

Workshop

Doctoral Education in a changing world

Tuesday 31 October 2017

15.00-17.00

During the last decade, doctoral education has witnessed a massive reform. Not only in Europe, but even globally, it was facing serious reconsideration. Many higher education institutions were confronted with completion rates and time to degree figures that were dissatisfying and calling for actions. Moreover, the future employment perspectives of doctorate holders became increasingly difficult. On one hand, politicians were asking for more researchers to support the knowledge society and contribute to economic development in the region, while on the other hand doctorate degree holders were experiencing difficulties getting appropriate positions, in particular outside academia, as the academic job market was stagnating in most countries where the higher education sector is either well developed or struggling with limited resources. Research excellence, attractive institutional environment, internal quality assurance, exposure to industry and other relevant employment sectors, interdisciplinary research options, international networking and transferable skills are recognised as the key principles of innovative doctoral training (European Commission, 2011. Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training). However, most universities are still locked into conventional strategies and the evolution of doctoral education in South-Mediterranean countries leads to some considerations on the lack of accountability and of QA in the management of doctoral education. In a global international environment of HEIs competition, quality assurance management in doctoral education is a key asset to boost excellent research. In South-Mediterranean countries, universities are creating graduate/doctoral schools or programmes and are particularly concerned with providing accountability and quality enhancement.

The workshop should seek to deal with the emerging issues related to quality assurance in the management of doctoral education in order to professionalise staff working within doctoral education field and to enhance doctoral degree holders by giving them transversal and transdisciplinary skills. The pivotal issues that will be tackled by the workshop are the following :

- lack of a clear strategy at institutional level for implementing quality assurance and accreditation standards in doctoral education;
- lack of infrastructure and support for scientific research, in order to improve performance and increase the connections with the business sector;
- lack of transparency as regards standards and rules;
- lack of transdisciplinary and international perspective within the doctoral programs



Speakers

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Chair: Naim Ouaini

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