

2021 EURODOC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The role of doctoral education within Europe's Universities

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Introducing EUA-CDE



- **Membership service** of the European University Association (EUA)
- **The largest** European Doctoral Education Network (doc & postdoc) bringing together academic leaders and professionals from 262 European universities
- **Drives** doctoral education policies and promotes cooperation and exchange of good practices on issues of common interest
- **Identifies** and monitors the trends in doctoral education, inside and outside Europe
- **Organises** regularly events, addressing fundamental and emerging topics of doctoral education and publishes surveys and policy paper

Recent themes

- Research integrity
- Open science and the digital transformation
- Inter-institutional collaboration in doctoral education
- Career development and tracking
- Doctoral candidates' wellbeing/mental health
- Societal dimension of doctoral education (incl. SDG)

Doctoral education in a post-pandemic world

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/91261194@N06/49825145692>



Doctoral education as a meeting place



Doctoral schools as meeting places between....

- **Research and higher education** (research and academic degree)
- **Doctoral Candidates** (different backgrounds: Social, cultural, national)
- **Within the institution** (Doctoral education as shared responsibility)
- **Institutions** (Inter-institutional collaboration. Joint doctoral programmes)
- **Within/Between Disciplines** (disciplinary/multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary doctoral programmes/schools)
- **Sectors** (private, public)
- **Services** (Libraries, career centers, legal service, mental health support, transfer offices, etc.)
- ...

Doctoral education plays a central role within Europe's universities

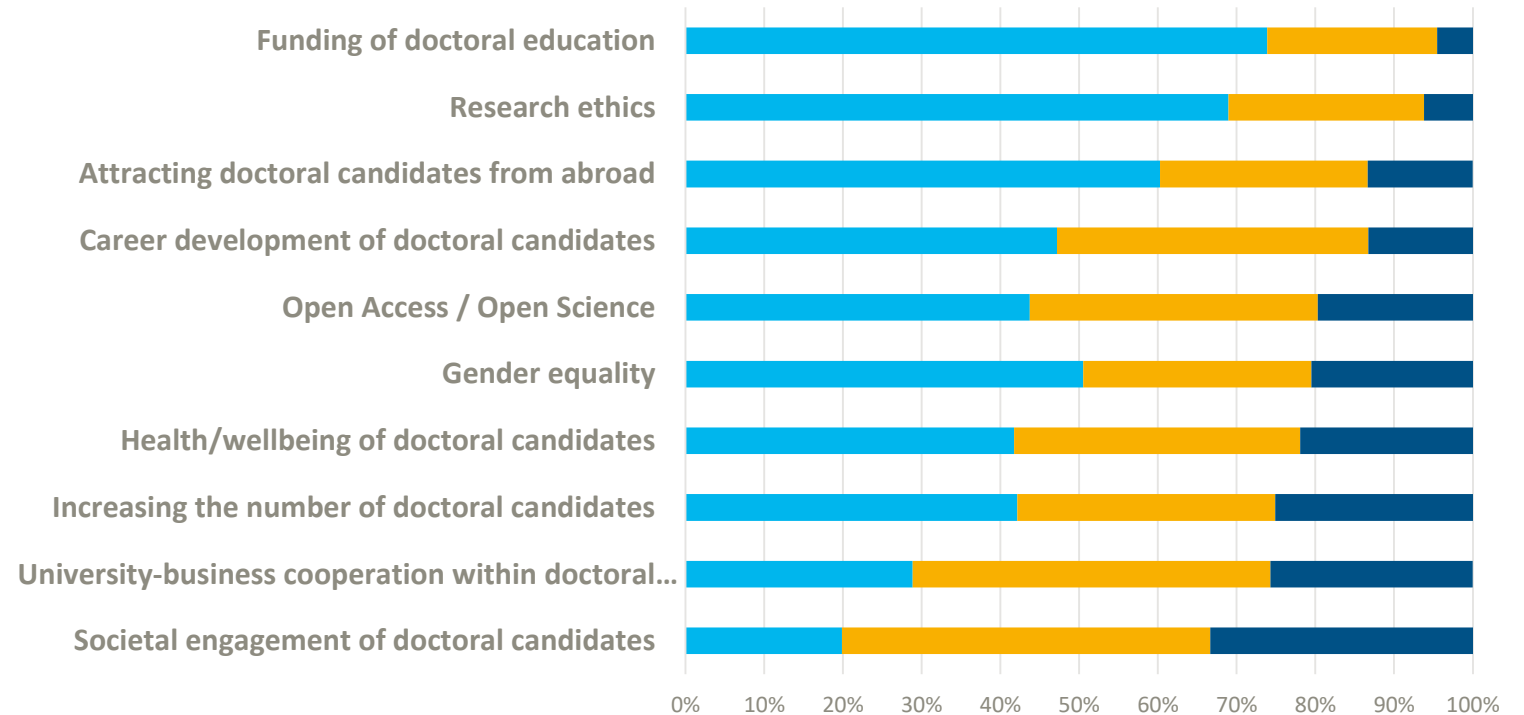
1. **Key strategic areas of universities** like the digital- and green transformation, Open-Science, the civic engagement of universities, new modes of collaborative research, challenges of research ethics and integrity etc. **are also strategic priorities of doctoral education.**
2. Doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers play **different roles and have different tasks within universities** – they are mostly researchers, but are also involved in teaching, science communication, research management etc.

There is a significant diversity of strategic priorities in doctoral education reflecting diverse challenges are confronted with

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

EUA-CDE 2018 survey: Doctoral education in Europe today

To what extent are the following issues currently considered a strategic priority in doctoral education within your institution

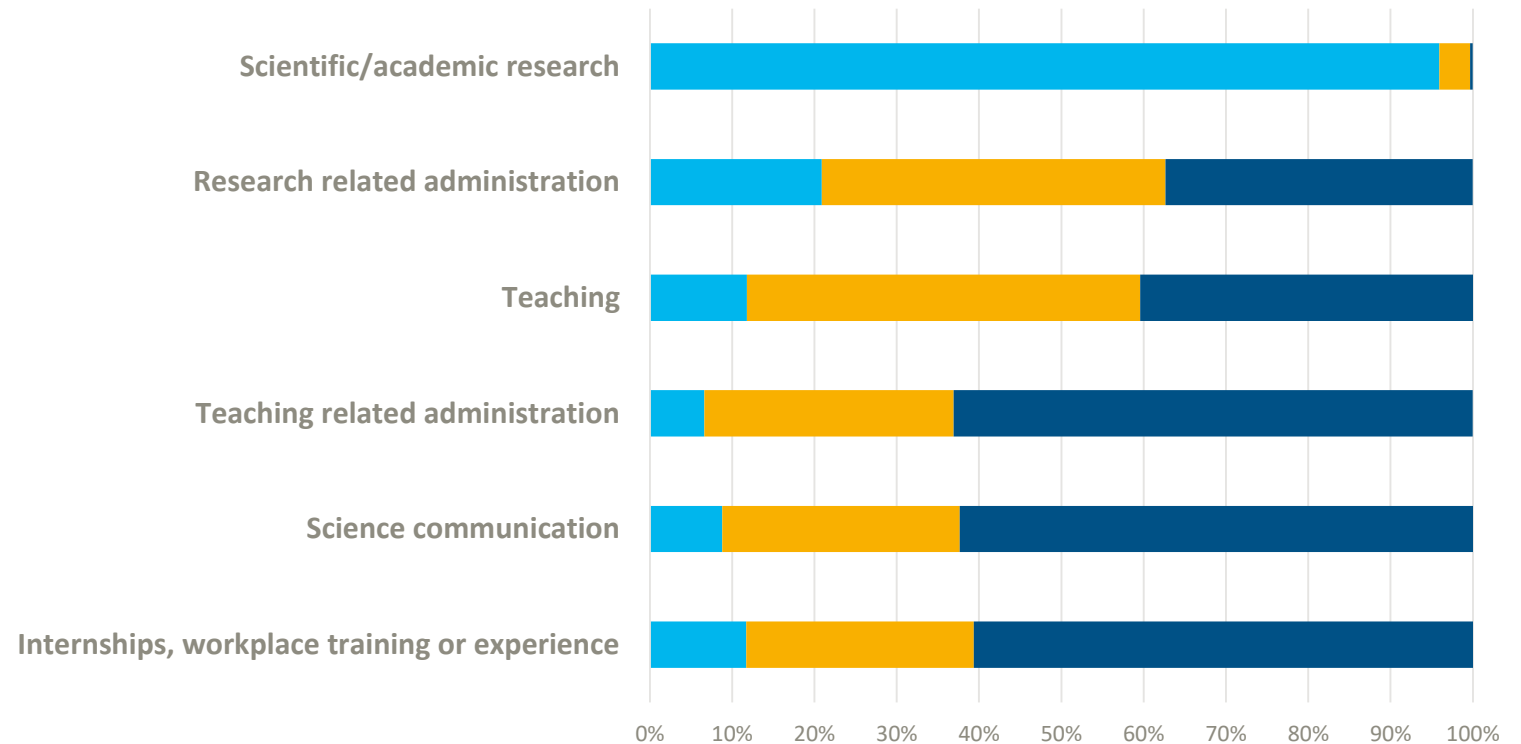


Doctoral candidates spend their time with diverse activities

To what extent does an average doctoral candidate in your institution spend her/his time on the following activities?

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

EUA 2018 Survey



Addressing
key challenges



The digital transformation impacting and driving doctoral education

- New forms of digital training, communication and collaboration impact doctoral education –Covid 19 accelerates the **process of digital transformation.**
- There is increased **focus on data in research.** As a consequence about half of the survey universities plan to **include research data training** in most and all doctoral schools/programme and three quarter of Universities consider **FAIR data** and research data management a high and very high priority (EUA-CDE 2021 Survey, to be published)
- Raising the **awareness of for the societal and ethical challenges** of digital technologies among doctoral candidates – especially in the context of AI.

Promotion of Interdisciplinarity

- Doctorates as academic degrees reflect the **organisation of academia in disciplines** – this is an opportunity, but also a challenge for interdisciplinarity
- Interdisciplinarity is becoming increasingly important in many areas of research and there is **a need to promote and support interdisciplinarity**
- To seize the opportunities of interdisciplinarity, it is important that early stage researchers are **exposed to interdisciplinary and to update career structures within universities.**

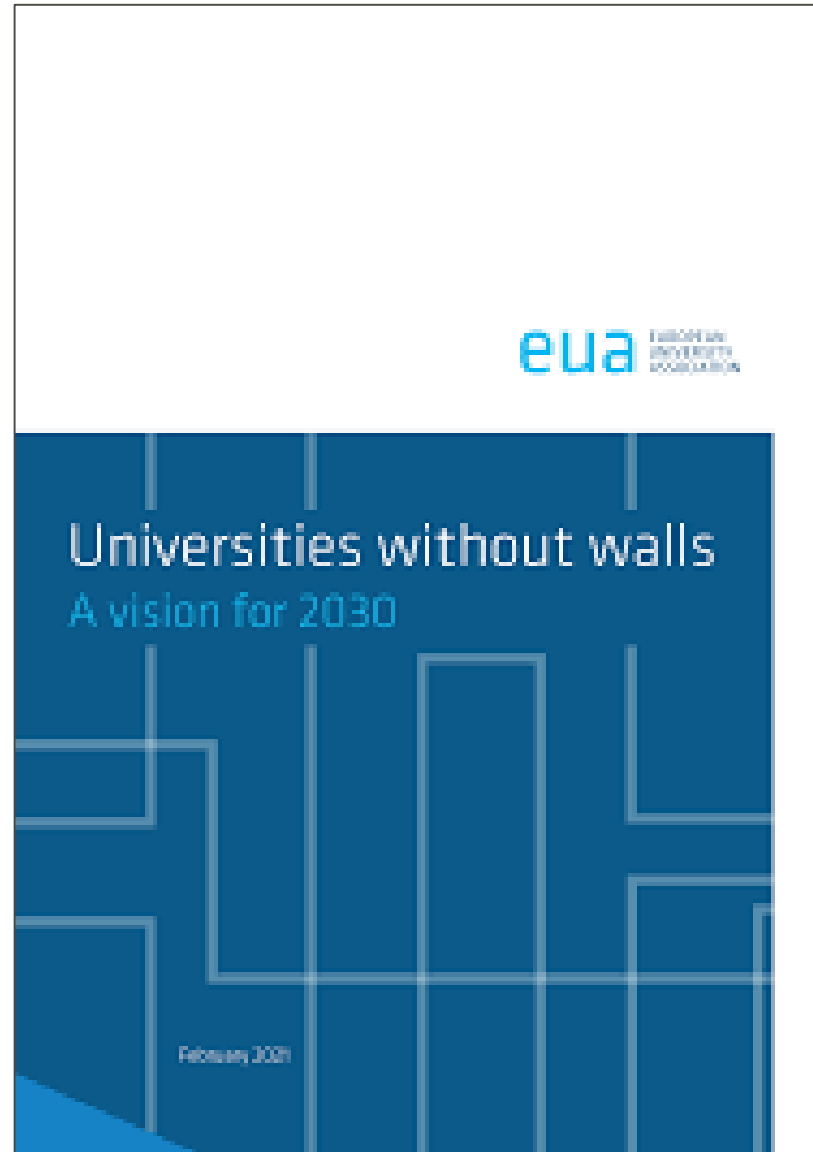
The societal engagement of early stage researcher

- Majority of doctorate holders are not working in academia – they **bring experience and knowledge** from academic research into other societal areas.
- **Doctoral candidates as «bridges» between university and societies**
- Communicating research: Doctoral candidates are **increasingly involved in science communication**:. F.i. «My thesis in 3 minutes», blogs, etc..
- There is an Increasing **relevance of communication trainings** as part of doctoral education. (2021 survey)
- Cultivation and sharing of critical thinking and the use of the academic freedom are active forms of **civic engagement of researchers**.

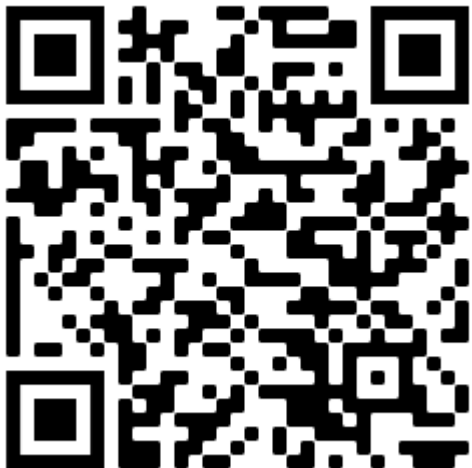
Mobilising the full potential of academia: Reform of academic careers and assessment

- **Recognise the multiple roles of researchers.** There is a need for parity of esteem of different career paths of academic profiles
- **Abolish a unique focus** on publication counting (However, things are changing.)
- Enable and **valorise Open Science** in career and research assessment
- Raise awareness among ECR about the challenges and limits of the different kind of assessments and what it means for them.

Universities without walls: A vision for 2030



**EUA-CDE online
annual meeting:
13-15 September
2021**



A promotional banner for the 2021 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting. The background is a high-angle photograph of a busy conference hall with people at tables. Overlaid on the image is the text '2021 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting' in large white font, followed by '13 - 15 SEP 2021 | CONFERENCE' and '📍 ONLINE'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: a green one labeled 'Register now' and a blue one labeled 'Programme'.

Friday, August 27, 2021

Thank you for your attention

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