



The European Council of Doctoral  
Candidates and Junior Researchers



# „Doctoral studies from a doctoral candidate`s perspective“

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# Content

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- About Eurodoc
- Doctoral programme from a doctoral candidate's perspective

# Eurodoc in Europe

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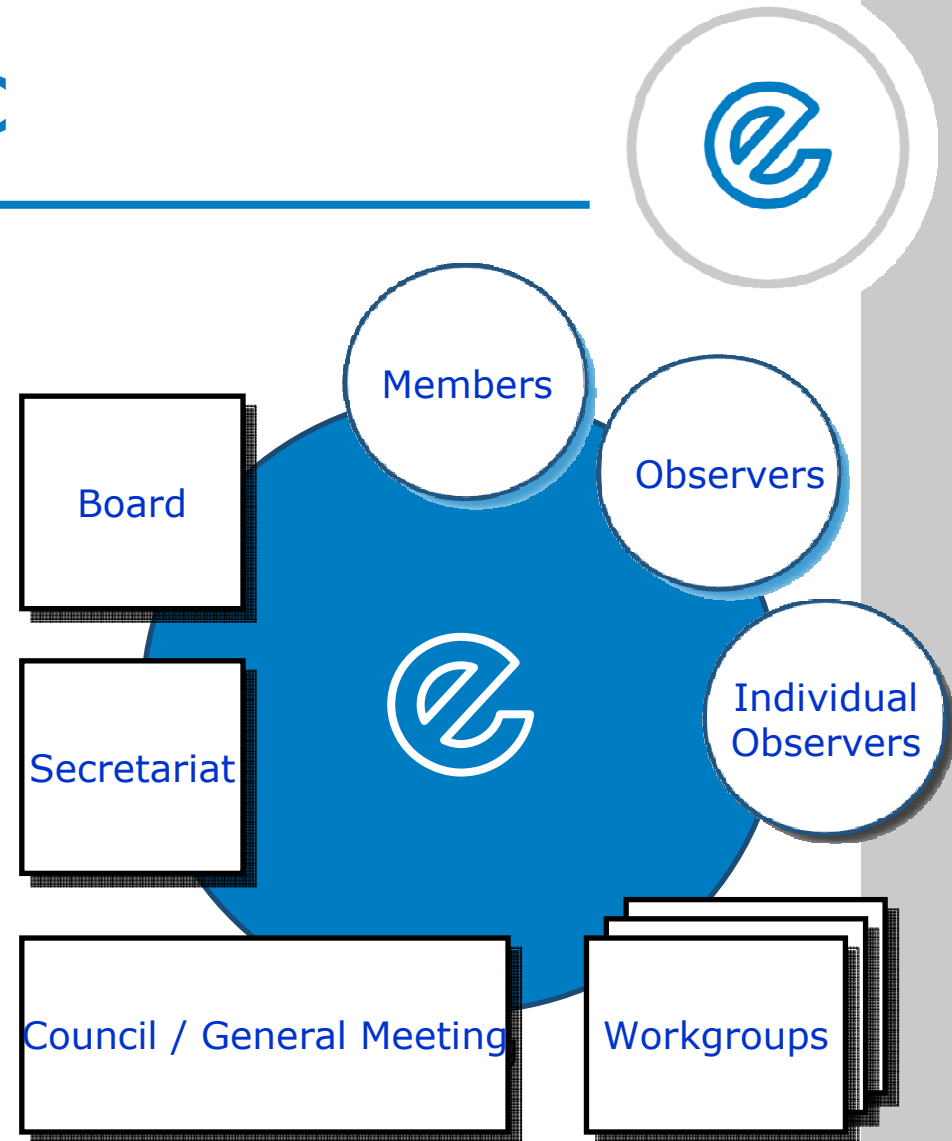


EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF DOCTORAL  
CANDIDATES AND JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

- Voice of young researchers in Europe
- Contributes to EHEA and ERA policies
- Partner of the European Commission, European University Association, Euroscience, European Science Open Forum

# About Eurodoc

- Arose out of the need of national organisations to cooperate and give young researchers a voice at the European level
- Founded in 2002 in Girona, Spain
- Federation of 34 national organizations in 33 countries + 1 observer organization + individual observers from 3 countries



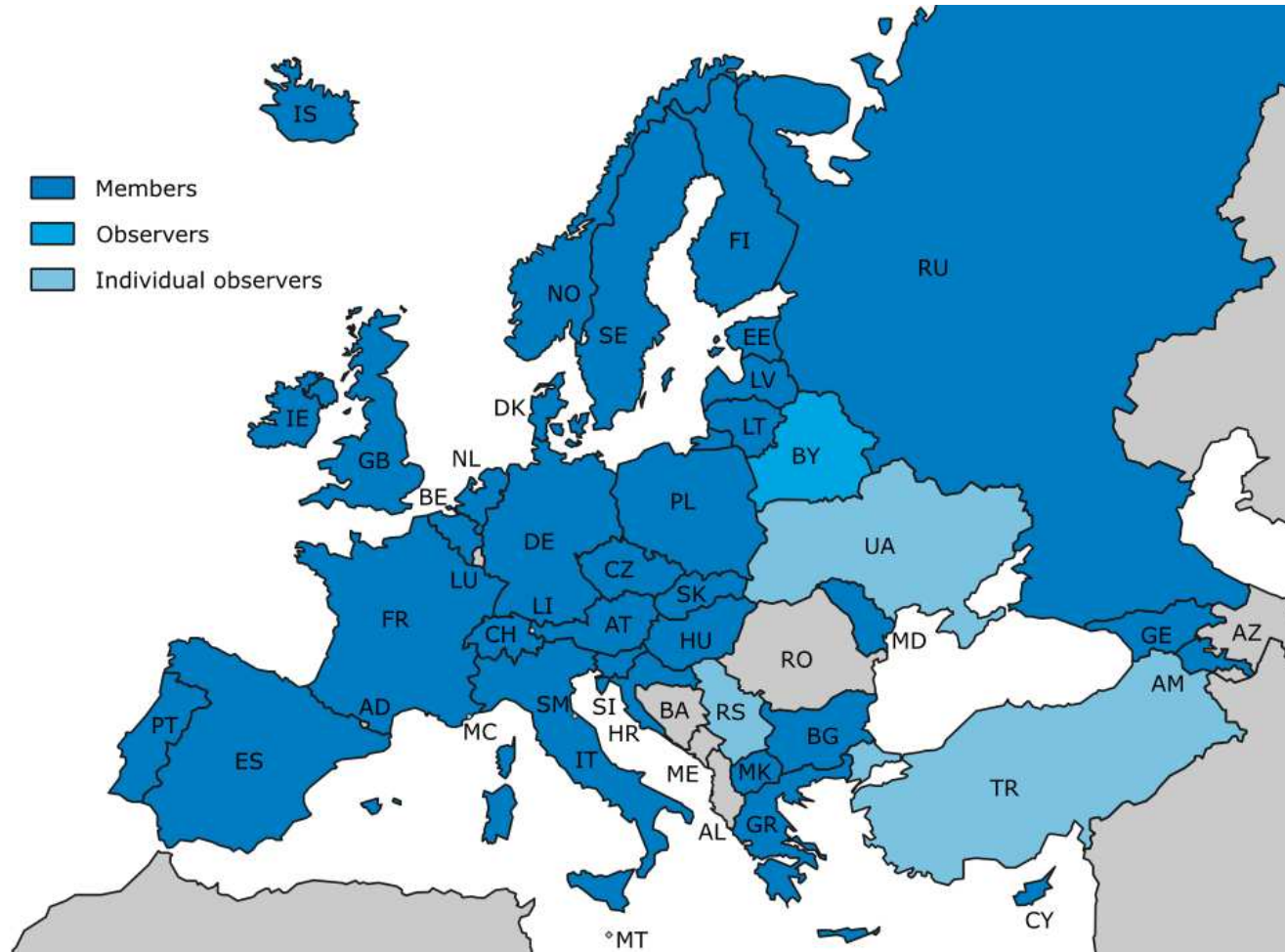
# Eurodoc in Europe

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**Eurodoc's scope of activities covers 37 member countries of the European Union and Council of Europe**

# Eurodoc on a map



# Eurodoc's objectives (1)

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- 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 take part in debates and assist in the elaboration of policies about Higher Education and Research in Europe.

# Eurodoc's Objectives (2)

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- To promote the circulation of information on issues regarding young researchers, organize events on issues regarding young researchers
- To establish and promote co-operation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers within Europe
- To support the creation of organizations aiming at national representations of young researchers in countries where such representation does not exist



# Eurodoc Survey

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- December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008-May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009
- 8.900 participants from more than 30 countries
- Europe-wide survey, the first of its scale

# Platform for discussion:

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- Mobility
- Career development
- Gender equality
- Working conditions
- Supervision

*From collection of information to policy making.*

# Status of doctoral candidates in Europe

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- At European Ministers' Conference in Berlin (2003) the doctoral level was incorporated into the Bologna Process as the third cycle
- One of the Salzburg principles (2005) declares that "Doctoral candidates as early stage researchers should be recognized as professionals – with commensurate rights - who make a key contribution to the creation of new knowledge".

# Status of doctoral candidates in Europe

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- Bergen Communiqué of May 2005  
“Participants in third cycle programs are considered both, students and early stage researchers”.
- **Eurodoc calls on the recognition of doctoral candidates as early-stage researchers with commensurate rights.**

# Career Path & Qualifications

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## 2. Student Status

	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes, full-time student	5213	62,9
Yes, part-time student	746	9,0
No, not a student	2333	28,1

# Providing the link...

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“All researchers engaged in a research career **should be recognized as professionals** and be treated accordingly. This should commence **at the beginning of their careers, namely at postgraduate level**, and should include all levels, regardless of their classification at national level.”

*EC, DG Research, The European Charter for Researchers & The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, 2005*

# Providing the link...

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Recognition of the doctoral candidates'  
**professional status**

# Doctoral candidates in Europe

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## **From student context into early stage researcher context**

- doctoral student → doctoral candidate
- Ph.D Student → Ph.D Candidate
- doctoral studies → doctoral programmes



# Doctoral education

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- Role of doctoral candidates in the creation of knowledge
- Innovativeness, creativity, originality, curiosity, research enthusiasm and not collection of credits
- Research component and taught courses in doctoral programmes – sound proportions

# Doctoral education

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- Coursework should be supportive to research component

**33% of the doctoral candidates inquired are to a very high extent working on tasks not directly related to their dissertation**

**One third (31.8%) of respondents does not spend even an hour per week on the writing part of the endeavour**

# Doctoral education

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- ECTS –credit system in doctoral education is not an adequate tool for composition of the doctoral programmes
- Credits might only be used for taught components of doctoral education but **NOT** to measure research component, dissemination output, dissertation

# Doctoral education

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- Quality assurance in doctoral education based on institutional mission and linked to institutional strategy
- Some indicators might be developed
  - Individual progression
  - Net research time
  - Career tracking
  - Dissemination of research results

# Quality of doctoral education

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- Recruitment and admission
- Supervision
- Career development paths
- Internationalisation
- Mobility

# Recruitment and admission

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- Institutional responsibility
- Recruitment and admission policies must be transparent, accountable, well-defined
- Unified and coherent procedures
- Appropriate funding must be in place

**Eurodoc's survey shows that almost one fifth (18,4%) do not receive any funding to work on their doctorate.**

# Supervision

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- Institutional responsibility and collective effort
- Written and well-defined responsibilities, duties and rights of the supervisor, doctoral candidate and a given institution
- Training of supervisors

**57% of the surveyed doctoral candidates have guidelines or regulations on their supervisor's role**

**64.3% of the respondents state that the feedback they receive from a supervisor is either useful or very useful**

# Career Development

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- Institutional responsibility to provide structures for career development
- Clear paths of career development for early stage researchers

**Eurodoc's survey shows that only 46,4% of doctoral candidates worked before the embark on a doctorate.**

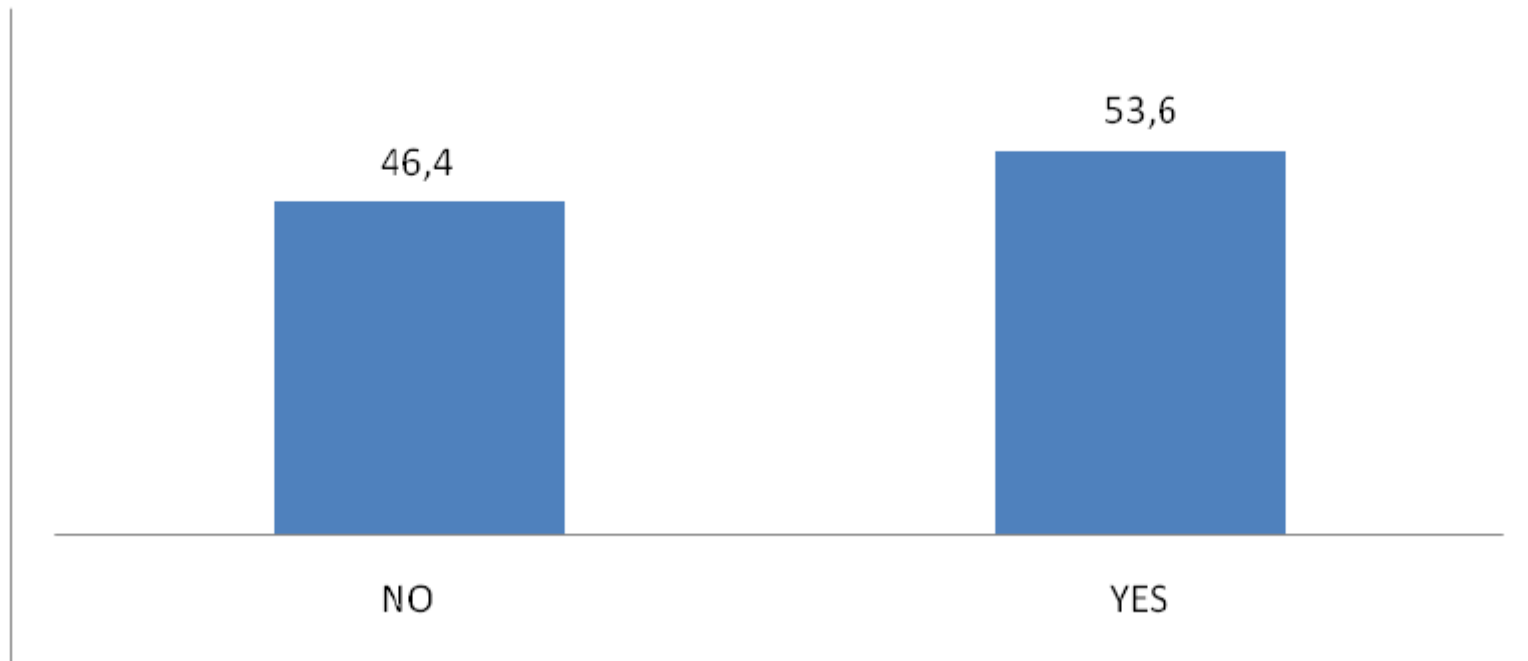


# Career Path & Qualifications

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## 4. Work Experience



# Career Development

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- Development of research skills and transferable skills

**Eurodoc's survey data shows that most of the doctoral candidates have received training during their doctoral programmes (60.1%)**

**Only 16.7% state they haven't received any training, whereas 10.9% have received training outside of their university**

# Internationalisation

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- One of the tools to increase the quality of doctoral education
- Must be with the strategy of the institution and individual research path of a doctoral candidate
- Collaborative doctoral programmes
- International joint doctoral programmes

# Mobility

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- A common practise not a privilege
- In 2007 the mobility among doctoral candidates in Europe was 6,9%.

By 2020 the mobility of doctoral candidates in Europe should tripplle up to 20% according to Erab goals

# Barriers to Mobility

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- Only for 10% low funding is not a barrier at all for international mobility
- Only for 20% lack of portability of grants and social security system is not a barrier at all for international mobility
- Only for 30% reduced opportunities back home are not a barrier at all for international mobility

**Survey shows that 30% receive full funding while going abroad and 30% receive NO funding at all**

# Doctoral programmes should attempt to :

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- Define a **mission or vision** shared by all partners that facilitates the process of turning **doctoral candidates into excellent researchers**
- Provide a **clear administrative structure** for doctoral programmes, candidates and supervisors, and offer a clear status for doctoral candidates
- **Ensure critical mass** and help to overcome the isolation of young researchers
- Provide **teaching** and **transferable skills** training
- **Enhance** opportunities for **mobility**, international **collaboration** and inter-institutional cooperation

# Towards what?

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**To prepare  
early stage researchers,  
who are doctoral candidates at  
today's research institutions,  
To become  
the academics, top managers,  
policy makers and business leaders  
of tomorrow's knowledge-based society**



The European Council of Doctoral  
Candidates and Junior Researchers



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