

Eurodoc Questionnaire

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- **Venue:** Banska Bystrica, SLOVAKIA
 - **Date:** 25 – 27 March 2009
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Deadline for submission of answers: 15/02/2009 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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In case you represent a country where there is no national association, whenever asked for its opinion, try and provide the general opinion in your country (rather than your personal one).

Part I Present Status - General Questions

- I.1 Have there been any changes in the status and/or conditions of doctoral candidates in the past year? No Deleted:
- I.2 Have there been any major changes in Higher Education or Research policies in country the past year? Yes No please describe
- I.3 If yes – how have this affected the conditions of ESR's (Evaluation Summary Reports of Proposals¹)?
- I.4 In general, what are the hottest topics (in Higher Education and Research & Development) under discussion in your country, in particular affecting young researchers? Specify at least two of these Career paths, combining family and an academic career, more resources to basic research. For career paths, several reports have stated that e.g. tenure tracks positions are needed to ensure a more steady path from doctoral student to permanent employment in academia. Concerning the last topic, there has been a debate that research in Norway has been controlled in a large extent by program based funding and few opportunities for those that fall outside of these. Deleted: .
- I.5 What are the major concerns of doctoral candidates in your country? Career paths, combining family and an academic career, treatment of foreign reserchers Deleted:
- I.6 How is your association trying to address them? By participating in activities like the below mentioned protest, by being contributing to Governmental reports, and by circulating information between our member organizatinos. Deleted: above
Deleted: involved in
- I.7 Which actions or activities has your national association been involved in during 2008? During the Fall of 2008, SiN participated in an action committee consisting of young researchers protesting against the lack of official plans regarding the career paths and use of temporarily employed young researchers. The committee ran a petition where we got 3.000 signatures during two weeks, almost all the signatures from people in the academy. In addition we wrote a Governmental report (the first report of this kind in Norway written by people outside the Government). The report was handed to Minister of Education. In addition SiN has been involved in other Governmental reports and given talks on various symposiums and conferences where young researchers has been an issue. Deleted: g
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- I.8 Does your association feel that being a part of Eurodoc has been fruitful this past year? Yes No
- I.9 For the newly designated delegates, did you have any interaction with the previous delegates of your organisation? Yes No
- I.10 Have you been briefed by anyone in your organisation on your role in Eurodoc? Yes No
- I.11 Are the previous delegates doing any follow-up, are they still involved in your organisation? Yes No describe

¹ <http://www.welcomeurope.com/default.asp?id=3100&idglossaire=208>

Part II Thematic questions: Lisbon Declaration & Bologna ProcessPromotion of Mobility

II.1 Which actions have been taken to promote the mobility of doctoral candidates on the national level in the last years? There has been a reform started in 2003 (the "Quality Reform") basically following up the Bologna process, with a normal distributed grading system and a bachelor-master-PhD programme. The grading system is meant to conform to international grading systems, hence promoting mobility.

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II.2 Which actions have been taken in policy making in the areas of social affairs, finances, immigration (including visas, residence and work permits) on the national level in the last years? None

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Degree Structure

II.3 Which actions have been taken to reform the curricula of doctoral education (improving employability, connected to learning outcomes, etc.) on the national level in the last years? After a reform started in 2003, the education path to a position in academia now consists of 3 year bachelor, 2 year master and 3 year PhD. The research and education part of the Ph.D is usually stipulated to 3 years, with possibilities of including 25% duty work, making it 4 years in total.

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Quality Assurance

II.4 Which actions have been taken to measure quality of doctoral education on the national level in the last years? This is the task of the different institutions, but there are some activity at national level as well. A comprehensive questionnaire to doctoral candidates which had finished their thesis became the basis for a report in 2007 on among other things, quality of the doctoral education and suggestions for improvements. A national conference on the subject will be held by NOKUT (The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education) either in the Fall of 2009 or early 2010.

Employability & Transferable Skills

II.5 Which actions have been taken to develop concepts regarding employability of doctoral candidates on the national level in the last years? None. The discussion has been initiated the Fall 2008 (as a result of the above mentioned action group).

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Gender and funding

II.6 Which actions have been taken to give incentives for more women to stay in science after the doctoral education on the national level in the last years? Specifically asking for women when announcing new positions. Good maternity arrangements (9+3 months payed maternity leave). For young researchers as a group, women constitute more than 40% in Norway.

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Deleted: women

Part III Thematic questions: Charta & Code

III.1 Has your association heard of The European Charter and Code of Conduct? Yes No If yes – has it affected anything with regards to the condition of ESR's in your country? A national committee has been working with how to implement C&C at Norwegian universities and university colleges, and their conclusions will be available soon.

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III.2 Has your association done anything to promote it or are you planning a promotion campaign? Yes No If yes – please give details – If no explain why No time due to the relatively low activity at present in SiN.

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Part IV The future

- IV.1 What the major goals your association hope to reach within the next year or two? **A** Deleted:
major goal is to make the Government and academy come up with real plans on career paths for young researchers. In addition we hope to be able to increase the activity level of our local organizations at universities and university colleges.
- IV.2 What would be the major topics you would like Eurodoc to focus on over the next years? Promoting cooperation between the national organizations, promoting circulation of information concerning PhD students and PostDocs. Deleted: -work
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- IV.3 How do you see your association contributing to reach these goals? By circulating the information concerning young researchers at a national level and by informing EuroDoc if relevant information surfaces at the national level. Deleted:

Part V Research 2009

V.1 Are there any special centres of doctoral candidates or cooperation networks of doctoral candidates in your country? (as a special workplace to organize their work, support their cooperation and offering special services to the companies)

yes no not sure

V.2 How are the activities of these centres financed?

by state universities from their own profit other

V.3 Are these centres part of the university and its hierarchy or independent (e.g. civil association)?

part of the university independent (continue 3.1) other (continue 3.2)

V.3.1 If they are independent, please describe:

V.3.2 If other organisation, please describe the organisation:

V.4 What are the main activities of these centres? (please describe)

V.5 What services do they offer to institutions? (please describe)

V.6 What services do they offer to companies? (please describe)

V.7 What services do they offer to doctoral candidates? (please describe)

V.8 How does the cooperation of these centres and companies look like?

Do companies (multiple answers possible)

- buy solutions to their problems from these centres
 suggest the topics of thesis or research projects
 enable stages for candidates
 pay them scholarships
 offer employment after graduation

V.9 How do you evaluate the existence of these centres? (please describe)

V.9.1 What are their advantages?

V.9.2 What are their disadvantages?

V.9.3 What are the barriers?

V.9.4 What are the plans for future development?

Part VI Statistical Information

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

A Your Association

VI.1 How long has your association existed? Number of years: 6

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VI.2 How many people are working in your association?

Number of people with payment: 0

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Number of people without payment: 6 in the board, 4 active organizations.

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VI.3 Does your association get regular financial support from your state?

Yes No

The amount per month:

VI.10 What is the average amount of salary or bursary of the Doctoral candidates? A PhD candidate's yearly salary is 353 200 NOK (itr. 45) as of 1 may 2008 before tax. No formal minimum wage in norway. Average salary is 3730 euros per month from google search. Please give references (see below), and how is the proportion of doctoral candidates funded by this model?

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	Amount of Money per Month in Euro		%
	Int.	Ext.	
Average Salary (per month in Euro)	<u>3400</u>		
Average Bursary (per month in Euro)			
National Minimum Salary:	<u>No formal minimum</u>		
Average Salary:	<u>3730</u>		
Salary of people with the same skills:			
State Financial Support			
<i>State Regular</i>			
<i>State Irregular</i>			
<i>Grants</i>			
<i>Other</i>			
Other Financial Support			
			100%

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VI.11 What is the proportion of Doctoral candidates having workers rights and duties? Specify the rights and duties provided to these Doctoral candidates

	Provided to which groups of doctoral candidates				%
	Grant holders	Employees	Other (pls describe)	:	
Social rights					
Unemployment insurance					
Health insurance		<u>yes</u>			
Compulsory long term care insurance					
Pension insurance		<u>yes</u>			
Tax liabilities		<u>yes</u>			
Other (specify)					

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VI.12 What is the proportion of Doctoral candidates that practice teaching during their Doctoral programme? Are they paid separately for their teaching duties? There is an option to do 25% duty work including teaching on top of a 3 year PhD. Payment for extra duties comes in addition to PhD salary for 3 years.

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VI.13 What is the amount of time spent on this activity? 25% of time spent on teaching duties.

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MOBILITY

VI.14 Mobility of Doctoral Candidates

Year	Number of Candidates coming to your country	Number of Candidates leaving from your country to study abroad
2007/2008		
2008/2009		

STATUS

VI.15 Are Doctoral candidates considered students? Yes no

VI.16 What status does your association prefer for doctoral candidates and why? Doctoral candidates should be considered employees, to make sure they have rights to e.g., vacation, maternity leave, sick leave etc.

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VI.17 Do Doctoral candidates have to pay fees? Yes no partly (describe)

VI.18 How much is it?

VI.19 Does this apply equally to foreigners (EU/ non-EU)? Yes no

VI.20 What proportion of doctoral candidates are involved in collaboration between academia and industry during their doctorate?