Co-ordination Programme for Joint European/International Doctorates

On May 19th 2009 the Academic Senate of Sapienza University of Rome has approved the foundation of a Co-ordination Programme for Joint European/International Doctorates – following the approvals of both the Doctorate Committee (on March 11th 2009) and International Relations Committee (April 1st 2009) - which will support this new organisational structure as a transversal action.

In addition to 156 doctorates and 17 Doctoral Schools including 102 doctoral programs and 1 National Doctoral School in collaboration with other Italian H.E. institutions, Sapienza University currently has the following 4 active International PhDs in various disciplinary and cross-disciplinary fields ranging from social sciences to neuroscience to physical-natural sciences:

- the European PhD on Social Representations and Communication (since 1996)
- the European PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies (since 2001)
- the International PhD in Astrophysics (since 2003)
- the European PhD in Cognitive Neuro-Plasticity and Rehabilitation (since 2005).

Whereas the organisation of the Doctoral Schools of mono-disciplinary nature has been a reply to the fragmentation of the same discipline in many specialised courses, the implementation of the Co-ordination Programme for Joint European/International Doctorates aims at achieving the following objectives:

a) identify an organisational structure which will allow a comparison between specific institutional experiences (from a training, didactic, management and administrative point of view) of international joint doctorates;

b) discuss the strengths and weaknesses of joint doctorates on the basis of concrete experiences already had in collaboration with institutional networks in different countries, such as the adoption of the Regulations established by Sapienza as well as in relation to existing Regulations and procedures in other countries and partner institutions;

c) identify operational solutions, share good practices and adopt the best solutions to problems, in order to remove specific obstacles that can emerge during the different phases of project conception, implementation, development and sustainability of international joint programmes. In particular, the following procedures will be compared and optimized:

- candidate selection;
- training structure and strategies to restrict the number of admissions;
- research activity and training in an international environment;
- intensive didactic “stages” (international summer schools) in multilingual and multicultural settings;
- adoption of the European Credit System schema of structured training;
- language policy and format for Ph.D. dissertation;
- evaluation of the entire training process and quality system;
- formal recognition of degrees and awarding of joint diplomas;
- enhancement of the International/European doctor’s career prospects both in and outside academia thanks to strong partnerships with private small-medium enterprise and public research centres.

d) promote the harmonization of the most advanced cycles of education in Europe, in agreement with the recommendations of the Bologna Process, with the objectives established by the Lisbon Process for 2010 regarding the development of the European Research Area, and with the debate on doctoral training which has preceded and followed the 2003 Berlin Communiqué of the inter-governmental conference, until the formation of the European Doctoral Council (EUA-CDE) in 2008;

e) identify transversal units of trans-disciplinary doctoral training, especially in the field of transferable skills, in order to experiment training solutions which are common to several international joint doctorates. This can be done by providing integrated seminars for research trainees currently attending courses in several disciplines, from social sciences to neurosciences to physical-natural sciences, thus optimizing the infrastructural and scientific resources of the various networks;

f) identify interdisciplinary thematic areas of interest (as for ex. between the social and neuro-scientific domains of psychology, or between the socio-economical and the socio-psychological components, between quantitative and qualitative statistical and multi-methodological approaches in different disciplines) and organise intensive joint training in order to further develop doctoral training within the framework of the dialogue between scientific areas which are still too closed in a sectorial specialism;

g) experiment and promote new forms of collaboration between international staffs of teachers and doctoral trainees belonging to different programmes with the goal to not only reproduce knowledge in the specific domains of academic research, but also to provide training that is open to innovation and is capable of understanding the complex problems that challenge the new frontiers of knowledge, also in the perspective of a research training useful in extra-academic contexts.
The 15th Edition of the International Summer School will be held from the 23rd to the 30th of August 2009 at the European PhD on S.R. & C. Research Centre and Multimedia Lab (Rome – Italy), in combination with worldwide on-line connection points via the interactive video-conference system European Ph.D. web Auditorium.

The event – organised by the European Ph.D. scientific coordinator Annamaria de Rosa - will be focussed on “Cultural and cross-cultural approaches to social representations: the implications of the globalised/localised cultural scenarios”. The invited lecturers from 7 countries Aleksandra Borkowska (Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw, Poland), Paszkal Kiss (Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary), James Liu (University of Wellington, New-Zealand), Dario Paez (University of Basque Country, Spain) and Jean-Marie Séca (Université de Versailles, France) have already confirmed their participation.

49 researchers from 21 worldwide countries (Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Venezuela) have been admitted to this 15th Edition of the European Ph.D. International Summer School. All information about the event can be found on the European PhD on S.R. & C. website at: http://www.europhd.eu/IntSummerSchools
In line with the tradition established since 1992 in Ravello (Italy), Tunisia will host the 10th International Conference on Social Representations on the 5th – 8th July 2010 in Gammarth. This conference aims at the presentation of the recent works inspired by the theory founded by Serge Moscovici (1961), as well as the theoretical and methodological reflexions aiming at the development of this theory.

After Ravello (Italy) in 1992, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1994, Aix-en-Provence (France) in 1996, Mexico City (Mexico) in 1998, Montréal (Canada) in 2000, Stirling (GB) in 2002, Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2004, Rome (Italy) in 2006 and Bali (Indonesia) in 2008, we are pleased to invite you to the 10th ICSR dedicated to the following theme: « Representations, Knowledge Transmission and Social Transformations ».

The theory of Social Representations represents a crossroads for the social sciences. Man does not only react to objective reality, but to a collective and socially reconstructed one. From the thematic point of view the social representations theory deals with the big contemporary societal issues, such as the emergence of violence, discrimination, delinquency, sustainable development, unemployment, risk behaviour, mental health, HIV, the feeling of insecurity, etc. The theory also allows to understand why certain interventions toward change and prevention, and why certain campaigns for awareness-raising of information fail, despite the strategies deployed for it.

The scientific network on social representations is based on a large community of researchers and scholars from various fields of social sciences, coming from different countries and from all the continents (http://www.europhd/SocReComTHEmaticNETwork). The bi-Annual International conferences on Social Representations were usually held in Europe and Latin America and – since its birth it is one of the main activities of the So.Re.Com. THEmatic NETwork. After the 9th ICSR in Asia, it seemed important that Africa would welcome the 10th ICSR, enlarging its community of scientists to researchers from other continents.

The 10th ICSR will be held in Gammarth, located on the seaside, 25 km from Tunis, allowing therefore to benefit from a pleasant workplace, but also from the beauty and historical interest of the surrounding area (Carthage, Sidi Bou Said, Marsa). As the network of social representations’ network, Tunisia is historically and culturally rich and diversified.

For more information on contributions via Conferences, symposiums, workshops, thematic roundtables, free communication and poster, please contact Deria Ben Amsi - Tel : (+216) 98 37 22 49 - Fax : (+216) 71 75 48 77 - deria@gmail.com