

# DOC-CAREERS II – Final Conference

Promoting collaborative doctoral education  
for enhanced career opportunities

**The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for  
Science and the Arts (KVAB)**

**Brussels, Belgium**

**30-31 January 2012**



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# DOC-CAREERS II Final Conference Introduction

## Context

The Final Conference of the FP7 DOC-CAREERS II project “Promoting Collaborative Doctoral Education for Enhanced Career Opportunities” will present the main outcomes of the project which has been looking at how universities work with their regional partners in setting up and managing collaborative research projects in the framework of doctoral education. The results of the previous DOC-CAREERS project served as a basis to explore further different models and contexts of collaborative doctoral education. The employability perspectives of doctorate holders and how the collaborative nature of the doctoral programmes enhances their career perspectives have remained a central focus of the project.

The project has identified a number of case studies reflecting good practices in Europe and tested the feasibility of initiating regional workshops as a way to foster collaboration between universities and businesses/enterprises or between universities and other external partners. The DOC-CAREERS II Final Conference in Brussels will present highlights of the series of five regional workshops held consecutively in 1) Dublin Institute of Technology (DTU), Ireland, 2) École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, 3) Kaunas University of Technology (KUT), Lithuania, 4) Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway, 5) University of Camerino (Unicam), Italy.

This Final Conference will be an opportunity to meet the workshop convenors and representatives of companies and other non-academic organisations involved in collaborative doctoral education, to exchange practices among colleagues and to allow participants to keep up to date with the latest development on university-business cooperation in the framework of collaborative doctoral education.

## Speakers and Participants

The conference will gather over 120 experts from 25 countries. Participants include university leaders and researchers (vice-rectors of research or postgraduate education, directors of doctoral schools, directors of doctoral programmes, university thesis supervisors, researchers and doctoral candidates), as well as company leaders (CEOs, vice-presidents of research, researchers), Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representatives, employers interested in collaborative doctoral education, and senior policy makers from regional, national and European bodies.

Speakers include experts from the different sectors involved in collaborative doctoral education: 10 university leaders; 7 company leaders and other external partners; 4 former doctoral candidates enrolled in collaborative doctoral programmes now working in non-academic positions; the European Commission and other stakeholder organisations including EURODOC (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers); EIRMA (European Industrial Research Management Association), and Vitae UK.

# Programme

**Monday, 30 January 2012**

**10:30**

**Registration**

**11:30 - 13:00**

**Opening session**

*Chair:* **Lesley Wilson**, Secretary General, EUA

➤ **Welcome addresses**

**Dr. John H. Smith**, Deputy Secretary General, EUA

**Stefaan Hermans**, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

➤ **DOC-CAREERS II Project: Overview**

**Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Senior Programme Manager, Research and Innovation Unit; DOC-CAREERS II Project Coordinator, EUA

**13:00 - 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 - 15:30**

**Plenary Session I:**

**Elements of success in collaborative doctoral education**

*Chair:* **Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Senior Programme Manager, EUA

➤ **Prof. Jacques Giovanola**, Dean, Doctoral School, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

**Dr. Laurent-Dominique Piveteau**, Director of Business Development, Debiotech SA, Switzerland

➤ **Prof. Mary McNamara**, Head of Graduate Research, Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), Ireland

**Martin Fitzpatrick**, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Dublin City Council, Ireland

**Dr. Sharon Kennelly**, Senior Community Dietician, Health Service Executive, Ireland; Doctoral Graduate, DIT

15:30 - 16:00      **Coffee Break**

16:00 - 17:30      **Plenary Session II: University-Industry Intellectual property Rights  
– Balancing Interests**

*Chair:* **Dr. Leopold Demiddeleer**, Future Businesses Director, Solvay S.A. Research & Technology, Belgium; President of the European Industrial Research Management Association (EIRMA); DOC-CAREERS II Steering Committee Member

- **Jean-François Serrier**, Senior Executive Vice President, General Manager Intellectual Assets Management, Solvay S.A; Representative in the EIRMA Working Group on IP; Representative in the BiR&D Initiative (Belgian industrial R&D)
- **Knut Jørgen Egelie**, Senior IPR Manager, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
- **Dr. Carmela Napolitano**, Senior Researcher, Aptuit, Italy; Doctoral Graduate, University of Ferrara, Italy

19:30                      **Dinner**

**Vert de Gris**, Rue des Alexiens 63, 1000 Brussels

## **Tuesday 31 January 2012**

9:00 - 10:30          **Plenary Session III: Embedding employability perspectives in  
doctoral education and training**

*Chair:* **Dr. Janet Metcalfe**, Chair and Head, Vitae

- **Prof. Cristina Miceli**, Director of the Doctoral School, University of Camerino, Italy  
**Mr. Giancarlo Bagaglio**, TPU Project Manager, Goldenplast s.p.a.
- **Prof. Rymantas Kazys**, Director of Ultrasound Institute, Kaunas University of Technology (KUT), Lithuania; DOC-CAREERS II Steering Committee Member  
**Dr. Vyda Mozuriunienė**, Managing Director, Comfort Heat UAB; Doctoral Graduate, KUT  
**Dr. Rasa Svobunė**, Technologist, Naujasis Nevezis UAB; Doctoral Graduate, KUT

**10:30 - 11:00**      **Coffee Break**

**11:00 - 12:30**      **Plenary Session IV: European Added Value Initiatives in Collaborative Doctoral Education and Discussion with policy makers**

*Chair: Dr. John H. Smith, Deputy Secretary General, EUA*

- **The “European Industrial Doctoral School”**: An example of new initiative arising from DOC-CAREERS II, currently in the process of being established

**Prof. Petter Gustafsson**, Chairman, Umeå Institute of Technology; Director, Umeå University Graduate School; Sweden

**Prof. David Shepherd**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Bangor University, UK

**Dr. Tobias Johnson**, Merck SeQuant, Sweden

- **Dr. Conor O’Carroll**, Chair of the Subgroup “Skills” of the Human Resources and Mobility Steering Group; Director (Research), Irish Universities Association, Ireland
- **Alessandra Luchetti**, Head of Unit, People Programme; Marie-Curie actions, DG Education and Culture
- **Greg de Cuir**, Doctoral Candidate at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Serbia; EURODOC delegate to the DOC-CAREERS II project

**12:30 - 13:00**      **Round-Up Panel**

*Chair: Dr. John H. Smith, Deputy Secretary General, EUA*

- **Prof. Eckhard Steffen**, Director of Graduate Studies, Paderborn University, Germany; DOC-CAREERS II Steering Committee Member
- **Dr. David Joyner**, Director of Business Partnership and Engagement, Bangor University, UK; DOC-CAREERS II Steering Committee Member
- **Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Senior Programme Manager, EUA

**13:00**              **Farewell Lunch**

# Objectives and Key Questions for Discussion

The Final Conference will highlight various contexts and practices of collaboration across Europe in different fields of knowledge and will discuss how collaborative doctoral education, which is increasingly demonstrating its potential to enhance employment opportunities and the professional development of doctorate holders, can improve and develop further.

Conference sessions will review models of doctoral programmes in collaboration with different partners - including large companies, small and medium size companies (SMEs), and public health authorities. Presentations will be given by “first hand” practitioners directly involved in the doctoral projects and programmes.

The conference will address the following four main topics:

- I. Elements of success in collaborative doctoral education
- II. Intellectual property rights
- III. Embedding employability perspectives
- IV. European added-value initiatives and dialogue with policy makers

Speakers will offer their views, experiences, challenges and solutions in relation to the main topics above. The collaborative doctoral programmes highlighted at this final conference are a sample of many more that have been presented during the five regional workshops. In this Final Conference, as in all the preceding regional workshops, presentations will be in the form of “double acts” (academia-industry) or “triple acts” (academia-industry-doctorate candidate/holder) offering views and experiences in collaborative doctoral education and focussing on key questions (listed below). A special session on intellectual property rights will deepen our understanding of how this important issue is dealt with in collaborative doctoral research.

## Key Questions for speakers to address and to debate in the session discussions:

### 1. Origins of the collaborative doctoral project or programme:

- How was the scientific collaboration initiated? – from the university (individual academic or institutional strategic initiative), from industry/business/external partner, or from national or regional government/intermediary agency?
- How was the doctoral project funded? – the university’s own funds, governmental scheme or private funding?

### 2. Conduct of the project:

- Co-supervision arrangements: how the university and the company or other external partner arranged the supervision process: e.g. frequency of meetings/reviews (face-to-face; email, etc.), separate or joint supervision sessions, supervision during placements etc.
- Management of the project: what were main challenges and how were they overcome?

**3. Characteristics of collaborative doctoral education:**

- What characteristics would you regard as specific to your institution, field of knowledge and collaborative partners (company, NGO, research institute, etc.)?
- What characteristics would you regard as specific of your regional and/or national context?
- What characteristics would you consider to be common to collaborative doctoral projects/programmes from other regions in Europe?

**4. Perspectives of the doctoral candidate:**

- Did you attach priority to employability in the non-academic sector as a core motivation to engage in a collaborative doctoral education project/programme?
- What were the main challenges faced in collaborative doctoral education in comparison to your counterparts undertaking doctorates in the university framework?

**5. From the experience of the DOC-CAREERS II workshop convenors, session speakers in workshops and participants in general:**

- On the basis of the experience of the five DOC-CAREERS workshops, would you consider that the fostering of further “mutual learning workshops” in other regions of Europe would assist the process of bringing together academic and industry/business communities to develop collaborative doctoral programmes/projects?
- What further support (both in terms of policy and funding instruments and “in kind” contributions) from regional, national and European public agencies and private partners could be helpful in this process?

**Thank you for your participation**

## DOC-CAREERS II – Project Summary

The FP7 Support Action “Promoting Collaborative Doctoral Education for Enhanced Career Opportunities”<sup>1</sup> (DOC-CAREERS II) looks at how universities work with their regional partners in setting up and managing research projects in the framework of doctoral education. It expects to identify good practices and to test the feasibility of organising **regional workshops** as one way to foster collaboration between universities and businesses/enterprises or between universities and other external partners.

The project builds on the findings of the previous DOC-CAREERS project<sup>2</sup> which demonstrated through a large number of case studies that:

- Many views on opportunities, challenges and barriers related to university-industry cooperation are shared by both partners: university and business.
- There are no “one-size-fits-all” formats for cooperation and they tend to be strongly based in regional environments, where proximity facilitates frequent contact between stakeholders.
- The organisation of high level meetings (e.g. workshops) involving university leaders and leaders from the non-academic sector, pooling expertise from different fields and sectors, is one way forward for improving mutual understanding and for identification of challenges requiring R&D input.

Thus, through the regional focus of DOC-CAREERS II, we aim to identify examples of university collaboration with local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), large R&D enterprises, Research, Technology and Demonstration performers (RTD’s), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO’s) and other organisations (health care, cultural, etc.). A series of five Regional Workshops were held in selected locations in Europe (see Schedule of Events section), with the intention of bringing together interested partners in cooperation through doctoral education to share and discuss specific tools and incentives that may have wider application across Europe.

The objectives of the project are:

- to reflect on strategies and good practice in university-industry relations; models and degree of structure of university-industry doctoral schemes; employability of doctoral holders and its relation with transferable skills; good practices in tracking of doctoral holders
- to identify strategies and good practice used by SMEs and other local partners to approach universities and address how their access to university research could be enhanced

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<sup>1</sup> “Collaborative Doctoral Projects: These are doctoral theses carried out with interaction between a university, a company and a doctoral candidate. A distinctive characteristic is that non-academic experts take part in the supervisory committee, officially or informally. Industry or the external partner can play several roles, but being in the supervisory committee is what effectively reflects the specific nature of the collaborative doctoral project.” From DOC-CAREERS report, p.27.

<sup>2</sup> “Collaborative Doctoral Education: University-Industry Partnerships for Enhancing Knowledge Exchange – DOC-CAREERS Project”, EUA (2009); DOC-CAREERS project.

- to explore the perspectives of employability of doctoral holders in the region, mobility opportunities and its relation to regional efforts to reinforce doctoral employability considering the benefits of employing highly trained workers and their professional expectations.

## DOC-CAREERS II Summary of project activities

### Regional Workshops

As explained previously, a series of five workshops was held across Europe and this Final Conference in Brussels in January 2012 will be the platform for discussion on the feasibility of the organisation of regional workshops to foster university-business/external partner collaboration.

### Case Studies of Doctoral Programmes in Cooperation with Business/External Partners

Participant universities contributed with case studies by responding to an ad-hoc questionnaire for universities and doctoral candidates and by presenting their case studies in expert workshops addressing the different aspects of the collaboration between universities and external partners in doctoral education. The questionnaires include the views of all stakeholders involved, university professors or researchers, doctoral candidates and companies or external partners.

### Consultation Process with Businesses

It is crucial to include the voice of business representatives in the development of doctoral programmes in cooperation with external partners. The interviewing of individual targeted companies identified by Steering Committee members or other partners participating in the project took place in addition to the other activities.

### Schedule of events

#### First Workshop

Date: 21/09/2010

Place: Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland

#### Second Workshop

Date: 10/12/2010

Place: École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

#### Third Workshop

Date: 05/04/2011

Place: Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania

#### Fourth Workshop

Date: 07/06/2011

Place: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

#### Fifth Workshop

Date: 11/10/2011

Place: University of Camerino, Camerino, Italy

#### Final Conference

Date: 30-31/01/2012

Place: The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts (KVAB), Brussels, Belgium

# Members of the DOC-CAREERS II PROJECT Steering Committee

**Prof. Rymantas Kažys**, Director of Ultrasound Institute, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

**Prof. Eckhard Steffen**, Director of Graduate Studies, International Graduate School, Universität Paderborn, Germany

**Dr. Leopold Demiddeleer**, Future Businesses Director, Solvay S.A. Research & Technology, Belgium, and President of EIRMA

**Dr. David Joyner**, Director of Business Partnership and Engagement, Research and Innovation Office, Bangor University, United Kingdom

**Mr. Peter van der Hijden**, European Commission, DG Research

**Dr. John Smith**, Deputy Secretary General, EUA

**Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Senior Programme Manager, EUA

**Ms. Ilona Mazan**, Executive Assistant, EUA

## About the Venue

### The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and the Arts (KVAB)

The first academy in Belgium was founded in 1772 by Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. The Imperial and Royal Academy of Sciences and Letters of Brussels was the imperial power's instrument for organising and controlling intellectual life in the Austrian Low Countries. This institution did not survive the French occupation of the Belgian regions. William I, king of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands since 1815, reinstated the academy in 1816. It found its permanent place in the social order only after Belgium had become independent in 1830. In 1845 it acquired the title Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres, et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, and it was divided into three classes: science, humanities, and fine arts.

From its independence onward, Belgium was officially bilingual (Dutch/French), although French was preponderant in higher education. Therefore, the academy was primarily a French-speaking institution. Gradually, however, Dutch acquired an importance approaching that of French. In Flanders - the northern part of Belgium -, Dutch replaced French in higher education in the 1930s. The logical outcome was the creation in 1938 of the Dutch-language Koninklijke Academie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België (Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts). From then on the academy's function was to encourage science and arts in the Flemish part of the country, while the Académie Royale continued to fulfil the same function in the French-speaking part of the country.

The early years of the new academy were not favourable since the outbreak of World War II put a brake on its activities. In 1945, however, a proper start could be made towards achieving its aims in the service of the Flemish community in Belgium. In 1988 the golden jubilee of the academy commemorated half a century of intellectual activity. This was expressed in more than 1,500 publications, in the organisation of many colloquia, and in the activities of its working committees.

### Activities and Goals

KVAB promotes interuniversity cooperation in Belgium. In that sense the distance between the universities is very favourable as almost all Flemish universities lie at a distance of no more than 80 kilometres of each other. This in itself is already a lever for interuniversity cooperation. Moreover, the KVAB stimulates professors of the different universities in getting to know each other, and above all tries to motivate the young researchers.

# Contacts

## EUA Co-ordination Team

For enquiries regarding registrations, hotel accommodation, general information, please contact the EUA co-ordination team:

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## EUA Project Team

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# Getting Around Brussels & Map of Venues

Please note that a strike has been announced for 30 January 2012. This may result in a disruption of the public transport system. To avoid any problems, we recommend that you consider booking a taxi in advance. The event is going ahead as planned on 30 and 31 January at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and the Arts.

Please find below the details of some of the Brussels taxi companies.

- Taxi2airport, [www.taxi2airport.be](http://www.taxi2airport.be), (+32)2 808 08 32
- Taxis verts, [www.taxisverts.be](http://www.taxisverts.be), (+32)2 349 49 49
- Taxis Autolux, [www.taxisautolux.be](http://www.taxisautolux.be), (+32)2 411 41 42

## A. Conference Venue (30-31 January 2012)

The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB), Belgium  
Rue Ducale 1 - 1000 Brussels (Closest metro station is: Trone)

## B. Dinner Venue (30 January 2012)

Vert de Gris

Rue des Alexiens 63, 1000 Brussels (Closest metro station is: Gare de Bruxelles-Central)

\*Approximately 15 minutes walk between both venues. You may also take bus line 95.

