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Analysing National and Institutional Doctoral Regulations

The Road to Successful Cross-border Cooperation
on Joint Doctoral Programmes

LINK EDU-RES Project

17 February 2022



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Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility / ITEM

OUTLINE

- ① Objective
- ② Approach
- ③ Results
- ④ Recommendations



Full report:

 jointphdprogrammes.com

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- 1 To identify common ground within those regulations enabling universities part of the YERUN Network to establish joint programmes in doctoral training
- 2 To increase transparency of national and institutional regulations applicable to the YERUN Network

APPROACH

- Legal analysis of national and institutional regulations & comparative exercise
- First step: Gather regulations
 - National – 12 EU Member States
 - Institutional – 17 universities
 - Other levels?

APPROACH

- 2nd step: Analysing regulations & performing comparative exercise:

9 themes

- Regulatory models
- Candidate & Admission
- Status of the Candidate & Funding
- Supervision
- Thesis
- Training Programme
- Thesis Assessment
- Defence
- Joint & Double Degrees

Combining disciplines into clusters

- Social sciences, humanities, law and economics
- Psychology and medicine
- Engineering

COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

- Matrixes
 - Indicators specific to each theme
 - Colour coding system

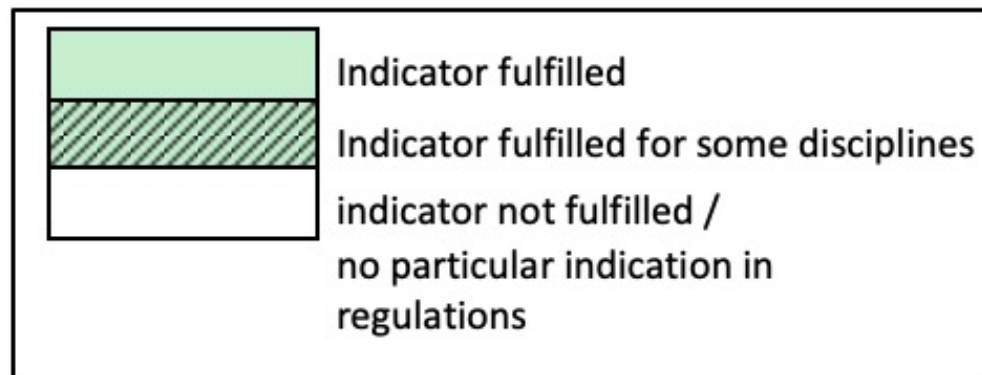


Figure 1 Matrix legend

RESULTS: REGULATORY MODELS

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE			IE		IT	NL	PT	ES		UK	
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUlm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
At national level																	
At sub-national level																	
At university level																	
At faculty level																	
At title level																	
At programme level																	

Table 1 Regulatory models of national & doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

ANALYSIS: REGULATORY MODELS

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE		IE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK			
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	U Bremen	Ukonstanz	Ulm	DCU	UL	URV	UM	UCLM	UAM	U Essex	BUL
At national level																
At sub-national level																
At university level																
At faculty level																
At title level																
At programme level																

Table 1 Regulatory models of national & doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

- Mostly regulation at national level
 - BE: Communities
 - DE: Bundesländer
- Majority of universities set university-wide regulations
- Possible supplementary regulations:
 - Faculty-level
 - Title-level
 - Programme-level

RESULTS: CANDIDATE & ADMISSION

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE			IE		IT	NL	PT	ES		UK	
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUIlm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
Master's degree necessary to access doctorate																	
Alternatives to master's degree possible																	
Additional access requirements set in discipline-specific regulations																	
Formal assessment to access doctorate (possibly including tests & examinations)																	
Possibility for additional training prior to the doctorate																	
Language requirement to access doctorate																	
Enrolment and payment of fees																	

Table 2 Requirements related to the candidate and admission to a doctorate set in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

ANALYSIS: CANDIDATE & ADMISSION

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE			IE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK			
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UULm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UESsex	BL
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Enrolment and payment of fees																	

Table 2 Requirements related to the candidate and admission to a doctorate set in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

- Main requirement across most universities: Master's degree required
 - Alternative possibilities with approval by designated body within university
 - ES: exceptions fixed by law
 - DE, IE & PT: bachelor's degree possible
- Additional access requirements = discipline-specific
 - Required prior training
 - Complementary training
 - Formal assessments

RESULTS: SUPERVISION

3.4 Supervision

	BE	HR	DK	FI	FR	DE			IE	IT	NL	PT	ES		UK		
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUIlm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
1 supervisor																	
2 or more (co-) supervisors																	
External supervisor																	
Distinction principal supervisor and secondary/co-supervisors																	
Tutor in addition to supervisor																	
Supervisory Committee in addition to supervisors																	

Table 4 Provisions on supervision as seen in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

ANALYSIS: SUPERVISION

3.4 Supervision

	BE	HR	DK	FI	FR	DE			IE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK			
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Table 4 Provisions on supervision as seen in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

- Role of supervisor: similar between the universities
- At least one supervisor
 - Second supervisors or co-supervisors possible
 - IT: Doctoral board
 - ES: Thesis director & Tutor
- Level of qualification and position of supervisor varies between universities/disciplines

RESULTS: THESIS

3.5 Thesis

	BE	HR	DK	FI	FR	DE			IE		IT	NL	PT	ES		UK	
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUIlm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
Thesis must be in English or Member State language																	
Alternative languages possible																	
Thesis may be a single manuscript or consist of articles																	
Thesis as a joint work possible																	
Publication of the thesis required																	
Intellectual property rights are located with the candidate																	

Table 5 Requirements related to the thesis set in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

ANALYSIS: THESIS

3.5 Thesis

	BE	HR	DK	FI	FR	DE			IE	IT	NL	PT	ES		UK		
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Table 5 Requirements related to the thesis set in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

- Almost all universities: Thesis in English or Member State language
- Alternative languages possible (approval)
- Format:
 - Manuscript & Article-based: most common
 - Alternatively: portfolio, artifact or creative performance
- Other: limits on length, style, statements

RESULTS: JOINT & DOUBLE DEGREES

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE			IE		IT	NL	PT	ES		UK	
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUIlm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
Joint degree possible																	
Double degree possible																	
Co-tutelle																	
Cooperation on joint/double degree dependent on accreditation																	
Separate agreement governing joint/double degree necessary																	
Guidelines set for content of agreement																	
Joint/double pursuit of doctorate may be determined after start																	
Joint/double pursuit of doctorate to be determined before start																	

Table 9 Provisions on joint and double doctorates as seen in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

ANALYSIS: JOINT & DOUBLE DEGREES

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE			IE	IT	NL	PT	ES		UK		
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	U Bremen	UKonstanz	UJLM	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UC3M	UAM	UEssex	BUL
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Table 9 Provisions on joint and double doctorates as seen in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

- All universities provide opportunities to cooperate on joint doctorates
- Separate agreement necessary (except in UKonstanz and UNL)
 - Approval at the highest administrative level in the participating universities
 - Individual agreements vs. Cohort agreements
 - Allows for derogation of national/institutional regulations
- *But* certain provisions may be required to be included, e.g. admission, training, exchange, defence
 - May lead to complexities, e.g. where two universities make requirements to the location of the defence

UNIVERSITY CONSULTATION



Generally positive experiences

- Internationalisation of candidates
- Strategic cooperation
- Research capacity growth

Frequency of international cooperation in doctoral education

- Great variations among universities
- Limited cooperation within YERUN

UNIVERSITY CONSULTATION



Generally positive experiences

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Challenges:

- Differences in regulations
- Complex administrative procedures
- Time-consuming exercise

Need for:

- Streamlined administrative procedures
- Sustainable agreements
- Less institutional bureaucracy
- Deeper involvement of researchers (supervisors)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Transparency & retrievability
 - Online availability of regulations
 - Contact persons
 - Dedicated coordinator
- Authoritative translations
 - Mutual understanding of regulations essential

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Thank you

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