2027 EUA-CDE THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Responsible internationalisation in doctoral education

Hosted by University for Continuing Education Krems
14-15 January 2027 | Krems, Austria

Draft programme as of 17 November 2026

The trend towards significant internationalisation of doctoral education across Europe, as well as a dynamic and complex geopolitical environment, affects universities across their doctoral education activities. This ranges from the recruitment of new doctoral candidates and creating guidance on international cooperation and doctoral research, to supporting doctoral candidates and their work through guidance and courses.

Attracting international doctoral candidates is essential for countries around the world to be at the forefront of research and innovation. These benefits include enhanced research opportunities and a more diverse academic environment, as internationalisation exposes doctoral candidates and faculty to diverse perspectives and cutting-edge research from around the world.

Therefore, Thematic Workshop sessions will cover topics such as universities' objectives in responsible international collaboration, the onboarding and inclusion of international doctoral candidates, or ethical issues in international collaboration.

The event will also touch on the challenges and opportunities of doctoral education collaboration in European Universities alliances, intercultural supervision and the security of doctoral candidates during international field work, as well as international research security – a topic universities are increasingly confronted with.

In short, across multiple related topics, the 2027 Thematic Workshop will offer participants opportunities to:

- Gain insights on institutional policies and practices on responsible internationalisation at doctoral level,
- Share good practices based on their experiences, and
- Discuss ways forward in tackling challenges to responsible internationalisation in doctoral education.

Thursday 14 January 2027

09.10 – 09.50 **Official opening**

- Viktoria Weber, Rector, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria
- Peter Hanenberg, Chair of the EUA-CDE Steering Committee; Vice-Rector for Research and Doctoral Education, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal

09.50 – 10.40 **Plenary session I**
Responsible internationalisation in doctoral education in a changed security context

Given the importance of international collaboration for the doctorate and a complex geopolitical landscape, European leaders in doctoral education are increasingly exposed to a challenging working environment. This first plenary session will set the scene for the workshop by discussing the challenges doctoral education sees itself confronted with in Europe today.

Keynote I:
How geopolitical change is affecting the doctorate

- Tommy Shih, Director, Forum for Responsible Internationalisation and Research Security, KTH Royal Institute of Technology; Associate Professor, Lund University, Sweden

Keynote II:
Navigating responsible internationalisation in doctoral education

- Hans de Wit, former Director; Professor Emeritus, Boston College Center for International Higher Education, USA

10.40 – 11.10 *Coffee break*

11.10 – 12.00 **Plenary session II**
Good practices in navigating responsible internationalisation

This plenary session will take a closer look at how universities are navigating key aspects of responsible internationalisation in their doctoral education practices.
The panel discussion will cover ethical considerations, research security, collaboration in countries at-risk, dealing with geopolitical risks and dynamic international developments and institutional autonomy in the context of responsible internationalisation, as well as practical aspects such as issues related to visas or sustainability.

- Gemma Irvine, Vice-President for Equality and Diversity, Maynooth University, Ireland
- Norbert Bencze, President, European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc)

12.00 – 13.00 **World Café session**
Challenges and opportunities in internationalisation at doctoral level

During this session, participants can join a table to exchange on different approaches and issues that are relevant for responsible internationalisation. The discussants will be selected through an expression of interest for participation during registration.

Each table will be guided by a discussant. Possible topics include:

- universities' strategies and goals in responsible international collaboration at doctoral level
- how to adapt to a fast-evolving geopolitical environment
- intercultural dimensions in doctoral education
- inclusion of international doctoral candidates
- tackling the environmental impact of internationalisation in doctoral education
- security of doctoral candidates during international field work
- ethical issues in international doctoral collaboration
- doctoral education collaboration in European Universities alliances
- doctoral collaboration with at-risk institutions/countries
- values-based collaboration
- research security in Europe

13.00 – 14.10 *Group photo and lunch*

14.10 – 15.30 **Breakout sessions I**

I. Recruiting international doctoral candidates

This session will explore how universities are managing the recruitment of new candidates with international backgrounds. What are the key challenges and opportunities? What are the best practices for the onboarding of international doctoral candidates? How can universities approach visa issues? How are research security measures being developed and implemented? What role do research topics and disciplines play?

II. Achieving critical mass in doctoral programmes through responsible internationalisation

As highlighted in the Salzburg Principles, international collaboration in doctoral education can be an important way to build critical mass for doctoral programmes. This session will

assess how to build critical mass via international partnerships and joint doctoral programmes.

III. Supporting research security awareness among staff, supervisors and doctoral candidates

Many universities have started efforts to support their doctoral education staff and supervisors – as well as doctoral candidates – in their work with respect to international research security considerations. While some universities are pursuing a mainstreaming approach, others focus on specific disciplines that are more exposed to such challenges.

IV. Transnational joint doctoral education and collaboration in European Universities alliances

Joint doctorates are an important instrument of international collaboration at doctoral level. In addition, also European Universities alliances are collaborating with universities beyond Europe. Thus, when it comes to doctoral education, they may have to deal with questions of responsible internationalisation.

V. Intercultural supervision

Supervision across cultures can pose specific challenges. This session focuses on responsible approaches to this form of internationalisation, which can include intricate challenges at the heart of collaboration, managing expectations and navigating different cultures of communication.

15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 – 17.30 Reporting from breakout sessions I and discussion

19.00 – 22.00 *Reception & Gala Dinner*
Remarks by Georg Winckler, former EUA President; former Rector, University of Vienna, Austria

Friday 15 January 2027

09.30 – 10.15 Plenary session III

Approaches to responsible internationalisation

This session provides insights into the perspectives of European and national institutions that are funding doctoral candidates and doctoral education activities, including researchers at risk at doctoral level. Panellists will present how they are adapting their funding policies to a changing geopolitical environment. Discussions will

include funding priorities, ethical considerations in international collaboration as well as practices in research security, and the security of doctoral candidates during international fieldwork.

- Peter Weijland, Programme Lead International Affairs, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands; Conference Director, European Network Conference on Research Security (ENCORS)

10.15 – 10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45 – 12.15 **Breakout sessions II**

The same five topics as on the previous day will be offered. Participants can select a different or the same breakout session as on the first day.

I. Recruiting international doctoral candidates

II. Achieving critical mass in doctoral programmes through responsible internationalisation

III. Supporting research security awareness of staff, supervisors and doctoral candidates

IV. Transnational joint doctoral education and collaboration in European Universities alliances

V. Intercultural supervision

12.15 – 12.45 **Reporting from breakout sessions II and discussion**

12.45 – 13.15 **Closing session**

13.15 – 14.15 *Lunch*

14.30 *Social programme*