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# **Mapping Good Practice in PhD Education in the Social Sciences (broadly understood)**

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EUA-CDU, 18 January 2018 #EUACDE

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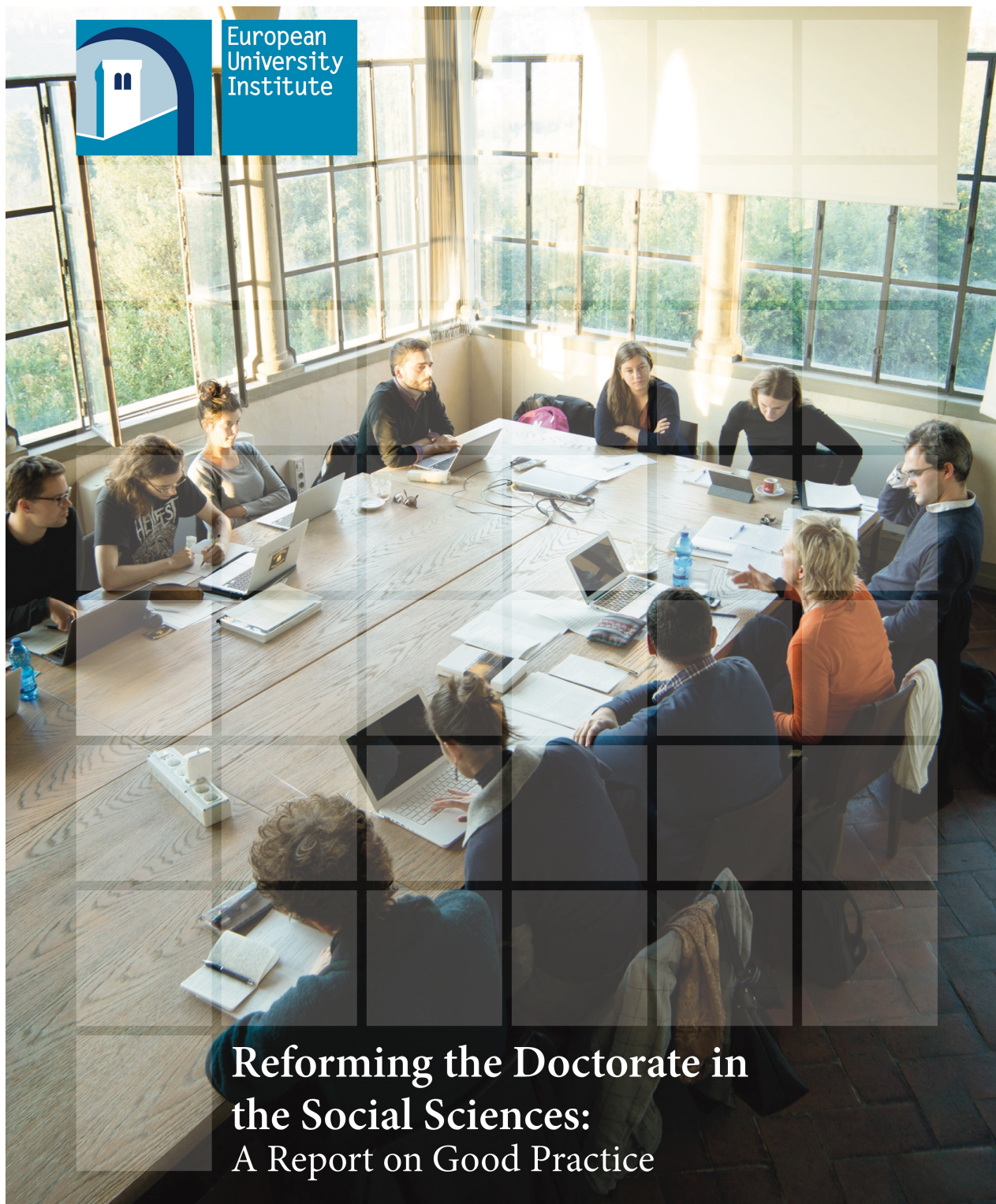


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# Reforming the Doctorate in the Social Sciences: A Report on Good Practice



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# Task Force that produced the 2017 report

<https://www.eui.eu/Documents/ServicesAdmin/DeanOfStudies/ReformingtheDoctorate.pdf>

## Eminent academics from 5 European universities;

- Gábor Kézdi, CEU Budapest
- Jean-Frédéric Schaub, EHESS Paris
- Linda Mulcahy, LSE London
- Sandra Fachelli, UAB Barcelona
- Sari Lindblom-Ylänne, Helsinki

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OF LAW

DEPARTMENT  
OF POLITICAL  
AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

University Pedagogy

+ and from the EUI: the Dean of Graduate Studies and a postdoctoral fellow, Stefanie Rudig (Innsbruck)

# Identifying good practice on eight dimensions of PhD education ('baskets')

- The thesis
- Supervision
- Coursework
- Academic and professional components
- Technology
- Mobility and Internationalisation
- Funding
- The job market

# Notion of 'Good Practice'

- Is an actual or at least emerging practice
- Has distinct comparative advantages in respect of at least one of the 'baskets'
- Does not entail negative side effects in any other respects that would outweigh the benefits
- Represents a consensus view as identified good practice but not necessarily a prescriptive model for Europe
- Partly builds upon existing EUA-CDE work



# Some Key Elements Identified as Good Practice

- Structured and fully funded 4-year PhD progr.
- Insistence on academic excellence and integrity, through the PhD thesis making an original contribution to the field
- Resistance to overburdening the programme with add-ons (the 75%-25% presumption)
- Academic skills are professional skills (p. 13-)
  - Skills elements are plug-ins rather than add-ons
- The notion of a 'thematic doctorate' (p. 12)
  - The cost model (p. 43)

# Addressees of Good Practice Identification

## (with some examples)

- Policymakers
  - PhD funding covers the entire duration of the program and can take various forms but recognises doctoral training as professional work
- University management and administration
  - Every PhD candidate has at least one supervisor who is a full-time senior academic at own university
  - Supervision is fully recognised as work by professors
  - Regular monitoring of the quality of supervision
- Academics and academic departments
  - Supervisor and supervisee sign a written memorandum of understanding on mutual expectations including the frequency of meetings



