Recent years have shown a revolution in PhD education linking the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area. Starting with the “Salzburg principles” doctoral programmes obtained increasing attention on European level even outside academia. Furthermore, the nature of doctoral training itself has been shaped in many of UNICA universities to meet increasing student expectations and the broader and more-structured training requirements of the research councils and other funding bodies. For instance, FP7 proposals are more likely to succeed if sufficient attention is given to high level supervision. UNICA member universities are committed to both excellent research and high level education and supervision is becoming a university’s responsibility. Those universities which want to keep their competitive capacity are re-framing and reconfiguring doctoral education. However, for many of our academics, supervision and the supervisor’s role is now and will be very different to what they experienced as a student. A holistic approach is needed to raise awareness for the topic and to facilitate the updating of established research supervision.

This 1st UNICA MASTER CLASS looks at the new expectations, roles and responsibilities of doctoral candidates, supervisors and institutions and explores ways of trainings and supporting measures necessary to establish effective supervision in this new academic climate.

The 3 ½ days programme includes presentations of keynote speakers who will provide inputs concerning structural/political changes and adaptations needed and will discuss these issues with the participants. Highly professional trainers with long lasting experiences will provide the participants with training on a variety of supervisory skills so that they gain insights into trainings themselves. This 1st UNICA MASTER CLASS will provide an excellent platform and a unique opportunity for the participants to reflect on, and share, their experience with other colleagues through active discussion and exchange in the broad international context of UNICA Universities. As a result, participants should be better informed on crucial aspects related to trainings and support for supervisors and benefit from lessons learned by others in order to set up or improve institutional programmes in their respective universities.

TARGET GROUP

Directors of Doctoral Schools/Programmes and Supervisors from UNICA Universities who are willing to serve as ambassadors for best practice in supervising doctoral candidates. The master class aims at people with experiences in supervisor’s training as well as those who are planning to set up a framework for an institutional programme of training/development/support for supervisors.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Paule Biaudet, Head of the House of Doctoral Schools, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris – Melita Kovačević, Vice-rector for Science and Technology, University of Zagreb – Lucas Zinner, Vice Director Research Services and International Relations, University of Vienna – Kris Dejonckheere, UNICA Secretary General.

Date: 20 - 23 September 2009

Venue: Dubrovnik, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS), University of Zagreb

• The Master Class is only open to UNICA Universities. Minimum number of participants: 20, maximum: 25.
• Applications will be accepted on the basis of the biography and the multiplier role played in the Institution.
• Application deadline: 1 June 2009.
• Confirmation of acceptance will be sent by 15 June.
• Participation fee is 950 € and includes
  - Accommodation from Sunday, 20 September to Wednesday, 23 September included (4 nights).
  - Lunches, coffee breaks and the official dinner.