



## **Eighth International EUREDOCS Conference**

### **The emerging European higher education and research landscape – drivers and implications**

**Department of Administration and Organization Theory  
University of Bergen**

**18-20 May 2012**

#### **1. What is EUREDOCS?**

##### **1.1 The Network**

EUREDOCS is a network of European doctoral students working on issues related to the Europeanization of higher education and research. The network was created upon the initiative of Sylvain Kahn (Director for European Affairs) and Christine Musselin (director of the Centre de Sociologie des Organisations) at Sciences Po in Paris.

It aims to facilitate and enable more communication among doctoral students and new doctoral candidates working on issues related to the Europeanization of higher education and research. The network also aims to promote publication and dissemination of research results and to facilitate exchange and mobility among young scholars in this field.

EUREDOCS is an interdisciplinary network and accepts membership from doctoral students and recent doctoral candidates in sociology, political science, economics, history, and educational studies.

Europeanization of higher education and research is to be understood in a broad sense. It obviously addresses the Europeanization of national higher education and research policies. It also includes the analysis of the (potential) harmonisation, standardisation, convergence or normalisation processes that might affect the structure, academic curricula, accreditation procedures, the quality assessment and assurance systems, academic career patterns, the role of higher education institutions in local or regional development, the structure of university governance, the production of knowledge, the relationships between research and industry, the institutional structures for teaching and/or research etc. Furthermore, it deals with the

role of supra-national bodies in these processes, the influence of American models, the impact of internationalisation etc.

## 1.2 The Activities

The activities of the EUREDOCS network mainly consist of:

- an annual international conference,
- a directory collecting detailed information about doctoral students and recent doctoral candidates and about their PhD topics in progress or recently defended in the field of Europeanization of higher education and research,
- a website which is designed to be a resource for doctoral students and recent doctoral candidates.

## 1.3 The Euredocs Scientific Committee

In order to develop and run this network, Sciences Po has founded a scientific committee composed of six well-known European research centres and their representatives:

- CIPES, Center for Research in Higher Education Policies, Portugal (Pedro Texeira)
- CSO, Sciences Po and CNRS, France (Christine Musselin)
- CHEPS, University of Twente, Netherlands (Jürgen Enders)
- Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom (Vincent Carpentier)
- School of Education, Roehampton University, London, United Kingdom (PennyJane Burke)
- International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel) , University of Kassel, Germany (Barbara Kehm )
- OSPS, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (Gaële Goastellec)
- Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen, Norway (Ivar Bleiklie)

The conferences are organised jointly by the members of the Scientific Committee who also review the papers submitted. The Scientific Committee will also select the best papers of each conference and look for a possibility to publish them in an international journal.

## 2. The EUREDOCS Conferences

One of the objectives of the EUREDOCS network is to organise annual international conferences for doctoral students and new doctoral degree holders (Thesis defence no longer ago than January 2010) related to the EUREDOCS thematic priorities and interests. These conferences aim to:

- promote exchange, foster discussion and reflection among doctoral students and recent doctoral degree holders,

- encourage them to write and present papers at academic meetings and conferences,
- provide practical experiences as discussants and commentators,
- foster scientific exchange and debates.

We expect the conferences to represent opportunities for doctoral students and new doctoral candidates to find a place dedicated to their work, where they can present contributions and where they are confronted with different perspectives, where they will meet senior researchers who will act as moderators or be part of audience. The conferences also serve as an opportunity for further cooperation and exchange.

The papers presented at the conference will be made available on the EUREDACS website after the conference and will thus be widely disseminated. We expect that many of them can then be revised for publication in different journals. The members of the Scientific Committee will support this process.

Each conference provides an opportunity for a limited number of contributors (between 12 and 16) to present a paper on a focused issue (which is part of a PhD thesis but normally not the whole project), in order to allow debates and develop relationships among participants sharing common interests and knowledge on a common theme. For each conference a new topic will be explored, a call for proposals will be disseminated and the Scientific Committee will select the best from among the submitted proposals.

The previous EUREDACS Conferences were held at Sciences Po in Paris (2004), at the Stein Rokkan Centre in Bergen (2005), at the International Centre for Higher Education Research, University of Kassel (2006), at the Centre for Higher Education Studies, School of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies, Institute of Education, University of London (2007) and at the CIPES, Center for Research on Higher Education Policies, University of Porto and University of Aveiro (2008), Sciences Po in Paris (2009) and OSPS, University of Lausanne (2010).

### **3. The Conference Venue for 2012**

The Eighth EUREDACS Conference will be organized by and held at the Department of Administration and Organization Theory at the University of Bergen from 18 to 20 May, 2012 (Friday till Sunday).

### **4. Organisation of the 2012 EUREDACS Conference**

The Conference will be organised in four sessions (one each on Friday and Sunday and two on Saturday) of approximately four hours duration. In each session no more than four papers will be presented and discussed (45 to 60 minutes for each paper). The attendance of doctoral students without contributing a paper is possible. Participants without a paper have to cover their own expenses.

**All papers selected for presentation should be available by 30 April 2012**

Participants and discussants will be asked to read the papers before the beginning of the Conference. Contributors will have 15 minutes to present a short version of their paper. For each paper a discussant will be assigned from among the other participants presenting a paper to comment on the presented paper. The discussant can comment for 15 minutes as well. Then a general discussion will follow taking about 15 to 30 minutes. We expect each contributor to attend the whole Conference.

Each session will be chaired by a senior researcher, usually a member of the Scientific Committee.

Contributors have to pay themselves for their travel costs. Accommodation and meals in Bergen will be covered by the organisation.

## **5. The Conference Theme**

The 8th EUREDACS Conference will focus on the theme: **“The emerging European higher education and research landscape – drivers and implications”**

Studies of higher education and research in Europe focus on the changes that have taken place for the last decades. Three assumptions often characterize the analyses. First, it is often taken for granted that major and dramatic changes have or are about to take place. Second, change tends to be considered equivalent to political reforms that are external to higher education institutions. Thirdly it is often assumed that academic values and interests are stable. Changes tend therefore to be perceived as external shocks brought about by policy makers and other external stakeholders against which Higher education institutions tend to defend status quo. Current organizational arrangements are assumed to represent the values and interests of academics. Academic work and career structures are by the same token assumed to be shaped by the pressures from policy makers and other external interests and academic defences

Less attention has been devoted to processes that are driven by other factors than public policies and represented by other actors than policy makers and their administrative apparatus. Although higher education institutions are supposed to act strategically little attention has been given to how they alone or collectively shape their own future through their own actions, for instance through market oriented competitive strategies or by influencing political processes. The same applies to the role of academics as agents of change – whether as institutional leaders, organizational members or research entrepreneurs. Finally, changes in academic work and academic careers are not just affected by top down public policy reforms, but also by bottom up changes in the academic labour markets that in turn may result in policy change.

The 2012 EUREDACS conference therefore aims at developing a deeper understanding of the complex nature of change by assessing a wide array of change processes and mechanisms that sustain stability. The focus will be on the three main themes, and the interrelations between them. Papers may address the themes both in terms of empirical, methodological and conceptual challenges and opportunities they present.

### **(a) Policies and stakeholders**

This first sub-theme invites proposals on the forces and actors that shape policies at the European, national and organizational levels and the impact at the level of institutions and individual researchers. Who are the actors involved? What are their preferences? How are they involved in processes of change? What are the implications of the patterns we observe for theories of policy making and processes of change in the area of higher education and research?

### **(b) Organization and institutions**

This second sub-theme invites proposals on the forces and actors that shape organizational processes within and in relation to higher education institutions. Who are the actors involved? What are their preferences in terms of the interests and values they pursue? How are they involved in processes of change? What are the implications of the patterns we observe for theories of policy making and organizational change?

### **(c) Academic work and careers**

The third sub theme invites proposals on the dynamics of work and careers and how these processes interact with organizational processes and policy processes. We are equally interested in knowing how they are shaped by and how they contribute to shaping public policies and organizational arrangements.

## **6. Invitation to Submit a Proposal**

**The deadline for the submission of a proposal is 30 January 2012.**

### **Requirements:**

Being a doctoral student or having recently (not earlier than January 2010) defended your thesis and working on a topic concerning the Europeanization of higher education and research as outlined in section 1.

### **Proposals:**

Submit a one to two page proposal on a topic to be presented by using the proposal form at the end of this text. The proposal as well as the potential presentation must be in English.

### **Submission of proposals:**

Proposals should be sent **either** by email to:

ivar.bleiklie@aorg.uib.no

**or** by regular mail to:

Ivar Bleiklie  
Professor  
Department of Administration and Organization Theory,  
University of Bergen

Christiesgate 17  
N-5007 Bergen  
NORWAY

**Selection process:**

The proposals will be reviewed by the members of the Scientific Committee of EUREDOS.

The main assessment criteria will be the relevance of the proposal for the theme of the Conference. We will appreciate proposals based on solid empirical material (quantitative as well as qualitative) and including an appropriate theoretical framework. The evaluation of the proposals will take into account the number of years already spent working on the PhD thesis.

**Replies will be sent by 28February 2012.**

# PROPOSAL FORM

**Family name:**

**First name:**

**Email address:**

**Title of thesis:**

Please tick the relevant box to determine your status:

First year

Second year

Third year

≥Fourth year

Thesis defended  
In month/year

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**Title of contribution submitted to EUREDACS Conference:**

Conference theme to which proposed contribution belongs:

<b>Policies and stakeholders</b>	<b>Organization and institutions</b>	<b>Academic work and careers</b>
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**Abstract** (at least 15 lines but no more than one page):

**Theoretical framework:**

**Empirical data and methodology used:**

**Main/provisional results:**