

6th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS

Crossing the finish line: PhD completion and career preparation

**Centre for Advanced Academic Studies University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik
6-9 September 2015**



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

High quality doctoral education contributes to the esteem of universities and translates into a large amount of research output, an essential factor for the visibility and success in the global competition in academia. A common indicator to measure this quality is inter alia **timely completion**. The well-known Shanghai Ranking ranks universities in part based on the number of successful PhD completions. Moreover, PhD education requires a huge investment with respect to time and other resources and this spending needs to be well justified. What is it that makes a PhD such a difficult process, and prevents candidates from completing in time? Are supervisors sufficiently concerned about the timely completion or is it considered a private matter of the candidate? And what does the university or doctoral school know about the process, what goes wrong and why and how to intervene?

A second major indicator of high quality PhD programmes is linked to **career perspectives**. Statistics provide evidence that a large majority of PhD holders will have to find a job outside the university, in particular outside the institution they graduated from. Therefore universities face the challenge of how to best prepare the doctoral candidates for the rapidly changing job market. It has become almost common practice to offer **transferable skills training** for PhD candidates, which can certainly empower them and enhance their doctoral experience and satisfaction. However, what can be offered given the uncertainty of the **changing employability landscape**? Who should be in charge of this? Can a better career preparation facilitate or hinder a timely completion when the future career takes precedence over the candidates' research?

The **6th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS** will focus on the topic of **completion and career preparation**. By discussing various case studies the participants will build their understanding on the complexity of the dissertation process. Focus will be laid on those PhD biographies where the candidates have already made significant progress but need to reach the final steps in order to complete. The MASTER CLASS will provide a dynamic forum for discussion on **possible support measures** and different examples of **career preparation approaches**.

UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS ORGANISING COMMITTEE: **Melita Kovačević**, Professor (U. of Zagreb), Chair of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education, **Slaven Mihaljević**, Head of the Office of Doctoral Programmes (U. of Zagreb), **Lucas Zinner**, Head of Centre for Doctoral Studies (U. of Vienna), **Kris Dejonckheere**, UNICA Secretary General

How to apply:

Applications will be accepted on the basis of a **short biography** (120-180 words) and a **case study on:**

www.unica-network.eu/event/6th-unica-phd-master-class

Application period: 9 March - 8 May 2015

Confirmation of acceptance: by 15 May 2015

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 Brelj-Wasowska (UNICA Secretariat): office@unica-network.eu