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Commonalities and barriers that we face when organizing Joint/Double PhD degrees

LINK EDU-RES Project

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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

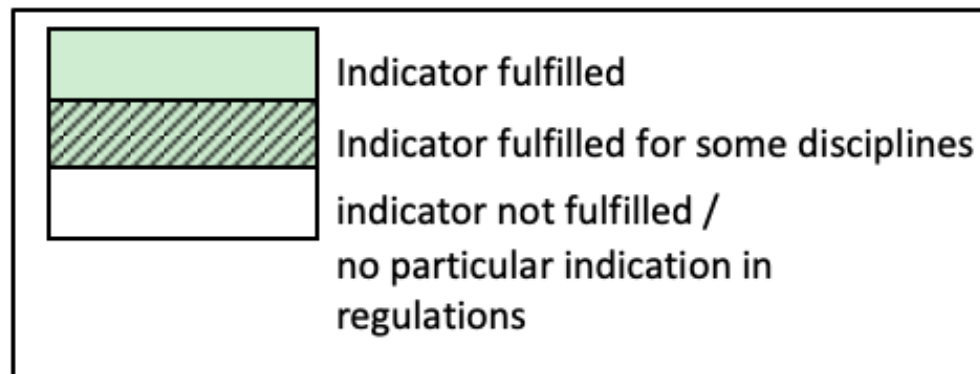


Figure 1 Matrix legend

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

REGULATORY MODELS

Commonalities

- Mostly regulation at national level
- Majority of universities set university-wide regulations

Differences/Barriers

- Federal structure:
 - BE: Communities
 - DE: Bundesländer
- Possible supplementary regulations:
 - Faculty-level
 - Title-level
 - Programme-level

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE	IE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK					
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	U Bremen	U Konstanz	U Ulm	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 VERUM Universities

RESULTS: 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	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

	BE	HR	DE	FI	FR	DE	DE	IE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK				
	UAntwerp	UNIRI	SDU	UEF	UPD	UBremen	UKonstanz	UUm	DCU	UL	URTV	UM	UNL	UCSM	UAM	UEssex	BUL
Master's degree necessary to access doctorate																	
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Table 2 Requirements related to the candidate and admission to a doctorate set in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

CANDIDATE & ADMISSION

Commonalities

- 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

Differences/Barriers

- Additional access requirements = discipline-specific
- Required prior training
- Possibility of 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	UUlm	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

SUPERVISION

Commonalities

- Role of supervisor: similar between the universities
- At least one supervisor
 - Second supervisors or co-supervisors possible

Differences/Barriers

- Different supervisory structures
 - IT: Doctoral board
 - ES: Thesis director & Tutor
- Level of qualification and position of supervisor varies between universities/disciplines

3.4 Supervision

	BE		HR		DK		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								
1 supervisor																									
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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

RESULTS: THESIS

3.5 Thesis

	BE	HR	DK	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
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

3.5 Thesis

	BE	HR	DK	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
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

THESIS

Commonalities

- Almost all universities: Thesis in English or Member State language
- Alternative languages possible (approval)
- Format:
 - Manuscript & Article-based: most common

Differences/Barriers

- Alternative thesis formats: portfolio, artifact or creative performance
- Other:
 - Limits on length
 - Requirements on style
 - Ethical and originality statements

RESULTS: JOINT & DOUBLE DEGREES

	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
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

	BE	FR	DE	FI	FR	DE	SE	IT	NL	PT	ES	UK
	UAntwerp	UNIBL	SOJ	UPJ	UFR	UFR	UFR	UFR	UFR	UFR	UFR	UFR
Joint degree possible												
Double degree possible												
Co-titling												
Cooperation on joint/double degree institutional or accreditation												
Separate agreement between participating universities												
Agreements set for entire programme												
Joint/double pursuit of admission can be resumed after start												
Joint/double pursuit of admission can be resumed before start												

Table 2: Provisions on joint and double doctorates as seen in national & institutional doctoral regulations of the YERUN Universities

JOINT & DOUBLE DEGREES

Commonalities

- All universities provide opportunities to cooperate on joint doctorates
- Separate agreement necessary
- Approval at the highest administrative level in the participating universities
- Allows for derogation of national/institutional regulations

Differences/Barriers

- Individual agreements vs. Cohort agreements
- *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

Variations in terminology

Co-tutelle
agreements

Joint supervision by two institutions that
award doctoral degrees.

Developed and/or provided by two or more
institutions leading to a double/multiple
degree

Double/
Multiple
joint
programme

Joint
doctoral
degree

A joint degree is issued jointly by two or
more institutions

CONCLUSIONS ON DISCIPLINES

- Majority of universities in the YERUN Network maintain separate formal regulations per discipline
- Greatest variety in admissions requirements
- Use of monograph and article-based thesis supported across disciplines
- *Need for one-on-one comparisons* reinforced

UNIVERSITY CONSULTATION



Commonalities

Generally positive experiences

- Internationalisation of candidates
- Strategic cooperation of the university
- Research capacity growth in areas where expertise lacking

But...

Frequency of international cooperation in doctoral education

- Great variations among universities
- Limited cooperation within YERUN



UNIVERSITY CONSULTATION

Barriers

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



Need for:

- Streamlined administrative procedures
- Sustainable agreements



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Transparency & retrievability
 - Online availability of regulations
 - Contact persons
 - Dedicated coordinator

- ➔ Authoritative translations
 - Mutual understanding of regulations essential

- ➔ Using opportunities from EU funding programmes

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Thank you

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