



## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EURODOC'13**

### **Europe's Grand Societal Challenges: The Role of Early Stage Researchers**

**Press Release March 2013**

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon) will host EURODOC 2013 International Conference. The conference theme and title this year is "Europe's Grand Societal Challenges: The Role of Early Stage Researchers", and will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. The event is organised by EURODOC (the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers) and by ABIC (the Portuguese Association of Grant-Holding Researchers).

EURODOC holds annual meetings and conferences. It is EURODOC's purpose to contribute to the debate about European research and higher education, engaging all relevant stakeholders, in particular, early-stage researchers and the political and economic leaders in Europe. During this year's conference, taking place for the first time in Portugal, a significant emphasis will be given to topics such as the European programme "Horizon 2020" and its implications for national research, the new trends and scientific needs concerning the development of a sustainable society, the precarious situation of young researchers in Europe, as well as the importance of the new communication technologies.

The conference has scheduled four plenary sessions that will rely on a set of expert speakers from various European and national organisations. The first plenary session will present the political programmes "Horizon 2020" and "Europe 2020". The background of the congress being set, the following sessions are: "Growing in a healthy environment: new trends in research"; "Working and researching within the framework of a sustainable society" and, finally, the last plenary session, "Science, communication and social change".

In addition to the plenary sessions, three workshops will be held simultaneously. The first workshop aims at furthering participants' knowledge about the "European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers". The second workshop will advise participants on "How to design and defend your PhD". The third workshop presents the project "EduCoach: Online career guidance for doctoral candidates".

You can register at the conference's official website (<http://lisbon2013.abic-online.org>). Registration fees are of 5 Euros for ABIC members and of 10 Euros for the general public.

## **Eurodoc's Annual General Meeting**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April, EURODOC will have its Annual General Meeting. The annual report of the Board will be presented by the President as well as the financial report by the Treasurer. It will also take place the ratification of decisions taken by the current Board, and a new Board and Secretariat will be elected.

The Annual General Meeting is constituted by two delegates representing each of the 34 national associations which integrate EURODOC, and by the Board and Administration of the previous year.

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Eurodoc is the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers. It was established in 2002 in Girona, Spain. Eurodoc's objectives are: i) to represent doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level in matters of education, research, and professional development of their careers; ii) to advance the quality of doctoral programmes and the standards of research activity in Europe; iii) to promote the circulation of information on issues regarding young researchers; organise events, take part in debates and assist in the elaboration of policies about Higher Education and Research in Europe; iv) to establish and promote co-operation between national associations representing doctoral candidates and junior researchers.

Contact:  
Eurodoc  
The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers  
Eurodoc aisbl  
Rue d'Egmont 11  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
<http://www.eurodoc.net/>

ABIC is the Portuguese Association of Grant-Holding Researchers and was founded in 2001. ABIC's main activities have been in the following areas: i) to alert the funding agencies in Portugal such as FCT (the Foundation for Science and Technology) that the grant-holding researchers should have social benefits and pension schemes as recommended in The European Charter for Researchers; ii) to urge the government to open the positions available in the public sector and not use grant-holders researchers as cheap labour in Portugal; iii) to persuade the government to deliver policies which are able to create scientific jobs, both in the public and private sector.

Contact:  
ABIC  
Associação dos Bolseiros de Investigação  
Apartado 1056  
1052-001 Lisboa  
<http://www.abic-online.org/>