

METHODOLOGY

for joint or European Ph.D.

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CHAPTER I

Main framework

Art. 1. Joint PhD degrees or European PhDs are organized in the framework of the following national acts:

- The National Education Act /2011, with subsequent amendments;
- Government Act no. 681/2011 on the Code of Doctoral Studies, with subsequent amendments;
- The Institutional Regulation regarding the organization of doctoral studies;
- The Order no. 3392/2017 about the General criteria of grants and other forms of material support for students in the national higher education;

And based on other normative acts in education.

CHAPTER II

Joint PhDs

Art. 2. The joint PhD degrees represent activities specific for doctoral studies under the simultaneous supervision of two doctoral supervisors.

Art. 3. The joint PhD can be organized in the following manner:

- a. External joint degrees (national and international): The PhD student in the Doctoral Institute of UVT is coordinated by a UVT supervisor and by a supervisor from another country (international joint PhD) or by a supervisor from another Romanian institution (national joint PhD), based on an agreement between the involved organizing institutions.
- b. Internal joint degrees: Both supervisors are part of the Doctoral Institute of UVT, but come from different domains. Alternatively, one of the supervisors is retired and concludes an agreement with another supervisor for joint supervision.

Art. 4. In the case of national joint PhD degrees,

- a. The institution where the student is enrolled in the main Doctoral Institute, while the co-organizing institution will be considered the partner institution.
- b. In the case of the joint PhD degree, a main doctoral supervisor is appointed, someone who is a member of the main Doctoral Institute.

Art. 5. The agreement between the institutions for an external joint PhD degree specify the requirements of organizing the activity of the doctoral student in each of the two Doctoral Institutes in accordance with the role undertaken by each party within the joint PhD including the financial obligations and observing the legislation applied to doctoral institutes and the specific procedures for doctoral studies within these institutes.

Art. 6

- a. The joint PhD agreement is signed throughout the first year of doctoral studies (Annexes 1-5).

- b. If the supervisor of the doctoral student enrolled in the UVT Doctoral Institute wishes to initiate the signing of the joint PhD agreement, they will present the opportunity of this agreement to the assessment of the council of the respective doctoral school.
- c. The joint PhD degree agreement is approved by the supervisor, the director of the doctoral school, the director of the Council for Doctoral Studies and by the Rector.

Art. 7. For the national joint PhD degree, the partner supervisor submits the following documents to the doctoral school: Curriculum vitae, List of published work, the Habilitation degree or, alternatively, the Order of the Minister of education granting the doctoral supervision, proof of employment in the partner Doctoral Institute in a teaching/research position.

Art. 8. For the international joint PhD degree, if the national legislation requires that the student is enrolled in both Doctoral Institutes, UVT maintains its main role in UVT, a status which will be mentioned specifically in the joint PhD agreement.

Art. 9.

- a. The advisory board includes both supervisors.
- b. The public defense board in Romania for the joint PhD thesis includes both supervisors.
- c. The training program of the PhD student is approved by both supervisors.
- d. Any amendments in the schedule of the doctoral program which is described in the joint PhD agreement such as the replacement of the supervisor, changing the title of the thesis, the date of the public defense takes place by observing the current legal provisions and the approval of both supervisors.

Art. 10. The agreements for international joint PhD degrees will be completed in an international language.

Art. 11. If a PhD supervisor from the Doctoral Institute of UVT is invited to co-supervise in another institution as a result of national or international joint PhD degree, as a co-supervisor, they present the agreement to the council of the respective doctoral school for approval by the Doctoral Institute. The joint degree agreement is approved by the supervisor, the director of the doctoral school, the director of the Council for Doctoral Studies and the Rector.

Art. 12. In the case of an internal joint PhD degree, the joint degree agreement signed by the two supervisors, establishing their respective obligations, is approved by the director of the doctoral school and the director of the Council for Doctoral Studies.

Art. 13.

- a. In the case of a national joint PhD degree where the Doctoral Institute of UVT is the main institution, the public defense will take place at UVT.
- b. In the case of an international joint PhD degree, a precondition for the validation of the doctoral degree is that the public defense will take place at UVT.
- c. A possible exception is if the public defense takes place online.

Art. 14. If the institutions organizing the joint PhD issue the diplomas, both diplomas will include a cross-reference to the other one. This reference will be mentioned in the joint PhD degree agreement.

CHAPTER III

The European PhD degree

Art. 15. The European Doctorate/Doctor Europaeus/Doctor Europaea is a qualification added to the PhD degree in recognition of the European dimension of doctoral studies and the facilitation of integrating graduates of PhD programs from the EU in the international academic and socio-economic environment.

Art. 16. The European PhD degree in the Doctoral Institute of UVT is in accordance with the recommendations of the European University Association (EUA) and is recognized by the European institutions which apply the EUA model and conditions.

Art. 17. The European PhD degree is optional. The students enrolled in the Doctoral Institute of UVT can choose the path of the European PhD degree based on a request approved by the supervisor and the director of the doctoral school, as well as the director of the Council for Doctoral Studies. (Annex 6).

Art. 18. The certificate for the European PhD degree is awarded in the following conditions:

- a. The student in the Doctoral Institute of UVT was enrolled on the path of the European PhD degree at the end of the second year of doctoral studies at the latest;
- b. The PhD thesis is written in an international language, preferably English.
- c. In the first three years, the doctoral student completed a research period of at least three months in a university or research institute within the European Community and the period is certified by the host institution;
- d. The public defense receives the support of at least three doctoral supervisors (who write reports on the thesis), at least two of whom come from universities in other countries than the country where the public defense takes place (this provision excludes the reports written by members of the Doctoral Institute of UVT and of the partner institution, in the case of joint PhD degrees).
- e. At least one member of the public defense board belongs to an institution from another country than that in which the thesis is defended.
- f. The public defense takes place in one of the official languages of the European Community other than the language of the country where the defense takes place.

Art. 19. Failure to satisfy the above-mentioned criteria leads to the cancellation of the European path. The student can abandon the European path by a written request. The supervisor can request the cancellation of the European path.

Art. 20. The European joint PhD degree can be associated with an international joint PhD or an activity in a multinational collaborative grant.

Art. 21. The certificate for the European PhD degree (written in English) is issued upon the student being awarded the PhD degree in accordance with the national legislation and accompanies the doctoral diploma (Annex 7).

CHAPTER V Final dispositions

Art. 22. The expenses for the students' international mobilities for joint PhD degrees or the European PhD degree have the financial support of Erasmus+ programs, the institutional funding for the professional training of doctoral students, other RDI grants, or fellowships for research, artistic creation, achievements in sports and others.

Art. 23. In the case of a joint PhD degree, if the extension of the doctoral program is necessary in order for the requirements of the agreement for the joint PhD degree to be met (for a period that doesn't exceed the legal duration of doctoral studies), no tuition fees will be paid.

Art. 24. In the case of a national or internal joint PhD degree:

- a. The student is reported in the cohort of the main supervisor, including in terms of the teaching and research load of the supervisor;
- b. The student is not included in the cohort of the partner supervisor;
- c. The joint PhD degree can be a paid activity for both the main supervisor and for the co-supervisor.

Art. 25. The present edition of this methodology was approved in the Senate meeting 65/21.04.2022.