



EUA

European University Association

Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society

Alexandra Bitusikova
European University Association

Tbilisi

30 June 2006

Menu

- EUA Profile
- Doctoral studies as the third cycle of the Bologna Process
- EUA activities in doctoral programmes development
- Key findings and messages from the EUA projects

Brief Profile of the EUA

- Established in 2001 in Brussels
- 750+ individual University Members
- 34 National Rectors' Conferences Members
- Independent Voice for the University Sector

Doctoral education in the EU context

- Doctoral education is the main link between the European Higher Education and European Research Areas (EHEA and ERA).
- Doctoral education is in a process of change reflecting the need to meet the challenges of the fast changing global labour market and the policy objectives of the EU, especially ambitious Lisbon objectives (magic 700.000 researchers and 3% of investment) and the Bologna Process.

City Tour from Berlin via Bergen to London

- **Berlin Communiqué (2003):** Doctoral Programmes as the third cycle
- **EUA Doctoral Programmes Project 2004-2005:** aim to link its activities to policy debate and to feed into the preparation of recommendations for Bergen 2005
 - Maastricht conference on research training
 - Salzburg Bologna Seminar and the Salzburg Principles
 - Final project report
- **Bergen Communiqué (2005):** BFUG asked to invite EUA and its partners to prepare a report on the further development of the Salzburg principles, to be presented to Ministers in **London (2007)**.

Doctoral Programmes for European Knowledge Society: EUA Project 1

- 48 universities
- 22 countries
- 6 thematic networks
 - ✓ Structure and organisation
 - ✓ Financing of programmes/status of candidates
 - ✓ Quality of doctoral programmes
 - ✓ Identification of innovative practice (in terms of structures, e.g. Co-tutelles, Ecoles Doctorales, Graduiertenkollegs etc.)
 - ✓ Overview of all themes
 - ✓ Models of interinstitutional, international co-operation i.e.– Joint Doctoral Programmes

Key Findings

1. Focus on institution

- Organisation of doctoral programmes at the highest university level with institutional guidelines, regulations or Codes of practice
- Importance of creating critical mass by developing research groups, clusters and networks – research environment stimulating research collaboration, intellectual experience and interdisciplinarity
- Structure of doctoral programmes – development of graduate/ research/ doctoral schools with structured courses
- Disciplinary differences in organisation of doctoral programmes
- Geographical differences – diversity of educational traditions in Europe

Key Findings

1. Focus on institution (Cont.)

Main conclusion: Need for stronger institutional involvement in organisation of doctoral programmes built on closer collaboration with various partners (education and research, industry/ employers, students, governments)

Key Findings:

2. Focus on doctoral programmes

- Recruitment practices (Master degree as the main route to doctoral education)
- Supervision, assessment and monitoring (new ways of supervision such as team supervision; multiple supervision; training of supervisors; workload) – increasing quality standards and transparency
- Contract between the candidate, the supervisor and the institution
- Duration of doctoral studies (TTD) – 3-4 years
- ECTS as a tool for measuring taught (course) part of doctoral education

Key Findings: 2. Focus on doctoral programmes (Cont.)

- Generic skills training (life or transferable skills) linked to employability of doctoral graduates
- Profile of a doctoral candidate (=ESR – student or employee with full social security, e.g. pension rights, unemployment benefits, maternity/ parental leave)
- Full-time or part-time studies
- Diversity of doctoral degrees (single or joint degree, European PhD; Industrial PhD, professional degrees)



Key Findings: 2. Focus on doctoral programmes (Cont.)

- Career development, career services and tracking of doctoral graduates (lacking)
- Lack of data on doctoral programmes and candidates - do we really need more PhDs?
- Lack of recognition and value of doctoral degree in Europe

Cross-Cutting Issues

- Mobility (cross-country and inter-sectorial) as a part of doctoral programmes and a recognised added value (important for career development)
- European / international dimension in doctoral programmes – more joint programmes needed built on close collaboration, high quality standards and mutual trust
- Funding of doctoral programmes/ schools and of doctoral candidates – diversity of financial sources, new ways of collaboration with other partners (e.g. industry), employment contracts etc.

EUA-BFUG: Doctoral Programmes Project 2

- Objective: to prepare the report and recommendations on doctoral programmes for the ministerial meeting in London 2007
- Activities:
 - ✓ 2 workshops focused on specific aspects of doctoral programmes (23-24 March and 26-27 October 2006)
 - ✓ WG on funding of doctoral programmes at the conference « A Researchers' Labour Market – a Pole of Attraction », Vienna, 1-2 June 2006
 - ✓ Final Bologna Seminar, 7 – 9 December 2006, Nice, France
 - ✓ Final report – beginning of 2007

EUA - US Transatlantic Dialogue on Doctoral Education

- Doctoral Education in a Global Context: Competition and Cooperation – Transatlantic Dialogue on Doctoral Education co-organised by the EUA and the Council of Graduate Schools of the US and Canada (3 – 6 September 2006, Salzburg Seminar, Austria)
- Global Summit on Doctoral Education - 2007

www.eua.be





EUA

European University Association

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

