

## 2019 EUA-CDE THEMATIC PEER GROUP “CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TRACKING IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION”

### Call for participation

15 March 2019

**Deadline for applications is 16 January 2019.**

#### *Introduction*

Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs) organised by the EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) provide participating members with an opportunity for mutual learning on selected topics. They contribute to a common knowledge base on doctoral education structures, policies and practices in Europe. EUA-CDE is launching a call for participation for the 2019 TPG “Career Development and Tracking in Doctoral Education”.

#### *Objectives*

The main objectives of TPGs are:

- Mutual learning: discuss and explore the success of and room for improvement in doctoral education structures, policies and practices in Europe
- Common knowledge base: contribute to a common knowledge base on doctoral education in Europe by identifying key lessons learnt on the selected topic

#### *Theme and expected outcomes*

The 2019 EUA-CDE TPG on “Career Development and Tracking in Doctoral Education” will focus on the collection and usage of career data in doctoral education. It will take stock of the different approaches and methods of career tracking that have been implemented in Europe. The TPG will also pay attention to the challenge of using the collected data to develop evidence-based career development support.

Career development of early-stage researchers has become a key aspect of doctoral education in Europe. Aware of the transformation of academic careers and the diversity of non-academic career paths available to doctoral candidates, universities have established a career development component in their doctoral education structures. However, evidence suggests there is room for improvement and career tracking plays a vital role in this regard.

Career tracking of doctorate holders plays an important role in further developing the evidence-based career support offered by universities. It provides feedback on the support already in place and an up-to-date overview of the diverse career paths of doctorate holders. It demonstrates the effect of pursuing a doctoral degree on career development both inside and outside academia.

The TPG will reflect on the following three aspects:

1. What are the key challenges related to the topic and how are they being addressed?
2. How can doctoral education structures, policies and practices be further developed to address the challenges related to the topic?
3. What kind of institutional policies and processes can support this development?
4. Who are the internal and external stakeholders that needs to be involved?

Based on the mutual learning in the meetings, the TPG is expected to result in a report outlining key lessons learnt on the selected topic.

#### *Activities and timeline*

The first TPG will take place on 15 March 2019. Participants meet 3-4 times a year in order to address topics related to doctoral education. They are requested to participate to all these activities.

The work of the TPG will be chaired by one participating university and coordinated by the EUA-CDE Secretariat.

#### *Eligibility*

TPGs are open to [EUA-CDE members](#). Each university should be represented by a vice-rector/deputy vice-chancellor, head of doctoral school or other person in a senior position with responsibilities in doctoral education. Universities are strongly encouraged to engage doctoral candidates or to consult them internally between meetings.

#### *Selection criteria*

The selection of participants will be done primarily based on the motivation and the experience in the theme, as demonstrated in the application. In addition, the EUA-CDE Secretariat will select the participants based on geographical and institutional balance and practical considerations.

#### *Terms and conditions for participation*

EUA-CDE members participate on a self-funding basis and are responsible for organising and covering their own travel and accommodation for the group's meetings. Catering (lunches, coffee breaks and dinner) during the meetings will be covered by EUA-CDE.

**Universities interested in participating in the TPG are invited to fill in the online application, [available here](#), by 16 January 2019 at the latest. For further questions, please contact the EUA-CDE Secretariat at [info@eua-cde.org](mailto:info@eua-cde.org).**

#### *About EUA-CDE*

*EUA-CDE was launched in 2008 at the initiative of the European University Association, responding to a growing interest in doctoral education and research training in Europe. We are now the largest European network in this field, covering 36 countries and bringing together a community of academic leaders and professionals from over 240 universities awarding doctoral degrees and related institutions.*

*For more information about EUA-CDE, please visit our website at <https://eua-cde.org>.*