



Seventh International EUREDOCS Conference **Deconstructing the Europeanization' processes of** **higher education and research**

Observatoire Science, Politique et Société
(Faculté des Sciences Sociales et Politiques, Université de Lausanne)
Lausanne - Switzerland
28-30 May 2010

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.

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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 seven 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, Netherland (Jürgen Enders)
- Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom (Vincent Carpentier)
- School of Education, Université de Roehampton , Grande Bretagne (Penny-Jane Burke)
- International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel) , University of Kassel, Germany (Barbara Kehm)
- OSPS, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (Gaële Goastellec)
- Stein Rokkan Centre for Social Studies, 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 2008) 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 EUREDOCS 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 EUREDOCS 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), at the CIPES, Center for Research on Higher Education Policies, University of Porto and University of Aveiro (2008) and the CSO, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, Sciences-Po and CNRS, Paris (2009).

3. The Conference Venue for 2010

The Sixth EUREDOCS Conference will be organized by the OSPS (Observatoire Science, Politique et Société) and be held at the university of Lausanne from 28 to 30 May, 2010 (Friday till Sunday).

4. Organisation of the 2010 EUREDOCS Conference

The Conference will be organised in four sessions (one each on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning 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 but participants without a paper have to cover their own expenses.

All papers selected for presentation should be available by 30 April 2010

Participants and discussants will be asked to read the papers before the beginning of the Conference. Contributors will have 10 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 Lausanne will be covered by the organisation.

5. The Conference Theme:

The 7th EUREDOKS Conference will address the following theme: Deconstructing the Europeanization' processes of higher education and research

Instead of focusing on a specific dimension of the Europeanization process of national higher education and research systems, this conference is an attempt to build a comprehensive picture of the multilevel and multidimensional processes implicated in the Europeanization of higher education and research.

What does PhD researches identify as groundbreaking characteristics of this process? How can we today define, typify the higher education and research Europeanization?

As a consequence, the papers presented are free to analyse one or several dimensions characterising this process, being structural, organisational or functional dimensions.

For example, the papers can address university governance, academic careers structure or curricula content. They can develop national, institutional, disciplinary or comparative case study, quantitative or qualitative approaches. They are free to question organisations, actors or power relationships. They can focus on objective dimensions of the Europeanization as well as subjective dimensions, questioning for example how academics think that Europeanization changes their professional activity.

Whatever the dimension researched, the paper must be built on original empirical data to analyse a singular dimension of the HE Europeanization process.

The ultimate aim of the conference thus consists, through a bottom up approach and an inductive procedure, to develop a holistic and up to date perspective on this topic, each paper bringing an original piece to the building up of the whole puzzle.

6. Invitation to Submit a Proposal

The deadline for the submission of a proposal is 25 January 2010.

Requirements:

Being a doctoral student or having recently (not earlier than January 2008) 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:

Gaele.Goastellec@unil.ch

or by regular mail to:

Gaële Goastellec
OSPS
Faculté des Sciences Sociales et Politiques,
University of Lausanne
1015 Lausanne
Switzerland

Selection process:

The members of the Scientific Committee of EUREDACS will review the proposals. 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 end of February 2010.