



## TRANS-DOC Closing Seminar: Transferability across the Atlantic

Brussels, 15 October 2012

**KoWi, European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations, Rue du Trône 98**

Doctoral programmes are undertaken in many and various ways throughout Europe and North America, from the individual pursuit of a doctoral degree with a supervisor to highly organised doctoral schools. The growing awareness of the importance of research training and the increased focus on development, innovation and entrepreneurship has also brought on the need to train young researcher to look at their career choices with enhanced flexibility. In times of economic crisis, it is all the more important that future PhD graduates be equipped with the transversal skills that will enable them to transfer their knowledge and competences in multi-cultural and pluridisciplinary contexts whether in academia, industry, private and public sectors, or self-employment.

This event, organised within the framework of the TRANS-DOC project, will bring together stakeholders from Europe and North America to discuss trends and future collaboration in doctoral training across the Atlantic. It will also address the issue of employability of doctoral candidates and explore the efforts and best practices in place at universities. Speakers include: Britta Baron (Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President International, University of Alberta), Alexandra Bitusikova (Vice-Rector for Science and Research, University of Banska Bystrica, and Senior Adviser, Council for Doctoral Education, EUA-CDE), Julia Kent (Director of Global Communications and Best Practices, Council of Graduate Schools) and Conor O'Carroll (Director of Research, Irish Universities Association).

### Preliminary Programme

- 09.30-09.45 **Welcome and Introduction**  
Inge KNUDSEN, *Director, Coimbra Group Office*
- 09.45-11.00 **TRANS-DOC Project: Presentation of Activities and Outcomes**  
Johnny LAURSEN, *Head of the Graduate School, Arts, Aarhus University*  
Adrienne MARTIN, *Associate Vice Provost, International Programmes, University of California, Davis*  
Janina BRUTT-GRIFFLER, *Professor and Associate Dean, GSE, University at Buffalo, SUNY*
- 11.00-11.30 **The PhD in Europe** - Conor O'CARROLL, *Director of Research, Irish Universities Association*
- 11.30-11.45 Coffee break

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11.45-12.15	<b>Doctoral Education in Europe in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities</b> <i>Alexandra BITUSIKOVA, Vice-Rector for Science and Research, University of Banská Bystrica, and Senior Adviser, Council for Doctoral Education, EUA-CDE</i>
12.15-12.30	Q&A session
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-14.00	<b>Graduate Education in Canada - Opportunities and Challenges in a Globalising Environment</b> - <i>Britta BARON, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President International, University of Alberta</i>
14.00-14.30	<b>Pathways beyond the PhD: Enhancing Skills and Employability at U.S. Graduate Institutions</b> - <i>Julia KENT, Director of Global Communications and Best Practices, Council of Graduate Schools</i>
14.30-14.45	Coffee break
14.45-16.00	<b>Panel discussion: How to move forward?</b> Chair: <i>Dorothy KELLY, Vice-Rector International Relations and Development Cooperation, University of Granada and Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group</i> Panellists: <i>Britta Baron, Alexandra Bitusikova, Julia Kent, Conor O'Carroll</i>
16.00	End of the seminar

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## About TRANS-DOC

This seminar is the final activity of the Erasmus Mundus Action 3 project TRANS-DOC ([www.coimbra-group.eu/transdoc](http://www.coimbra-group.eu/transdoc)). TRANS-DOC stands for the TRANS-Atlantic aspect of the project as well as the TRANSferability aspects of DOctoral training. The TRANS-DOC project has grown from the earlier BALANCE Project funded by the Erasmus Mundus Action 4 in 2006-2009. The doctoral level was the area identified by all participating university representatives at the seminars and conferences of the BALANCE Project as the most important field to explore and in which to establish closer co-operation towards innovation and entrepreneurship.

The project has two basic activities:

- a survey of the organisation of doctoral training in Europe and in North America
- the development of a course template for doctoral candidates on transferable skills, combined with train-the-trainers courses

The TRANS-DOC consortium is coordinated by the Coimbra Group Office in partnership with the universities of Alberta (Canada), Aarhus (Denmark), Buffalo (USA), California, Davis (USA), Granada (Spain), Graz (Austria), Leuven (Belgium) and York University (Canada).

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