



with the support of RESUP

First International Euredocs Conference

Sciences Po, Paris, June 24th to June 26th

This international Euredocs (EUropean Research and higher Education DOctoral studies) conference to be held in Paris in June 2004 will be the first of a series of annual or bi-annual conferences for doctoral students and new doctorates working on issues related to the europeanisation of higher education and research.

1. Presentation of Euredocs

a) A network on the europeanisation of higher education and research

Euredocs is a new network created at the initiative of Sylvain Kahn (Director for European Affairs) and Christine Musselin (Senior Researcher at the Centre de Sociologie des Organisations) at Sciences Po.

It aims at facilitating and enabling more communication among doctoral students and new doctorates (thesis defence from January 2001) working on issues related to the europeanisation of higher education and research. This network also aims at promoting publication and diffusion of research results, as well as facilitating the exchange and mobility among young scholars in this field.

The network is interdisciplinary and concerns doctoral students and new doctorates in sociology, political science, economics, history, educational studies.

The europeanisation of higher education and research is to be understood in a broad sense. It of course concerns the europeanisation of national higher education and research policies. It further includes the analysis of the (potential) harmonisation, standardisation, convergence, normalisation processes that can (could) affect the study structure, academic curricula, accreditation procedures, the quality of systems of assessment, academic career patterns, the university role in local development, structure of university government, the production of knowledge, the relationships between firms and research units, the institutional structures for teaching and/or research, etc. It further deals with the role of supra-national bodies in these processes, the influence of the American model, the impact of internationalisation/globalisation, etc.

If you are a doctoral student or a new doctorate (thesis defence from January 2001) concerned by the network and if you want to be part of it, please send a email to euredocs@sciences-po.fr.

b) Euredocs activities

They mainly consist in

- a website which is under construction and will be a resource for doctoral students and new doctorates,
- a directory collecting detailed information about the doctoral students and new doctorates and about their Phds in progress or recently defended on the europeanisation of higher education and research,
- an international conference (annual or bi-annual).

c) Euredocs scientific committee

Five European research centres are represented in this committee:

- CHEPS, University of Twente, Netherland (Jürgen Enders)
- CSO, Sciences Po and CNRS, France (Christine Musselin)
- Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom (Louise Morley)
- Rokkan Centre for Social Studies, University of Bergen, Norway (Ivar Bleiklie)
- Wissenschaftliches Zentrum für Beruf-und hochschulforschung, University of Kassel, Germany (Barbara Kehm and Ulrich Teichler)

2. The first Euredocs conference

One of the objectives of the Euredocs network is to organise an international conference for doctoral students and new doctorates related to Euredocs thematic priorities and interests. These conferences aim at:

- promoting exchange, discussions and reflections among doctoral students and new doctorates
- encouraging them to write and present papers for a scientific meeting
- asking them to discuss other contributions
- having scientific exchanges and debates

We expect this conference to be an opportunity for doctoral students and new doctorates to find a place dedicated to their work, where they can present contributions, confront perspectives, meet senior researchers who will act as moderators or be in the audience as well as find opportunities for further cooperation etc.

The contributions will be available on the Euredocs website after the conference and will thus be widely diffused. We expect many of them will then be transformed in to papers to be published in different journals.

Each conference will welcome a limited number of contributors (12 to 15) all working on a rather focused issue, in order to allow and favour relationships and debates among participants sharing common interests and knowledge on a common theme. For each conference, a new issue will be explored, a call for proposals will be diffused and the scientific committee will select the contributors.

3. Conference venue in 2004

The first Euredocs conference will be held at Sciences Po in Paris from Thursday June the 24th (beginning at 2 PM) to Saturday June the 26th (finishing at 1 pm).

4. Organisation of the 2004 Euredocs conference

The conference will be organised in four sessions. In each session no more than four papers will be presented and discussed (45mns to one hour for each paper).

Selected papers should be available before June 7th.

Participants will be asked to read the papers before arrival. For this reason, contributors will have only 15mns to present their paper. For each paper, a discussant (one of the present contributors) will be chosen and have a further 15mns of time. General discussion will follow. We thus expect each contributor to attend the whole conference.

Each session will be chaired by a senior researcher.

Thursday and Friday diner as well as Friday lunch will be offered. Hotel room expenses for contributors will be covered by Euredocs.

5. Conference Theme : Transformations experienced by higher education and research institutions in European countries

The Paris Eurodocs conference will focus on the transformations experienced by higher education and research institutions in European countries involved in the Bologna process and in the construction of a European higher education area.

Two main dimensions will be explored during this conference.

a) The first deals with the introduction of management and assessment tools within higher education and research institutions.

One of the principal trends common to all (or at least many of European countries) in the recent years is the pressure of national governments for the transformation of these institutions into more autonomous and more "organised" structures. This evolution has been marked by the introduction of management tools, frequently transferred from the private non academic sector. In many countries, but not all, this was justified by arguments based on the rhetoric developed by the tenants of New Public Management and the new managerialism.

Simultaneously, new or reinforced, or diversified assessment tools were imposed on higher education and research institutions which were aimed at making these institutions more accountable for their activity and production.

The introduction of these tools raise different sets of questions.

1/ On the one hand it suggests looking at the diffusion of the New Public Management and new managerialism arguments and instruments among higher education systems. What/who are the vectors of transmission and how do they work and exercise influence at the institutional levels? How do higher education and research institutions learn about these ideas and tools, integrate them, transform them, etc. ?

2/ On the other hand, it points to the concrete effects and the reactions/answers/adjustments they provoked within higher education and research institutions. They can be traced on many aspects: budget allocation, individual and institutional research agenda, creation/suppression of study programmes, academic identities, work relationships, staff management, access policies (more or less selection)...

3/ Finally, it questions the general evolution of European higher education and research systems. Many of the tools introduced have the same names (global budget, contracts, self-assessment, etc.) and thus seem to be a vector for the standardisation or normalisation of higher education and research institutions. Is it really the case at the institutional level? What forms of convergence are to be observed among higher education and research institutions, where do divergences remain and why? The debate on whether European higher education and research systems are converging or not continues and needs for further evidence to be documented and further developed.

b) The second dimension to be explored deals with the concrete effects of the Bologna process on higher education and research institutions.

This theme will probably be present in the programme of many conferences dealing with higher education and research within the next years and it is certainly too early to come to quite definitive conclusions but one should not wait until 2010 to start looking at what is occurring and to provide intermediary results.

While many governments already imposed or are exerting pressure for the introduction of the Bachelor/Master study structures, it is of importance to look at how higher education and research institutions react and behave. What side-effects does it provoke: does the transformation in the structure of the study programmes induce other changes? Is there some anticipation for the next steps (coherent quality assurance and evaluation)? Are institutions looking at the ways in which institutions in other countries are moving? Does it promote international interrelationships among universities?

Such questions should already be answered. It is furthermore of importance to begin developing analytical interpretation of the on-going processes at the institutional level.

6. Invitation to send a proposal

Dead line for answering : 22nd of February

Requirements

Being a doctoral student or a new doctorate (thesis defence from January 2001)

Proposals

You have to write (in English only) a one to two page proposal according to the proposal form at the end of this text.

Proposals should be sent

By email at: c.musselin@cso.cnrs.fr

Or by normal mail: Christine Musselin, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations
19 rue Amélie
75007 Paris
France

Selection process

The proposals will be reviewed by the Euredocs scientific committee.

The main assessment criteria will be the relevance of the proposal with the conference theme. We will very much value proposals relying on a solid empirical material and mobilising a relevant theoretical framework (neither over dimensioned nor disconnected from the proposal abstract). This evaluation shall of course take into account the number of years already spent on the Phd thesis.

Replies will be sent by March the 22nd.

Proposal form

First Name

Surname

Email address

Address

Title of the PhD :

First year

Second year

Third year

More than four years

defended in

Abstract : (at least 15 lines but no more than one page)

Theoretical framework:

Empirical data and methodology utilized: