

***Izabela Stanisławiszyn***  
**President of Eurodoc**

Dear Minister, Dear President of the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers,  
Distinguished Speakers and Guests,  
Dear Hosts, Participants, Members of Eurodoc, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, I have today an honor, privilege and pleasure to welcome you all in Vilnius at the Eurodoc Annual Conference 2011, organised jointly by the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers and Eurodoc. Welcome to Vilnius!

This event is of particular importance because it is the 10 years anniversary of Eurodoc conference. Every year since 2002 Eurodoc has organised an annual conference in order to gather the young generation of scientists from all over Europe with other members of the scientific community and key stakeholders to discuss recent developments in research and higher education policy. The fact that Eurodoc hosts such an annual meeting shows how crucial these issues are and how young researchers are dedicated to their career. And for the next couple of days, we again confront expectations of various interest groups with the reality of the needs of young researchers to come up with sound policy recommendations aimed at advancement of research standards in Europe.

To quote Marie Skłodowska-Curie *“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now it is the time to understand more so that we fear less”*, we are here, today and now in Vilnius at Eurodoc Annual conference 2011 to understand more and to fear less.

The topic of Eurodoc annual conference is **“New generation in science: toward a new fashion ERA? – Unravelling relationships between research traditions and new generations’ hunger for change”**. This topic addresses the current intellectual needs of young scientists in Europe to reflect on the relationship between research traditions and innovations in a fast-changing global landscape for research. Specifically the topic discusses the role that young scientists play in the process, not merely by conducting research but by making science and by ensuring that the science is used for the benefit of a mankind.

The aim of the conference is to explore what causes have distorted the essence of research traditions and how this influences the activities of today’s young scientists in Europe. Within the next days here in Vilnius we will pinpoint challenges and opportunities young researchers face nowadays in science by looking through the prism of research traditions and the current role of young researchers in science.

I also hope that besides attending the conference, you will also take time to explore and discover the beauty and the treasures of Vilnius which is one of the most beautiful cities of the Old Continent, where the heritage of the past and achievements of the present, science and culture all co-exist in harmony.

I would like to conclude my opening speech by expressing my gratitude and sincere thanks to the hosts of this conference for all their involvement, deep commitment and outstanding work at a very high and professional level and providing us with everything that is necessary to make this event an unforgettable one.

On behalf of Eurodoc and the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers, I wish all of you a very successful, fruitful and inspiring conference and a wonderful time in Vilnius!