



**DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT  
OF JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES  
– challenges and opportunities**

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# Presentation

- Task Force and its members
- Aim
- Activities

### Development and administration of Joint Programmes at Doctoral Level (workpackage 4)

- **TF Leader:** University of Graz
- **Task Force members:** University of Bergen, University of Bochum, University of Bordeaux 1, University of Deusto, University of Lille 1, University of Padova, University of Vilnius
- **Aim:** to develop a good practice schemes and guidelines for the development and management of JDP

## Task Force - Activities

- **Call for papers**
- **Self evaluation exercise**
- **Study visits**
- **Final Report**

## Call for Papers

- **Target group:** scientific staff, and young researchers , administrators form HEI
- **Aim:** gain an insight into key issues on policy as well as management level
- **5 Papers:** University of Iasi, University of Rome Sapienza, University of Edinburgh, Mykolas Romeris University, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## Self-evaluation

- **Target group:** joint doctoral programmes with involvement of JOIMAN partners, EMJD and others (32 joint doctoral programmes invited to take part)
- **Issues covered:** partnership, research or educational cooperation, organisational structure, recruiting/admission, supervision, research/formal training/courses/thesis/defence, monitoring/reporting, legal framework, entering workforce, funding
- **AIM:** identify challenges and good practices

## Study visits / Interviews

- 11 study visits undertaken
- Collecting more details on various research-related issues
- Focus on challenges and possible solutions/good practices
- Detecting trends and patterns

- **Aim:** provide guidance for development and running
- **Focus:** research opportunities and research cooperation
- **Limitations:** self-report method, view and opinions of coordinators only, short reference time, low response rate for self-evaluation



## Added value

bottom-up approach – from research group/network to joint doctoral programme

top-down approach – part of the institutional strategy

### ➤ **Added value for the institution, research group or field**

- ✓ Societal needs,
- ✓ Strengthening/structuring collaborations,
- ✓ Quality, Diversity,
- ✓ Attractiveness / Brain drain prevention

### ➤ Added value for the doctorate candidates

- ✓ Diversity - teaching methods/cultures and of candidates'
- ✓ Mobility -
- ✓ Job market – access in different countries
- ✓ Excellence - group the best researchers in a given discipline



## Types – degree of jointness 1

- **International Collaboration:** less or no structure including research cooperation and/or student exchange
- **Individual doctoral Programmes:** e.g. Cotutelle, including formalization of cooperation around one or several candidates
  - In use also with consortium agreements where joint or double degree is possible

## Types – degree of jointness 2

- **Joint Doctoral Programme:** A doctoral Programme developed and/or provided by two or more higher education institutions, leading to the award of a double, multiple or joint degree
- **Joint Doctoral degree:** A Programme developed and/or provided by two or more higher education institutions  
→ joint degree issued jointly by two or more HEI

## Types – degree of jointness 3

- Different types – different type or “upscale” of jointness
- BUT NOT “upscale” of quality!
- Quality depends on different factors
  - Research quality
  - Partners
  - Legal constrains
  - Etc.
  
- **Critical mass** influences the types of jointness

*more candidates* →  
*more funding*

*more admin. structure* →

# Partnerships

## Reasons for selecting partners:

- Long-lasting scientific cooperation
- Excellence/reputation (publication record, supervision)
- Common research interest
- Compatible national systems

## Agreement types:

- Bilateral
- Consortium
- mixture

## Partnerships

### To be considered:

- Compatible (or complementary) scientific interest (added value!)
- Committed staff (administrative and academic)
- Financial aspects/situation
- Clear roles, responsibilities – future organisational structure
- Continuous communication, frequent meetings
- Inclusion associated partners (industry, business – where appropriate)

## Research/formal training

### ➤ Some characteristics:

- partial autonomy or more joint
- joint activities -> around research only or + training

depending on the scientific field, national legal issues, different traditions and funding

**Research projects:** predefined or individual



## Research/formal training

- **Training/lectures** (and/or summer schools, conferences etc.)
  - ✓ additional benefits in terms of better employability
  - ✓ bringing the candidates together
  - define early to include or not, if obligatory, which partners will offer them
  - credits or not?
- **Communication:** important factor

## Thesis/defence

- Joint thesis committees
- Defence Committee comprises members from at least two partners – sometimes external experts
- Thesis written in English or language of the home institution - at the home university according to the national/local regulations
- Defences takes place in public in front of defence committee

## Degree Certificate

**Joint degree: not possible in all countries due to national legislations**

Therefore – **various solutions:**

- One single certificate issued with legal value in all participating countries.
- Jointly diploma plus an additional certificate.
- double diploma depending on the doctoral candidate's mobility

## Supervision/monitoring/reporting

- Mostly joint supervision  
*Often the basis for developing the programme*
- Candidates sign training and supervision plan/a career development plan and detailed work plan
- regular monitoring and reporting (different intervals)
- Evaluation Committee/panel/board

# Organisational Structure

## EMJD vs. other joint doctoral programmes?

- EMJDs – similar structure
- Other joint doctoral programmes – variety of models
  - strong coordinating institution
  - Steering Body/joint body only overall management
  - Structure related to **SIZE OF THE NETWORK**
  - Higher integration on. organisational tasks
    - more administrative support needed
    - High degree of jointness – administrative tasks managed at institutional level (scientific task at consortium level)

## Recruiting/selection/admission

- Recruiting through internet/website + emails
- Application – on-line (transparency) vs. paper
- Centralised administrative procedures as good practice
- Joint selection by „selection committee“
  - Few programmes applying internal regulations/procedures
- Interviewing candidates

## Legal framework

- Still a challenge and hindrance
- Main legal obstacles:
  - different national laws,
  - Certificates,
  - funding,
  - employment of doctoral candidates, visa requirements etc.
- ✓ Cotutelle Agreement crucial
- ✓ Better integration of JDPs into institutional network (involvement of more administrative staff)

## Entering workforce

- Good employment chances anticipated
  - Due to small number of JDPs with graduates
  - 60 to 90 % graduates continue at the university
- **Important issues identified:**
  - Evaluation of potential employers/sectors
  - monitoring employability through alumni statistics
  - Different cooperation types and modes with potential employers (placements – future employment)



## Different sources of funding:

- University funding (scholarships or travel costs)
- Ministries/national governments)
- EU funding / EM
- Banks (Italy)

## Challenges and opportunities

IMPORTANT!

### **Quality of the research cooperation and the common research grounds are essential**

- Need for strong policy on internationalisation and joint doctoral programmes in order to succeed with the development of a joint doctoral Programme
- Need for more flexibility and variety conc. funding
- Need for full recognition of mobility periods
- More flexible solutions with regard to third-country nationals in Europe (residence, work permits, etc.) necessary

**Thank you for your attention!**

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