

Conclusions from Working Group 1:

Structure/Organisation of doctoral
programmes

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Main issues discussed

- Traditional ways of doctoral programmes organisation:
individual master – apprentice approach vs new ways of
DP organisation
(graduate/doctoral schools) - strengths and weaknesses
- Are doctoral programmes recognised as the third cycle ?
- Is ECTS used and is it useful for doctoral programmes ?
- Length of doctoral programmes : are 3 years enough ?
- Joint doctoral programmes – pros and cons
- European Doctorate – yes or no ? Is the conception of
European doctorate necessary ? Is it recognised ?

Recommendations

1. We need doctoral programmes (to achieve critical mass of researchers) which are embedded at the institutional level and have 2 goals:
 - researcher training
 - follow-up of the professional project
2. Normally, the length for a doctorate programme should be 3 years assuming a full-time commitment and should be based on a contractual agreement

Recommendations

3. The group agreed that ECTS could be used as a measurement for generic skills, but the group could not reach unanimity on the fact that ECTS is not appropriate for research-based training.
4. Doctoral training constitutes the third cycle and is at the same time a professional experience.