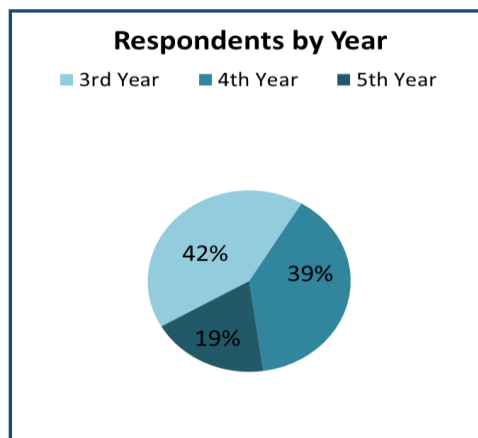
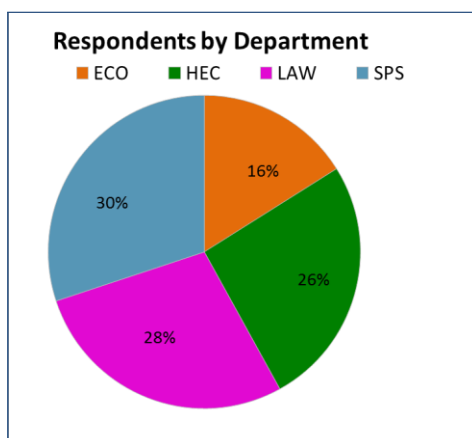
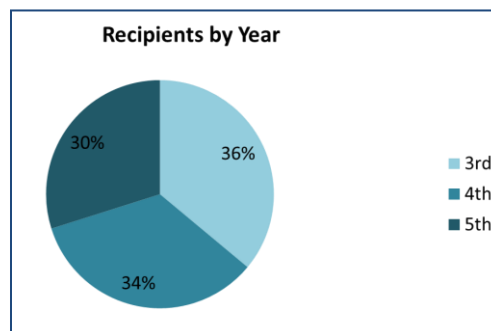
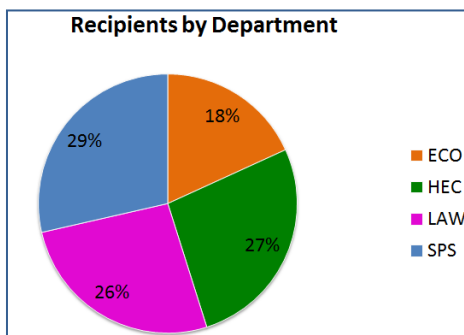


## Survey on Career Plans of third-, fourth- and fifth-year Ph.D. researchers

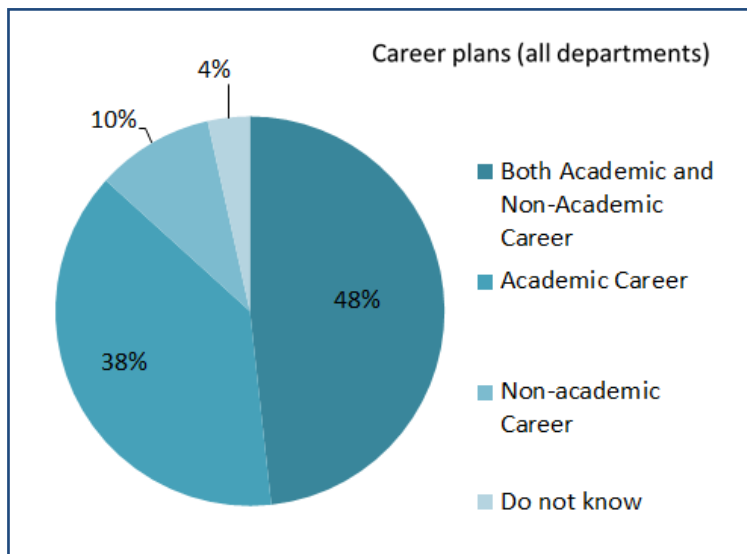
At the end of March 2017, a survey was sent out to third-, fourth- and fifth-year EUI Ph.D. researchers with the aim of gathering information on the researchers' career planning. It was the first survey of this kind and the information provided was anonymous. The feedback will help us to further shape the [Academic and Professional Development Programme](#). A summary of the feedback received can be found below.

### Survey respondents

A total of 143 researchers (out of 308 researchers) filled in the survey (response rate: 46.4%).



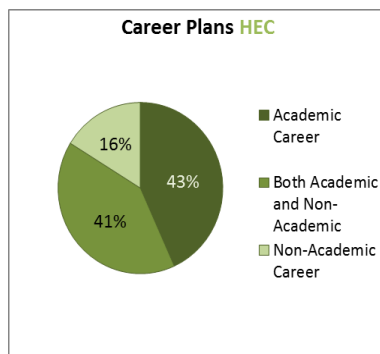
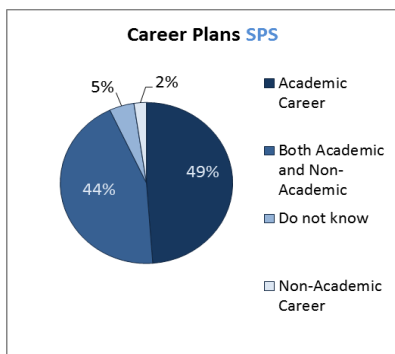
# What is your current career plan after completing your Ph.D. at the EUI?



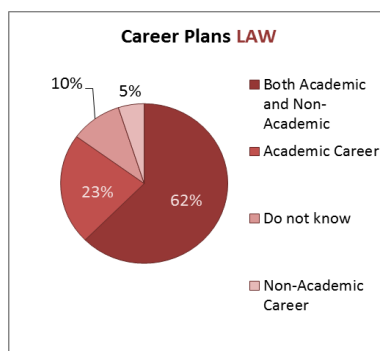
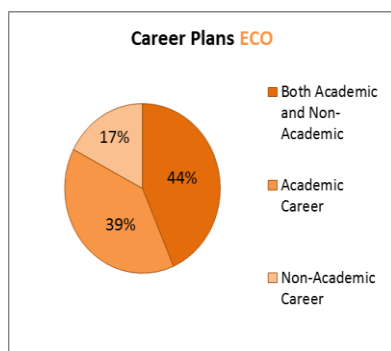
The majority of respondents across the four disciplines (48%) are considering both academic and non-academic career options, followed by 38% of respondents who are only considering an academic career. 10% of respondents are only interested in a non-academic career.

Comparing the career plans by department, most respondents in HEC (43%) and SPS (49%) are planning an academic career. While

respondents from both departments are also considering both career paths (HEC: 41%, SPS 44%), only a few respondents from SPS indicate that they are interested in a non-academic career track (only 2%). By contrast, 16% HEC respondents exclude an academic career track.



Respondents from LAW show that many of them are considering both career tracks at the same time (academic or non-academic career = 62%); LAW respondents also represent the smallest percentage of respondents who are certain about embarking on an academic career (23%). Most respondents from the ECO department are also considering the two career tracks, while 17% of respondents are considering a non-academic career,



similar to respondents from HEC (16%).

## **Respondents considering academic and non-academic career paths (48% of all respondents)**

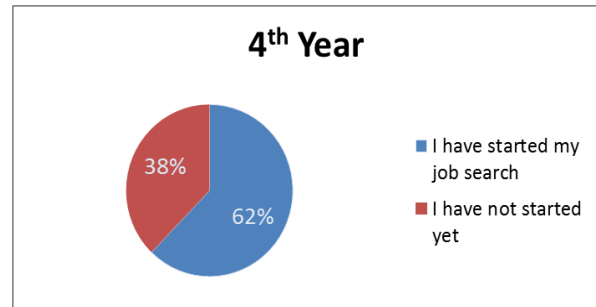
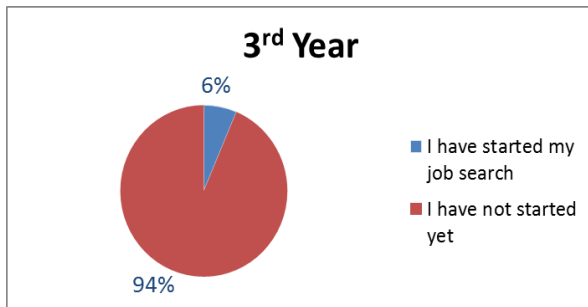
In an open question, Ph.D. researchers were asked to list the type of institution to which they would consider applying and the position for which they would consider applying.

- Many would like to continue working as researchers
  - in a public university (post-doc) or a private university
  - OR
  - outside academia (research department of EU + national policy-making institutions, think tank, research organisation, central banks, etc.)
- Non-academic career options include:
  - EU institutions, government bodies/ministries, regulatory agencies, diplomatic services, central banks, courts
  - international institutions, OECD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, NGOs, UN, cultural institutions, museums/archives, labour unions, political parties, heritage organisations/foundations
  - law firms, banks/insurance firms, big data companies, consultancy firms

## Have you started your job search already?

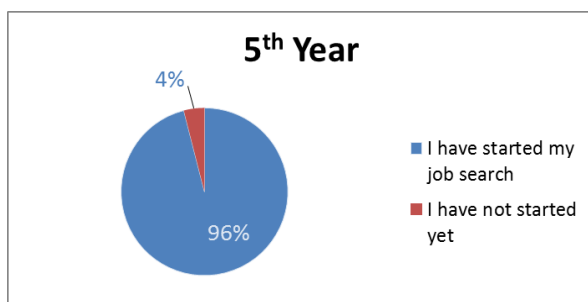
About half of all respondents from all the departments (48%) have already started their job search.

Answers differ greatly, however, depending on whether respondents are in the third, fourth or fifth year of the doctoral programme.



While most respondents in the third year of the doctoral programme have not started their job search, towards the end of their fourth year (end March 2017) about two-thirds have started their job search.

Except for one person, all respondents in the fifth year have started their job search.



Asked whether they have received any assistance from their department with regard to their career planning, 70% of respondents say they have not received any assistance.

# What training/resources are currently not on offer but would be useful for your professional development

The following topics emerged:

## Information on jobs and career advice

- Information on where to find academic and non-academic jobs
- General information on job markets, presentation by institutions/companies
- Individual career support for job search (including feedback on CV, cover letters, career planning advice)
- Practical work experience during Ph.D. (traineeships)

## Post-doctoral fellowships

- Information on post-doctoral fellowships (also beyond the countries covered by the Academic Careers Observatory)
- Writing research proposals + planning your research after the Ph.D.

## Academic training

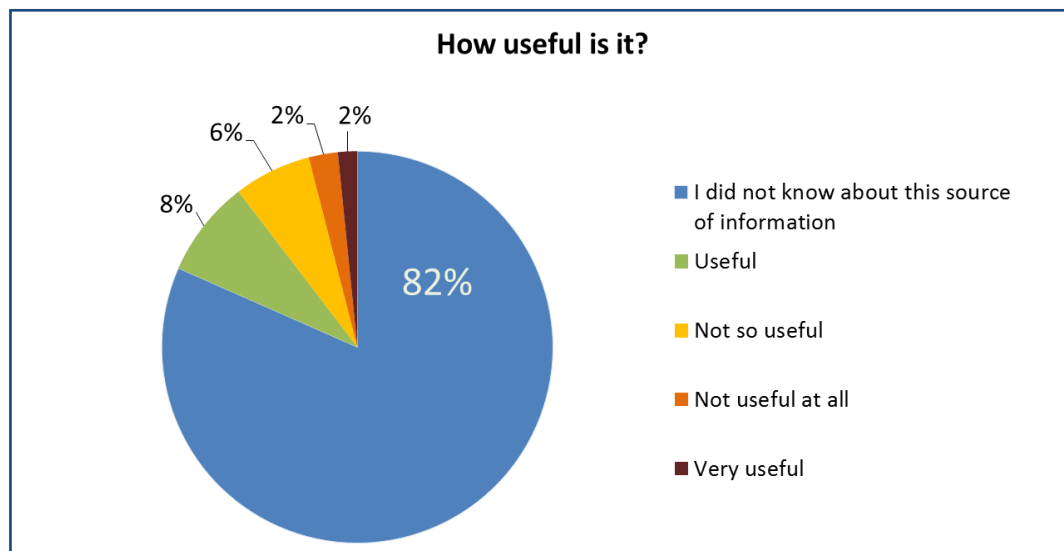
- How to give feedback on papers/peer review
- Publishing your thesis/publishing your papers

## Job application

- Interview support
- EPSO exam preparation/application for EU institutions
- Applying to international organisations
- How to apply for US institutions
- How to re-brand yourself for non-academic positions

Other topics included: teaching opportunities, management training, and developing self-confidence.

## Academic Careers Observatory



82% of respondents were not aware of the existence of the [Academic Careers Observatory](#). 10% of all respondents find the Academic Career Observatory useful or very useful, while 8% did not find the Observatory useful or did not find it useful at all.

### Other comments

- EUI should assist researchers more to find a job (like LSE or US universities)
- More professors could assist researchers in their job search
- Professors should raise more awareness about the activities offered by Academic Service

# Current and planned activities of the Academic and Professional Development Programme

The survey on the career plans of third-, fourth- and fifth-year researchers is one important source of information to take into account when developing the [Academic and Professional Development Programme](#).

The following areas emerging from this survey will be addressed in the design of the programme.

## General

Some respondents do not seem to be aware of the activities that are already offered at the EUI (interview training, applying for international jobs, Academic Careers Observatory). Better communication on the current offers will be provided (bi-annual newsletter with overview of all activities, review of EUI web where to best provide information on activities, information flyers, raising awareness of activities with departments/supervisors).

## Career planning, information and support

The fact that respondents are open to both academic and non-academic career options indicates their flexibility to consider different career paths, thus responding to job market opportunities. Researchers seem to have little information on the various career paths and not enough support in helping them to identify and to plan their professional future. In order to support researchers to actively plan their career paths, and in addition to the support already offered, Academic Service will launch a number of workshops on planning your professional career and will continue to work closely with EUI Alumni.

An online career information page on the website will be launched and will include links to academic and non-academic job portals, postdoc opportunities, internships, teaching placements and – where possible – contact details of EUI alumni who may be contacted.