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Rector's Conference of
Alps-Adriatic Universities

The Contribution of University Networks to the Development of European Cultural and Social area

Doctoral Studies in the Context of Networking

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Rector of the University of Primorska (Slovenia) and
President of the AARC
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Implementation of Bologna concept of doctoral studies depends on additional investments in:

- ✓ Transformation of classrooms in research laboratories (Integration of education and research on all 3 study levels);
- ✓ Creation of jobs for young researchers on doctoral studies (According to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers & Code of Conduct for their Recruitment);
- ✓ International joint and double degree doctoral study programmes performed by several universities (Each university should have in place an Internationalization strategy)

The case of Slovenia

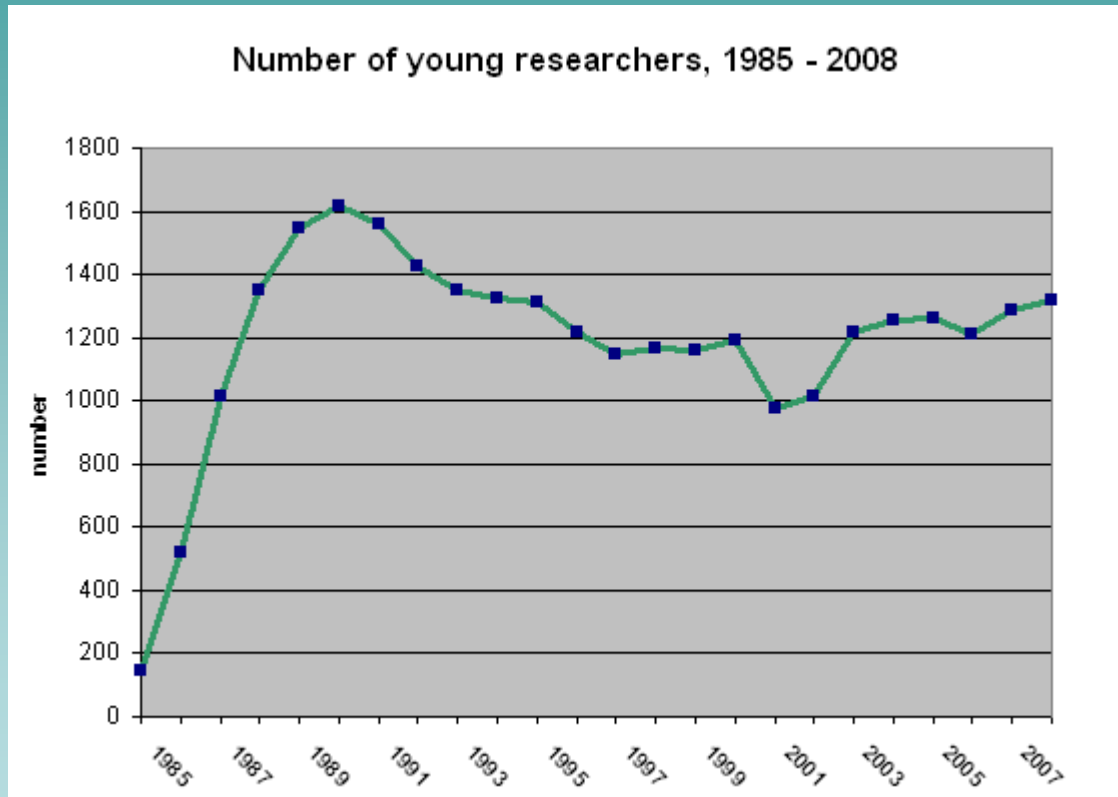
The Young Researchers Programme

- ✓ Programme started in 1985,
- ✓ Post graduate studies (now for Ph.D.),
- ✓ Important **scientific policy instrument**,
- ✓ Each year a new call,
- ✓ **Slovenian Research Agency**: 200-250 new entries/year
- ✓ **Slovenian Technology Agency – TIA**: 50-80 new entries/year – applicants from industry
- ✓ Financing app. 1200 young researchers/year

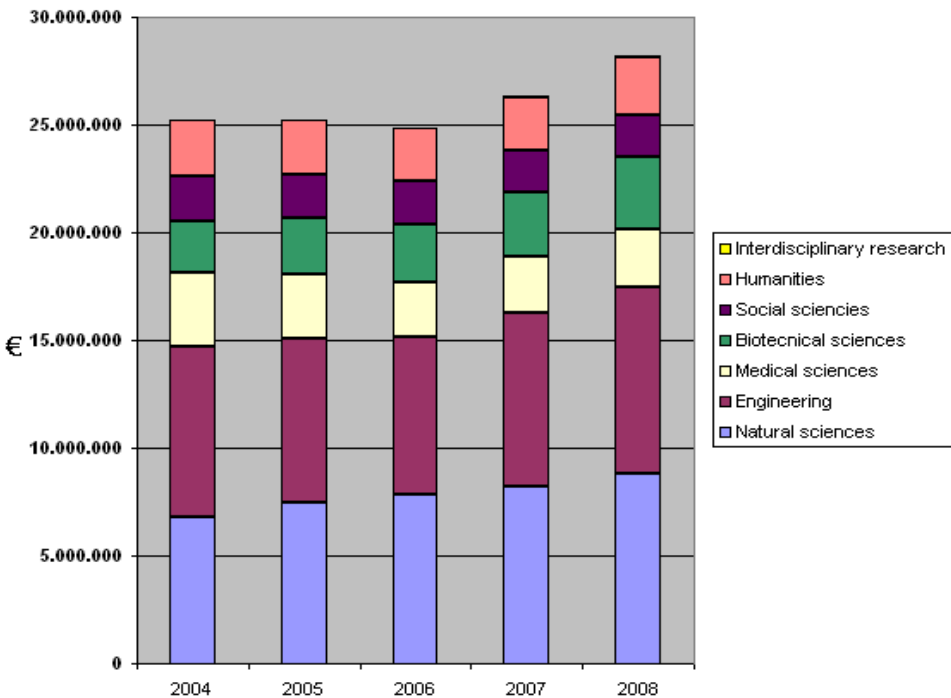
✓ Features of the Young Researcher Programme:

- young researchers participate in research work during their doctoral studies on basic research or applied research projects;
- they have regular, fixed-term **employment contracts**;
- the Agency finances their **salary, social contributions**, as well as material and non-material costs for research and postdoctoral study;
- Funds for the training of young researchers are allocated for a fixed-term, up to a maximum of **four years** and **six months** for a PhD programme (doctorate);
- The average annual cost of financing of **one young researcher** is app. 27.500 EUR.

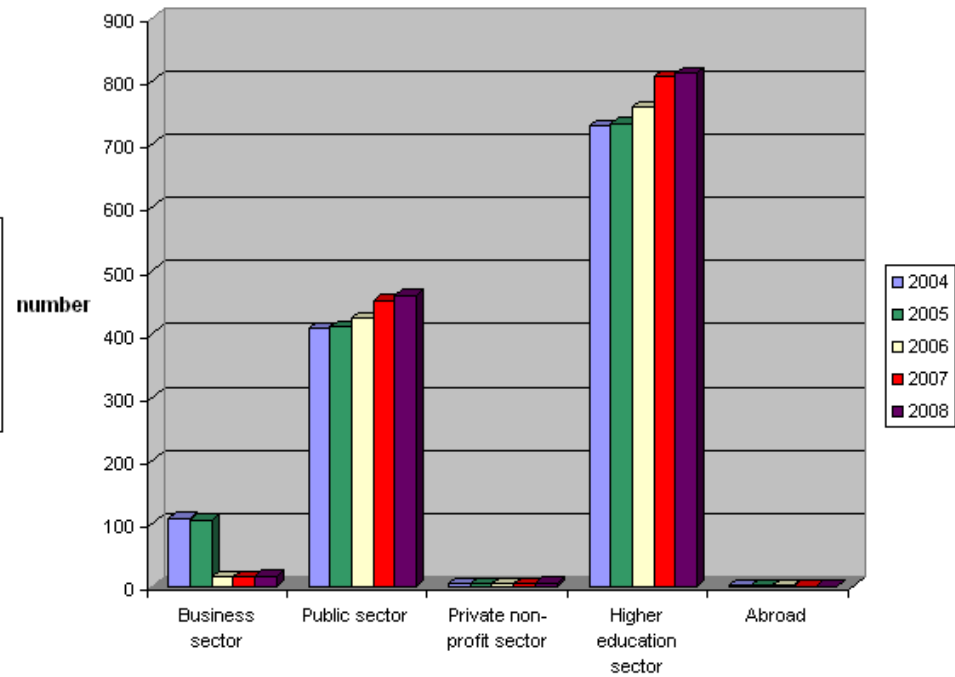
Some figures



Funding of young researchers by fields of science, 2004 - 2008



Number of young researchers by sector of performance, 2004 - 2008



- ✓ "Young Researchers" and "Post-doctoral Projects" are policy instruments used by the Slovenian Research Agency.
- ✓ The programmes provide:
 - Stable working conditions of young researchers;
 - Doctoral candidates are treated as researchers.

The elements of recruitment, employment and of working conditions are created in a way to meet the principals of the Bologna concept of doctoral study.

At the same time they increase the amount of research work in the country, with the aim to develop a critical mass of researchers (Ph.D.) necessary for a successful research system.



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II.

Rectors Conference of Alps-Adriatic Universities (AARC)



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Rector's Conference of Alps-Adriatic Universities

The Rectors' Conference of the Universities of the Alps Adriatic Region (hereafter «AARC») is constituted to promote dialogue among the higher educational institutions of the **Alps Adriatic Region**.

AARC cooperates with the institutions of the European Union in scientific research and in the different cycles of higher educational training, including life-long learning.

Year of foundation: **1978**

President for the year 2009/2010: **Prof. Dr. Rado Bohinc**



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Members of the AARC network

At present, AARC comprises 36 universities from 6 countries from the Alps-Adriatic Region:

- **Austria (7)**
- **Croatia (5)**
- **Germany (1)**
- **Hungary (3)**
- **Italy (17)**
- **Slovenia (3)**

Activities

AARC is engaged in supporting collaboration of teachers and students in different academic fields:

- Education
- Scientific research and projects
- Didactics
- Student and staff mobility
- Joint programmes

Future development:

- Reinforce the joint education programs scheme;
- Integration of summer schools
- Development of scholarship programmes;
- Strengthening the Inter-library cooperation;
- Joint European projects;

- Question of professionalization;
- Intensifying the cooperation with Danube Rectors Conference.



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III. University Networks



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Europe is characterized by the highest number of university networks which exceeds that of the global networks.

Universities need to be able to make a decision about which networks they intend to have a membership in (as a response to the phenomena of both globalization and regional integration).





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Type	Main characteristics	Example
Regional	Linked by geographical characteristics	<i>Danube Rectors Conference Rector's Conference of Alps-Adriatic Universities Adriatic Ionian University Network</i>
Experts of HE	Brings together international educational experts	<i>EAIE, EUA</i>
General co-operation	Promotes cooperation in the higher education sector all over – and out of- Europe	<i>Compostela Group of Universities, Utrecht Networks</i>
Research	Networks focusing on advanced research cooperation	<i>International Research Universities Network</i>
History	Network of long established, most reputed universities of Europe	<i>Coimbra</i>
Education	Universities providing the same training/ education	<i>Association for Teacher Education in Europe</i>
Profession	Network of people with the same profession	<i>European Association of Erasmus Coordinators</i>
Students	Student networks	<i>Erasmus Student Network</i>
Language	Network of languages and cultures of the EU and beyond	<i>European Language Council</i>
Religion	Network of universities with the same religious specificity	<i>Federation of European Catholic Universities</i>
Geography	Formed upon the same geographical status	<i>UNICA</i>
Geography and Culture	Based upon location and a European Cultural Movement	<i>UNeCC</i>

The following questions have to be taken into consideration:

- What is their main goal by joining a network – is it in compliance with their institutional internationalization strategy?
- What is the mission of that network?
- Who would they like to network with – which universities are included in that network?
- On what level would they like to accomplish it?

What are the motivations of universities in joining networks?

The benefits the university sees in joining a network are:

- ✓ An excellent tool to keep the universities updated about the regional and global changes in HE;
- ✓ Student, teacher and researcher mobility purposes;
- ✓ A marketing tool that contributes to the international visibility, its promotion (enhance the image of the institution internationally);
- ✓ Internationalization increases the value of the degree of the students, teachers and researchers.

What is a good network?

- ✓ Members have to be devoted;
- ✓ Continuous communication with the members is essential;
- ✓ Organizing events for the member universities but also evaluate these events;
- ✓ Differentiation from other networks (what makes a network different from others);
- ✓ Has to be accessible (affordable for its members);
- ✓ Has to provide something (a service) that universities have the need for.

The key element is the devotion of network members

- ✓ It is more difficult to keep members interested than to recruit a new member by offering a new possibility of international cooperation;
- ✓ The network should be open and flexible for new ideas;
- ✓ But also the members have to actively participate by proposing initiatives, giving a feedback.



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Thank you for your attention