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# Doctoral Programmes - a priority for EUA and Universities

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## Structure

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1. What the Berlin Communiqué says
2. Key issues to be followed up
3. EUA Action Berlin to Bergen
4. The EUA Pilot project
5. Salzburg and beyond

## *1. The Berlin Communiqué (1)*

### ***EHEA & ERA – 2 pillars of the knowledge based society***

- Conscious of .....the importance of **research as an integral part of HEd across Europe**, Ministers consider it necessary to go beyond the present focus on two main cycles of higher education to include the **doctoral level as the third cycle in the Bologna Process**.
- They **emphasise the importance of research/research training & the promotion of interdisciplinarity** in maintaining and improving the quality of higher education and in enhancing the competitiveness of European HEd more generally.
- Ministers call for **increased mobility at the doctoral & postdoctoral levels** & encourage the institutions concerned to **increase their cooperation in doctoral studies & the training of young researchers**.

## *1. The Berlin Communiqué (2)*

### ***EHEA & ERA – 2 pillars of the knowledge based society***

- Ministers will make the necessary effort to **make European HEd Institutions an even more attractive** and efficient partner.
- Ministers understand that **there are obstacles** & and these cannot be resolved by Higher Education Institutions alone.
- It **requires strong support, including financial**, and appropriate decisions from national Governments and European Bodies.
- Finally, Ministers state that **networks at doctoral level** should be given support to stimulate the development of excellence and to become one of the hallmarks of the EHEA.

## II. Key Issues to be followed up

- Strengthening research as part of higher education and as a core mission of universities
- Understanding the doctoral level as the third cycle of studies and as the first stage of a researcher's career
- Making sure that research training does enhance the quality, competitiveness & attractiveness of the EHEA
- Promoting mobility, cooperation and networking at doctoral level
- Mobilising the strong support, including financial, promised from governments to removal obstacles

### III. EUA Action from Berlin to Bergen

- New action line introduced 2003 = for Bergen: defining next steps for 2005/2007
- On the basis of an analysis of the present situation
- Pilot Project on doctoral programmes 2004/2005
- EUA Conference on Research Training in Maastricht (10/2004)
- Bologna Seminar (EUA, Ö, D): recommendations to feed into the drafting process for Bergen (2/2005)
- 3rd EUA Convention (Glasgow, 31.3/03/04.2005)
- TRENDS IV – 3 mid-term priorities & research

## IV.1- EUA Pilot Project :Doctoral Programmes

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### Objectives

- Take up the key issues mentioned in the Berlin Communiqué & formulate recommendations for future action
- Identify the essential elements for doctoral programmes in the future >changing environment & expectations
- Facilitate the exchange & dissemination of examples of (innovative) good practice
- Encourage universities to assume their responsibilities

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## IV. - 2 EUA Pilot Project

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- 49 universities are participating from 30 countries
- Working in 6 networks on: structure & organisation, financing/status of doctoral candidates, quality, innovative practice, European cooperation
- Network reports and recommendations currently being prepared
- Salzburg provides the opportunity for discussions of preliminary findings
- Follow-up project under discussion



## IV. Preliminary outcomes – emerging consensus

- As a core mission of universities doctoral training must be embedded in institutional policies at the highest level.
- Diversity is a strength, but has to be based on high quality.
- Doctoral programmes have to prepare young researchers not only for careers in an academic environment
- Doctoral programmes should be more structured:
  - ✓ Generic skills training should be included.
  - ✓ Arrangements for supervision and assessment are crucial.
  - ✓ Need for 'critical mass' – graduate schools in a European context
- Including mobility and international/ inter-sectorial cooperation and networking is essential.

## Salzburg and Beyond

- Is the consensus shared?
- Defining the issues that need further discussion, e.g. status of doctoral candidates, use of 'tools' such as ECTS?
- EUA intends to reinforce its activities (follow-up project, follow-up in the Bologna process)
- Maintaining the same high interest and commitment from the academic community as here in Salzburg



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- *“Intellectual capital goes where it is wanted and it stays where it is and will be well treated”*