

Report on activities

EUA Doctoral Programmes Project

25 September 2006

1. EUA prepared a work plan that was presented to the BFUG in October 2005 and again in April 2006. The work plan included:

- Organisation of:
 - o two academic workshops focused on the thematic clusters 1 and 2 of original proposal (Supervision and Generic Skills Training; Master-PhD link; Doctoral/ Graduate/ Research Schools)
 - o a workshop entitled "Doctoral candidates as young professionals: funding and supporting mechanisms" as a part of the EUA/Austrian presidency/DG RES conference "A Researchers' Labour Market"; and a pre-conference preparatory meeting with some of the BFUG members (1 – 2 June 2006)
 - o a final Bologna Seminar (Nice, 7-9 December 2006) drawing together, analysing and making recommendations from these different events.

2. Workshop 1 (Supervision and Generic Skills Training) took place on March 23-24, 2006 in Brussels. The workshop was attended by 58 participants from 19 countries. The model of a workshop with a clear focus, case studies presentations and in-depth discussions in working groups proved to be very successful. The debates were lively and brought a fruitful exchange of examples of good practice.

3. The working Group on funding mechanisms at the conference "A Researchers' Labour Market" (1st June 2006, Vienna) was preceded by a **preparatory meeting** that served to raise awareness among BFUG members of the particular challenges involved in the financing of third cycle programmes.

The objective of the conference workshop was to identify key concerns related to funding to be taken up in the Bologna Seminar on doctoral programmes in Nice, taking into account the broader debate on a researchers' labour market.

4. As a result of the preparatory meeting in Vienna, **a questionnaire for the Ministries of Education/ Science in 46 Bologna Process countries** has been prepared and will be sent via the national member of the Bologna Follow Up Group at the beginning of October.

Timing:

- September – preparation of the questionnaire
- 12/13 October – presentation of the questionnaire with the representatives of the 45 Bologna ministerial representatives
- November 2006 – analysis of the returned questionnaires
- 7/9 Dec 2006 – presentation of preliminary results of the study at the Bologna Seminar on doctoral programmes at the University of Nice where some 300 participants are expected

5. Workshop 2 (Master-PhD link; Doctoral/ Graduate/ Research Schools) will take place on 26 – 27 October 2006 in Brussels. It will follow the same model as the first workshop. Interest is high, and all places have been filled.



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6. The organisation of the Bologna Seminar in Nice (7-9 December 2006) has been under preparation in close cooperation with the French Ministry of Education and the University in Nice. The Seminar targets a wide audience – academics, governments, agencies, industry, doctoral candidates and students. In addition to looking at overall trends since the adoption of the Salzburg principles in February 2005, and paying special attention to the funding of doctoral programmes and candidates across Europe, the following themes have been identified as being of particular importance and will be taken up in the Working Groups:

- Structure and organisation of doctoral education: Doctoral/ Research/ Graduate schools)
- Master – PhD link: the role of the Master level in the preparation for doctoral studies
- Generic skills training for employability of doctoral candidates and career development both inside and outside academia
- Supervision, Monitoring and Assessment
- International collaboration and mobility: how much and when?
- Professional doctorates: Yes or no?
- Prospects in academic research career: From PhD to postdoc?

The preliminary report for the March BFUG meeting will be prepared on the basis of the Nice discussions

7. Preparation of the report to be presented to the BFUG

- January/mid-February 2007 – drafting of the overall report on doctoral programme of which the funding elements will be an important part
- 1 March 2007 – presentation of the draft report to Bologna Follow Up Group

Lesley Wilson, 27 September 2006