FINDING COMMON GROUND IN A DIVERSE LANDSCAPE

Jeroen Huisman, EUA-CDE Annual Meeting, Ljubljana, 7-8 June 2018
THE TRENDS:

- With a caveat …

- Drivers: quality challenges, Bologna process, knowledge society discourse, but also mismatch between supply and demand

- Consequences for doctoral education:
  * more structured, more checks and balances
  * broader conception of what PhD research is (or can be): skills set, training, types of outputs and degrees
In your institution, how important are the following elements of doctoral training?
## DIVERSITY WITHIN AND ACROSS SYSTEMS: SKILLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>% in cluster</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Finland</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>Netherlands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pure research skills</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valorising research skills</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well-rounded academic skills</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mix of all skills</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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INCREASED IMPORTANCE?

- Generally yes, see mantra of “need for highly educated workforce”

- Survey cannot tell us the answer …., but fair amount of evidence of doctoral education taken seriously. BUT: important to look at the HEIs` motivations Gaps: student diversity, mental health (Levecque et al. 2017), career perspectives (Yudkevich et al. 2015).

- Within higher education policies: mixed feelings … Attention does not coincide with the enormous contribution of PhDs to “knowledge society”
MORE RESEARCH NEEDED ....?

- Do not ask a professor of higher education ... ;-) 

- But seriously: 
  * impact studies (great expectations ...), but also impact specific funding 
  * PhD wellbeing  
  * inbreeding, favouritism  
  * career prospects & tracking
PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- Changing experience: more pressure, more uncertainty “double-edged sword”

- Rules and regulations as a necessity …
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