

The PhD in Europe: developing a system that will increase the internationalisation of universities through mobility

**Conor O'Carroll, Lewis Purser, Sinead Lucey (Irish Universities Association)
Nina McGuinness, Leibniz Universität Hannover**

A common element of policy in the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is that of the mobility of researchers and students, respectively. The PhD is positioned at the intersection of research and education. It is the enabling qualification to become a researcher. Since the ERA was launched in 2000, its policies are gradually being implemented by the EU Member States and Associated Countries¹. Grant support is provided through the Framework Programme and the Structural Funds. These have funded large numbers of doctoral candidates however there has been no specific policy on PhD's as they have been subsumed into the broader category of researcher.

On the other hand, the PhD is an integrated part of the EHEA policy as part of the Bologna Process. Under the Innovation Union 2010, research and innovation policy now explicitly requires the need for high quality doctoral education and training bringing greater convergence between ERA and EHEA.

Mobility at doctoral level should be considered from the dual aspects of international mobility of doctoral candidates and their mobility after they graduate and move into employment. More universities are offering structured PhD programmes to increase quality, attract international students and prepare them better for employment. EU policy is now considering the future of doctoral training through a mapping exercise. The mapping will identify good practice and lead to a common set of principles that should characterise doctoral training. These principles could form the basis for the establishment of the brand, *"The PhD in Europe"* and foster mobility of doctoral candidates within and to Europe.

¹ The 27 EU Member States plus countries associated to the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania and Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina