

5th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS

Linking Master with PhD: success factors for effective preparation of students for PhD candidacy

Centre for Advanced Academic Studies University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik
31 August-3 September 2014



Target group: Vice-Rectors/Heads of Doctoral Schools/Programmes, doctoral supervisors and policy makers **willing to serve as ambassadors for best practices in supervising doctoral candidates**

Providing doctoral training is a huge investment with respect to time and other resources and therefore, a robust **selection procedure of doctoral candidates** is of utmost importance. From a student's perspective, there is a need for **transparent and comprehensive information** on which potential candidates can rely on, and base their decision on, when taking their next career step.

At the same time, we observe the **population of doctoral candidates becoming increasingly diversified** and often demonstrating a decreasing level of knowledge and skills as they enter doctoral programmes. Coming from all over the world, the candidates have varied, but often unknown Masters training experiences before being selected. In parallel, universities are asked to improve their performance by increasing the completion rates while **lowering the time to degree**. To solve this dilemma it became obvious that a better preparation to support a **smooth transition from the Masters to PhD studies** is essential. Several such supportive measures are already apparent: universities are offering induction courses and programmes on research skills and competences to provide orientation in the starting phase. However, these programmes reduce the core activity of doing a doctorate, namely research. On the structural level, this opens the discussion between doctoral schools and graduate schools and when the recruiting of international talents should take place.

The **5th UNICA MASTER CLASS will focus** on the question of how to **best prepare a diverse population of candidates** for a doctorate. We will discuss what the **success factors** could be for this preparation with respect to timing and the responsibility of its organisation. The **3 ½ day programme** includes presentations from keynote speakers who will provide insights on current **trends in doctoral education** and sessions in small working groups that will provide an opportunity to discuss, share experiences, understand how others operate and to reflect on these approaches. As a result, participants will be equipped with information to better understand their own situations in order to develop new strategies.

How to apply:

Applications will be accepted on the basis of a **short biography** (120-180 words), description of **motivation & expectations** and a **completed questionnaire** on:

www.unica-network.eu/event/5th-unica-phd-master-class

Application period: 14 April - 19 May 2014

Confirmation of acceptance: by 2 June 2014

Maximum number of participants: 25

Participation fee: €600 (UNICA member universities), **€750** (non-UNICA members). **Participation fee includes:** accommodation (4 nights), breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks, 2 dinners and the participation in the social programme. The fee does not cover travel expenses.

For more information: please contact Marta Breljih-Wasowska (UNICA Secretariat): office@unica-network.eu

UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: **Melita Kovačević**, Vice-Rector for Research and Technology (U. of Zagreb), **Slaven Mihaljević**, Head of the Office of Doctoral Programmes (U. of Zagreb), **Lucas Zinner**, Head of Centre for Doctoral Studies (U. of Vienna), **Luciano Saso**, Rector's Deputy for International Mobility (Sapienza U. of Rome), Member of UNICA Steering Committee, **Kris Dejonckheere**, UNICA Secretary General