



The European Council for Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

www.eurodoc.net

EURODOC press release April 2008

Fribourg (CH), April 2008

Excellence in Research – the Young Researcher’s Perspective. EURODOC 2008 conference.

The annual conference of EURODOC (www.eurodoc.net) took place 2nd–4th of April 2008, in Fribourg, Switzerland. This major European gathering of young researchers and policy makers was co-organised by CSWM, the scientific collaborators of Fribourg University, and Actionuni, the Swiss Researchers’ Association. EURODOC is the voice of doctoral candidates and young researchers across Europe; it is a permanent partner of the European Union and of many European nations.

A large number of experts and organisations from the areas of politics, science and educational administration, higher education, and private companies contributed to the conference.

Mauro Dell’Ambrogio, State Secretary for Education and Research of Switzerland gave an opening address. Further speakers included Nationalrat Jaques Neiryck, member of the Swiss National Parliament, Daniel Höchli, Director of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Detlef Niese, Novartis, and Katrin Maes from the League of European Research Universities (LERU).

In roundtables and workshops, delegates and participants discussed policy recommendations on “Attracting excellent researchers”, “Massification of Higher Education and Research Excellence in Europe”, “The European Charter for Researchers and The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and Research Excellence”. The conference finished with a round table on the question “Which working conditions do young researchers need?”

At the General Assembly that took place directly after the EURODOC conference, a new board was elected. The new President of EURODOC is Karoline Holländer, doctoral candidate at Flensburg University, Germany. Karoline, mother of a four year old son, was managing director (2003–2004) and director events (2006–2007) at a local German enterprise.

She is currently focussing on her PhD thesis on “Paying professors by performance”. As newly elected president, Karoline will work to further strengthen the position of EURODOC as the voice of Europe’s doctoral candidates and young researchers and as a well-recognised stakeholder in European Research Area and European Higher Education Area in the coming year.



The composition of the newly elected Board is the following:

President: Karoline Holländer (Germany)

Vice president: Paulo Silva (Portugal)

Secretary: Brigita Serafinavičiūtė (Lithuania)

Treasurer: Jan Holeček (Czech Republic)

Member: Stephan Kurz (Austria)

Member: Aurelién Lamy (France)

Member: Dmitri Teperik (Estonia)

The General Meeting admitted associations from four countries (Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, FYROM; Belarus as observer) as new members in the federation, bringing the total number of countries represented within EURODOC to 32. Possible venues for the 2009 edition, to be selected shortly, include Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The relevance of EURODOC and of the community it represents was witnessed by the increasing recognition of young researchers as core stakeholders and partners in policy debates and actions at the national and European level during the last period, and is expected to rise significantly over the next years.

Summary:

The annual conference of EURODOC (www.eurodoc.net) took place 2nd–4th of April 2008, in Fribourg, Switzerland. The new President of EURODOC is Karoline Holländer, doctoral candidate at Flensburg University, Germany. Karoline, mother of a four year old son, was managing director (2003–2004) and director events (2006-2007) at a local German enterprise. Now she is focussing on her PhD thesis on “Paying professors by performance”. As newly elected president, Karoline will work to further strengthen the position of EURODOC as the voice of Europe’s doctoral candidates and young researchers and as a well-recognised stakeholder in European Research Area and European Higher Education Area in the coming year.

EURODOC:

EURODOC was founded in Girona (Spain) on 02/02/02. It is the European Council of doctoral candidates and young researchers. It takes the form of a federation of national associations of Ph.D. candidates and young researchers.

EURODOC's objectives are:

- To represent doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level in 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; organize 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.
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Contact:

For further request or interviews please send an e-mail to

board@eurodoc.net or
president@eurodoc.net