

PARTICIPATION REPORT

Report number: 20130405-a

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Date of filling in the report: 5th April 2013

Name of event: EuroDoc Conference

Date and time of event: 4-5th Aprils 2013

Place of event: Lisbon, Portugal

Organizers: EuroDoc / Portuguese national doctoral organisation

Type of event: Conference / AGM

Topic of event: Europe Grand Societal Challenges

Expenses covered by SiN for participating: Partly

Speaker(s): See in the notes

Main ideas: The role of early stage researchers

Overall outcomes: Informative and participatory for SiN, strengthen collaboration with other national organisation, networking.

Overall opinion of participants: Positive

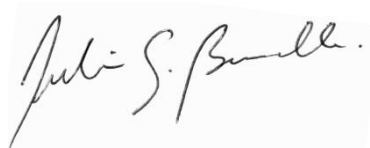
Connection with SiN activity: Umbrella organisation for SiN

Your personal opinion: Half of the talks were relevant for SiN, the other half not. Out of the relevant talks, many of the points were outside Norwegian Realities.

Key Points:

- Situation of PhDs in Europe is lagging behind the Norwegian situation
- Transferable skills are acknowledged as being important within the education of doctoral candidates.
- Dissemination of knowledge
- Acknowledgement of excellency, better financing for better researcher

Signature:



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Eurodoc Conference and Annual General Meeting

Overview

This report summarises the themes and discussion of the EuroDoc Conference and AGM 2013 that are relevant to SiN. Certain sessions during the conference were not policy related and are not referred here.

As a general note, the background discussions are rather far away from Norwegian realities. Some speeches focused on “fighting” for basic rights for PhD and early stage researchers, including right to teach, social security, recognition, respect, etc. These are foreign to the Norwegian realities.

There is a tendency to present PhD and researchers as victims of the system. There are very little focus on the fact that these researchers should be creative, participate actively in the university activities, be innovative, hardworking, etc. It is often easy to blame the system, but one should also reflect on his/her own contribution and accomplishment; one needs to prove outstanding competences before being provided with an outstanding position. This was a personal general thought about some of the points taken up during this conference.

Europe 2020: The EU 2020 Framework Programmes for Research and Sustainable Innovation

Stefaan Hermans (DG Research and Innovation, EC)

The research-based economy that we are aiming for in 2020 is not mirrored by the policies put forward to finance research in Europe. Financing research is paramount to success, but the attractiveness of being a researcher, an including the working environment, a working environment which enables research to flourish is also important and can be supported by rightly design policies.

These are five points the EU is working on:

1. Improving national research system
2. Cooperation at the European level
3. Open labour market for researcher (e.g. open recruitment)
4. Gender equality
5. Circulation of knowledge (e.g. open access)

The mobility of research is difficult. It does not fit within the system that is in place at the European for “traditional” workers. Some visa, grant and pension issues were named.

The importance of transferable skills was also mentioned by the EU representative as key to enter and be relevant for the labour market.

Rui Pedro Duarte (Socialist Party MP Portugal)

Argues for an increase in financing of research to 3% of EU's GDP. Creating an internal market for researcher. There is a need to stir the education with a focus on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. From a country, or European level, we need to train, attract and keep researchers. There should be a strong focus on innovation.

Pauline Mattsson (Euroscience, Karolinska Institutet)

European Young Researcher Platform (EYRP) – Share information, common voice for young researchers. (Competing with EuroDoc?)

Policy recommendations:

1. Incentives to translate research
2. Entrepreneurship education
3. Improved tax conditions
4. Easier access to seed funding
5. Access to mentors
6. Clear IP conditions

Growing in a Healthy Environment

This session was focus on themes not directly linked to SiN, e.g. the sustainable energy market, etc. Margarida Cardoso (PROALV – Lifelong learning) talked about mobility. Mostly presenting the Erasmus for All programme, without a special focus on PhD candidates. Georgia Andreou presented NECI, Network of European Citizenship and Identity. While the name sounds interesting, it appears to be a non-profit organisation focus on helping the poor in the society, clean beaches, social gathering, etc.

Working and Researching within the Framework of a sustainable society

Frederico G. Carvalho (Vice- Presiden World Federation of Scientific Workers)

Highlights the importance of early stage researchers and points out again that policy implementation does not follow the stated will of build a knowledge based Europe.

The federation continues to work with:

- Situation of young researchers
- Gender equality
- Situation of researchers global

The rule in many countries is to consider phds and post docs as student. They are a low cost workforce with no guaranty for a stable future (establishment, family, no pension,) Trade unions and association of scientific workers need to work together to improve the situation of the researchers.

Raquel Antunes (Portuguese Institute of Intellectual Property)

The institute helps researchers with IP rights. Helps with moving from a “discovery” to an “invention”. Help to protect inventions with patents and utility model. Motivations: to make profit, the right to exclusivity over your invention, exclusive right to produce, reward, protecting your invention.

Joao Teixeira Lopes (University of Lisbon)

Highlights the importance of transferable skills in PhD education, the importance of being able to discuss, to argue, transfer of skills, argumentative skills, organisation, etc.

We ask the PhDs to study, to do research, to teach, to supervise, and to do administrative task. Their role and responsibility should be well structured due to the variety and number of task to be done. This appears not to be the case in most countries present.

WORKSHOP “Charter and Code”

Paulo Pereira – FCT Portuguese Research Council

Portability of grants within Portugal. It is not possible to take the grant abroad. The research council is working to improve the situation of researchers, in particular by

1. Not penalising career breaks
2. Valuing changes between sectors
3. Assessment of academic and professional qualification
4. Value lifelong professional development

The research council acknowledges and support outstanding research. Support the most talented researchers with 5-years contract. This appears to be a great opportunity for local researchers considering the current situation in Portugal.

We talk about “studentship” not fellow- or scholarship. I commented on that.

DISCUSSION

DAAD is signatory of the Charter and Code on the condition that the requirement in the charter be changed and that it does not requires that researchers need to make clear how their research will contribute to the society. DAAD rightly argues that this goes against freedom of academic research, and is almost impossible to know for basic research.

It is proposed that the charter should be made as a regulation rather than a proposal of good behaviours.

Science, Communication and Social Change

Tiago Fleming Outeiro (international forum of Portuguese researcher)

Recognition of excellence: Science Gala and Prizes Seeds of Science. Contest to bring science to the general public.

Why should I care about science and communication?

1. For people to understand what researchers do
2. Commitment to society, recruitment
3. Disseminate information

Communicating Science

1. Other scientists
2. Media
3. General public
4. Grand mother

We need to adjust the speech depending on the audience. Relate your speech to realities that everyone can relate too (egg example, spring example).

It is important for you to know what you need to tell the journalist. Ask to review the article. Journalists like to develop close relationships with scientist and use these whenever possible.

Eloy Rodrigues (Open Access)

Only talking about the open access model when the cost is met by the authors. Nothing about traditional journals where the authors may choose. Quality insurance is not mentioned.