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Good Practices in Doctoral Education - Collaborative Approaches within SGroup Network

University Rovira i Virgili

28th September 2017, Tarragona, Spain

Following the Salzburg Recommendations and the general objective to promote economic and social innovations in Europe, the SGroup Network' has placed doctoral education high on its priority list of the SGroup Strategy 2020. The document sets a long-term objective to strengthen members capacities in research through developing privileged partnerships in Europe and beyond for joint PhD programmes, supervision and mobility.



International experiences are critical to the professional development of many doctoral candidates regardless of their discipline and subsequent career paths. Universities should therefore approach the internationalisation of doctoral education in a coherent, strategic manner by providing competitive research capacity, international network of partner institutions, and highly capable supervisors to train early stage researchers.

Having this in mind the SGroup Network, representing over 30 universities from 15 European countries has opened a new avenue of opportunities to engage member universities in strategic partnership to foster doctoral education.

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the SGroup Executive Committee we invite heads of doctoral schools from SGroup member universities to attend the workshop on collaborative



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approaches towards doctoral education. During the meeting we would like to focus on successful practices in competence training, in particular PhD supervision. In addition, the meeting can provide an excellent opportunity for sharing good practices, identifying common challenges and establishing new areas of collaboration that can be translated into an action plan in 2018.

The event is a joint initiative of the SGroup Network and the University Rovira i Virgili, a highly recognised research university in Spain and it will take place in the beautiful city of Tarragona on **28th September 2017**. The event is free of charge for the members. The participants will be offered meals and a sightseeing tour of the city.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

9:00-9:15 **Welcome** by Vice-Rector of URV and SGroup President

9:15-9.45 **Doctoral School of URV – opportunities, challenges and goals**

9.45-10.30 **Towards a structured mode of Ph.D. supervision – University of Gothenburg**

10:15-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 **Part I - Good practices relative to doctoral training of the universities of the participants, actions that could be good examples, benefit or be shared by all members of SGroup**

12.00-12.15 Coffee break

12.15-13.30 **Part II - Good practices relative to doctoral training of the universities of the participants, actions that could be good examples, benefit or be shared by all members of SGroup**

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16.00 **Part III - Good practices relative to doctoral training of the universities of the participants, actions that could be good examples, benefit or be shared by all members of SGroup**

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16:15-17:30 **Working session: setting up the SGroup Think Tank on Doctoral Education (TTDE).**

Topics to be included in the action plan for the TTDE are as follows:



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- *Staff capacity for research and supervision: existing practices,*
- *Research productivity: quality assessment or research capacities*
- *Funding opportunities for research collaboration and doctoral training*
- *Strategic partnerships in doctoral education through networking and exchange of best practices in the area of:*
 - a supervisor training program and/or a program of transferable skills courses for doctoral researchers;
 - multiplying the number of supervisors and/or doctoral researchers to benefit for the programme per year
 - gathering intelligence on which members of the group have these programs in progress (existing practices)
 - defining joint opportunities e.g. how resources can be shared
 - outlining the financial aspects of the TTDE



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