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Executive Summary

European University Association launches a project to examine the development of doctoral programmes in view of the increasing demands and challenges in Europe

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Keywords

Europe
Research
Doctoral

4 February 2004

EUA Doctoral project: call for applications

1. The European University Association has issued a call for applications to its doctoral programmes project, **deadline 15 March 2004**. The project is open to all EUA member universities, and its two main aims are to identify essential conditions in the development of successful doctoral programmes in Europe, while promoting cooperation. Applications can be made online, at:

http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/client/item_view.jsp?type_id=1&item_id=675

2. The programme will examine the development of existing doctoral programmes and address the needs of European research training in the rapidly-changing knowledge society. It will assemble universities into six networks, each concentrating on a theme¹ specific to doctoral programmes. These themes are:

- structure and organisation;
- financing;
- quality;
- innovative practice;
- existing university networks offering joint doctoral programmes;
- overview of all these themes.

3. The project ties in with the objectives of creating the European Research Area² and the European Higher Education Area³, and highlights the importance of doctoral programmes in achieving both of these goals. High quality research training will underpin the European Commission's goal to increase the number of researchers to 700,000 by 2010 while raising research spending to 3% of GDP. It will be the foremost European project on doctoral programmes contributing to the Bologna Process⁴.

Notes:

¹ For full details on the six themes see:

http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/DP_call%20for%20applicants.1074259589506.pdf

² For further details on the European Research Area see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/index_en.html

³ For further details on the European Higher Education Area see: [http://www.bologna-](http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/pdf/Communique1.pdf)

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⁴ For further details on the Bologna Process see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/educ/bologna/bologna_en.html

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