



Doctoral Studies and Research Task Force

Geneva, 3 June 2009

Draft Minutes

Member Universities

Aarhus (DK)
Barcelona (ES)
Bergen (NO)
Bologna (IT)
Bristol (UK)
Budapest (HU)
Cambridge (UK)
Coimbra (PO)
Dublin - Trinity (IE)
Edinburgh (UK)
Galway (IE)
Genève (CH)
Göttingen (DE)
Granada (ES)
Graz (AT)
Groningen (NL)
Heidelberg (DE)
Iași (RO)
Jena (DE)
Kraków (PL)
Leiden (NL)
Leuven (BE)
Louvain (BE)
Lyon (FR)
Montpellier (FR)
Oxford (UK)
Padova (IT)
Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Praha (CZ)
Salamanca (ES)
Siena (IT)
Tartu (EE)
Thessaloniki (EL)
Turku (FI)
Uppsala (SE)
Würzburg (DE)
Åbo (FI)

Executive Board

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Present:

George Mulder, Chairman
Johnny Laursen, vice-chair
Maria Teresa Anguera, University of Barcelona
Berit Rokne, University of Bergen
Giovanna Filippini, University of Bologna
Neil Connelly, University of Bristol
Claus Hässig, University of Geneva
Carmen Caballero-Navas, University of Granada
Joachim Gerke, University of Heidelberg
Vasile Işan, University of Iași
Muriel Helbig, University of Jena
Jan Eggermont, University of Leuven
Jean-Pierre Flandrois, University of Lyon
Gabriele Bono, University of Padova
Antonio Savini, University of Pavia
Indrek Ots, University of Tartu
Eliisa Särkilahti, University of Turku

Guest: John Wood, University of Buffalo

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

The Chairman welcomed the participants and the agenda was approved.

2. Approval of draft minutes of the DSR2009-1 meeting in Brussels on 27 February

The minutes were approved.

3. DSR TF Report to the General Assembly

The report from the DSR TF Chair to the General Assembly was approved without additional comments.

4. News from member universities

Several member universities (Bristol, Jena, Aarhus) are working on electronic facilities to support the administration and quality assurance of doctoral education. Aarhus has launched an action plan on doctoral studies, and Bergen is following up on its action plan with regard to expectations, on-line information and administration. A new Rectorate has been elected in Bergen, and the task force welcomed vice-rector Berit Rokne as Bergen's new representative on the TF. Neil Connelly reported that Bristol is introducing supervisory teams as part of its quality assurance programme. John Wood, vice-provost for international Education, University of Buffalo, reported on TRUN, a US-Canada cross-border co-operation project in higher education and research. Lyon mentioned that the university's doctoral schools were to be combined. Heidelberg reported on the work to establish an Erasmus Mundus programme in East Asian Studies.

5. News from the Executive Board

The TF received information about the meeting of the economics deans and about the planned meeting in Krakow of the science deans.

6. News from the European scene

The TF discussed the CEIHE project on Classification of European Institutions of Higher Education and the Social Science and Humanities programme under the EU's 7th Framework Programme. The participants discussed the possibility of arranging best practice exchanges on research support schemes for research applications. The research support office at the University of Turku was mentioned as an example for extensive research support.

7. Graduate Schools survey – proposal by Johnny Laursen

Johnny Laursen remarked that the survey was intended as a temporary mapping out of the newest institutional developments among the CG doctoral resp. graduate schools. A more systematic in-depth survey is reported to be planned by the EUA. It was noted that there would be little capacity to process the results, but that the information nevertheless might help to facilitate co-operation between doctoral resp. graduate schools at member universities.

8. Doctoral Studies Portal – state of the art

All 38 CG member universities are now represented in the doctoral studies portal.

9. Doctoral Schools and Studies in the universities of Western Switzerland

The TF welcomed Mr. Denis Billotte, Secretary General, Conference of the Universities of Western Switzerland, who gave a presentation on the co-operation in doctoral education among the universities of Western Switzerland.

10. “Training the Trainers”, organisation of a workshop in Edinburgh

Jon Turner intends to organise a workshop in Edinburgh in 2010 as follow-up to the Bergen summer school. The workshop will primarily be aimed at stakeholders in the area of doctoral studies. The participants encouraged Edinburgh to continue the planning. Expressions of interest were given for more than a dozen participants from member universities represented in the TF.

11. Co-supervision – finalisation

A small working group with representatives from Geneva, Bergen and Heidelberg was established and asked to finalize the template. Claus Hässig will co-ordinate the work.

12. Next meeting

To be decided by doodle.

13. Any other business

The task force discussed the need to establish an overall view of current TF activities and future work. More representatives mentioned the need to clarify the division of labour between the ETM and DSR task forces as well as to consider closer co-operation with other task forces on for example mutual workshops.

The Lund Declaration

EUROPE MUST FOCUS ON THE GRAND CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME.

- European research must focus on the Grand Challenges of our time moving beyond current rigid thematic approaches. This calls for a new deal among European institutions and Member States, in which European and national instruments are well aligned and cooperation builds on transparency and trust.
- Identifying and responding to Grand Challenges should involve stakeholders from both public and private sectors in transparent processes taking into account the global dimension.
- The Lund conference has started a new phase in a process on how to respond to the Grand Challenges. It calls upon the Council and the European Parliament to take this process forward in partnership with the Commission.

The global community is facing Grand Challenges. The European Knowledge Society must tackle these through the best analysis, powerful actions and increased resources. Challenges must turn into sustainable solutions in areas such as global warming, tightening supplies of energy, water and food, ageing societies, public health, pandemics and security. It must tackle the overarching challenge of turning Europe into an eco-efficient economy.

To respond effectively, the European Research Area must develop processes for the identification of Grand Challenges, which gain political support and gradually move away from current thematic approaches, towards a structure where research priorities are based on these Grand Challenges. Responses to Grand Challenges should take the form of broad areas of issue-oriented research in relevant fields.

Processes to ensure quality, relevance and trust will be of crucial importance for Europe's ability to meet contemporary and future Grand Challenges and use knowledge as a tool to turn problems into opportunities and progress. Such processes have to be articulated in the context of Research, Education and Innovation communities, and be based on the understanding of the interaction between "bottom-up" and "top-down" initiated research. The development of such processes is a matter of urgency.

The identification of the Grand Challenges must engage the major stakeholders including the European Institutions, business, public services, NGOs and the research community as well as interaction with major international partners. Meeting the challenges should involve public-private partnerships, including SMEs, with their potential to develop excellent and sustained problem-solving capacity. It will require Member States to develop more pro-active strategies on research priorities at regional, national and Community level. The Framework Programme for Research must also respond to these demands. Therefore the Commission and the Member

LUND DECLARATION

July 2009

States together should, based on a broad consultation process, agree on the most appropriate and efficient division of labour when designing future programmes.

Meeting the Grand Challenges also requires the following:

- **Strengthening frontier research initiated by the research community itself.** It is fundamentally important to create knowledge diversity, endowing the European Union with expertise, especially when confronted with unforeseen Grand Challenges and “shocks”. Competition among researchers will ensure that research carried out in Europe is of international excellence.
- **Taking a global lead in the development of enabling technologies** such as biotechnology, information technology, materials and nano-technologies.
- **Bringing together supply- and demand -side measures to support both business development and public policy goals.** Measures are needed to maximize the economic and societal impact of new knowledge in areas such as industrial, environmental and social policies, agriculture and regional development. Links between these policy areas and research policies must be strongly improved. Supply-oriented research and innovation policies should be more strongly supported by demand-oriented policies, such as lead market initiatives, public procurement, problem- and issue-driven policies and priority setting.
- **Excellence and well-networked knowledge institutions.** Modernisation of universities and cooperation between universities and research institutions is a key element for enhancing the competitiveness of European research. There is a need to develop instruments to stimulate and support initiatives for cross-border cooperation between knowledge-building institutions in creating peak of excellence environments including for less developed research institutions.
- **The creation and maintenance of world class research infrastructures** in Europe including installations for big science as well as those serving the needs of social sciences and humanities.
- **A risk-tolerant and trust-based approach in research funding** entailing actions for necessary changes in the Communities’ Financial Regulation and Rules for participation and dissemination.

Meeting the Grand Challenges will be a prerequisite for continued economic growth and for improved chances to tackle key issues. It will involve women and men on equal terms in the development of society and cut across social, religious, generational and cultural obstacles bringing about new possibilities and increase the well-being and quality of life for all. Europe’s leadership in meeting the global challenges will make it an attractive partner in global cooperation for sustainable development.



**Agreement
for joint supervision of doctoral studies
leading to the award of a joint doctoral degree**

between

INSTITUTION 1

and

INSTITUTION 2

Article 1 – Purpose

In furtherance of the common aim of stimulating scientific cooperation and promoting the mobility of researchers, this agreement sets out the framework for co-supervision of the doctoral studies of :

Doctoral candidate: *(Name of doctoral candidate)*
(hereafter referred to as “the doctoral candidate”)

at the University¹ of *(Institution 1)*

and the University of *(Institution 2)*

leading to the award of the degree of *(Specify title of expected award)*

The title of the doctoral candidate's research project is: *(Specify title of the research project)*

A summary of the research project is presented in Appendix 1.

Article 2 – Application of national legislation and institutional regulations

Nothing in this agreement shall be taken to overrule national legislation, guidelines and frameworks or institutional regulations covering doctoral studies and the award of doctoral degrees in either of the two countries. All parties commit themselves to acting in conformity with the two institutions' regulations and codes of practice covering doctoral awards and to seeking the resolution by mutual consent of any difficulties that might arise in the interpretation of those regulations.

The doctoral candidate must meet the relevant requirements of both institutions regarding admission to the doctoral programme, progress and assessment.

¹ The term 'university' denotes any institution which has the power to award doctoral degrees according to current national legislation.

Article 3 – Commencement and duration of doctoral studies

Registration of the doctoral candidate for doctoral studies under joint supervision takes effect on (*please specify date*). The projected duration of the doctoral studies will be (*please specify duration*) years. The viva voce examination is therefore expected to take place during the academic year (*please specify academic year of examination*).

Any request to extend this period or suspend the candidate's doctoral studies must be jointly approved by the competent authorities of the two participating institutions and any sponsoring bodies.

Article 4 – Distribution of working time

The doctoral candidate and his/her co-supervisors will agree how the doctoral candidate's working time is to be divided between the two institutions, taking into account the needs of the research and the circumstances of the doctoral candidate. An outline timetable is set out in Appendix 2 of this agreement. Variations to the timetable will be agreed between the doctoral candidate and his/her co-supervisors.

Article 5 – Registration and registration fees

Both institutions will put into effect arrangements to ensure as far as possible the unimpeded progress of the doctoral candidate's work throughout the duration of his/her studies, including the preparation of the dissertation and the viva voce examination.

Throughout his/her doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate will be formally registered, and pay the corresponding fees, in that institution where (s)he is working for that academic year or part thereof. The other institution will arrange for the doctoral candidate to have appropriate formal status to enable them to make short study visits and use essential facilities such as libraries and computing facilities. More extensive use of facilities and resources at the institution other than that where the doctoral candidate is registered will be by agreement between the doctoral candidate and his/her co-supervisors.

The institutions will agree arrangements for the equitable distribution of any funding received from sponsors of the doctoral candidate's research project.

Article 6 – Social security and insurance cover

The doctoral candidate must have social security cover and any insurance required by relevant national legislation in the two countries.

Article 7 – Co-supervisors of the doctoral studies

The candidate's doctoral studies will be pursued under the joint main supervision of:

First/LAST NAME, position at Institution 1

and

First/LAST NAME, position at Institution 2

Both supervisors undertake to carry out to the full extent the role of supervisor of the studies of the doctoral candidate, as defined by the regulations in force at their respective institution, and to support each other in the execution of their duties as supervisors. The two co-supervisors will confer regularly with regard to the progress of the doctoral candidate's studies.

Should one of the co-supervisors leave their institution, the institution's normal procedures for finding a replacement supervisor will be followed, with the involvement of the co-supervisor. If a suitable co-supervisor cannot be found, the agreement will be terminated and the doctoral candidate will continue his/her studies towards the doctoral degree of the institution of his/her remaining supervisor.

Article 8 – Exchange of information

The two institutions, through the two co-supervisors, will communicate to one another all of the necessary information and documentation for the joint supervision of the candidate's doctoral studies and the preparation and submission of the doctoral dissertation.

Article 9 – Requirement for satisfactory progress

Continued registration for the doctoral degree, and the continuation in force of this agreement, is dependent on the doctoral candidate making satisfactory academic progress, as defined in the academic regulations of the two institutions. Should any concerns arise, consultation will take place involving both co-supervisors before the relevant institution's normal procedures are invoked.

Article 10 – Presentation of the doctoral dissertation

The doctoral dissertation will be presented at a place to be agreed between the doctoral candidate and his/her two supervisors.

Article 11 – Language

The language in which the doctoral dissertation and its summary are written, and the language in which the viva voce examination is to be conducted, will be agreed by the doctoral candidate and his/her co-supervisors, taking account of the requirements of the institution where the dissertation is to be submitted.

Article 12 – Assessment of the doctoral dissertation

The institutions, acting through the co-supervisors, and the doctoral candidate will agree at the outset which of the two institutions' regulations for assessment of the dissertation will apply. The composition of the panel assessing the candidate's dissertation at the viva voce examination will be agreed by all the parties concerned taking into account both institutions' regulations and normal practice. The panel will, however, always include a member of the academic staff of each institution who is independent of the candidate and at least one member external to the two institutions.

Article 13 – Award of the doctoral degree

In conformity with the regulations in force within each institution and on the basis of a favourable report from the assessment panel, the two institutions undertake to award a joint

doctorate to the successful candidate. The text of the award diploma must specify that it is a doctoral diploma for studies under joint supervision between the two institutions.

Article 14– Entry into force and termination

The present agreement will take effect upon signature by the representatives of the two institutions and by the doctoral candidate. It will be valid until the end of the university calendar year during which the dissertation is presented.

The present agreement can be terminated

- by the mutual consent of all parties
- by the doctoral candidate, in writing, giving a summary of the reasons for their decision
- by either institution, if a suitable replacement co-supervisor cannot be found
- by either institution, should the candidate be in serious and ongoing breach of the institution's regulations
- by either institution, if the doctoral candidate fails to make satisfactory academic progress and the institution's normal procedures for dealing with the problem have not been effective

Before termination of the agreement is contemplated, there shall be consultation between the parties. If this agreement is terminated, barring any agreement to the contrary, the unspent portion of any financial aid obtained from an external body must be reimbursed to that body.

Done in (*specify number*) original copies.

For **Institution 1**

For **Institution 2**

Authorising officers

Title:		Title:	
Name:		Name:	
Position		Position	
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:		Date:	

Co-supervisors of the doctoral candidate's studies

Title:		Title:	
Name:		Name:	
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:		Date:	

Agreed to by the doctoral candidate

Title:	
Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	