has the Eurodoc core career paths proposal been taken up in your country? If yes, in what way? If not, why not?

(consult document in:

http://www.eurodoc.net/file/20060125_eurodoc_recommendation_Co-reCareerPathsAcademia.pdf

YOUR ANSWER ☹

3. Are there any qualifications higher than the doctorate/PhD in your country? If yes, tell us more about them and their relevance for people wanting to work in academia.

YOUR ANSWER ☹ No

4. How easy is it for doctoral graduates who work outside of academia to re-enter academia in your country, particularly if they don't have (enough/many) peer-reviewed publications? Are there any ways other than peer-reviewed publications to achieve academic careers in your country (for example, patents)? What alternative measures of (research) excellence are there in your country?

YOUR ANSWER ☹ There are few other ways to re-enter academia apart from peer-reviewed publications and personal contacts. One possible way in is to get a 2 year 20% position as external professor to prove excellence while waiting for a less temporal positions.

5. Tell us about interdisciplinary research in your country? How does it work? Is it being encouraged? Is it easy to get funding for it?

YOUR ANSWER ☹ The Research Council of Norway has a Centres of Excellence (CoE) scheme, with the intention to bring more Norwegian researchers and research groups up to a high international standard. Here, interdisciplinary research is strongly encouraged when applying for such a center. The scheme has been used since 2002 and at present there are 21 CoEs in Norway.

6. How easy/difficult is it to work part-time in academia in your country?

YOUR ANSWER ☺ It is possible, ref. question 4, external professors. How easy/difficult it is depends very much on the other part-time work one does.

7. What is the value of the doctorate in non-academic careers in your country?

YOUR ANSWER ☺ There are non-academic careers in Norway where the doctorate is valued, but the number of such careers are rather limited since Norway is a small country and interest in R&D is quite low when compared to other Nordic countries.

B. Mobility

1. Do you think that researcher's mobility should be evaluated?)? Are you aware of any example of evaluating mobility (in your country or internationally)? Can you propose a way in which it should be done? For which purposes this could be used (for example: advantage for new position for researcher, for institution or similar)?

YOUR ANSWER ☺

2) Have you had any experience with virtual mobility (including research, training, seminars, etc)? If yes, can you give us example and your experience with it? Can you explain benefits of it? Which obstacles have you faced in order to realize it?

YOUR ANSWER ☺

3) Do you know any examples that individual researchers contributed to establishing the cooperation between different institutions (institution of origin and host institution)? If yes, please give us an example

YOUR ANSWER ☺ "Development and applications of intelligent detectors" is an International Research Training Group project that is a cooperation between universities in Bergen, Oslo, Mannheim and Heidelberg, see:
<http://www.fys.uio.no/forskning/drgrad/forskerskoler/irtg/>

The project was initiated by Prof. Bernhard Skaali, Univ. of Oslo, Prof. Dieter Roehrich, Univ. of Bergen and Prof. Norbert Herrmann and Prof. Volker Lindenstruth, Heidelberg.

4) Do you think that mobility of researchers organized within frames of institutional cooperation or partnership offers more benefits to researchers in comparison to those without institutional frames? Can you give us some example?

YOUR ANSWER ☺

5) Can you give us some example from your own experience or experience of your colleagues on how inter-sectoral mobility (university-industry, public-private, etc) contributed to career development and excellence in research?

YOUR ANSWER ☺

C. Statistical information

(PLEASE, state the source for the statistical data and if possible an internet link)

Source: Norsk samfunnsvitenskapelig datatjeneste, Database for statistikk om høgre utdanning

URL: <http://dbh.nsd.uib.no/dbhvev/>

1. Number of doctoral students 2002 – 2006

Total	Male	Female	Foreign doctoral students (nationality and or country of birth)
2002: 5844	2386	1738	1720
2003: 5380	2540	1936	904
2004: 5570	2802	2231	537
2005: 6121	3298	2736	87
2006: 6593	3467	3011	115

And if available:

A) the percentages of the different models of the doctorate (research assistants at university, research assistants at research institute, fellow ship holders, etc.)

B) the percentages of the different subjects (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, etc.)

YOUR ANSWER ☺

Percentage of sum (Norwegian students only) 2002-2006:

Natural Sciences: 24.2%

Medicine: 17.7%
 Technologies: 17.6%
 Social Sciences: 10.6%
 Humanities: 9.76%
 Others: 20.2%

2. Number of doctoral graduates 2002-2006

Total	Male	Female	Foreign doctoral students (nationality and or country of birth)
2002: 734	436	298	N/A
2003: 723	442	281	N/A
2004: 782	476	306	N/A
2005: 855	510	345	N/A
2006: 905	558	347	N/A

And if available:

A) the percentages of the different models of the doctorate (research assistants at university, research assistants at research institute, fellow ship holders, etc.)

B) the percentages of the different subjects (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, etc.)

YOUR ANSWER ✪

Percentage of sum 2002-2006:

Natural Sciences: 27.4%

Medicine: 19.7%

Technologies: 15.5%

Social Sciences: 9.80%

Humanities: 9.75%

Others: 17.8%

Part Three: The Future**1. What are the major goals your association hope to reach in the next year or two?**

YOUR ANSWER ☛ Our main goal is to maintain contact between PhD students and PostDocs in the different PhD awarding institutions in Norway.

Another goal is concerning the rights concerning sick leave for PhD students. At the time being a student (or his/her child) has to be on sick leave for two consecutive weeks to be able to prolong the PhD time. This is not a good situation if we want to encourage women to continue with a PhD or PostDoc position. This is being discussed locally, and the rules are practiced differently at the different institutions. A goal would be to lift the discussion to a national level and work for an equal practice based on a more fine grained resolution than two weeks.

2. What would be the major topics you would like Eurodoc to focus on the next years?

YOUR ANSWER ☛ Promoting co-work between the national organizations, promoting circulation of information concerning PhD students and PostDocs.

3. How do you see your association contributing to reaching these goals?

YOUR ANSWER ☛ By circulating the information concerning young researchers at a national level and by informing EuroDoc if relevant information surfaces at the national level.