

**Draft Terms of Reference**

**Doctoral Programmes Follow Up 2005/2007**

**I. Starting Point: Bergen Communiqué - Higher education and research**

“We underline the importance of higher education in further enhancing research and the importance of research in underpinning higher education for the economic and cultural development of our societies and for social cohesion. We note that the efforts to introduce structural change and improve the quality of teaching should not detract from the effort to strengthen research and innovation. We therefore emphasise the importance of research and research training in maintaining and improving the quality of and enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the EHEA. With a view to achieving better results we recognise the need to improve the synergy between the higher education sector and other research sectors throughout our respective countries and between the EHEA and the European Research Area.

To achieve these objectives, doctoral level qualifications need to be fully aligned with the EHEA overarching framework for qualifications using the outcomes-based approach. The core component of doctoral training is the advancement of knowledge through original research. Considering the need for structured doctoral programmes and the need for transparent supervision and assessment, we note that the normal workload of the third cycle in most countries would correspond to 3-4 years full time. We urge universities to ensure that their doctoral programmes promote interdisciplinary training and the development of transferable skills, thus meeting the needs of the wider employment market. We need to achieve an overall increase in the numbers of doctoral candidates taking up research careers within the EHEA. We consider participants in third cycle programmes both as students and as early stage researchers.

**We charge the Bologna Follow-up Group with inviting the European University Association, together with other interested partners, to prepare a report under the responsibility of the Follow-up Group on the further development of the basic principles for doctoral programmes, to be presented to Ministers in 2007. Overregulation of doctoral programmes must be avoided”.**

**II. Establishment of a Steering Committee**

Proposed core members:  
EUA, Austria, France, ESIB, EuroDoc, other countries?

The intention is that questions of ensuring country balance and involvement of a wide range of Bologna countries should be addressed mainly in relation to participation of the different thematic working groups outlined under Section IV rather than at the level of the Steering Committee.

### III Objective -

- To prepare a report on the further development of the (agreed) basic principles for doctoral programmes to be presented to Ministers in 2007;
- Thus to continue work on the basis of the 10 Salzburg Seminar Recommendations and taking specific account of the issues mentioned in the relevant § of the Bergen Communiqué (cf above)
- Thereby taking account of the results achieved and the good practice identified by the 49 Universities participating in the EUA Doctorates Programme project that provided the input for the Salzburg Seminar
- To prepare recommendations for the London Communiqué as an integral part of the report

### IV Methodology

- Identify clusters of issues for discussion based on the Communiqué, the Salzburg recommendations and the importance of addressing different needs (ie HEIs, doctorals students, governments, funding bodies ) , for example:
  1. focus on doctoral programmes – transparency supervision and assessment, research progress/duration, skills & competences, employability and professionalisation issues
  2. focus on institutions – creating critical mass, structured doctoral programmes and research capacity, promoting interdisciplinarity etc. / (NB link to PRIME NoE etc.)
  3. focus on the role of the state (and other partners) – funding issues, changing profile of PhD students, link to EC charter/code of conduct and improving the attractiveness of research careers
- include consideration of other, horizontal issues such as:
  1. mobility and the European dimension that are missing from the above and can either be dealt with as a separate cluster of issues or integrated into each of the groups
  2. increasing awareness of the importance of ‘joined up’ governmental thinking at this level as improving doctoral programmes and careers perspectives will require coordinated action involving HEIs, education and research Ministries, Research Council and other funding bodies etc...
- Prepare three thematic seminars/focus groups – one on each of the three/four clusters of issues – based on the Salzburg Report and the results of the Doctoral Programmes project and using the expertise of the experts involved in these activities

Organise a final Conference in France in December 2006 (proposal - 1-15 December) on the basis of the preparatory work done; involving as many HEIs as possible, and ensuring both a broad geographic coverage as well as consideration of the specificities of the different systems and traditions across the Bologna countries.

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