

# DELIVERABLE D5.3 – ROADMAP FOR THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF DOCTORAL SCHOOLS AT THE EDUC SCALE



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<b>Abstract</b>	The deliverable aims to propose a roadmap to create a network of doctoral schools/programmes at the EDUC scale with shared services and educational resources, to facilitate mobility and favour the establishment of double/multiple degrees or joint supervision.
<b>Keywords</b>	Doctoral studies, co-tutelle, PhD candidates, training, double/multiple degrees, supervision



## Introduction

The Deliverable D 5.3 Roadmap for the creation of a network of doctoral schools at the EDUC scale was developed within the framework of Working Package 5 „HRS4R process“ and specifically of Task 5.3 „Defining common policies on three selected topics“, one of which being Doctoral and Postdoctoral Environment.

To this aim a dedicated Working Group was established involving experts on the topics from each partner, as detailed below.

The main objectives of the specific sub-task were to:

- (i) exchange best practices on the young researcher environment proposed in each institution such as supervision, existence of doctoral schools, training offers, professional integration monitoring, interaction with socio-economic environment;
- (ii) propose a roadmap to create a network of doctoral schools at the EDUC scale with shared services and educational resources, with the aim to facilitate mobility and to improve professional integration of young researchers. This will expand and perceptibly internationalise the training offer available for young researchers.

## Methodology

The kick-off meeting of the whole task 5.3 was held in April 2022.

As foreseen in the EDUC-SHARE project it was decided to appoint a working group (WG) on Doctoral and Postdoctoral Environment by identifying experts on the topics from each partner.

### Composition of the Working Group on Doctoral and Postdoctoral Environment

University	Name	Role
UNICA	<b>Alessandra Carucci</b> <b>Giuseppe Sergioli</b> <b>Roberta Leu</b>	<i>Vice-Rector for International Affairs</i> <i>Coordinator of the Doctoral Advisory Council</i> <i>Postgraduate office</i>
UP	<b>Johannes Freudenreich</b> <b>Bettina Buchholz</b>	<i>Potsdam Graduate School</i> <i>Potsdam Graduate School</i>
MU	<b>Markéta Burešová</b> <b>Radka Mrázková</b>	<i>PhD Studies Manager</i> <i>PhD Studies Manager</i>
UPECS	<b>Füzér Katalin Judit</b>	<i>Associate Professor, Member of HRS4R Working Group and Leader of EDUC-WIDE for UPECS</i>
UPN	<b>Véronique Champeil-Desplats</b> <b>Elodie Ozenne</b> <b>Claudia Dell'Uomo D'Arme</b>	<i>Deputy VP Research</i> <i>Responsible of the Doctoral Studies Service</i> <i>EDUC-SHARE Project Officer</i>



UNIVREN	<b>Jean-François Carpentier</b> <b>Catia Martins</b>	<i>Former VP for Research, responsible for promoting the doctorate EDUC Project Officer</i>
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Considering that from January 2023, the EDUC Alliance started its roll-out phase with two additional partners, University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) and University Jaume I (UJI), it was decided to also include them in the definition of the roadmap for the Creation of a Network of Doctoral Schools at the EDUC scale.

The representatives of these universities in the Working Group were:

University	Name	Role
USN	<b>Thomas Slagsvold</b>	<i>Research Director</i>
UJI	<b>Mercè Correa</b> <b>Ainhora Jaramillo</b>	<i>Head of the Doctoral School Secretary of the Doctoral School</i>

The first meeting of the broadened WG was held in February, 2023 and it was mainly devoted to the sharing of best practices and experiences on the early-stage researcher's environment among EDUC Alliance Universities.

Each representative presented the main features of the policies concerning the early-stage researchers' environment within PhD and Post Doctoral programmes, the internal organisation and the main challenges of their future strategy.

Some aspects were specifically presented which highlighted possible differences or similarities among the partner universities, such as:

- PhD programme duration (3 or 4 years),
- Supervisors' qualification,
- The existence of doctoral schools (some partners have doctoral schools, others no),
- PhD candidates status (they are considered students in most partner universities but in some universities they are considered mainly employees, e.g. as PhD Research fellows),
- Salary/scholarship, financial support,
- Training offers,
- Professional integration monitoring,
- Interaction with the socio-economic environment,
- International mobility (compulsory in some universities, not compulsory in others, and duration, from 1 to 6 months depending on the university).



Such points are all important in view of the creation of a network of Doctoral Schools at the EDUC scale.

In order to align internal procedures and promote partners merging towards common practices, a scheme of an agreement for cooperation in doctoral studies within the Alliance was presented to the WG, in order to receive feedbacks from all the partners. Such framework agreement would be the guiding document in view of the creation of the network by taking into account the specificities of each university.

Considering the close interaction between the EDUC-SHARE 5.3 sub-task and the EDUC 2 Task 3.4 „Set up the EDUC Doctoral Schools and Postdoc Network“, and that most of that task group members coincided with those of the T5.3 WG, it was decided to have joint meetings, also to avoid overlapping and to better coordinate the activities and create synergies.

## The EDUC Alliance framework agreement for cooperation in doctoral studies

During the above-mentioned joint meetings, the discussion on the framework agreement proceeded, to refine it in order to overcome possible obstacles due to the different regulations. The final approved document (annexed and full part of this deliverable) defines the roadmap for the international collaboration in PhD education and is the basis for the creation of the EDUC network in doctoral studies.

First of all it was decided to include a “glossary” with useful definitions, in order to clarify the terms which could otherwise be misunderstood, considering the different interpretations at each university.

Definitions are given specifically for Joint PhD degree, Double/Multiple PhD degrees, co-tutelle, International joint-supervision.

Then common rules for important aspects of the cooperation were defined, such as:

- Enrollment procedures and payment of tuition fees,
- Pedagogical modalities of the thesis (with reference to the training resources that will be made available and shared within the EDUC Alliance, specifically within EDUC 2 task 3.4),
- Thesis supervision,
- Duration and schedule of the thesis for double/multiple PhD degrees, and international mobility within the Alliance,



- Methods of appointing the defense committee,
- Thesis defense,
- Award of the diploma,
- Secrecy / Publications / Intellectual Property.

The signing of this agreement will pave the way for a tight cooperation at doctoral level and its implementation will be pursued within the tasks already planned in the EDUC roll-out.

## Annex

Framework agreement between the universities of the EDUC Alliance for cooperation in doctoral studies.





Université  
Paris Nanterre



PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

ISN  
University of  
South-Eastern Norway



Université  
de Rennes

MASARYK  
UNIVERSITY

## FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE EDUC ALLIANCE FOR COOPERATION IN DOCTORAL STUDIES



### BETWEEN THE UNDERSIGNED

#### **The University of Paris Nanterre**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

SIRET N°: 199 212 044 00010 APE code 8542 Z

200 avenue de la République, 92001 Nanterre Cedex, France

Represented by its President Philippe Gervais-Lambony

**And**

#### **The University of Cagliari**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

Via Università 40, 09124 Cagliari, Italy

Represented by its Vice-Rector for International Affairs Prof. Alessandra Carucci

**And**

#### **The Masaryk University**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

Žerotínovo nám. 617/9, 601 77 Brno, Czech Republic

Represented by its Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Dr. Petr Suchý

**And**

#### **The University of Pécs**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

Vasvári Pál u. 4, H-7622, Pécs, Hungary

Represented by Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector

**And**

#### **The University of Potsdam**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

Am Neuen Pailais 10, 14469 Potsdam, Germany

Represented by Prof. Oliver Günther, President

**And**

**The University of Rennes**

Experimental Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

SIRET N° 13003051300019- APE code 8542 Z

Campus de Beaulieu - 263 avenue du Général Leclerc - CS 74205 - 35042Rennes Cedex, France,  
represented by Prof. David Alis, President,

**And**

**The University Jaume I**

Institution governed by public law, with its own legal personality, at the service of society in the study, teaching and research fields. Tax code Q-6250003-H.

Av. Sos Baynat, s/n, 12071, Castelló de la Plana , Spain Represented by its Rector, Prof. Eva Alcón Soler, appointed by Decree 60/2022, of 20 May, of the Council of the Government of the Valencian Community, who acts by virtue of the powers conferred upon her by Article 71.1.i of the Statutes of the UJI, approved by Decree 95/2021, of 9 July, of the Council of the Government of the Valencian Community (DOGV 9128/15.07.2021)

**And**

**The University of South-Eastern Norway**

Public Establishment of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Nature

Postboks 4, 3199 Borre, Norway

Represented by Prof. Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson, Rector

For the University of Paris Nanterre:

HAVING REGARD TO the Education Code, in particular articles L121-3, L. 123-7, L. 612-7, D. 123-12, D. 123-13 and D. 123-14;

HAVING REGARD TO the Decree of 25 May 2016 setting the national training framework and the procedures leading to the award of the national doctoral degree;

HAVING REGARD TO the Decree of 26 August 2022 amending the Decree of 25 May 2016 which defines the French national training framework and the procedures leading to the conferring of the national doctoral degree.

For the University of Cagliari:

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute in force at UniCa;

HAVING REGARD TO the Ministerial Decree no. n. 226/2021, concerning Rules on the process of accreditation of institutions and PhD programmes and criteria for the establishment of PhD Programmes;

HAVING REGARD TO the Rules concerning PhD Programmes in force at UniCa.

For the Masaryk University:

HAVING REGARD TO the Act No. 111/1998 (amended and consolidated) on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Some Other Acts (The Higher Education Act) in force;

HAVING REGARD TO the Masaryk University Statute in force;

HAVING REGARD TO the Masaryk University Study and Examination Regulations in force;

HAVING REGARD TO the Masaryk University scholarship and bursary regulations in force.



For the University of Pécs:

HAVING REGARD TO the Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education

HAVING REGARD TO the Government Decree No. 87/2015. (IV. 9.) on the implementation of certain provisions of Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education

HAVING REGARD TO the Government Decree No. 387/2012 (XII.19.) on doctoral schools, the order of doctoral procedure and habilitation.

For the University of Potsdam:

HAVING REGARD to the Brandenburg Higher Education Act, §§ 65(1) and 31 from 28th April 2014

HAVING REGARD to the Regulations for Doctoral Degree Studies of the Faculties at the University of Potsdam.

For the University of Rennes:

HAVING REGARD TO the Education Code, in particular articles L121-3, L. 123-7, L. 612-7, D. 123-12, D. 123-13 and D. 123-14;

HAVING REGARD TO the Order of 25 May 2016 setting the national training framework and the procedures leading to the award of the national doctorate diploma.

For the University Jaume I

HAVING REGARD to the regulations in force in the University Jaume I and Spain regarding the regulation, organisation and qualification framework of university and official doctoral studies as well as the procedure for quality assurance.

For The University of South-Eastern Norway

HAVING REGARD TO Act relating to universities and university colleges (01.04.2005 no. 15)

HAVING REGARD TO Act relating to State Employees etc. (16.06.2017 no. 67)

HAVING REGARD TO Act on the right to inventions made by employees (01.09.1970 no. 21)

HAVING REGARD TO Act relating to the working environment, working hours and employment protection, etc (17.06.2005 no. 62)

HAVING REGARD TO Regulations on the degree philosophiae doctor (ph.d) at the University of South-East Norway (14.12.2017 no. 2411)

HAVING REGARD TO Regulations on terms of employment for positions as postdoctoral fellow, research fellow, scientific assistant and specialist candidate (31.01.2006 no. 102)

HAVING REGARD TO Regulations on state universities and colleges' binding cooperation and acquisition of shares (01.09.2013)

HAVING REGARD TO ethical guidelines for the civil service

HAVING REGARD TO Research ethics guidelines

HAVING REGARD TO the University of South-East Norway's policy for handling intellectual property rights (IPR)

The eight Parties recognize each other's legal capacity to formalize this Agreement, and

## **DECLARE**

That the eight institutions show the willingness to establish and develop scientific cooperation that in particular promotes PhD candidates' mobility in the form of Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle) and international joint-supervisions.

That, in order to achieve a greater degree of efficiency and effectiveness in the respective areas, the eight institutions consider it necessary to develop collaborative research initiatives, as well as to share services and educational resources.

That the parties agree on the need to establish a framework for action to which successive actions can be adapted.

Accordingly, the eight undersigned institutions agree as follows.

### **Article 1. Subject**

The aim of this agreement is to establish a framework for international collaboration in PhD education between the eight universities of EDUC Alliance which will be detailed in specific implementation agreements.

For the purpose of the present agreement, the following definitions apply:

- *Joint PhD degree*: one single diploma issued on behalf of at least two universities which have a shared and equal responsibility for the entire programme, after successful completion of a single joint programme. Joint degrees represent a full integration of the PhD programme. In some cases a single jointly developed and accredited PhD programme can result in the awarding of Double/Multiple PhD degrees;
- *Double/Multiple PhD degrees*: apart from the previous case, at least two diplomas issued by at least two universities for their coordinated PhD programmes involved in the implementation agreement; typically specified in a Convention of international co-tutorship or co-tutelle;
- *Convention of international co-tutorship or co-tutelle*: individual convention concerning the specific PhD candidate, detailing at least the research project and the mobility period at the partner university/ies, governing the responsibilities of the PhD candidate and collaborating institutions with regard to thesis evaluation and defence, and resulting in awarding of a double PhD degree;
- *International joint-supervision*: a PhD thesis prepared under the main supervision of an academic/researcher linked to the home university, associated with a secondary PhD advisor of an EDUC partner university, without the awarding of a double degree;
- *Implementation agreement*: the cooperation agreement signed between two or more EDUC universities identifying the specific PhD Programmes involved in the double/multiple degrees or international collaboration and all the necessary details.

Given the complexity of single jointly accredited PhD Programmes, this type of international cooperation requires a more detailed and specific agreement.

### **Article 2. Enrollment procedures and payment of tuition fees**

#### 2.1 Enrollment procedures

As far as PhD candidates are concerned, each candidate must meet the academic and enrollment requirements set by the Doctoral programme to which he or she has been admitted, as well as the general regulations in force.

The conditions for admission, study path, defense and acceptance of the doctoral thesis, within the framework of any international collaboration, are governed by the regulations applicable to each of the universities relating to the doctorate.

## 2.2 Tuition Fees

The PhD candidate will have to register administratively each academic year in the Doctoral programme. For Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle), PhD candidates will be enrolled contemporarily at the partner University/ies, but they will pay tuition fees only at their home university, unless differently specified in the convention of international co-tutelle.

For international joint-supervision, the PhD candidate will enroll at the university of his/her principal supervisor (home university) where he/she will pay the required tuition fees.

### **Article 3. Pedagogical modalities of the thesis**

The training of PhD candidates will give rise to the credits determined by each of the institutions concerned, and which will be detailed in the convention of co-tutorship or implementation agreement. Training resources will be made available and shared within the EDUC Alliance.

### **Article 4. Thesis supervision**

PhD candidates under the Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle) system do their university thesis under the control and responsibility of a duly habilitated PhD advisor at each of the concerned universities. For the competences (roles, rights and duties) attributed to the thesis supervisor, according to the regulations applicable to each of the universities concerned will be exercised jointly by the supervisors.

PhD candidates under the international joint-supervision system prepare their PhD thesis in a single institution under the main supervision of a professor or a duly habilitated researcher affiliated to this institution, associated with a secondary PhD advisor of an EDUC partner university, where they can spend a period of research mobility, in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations of the concerned faculties.

For international joint-supervision, the competences attributed to the thesis supervisor will mainly be exercised by the thesis supervisor belonging to the institution where the thesis is registered, according to the regulations applicable of his/her university.

### **Article 5. Duration and schedule of the thesis for double/multiple PhD degrees**

The total time allocated to the preparation of the PhD thesis will be shared between the concerned universities in accordance with the terms of the national regulations and specified in the implementation agreement.

PhD candidates should spend a compulsory mobility of 6 to 18 months at the partner university, consecutive or not; this will also be detailed in the implementation agreement.

### **Article 6. Methods of appointing the defense committee**

The defense committee will carry out the evaluation in accordance with the rules in force at the university where the thesis will be defended.

The thesis defense committee will be constituted in accordance with the rules of the universities concerned. It will comply with the terms and conditions defined in the specific implementation agreement and will be approved by the legal representative of the university where the defense will take place.

The thesis presented under the Double/Multiple PhD degree (co-tutelle) or international joint-supervision system must be written in one of the languages accepted by the university where the doctoral thesis will be defended, with preference for English, and must be accompanied by a substantial abstract (5-10 pages) in one of the languages accepted by the other university/ies.

When required by any of the partner universities for Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle), in order to be admitted to the final defense, the thesis has to be evaluated by two external highly qualified reviewers, appointed by the Academic Boards of the Universities involved in the Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle).

Other evaluation methods may be considered depending on internal rules of the partner universities.

### **Article 7. Defense**

The oral defense of the thesis under Double/Multiple PhD degree (co-tutelle) or international joint-supervision must be made in one of the languages accepted by the university where the defense will take place.

Share of the costs associated to the oral defense will be specified in the co-tutelle agreement.

When required by any of the partner universities for Double/Multiple PhD degrees a doctoral state exam must be passed prior to the thesis defense.

### **Article 8. Award of the diploma**

Doctoral degrees are awarded by the academic authorities authorized to do so, on the basis of a proposal from the defense committee.

For Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle), after the doctoral thesis has been defended once in the presence of representatives of the concerned universities, each of the universities concerned, undertakes to issue the corresponding doctoral diploma, once satisfied with the issuing fees. The doctoral certificates/Diploma Supplement issued by each of the concerned universities will mention the title of the thesis or the title of the main works, the international co-supervision of the thesis, and the date of the defense.

For international joint-supervision, the defense can only lead to the awarding of a single diploma from the university where the thesis is registered. The descriptive appendix to the diploma specifies the modalities of the international joint-supervision.

### **Article 9. Secrecy / Publications**

Each Party undertakes not to publish or divulge in any way whatsoever any scientific or technical information belonging to the other Party, which may come to its knowledge in the course of the execution of the Double/Multiple PhD degrees (co-tutelle) or international joint-supervision of thesis, as long as such information is not publicly available.

This commitment will remain in force for 5 years from the date of signature of the above-mentioned convention, notwithstanding its termination or expiry.

Any publication or communication of information relating to the thesis, by either of the parties, must receive, for the duration of the convention, the written agreement of the other party (via the thesis

supervisor) who will make known its decision within a maximum period of 2 months from the request. After this period and in the absence of a reply, the agreement will be deemed to have been given. Consequently, any proposed publication or communication will be submitted to the other party (via the thesis supervisor) who may remove or modify certain details whose disclosure would be likely to prejudice the industrial and commercial exploitation, under good conditions, of the results of the thesis. Such deletions or modifications shall not prejudice the scientific value of the publication. In addition, the other party (via the thesis supervisor) may delay publication or communication for a maximum period of 18 months from the request if information contained in the publication or communication requires industrial property protection. These publications or communications must mention the contribution of each party to the completion of the thesis. However, the provisions of this Article shall not prevent the defense of the thesis. The defense will be organized if necessary in order to guarantee, while respecting the university regulations in force, the confidentiality of certain results.

### **Article 10. Intellectual Property**

The results of the thesis, even if they relate to the subject matter of the thesis, but are not the direct result of the work carried out under the co-tutorship agreement, belong to the party who obtained them. The results of the thesis obtained and likely to be protected as intellectual property are the co-ownership of the concerned parties under the specific convention of co-tutorship or international co-supervision of thesis. The modalities of the shares due to each of them will be specified in the convention. In the event that commercial exploitation is conceivable, before any steps are taken to valorize the results of the thesis, the parties will consult each other to consider the best conditions of exploitation and the contractual profit-sharing conditions for the PhD candidate, if he/she has taken part in creation of IP. Each party undertakes to notify the other party in the event of the filing of an application for an industrial property title and to declare the latter as a co-inventor. These provisions may be the subject of a specific implementation agreement.

### **Article 11. Insurance, accommodation, living expenses**

The PhD candidate is responsible for paying for his/her social security cover, accommodation and other living expenses during his/her stays at the concerned universities, as specified in the convention of international co-tutorship. The PhD candidate is under the responsibility of the institution in which he is registered administratively. Each partner institution may be guaranteed liability. However, such liability shall not be incurred in the event of damage suffered by the PhD candidate or caused by the PhD candidate to a third party, apart from the thesis work carried out under the Double/Multiple PhD degree (co-tutelle) or international joint-supervision. In the event of an accident at work, the regulations applied depend on the status of the PhD candidate (student or employee) and the clauses indicated in any employment contract.

### **Article 12. Responsibility**

The materials and equipment made available to the PhD candidate by a party remain the property of that party during the execution of the agreement. Consequently, each party shall bear the burden of any damage suffered, in the execution of this agreement, to the materials, installations and equipment owned

by it, including the materials entrusted to the other party for the purpose of executing the object of the agreement, even if the other party is liable for the damage, except in the event of gross or intentional fault on the part of the latter.

**Article 13. Duration, Amendments and Termination**

This agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from its last signature, with express renewal by addendum on the proposal of one of the parties before the expiry of this agreement.

Amendment to this agreement is subject to the Parties’ mutual consensus. Changes shall be agreed in writing and included as an Appendix to this Agreement.

This agreement may be terminated automatically by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt at the initiative of either of the partners subject to three (3) months' notice. It may also be terminated by operation of law, without prejudice to damages, in the event of non-performance by either party of one or more of the obligations hereunder. Such termination shall only become effective three (3) months after receipt by the defaulting party of a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt setting out the reasons for the complaint, unless within this period the defaulting party has fulfilled its obligations or has provided proof of an impediment due to force majeure.

However, the implementation of this clause shall not prevent PhD candidates already enrolled in a Double/Multiple PhD degree (co-tutelle) or international joint-supervision from completing their PhD. If a dispute leads to a termination, this can only be effective at the end of the current training courses and cannot affect these courses in order to protect the interests of the PhD candidates.

**Article 14. Dispute resolution**

In the event of a dispute related to or arising from this agreement, the parties will attempt to find an amicable solution. If a solution cannot be found within a period of one (1) month from the first letter sent to present the dispute, a renewal of the one (1) month period to find an amicable settlement is possible by written agreement of the parties.

The parties may attempt to resolve the dispute by mediation, after agreeing on a mediator with such expertise that they believe is best suited in relation to the dispute.

At the end of the period of amicable settlement, if the settlement remains unsuccessful, the more diligent party shall bring the matter before the court of the place where the defendant has its seat. The applicable law shall then be that of the defendant's forum.

Done in English.

<b>University of Cagliari</b> Cagliari, date	<b>Masaryk University</b> Brno, date
<b>The Vice-Rector for International Affairs</b> <b>Prof. Alessandra Carucci</b>	<b>The Vice-Rector for Internationalisation</b> <b>Dr. Petr Suchý</b>

<p><b>University of South-Eastern Norway</b> Place and date</p> <p><b>The Rector, Prof. Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson</b></p>	<p><b>University of Pécs</b> Pécs, date</p> <p><b>The Rector, Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta</b></p>
<p><b>University Jaume I</b> Castellón, date</p> <p><b>The Rector, Prof. Eva Alcón Soler</b></p>	

**University of Potsdam**

Potsdam, date

**The President, Prof. Oliver Günther**



**University Paris Nanterre**

In Nanterre, date

**The President, Prof. Philippe Gervais-Lambony**

**University of Rennes**

Rennes, date

**The President, Prof. David Alis**