



9th ANNUAL MEETING, EUA-CDE
Rovira i Virgili University, Tarragona, Spain
16-17 June, 2016

“REFORMING THE PhD”
DOKUZ EYLUL UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES-
İZMİR-TURKEY”

Prof. Gül Güner Akdoğan, PhD
Dokuz Eylül University, School of Medicine
(1986- March 2016)
Izmir University of Economics, School of Medicine
(April 2016 -)

Experience in PhD Training

- 2006 : Project: “2023 Turkish Vision on Health Sciences”
commissioned by Turkish Council on Medicine & Health
- 2000-2010: Director, Dokuz Eylül U Graduate Sch. Health Sciences
- 2014-2016: Chair of the DEU PhD Board on Labelling
- 2010- 2016 : Member of ORPHEUS EC Committee/Gen. Secretary
- 2011 : Chair of the Organizing Committee- ORPHEUS 2011
(İzmir) Conference
- 2016- : Member of the ORPHEUS Labeling Committee
- Jan 2014 :Local Coordinator for the EUA-CDE WS, Izmir, Turkey
- 2014-2015: Coordinator of DEU for the EUA-CDE Frindoc Project
- 2016- : Commissioned by YOK for planning “New Objectives
for Graduate Education in Health Sciences in Turkey”

- **DEU Graduate School of Health Sciences (DEU-HSI)**

“Reforming the PhD”

PLAN OF TALK:

- ***Overview of the PhD Training landscape in Turkey***
- ***Overview on Dokuz Eylul University (Izmir) Graduate School***

The Change Process:

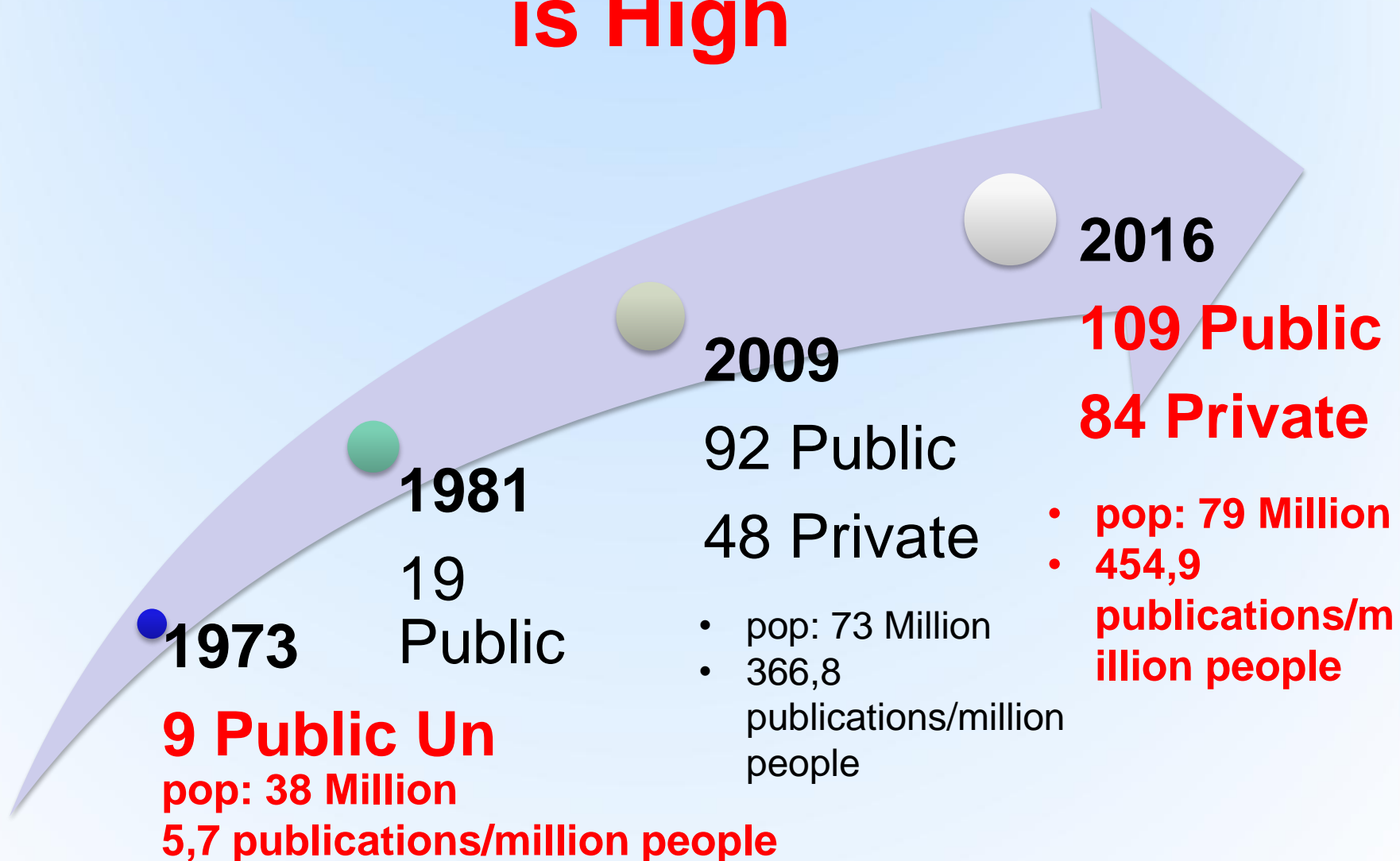
- **Phase 1: Internal Phase: PhD Reform (2005-2010)**
- **Phase 2: Internationalization Phase (2011-)**
- **Phase 3: Safeguarding the Quality**
- **Conclusions**



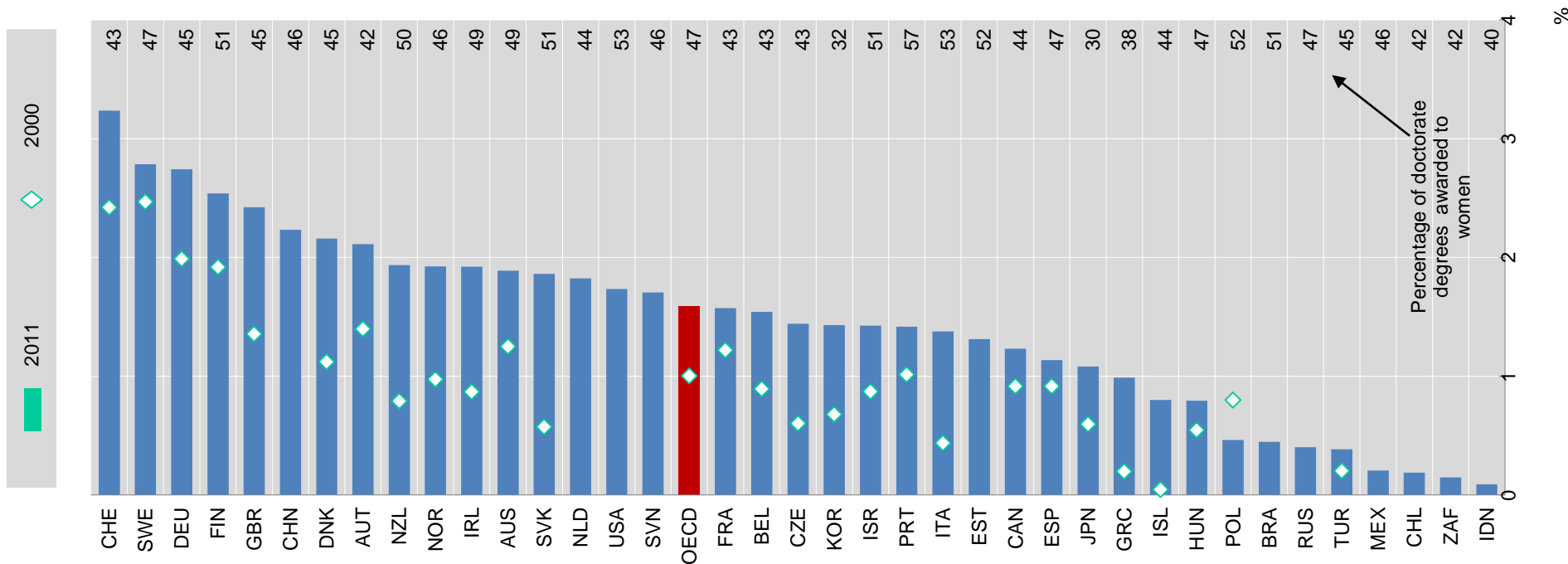
Turkey

- A member of OECD & NATO
A candidate to EU membership
An emerging dynamic economy
 - Relatively young population, high demand for higher education (median age: 28)
 - A strong will to integrate into global scientific community
 - A fully compliant member of the Bologna Process
- ... a lot of issues pertaining to PhD education

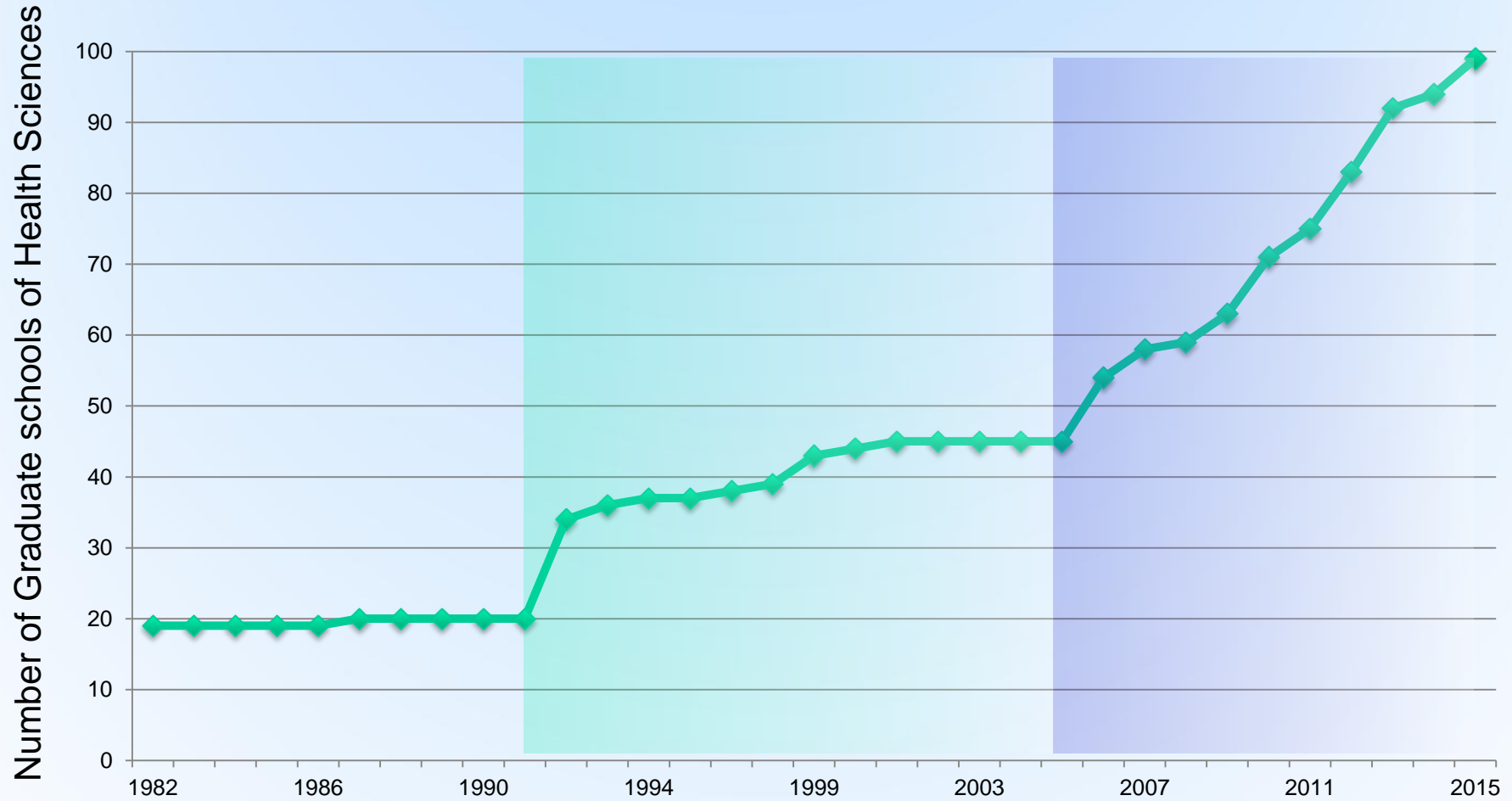
Demand for University Education is High



Graduation Rates at PhD Level



Graduate Schools of Health Sciences



Source: YÖK (Higher Education Council)

New Enrollment Doubles the Graduates

2013-14 Academic Year

PhD Programs	
Total new PhD enrollment	1 659
Total number of PhD students	9 388
Total number of PhD graduates	805
Graduate/New	48%

MSc. Programs	
Total new MSc. enrollment	6 390
Total number of MSc. students	21 979
Total number of MSc. graduates	2 985
Graduate/New	47%

THE DILEMMA.....

QUANTITY?

or

QUALITY ?

IZMIR, TURKEY



DOKUZ EYLUL UNIVERSITY

Graduate Education: Graduate School System

University President

Graduate Schools

**Social
Sciences**

**Natural
Sciences**

**Health
Sciences**

Others

Faculties

Departments





BRIEF OVERVIEW of DEU (GRADUATE SCHOOL of HEALTH SCIENCES)

Founded in 1982 under the Turkish Higher Education Act

Comprises 31 departments based in:

- **Faculty of Medicine**
- **In Faculty of Nursing**
- **In Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation School**
(ALSO, Multi-disciplinary Departments)
- **38 MSc and 30 PhD programmes, with overall 650 post-graduate students and 450 supervisors**

- **DEU Graduate School of Health Sciences (DEU-HSI)**

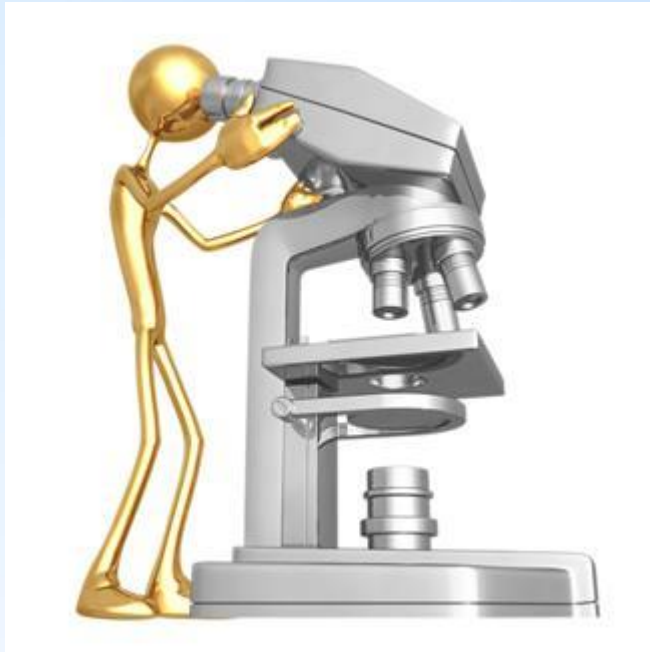
“PhD REFORM”

CHANGE PROCESS in PhD TRAINING:

- **Phase 1: Internal Phase: PhD Reform (2005-2010)**
- **Phase 2: Internationalization Phase (2010-2016)**
- **Phase 3: Safeguarding the Quality (2015- -)**
- **Conclusions**



PhD' s: New Generation Scientists



Independent Researchers



Scientists nurturing innovative ideas

SWOT ANALYSIS (DEU-HSI) (2004)

1. Strengths:

- Relatively strong research infrastructure
- Objective admission processes
- Institutional support
- Thesis committee adds discipline
- Student and supervisor motivation

SWOT ANALYSIS (DEU-HSI) (2004)

2. Weaknesses:

- Courses- work too long (2 years)
- Thesis actually starts at 2.5th to 3rd year
- The PhD candidate cannot select his/her supervisor
- Course-work too rigid / Limited freedom
- Some theses not published

SWOT ANALYSIS (DEU-HSI) (2004)

3. Opportunities:

- PhD candidates introduced to the scientific community
- Collaboration between the different universities of Izmir
- Multidisciplinary collaborations within and outside the campus
- Well-developed medical hospital
- Good research infrastructure
- Student-centered perspective

SWOT ANALYSIS (DEU-HSI) (2004)

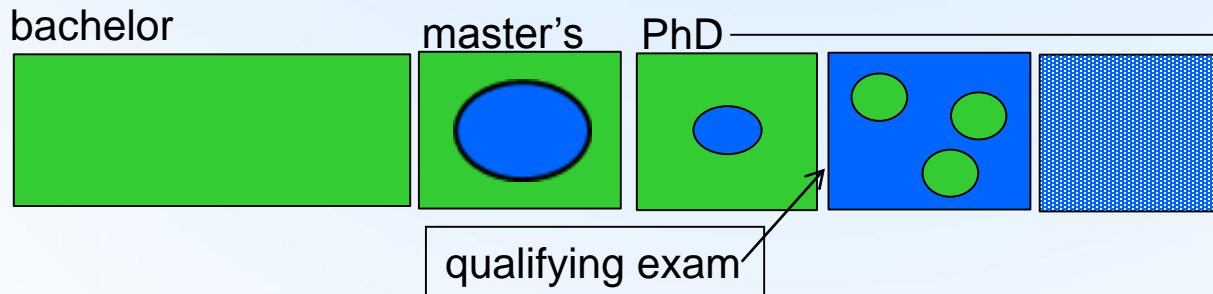
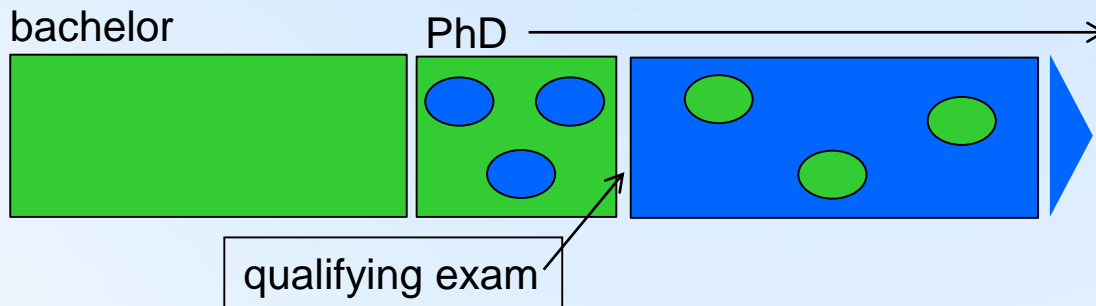
4. Threats:

- Some supervisors not adequately trained
- Lack of communication with the industry
- Some PhD candidates having to work outside
- Not sufficient “internationalization” of the university
- Not enough opportunities for acquiring “transferable skills”

Comparison of PhD programmes (Prof. M.MULVANY)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

research
courses





DOKUZ EYLÜL PhD MODEL, 2005

- 1. PhD Training STARTS with the thesis and the courses are “intertwined”**
- 2. Only faculty who already have an ONGOING research project can be a PhD supervisor**
- 3. The thesis paper has to be published in an Expanded-SCI journal PRIOR to defense of thesis**
- 4. Transferable Courses structured**

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF DEU-HSI

2006-2015

2006 – Member of ORPHEUS

2011 (April) – Hosted 2011 ORPHEUS Conference

**2009 – Member of Doctoral Council of EUA
(European Universities Association)**

2014 (Jan) – Hosted EUA-CDE “Workshop on:

”Doctoral Education: Mindset, Research, Education”

2014-Vice Rector elected to be a member of CDE

2015 – Participated at the FRINDOC project of EUA-CDE

Documents from Europe on PhD Training

Salzburg I: Bologna Seminar on “Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society”, 2005

Salzburg II: Implementing the Salzburg Principles, 2010

EU Commission: Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training, 2011

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Doctoral degree characteristics in UK, 2011

League of European Research Universities, LERU: Good Practice Elements in Doctoral Training, 2014

ORPHEUS Best Practices



WHAT WE NEEDED TO WORK ON (2014):

1. Change further the emphasis from course work to thesis work:

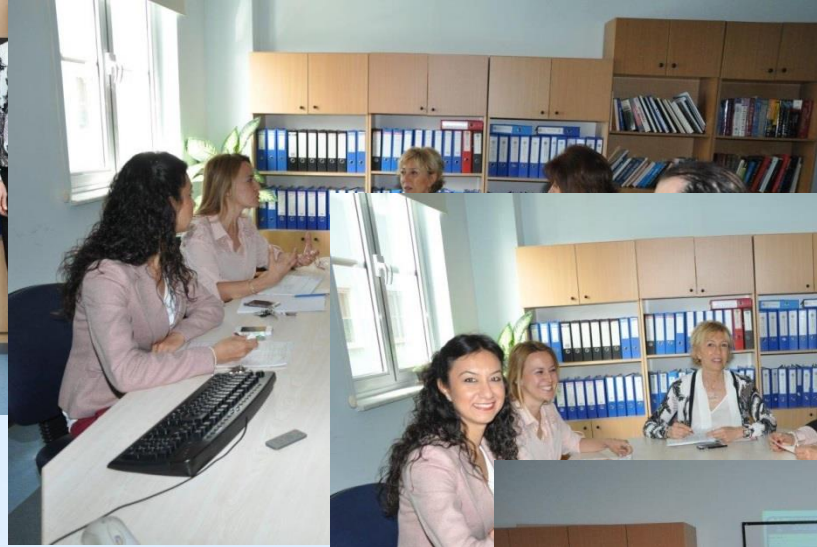
- The total number of semesters for course work was reduced from 4 to 3
- Senate Confirmed

2. The thesis should terminate in three full papers:

Senate confirmed: two should be accepted for publication in SCI or Expanded SCI and one, prepared as a manuscript for a peer-reviewed journal

- Senate Confirmed

DEU ORPHEUS Labeling Committee (2014)



Prof. Gül Güner PhD (Advisor)
Prof. Dr. Hüray İşlekel MD. PhD
Ahu Pakdemirli MD.
Tuğba Yardımcı MSc.
Ozan Akçay MSc.

ORPHEUS Labeling visit

**Dokuz Eylül University Graduate School of Health Sciences
(Health Sciences Institute) (DEU-HSI)
4-5. 07. 2014**

From ORPHEUS LABELLING COMMITTEE:

**Prof. Dr. André Neueillon (Marseille)
Prof. Dr. Jadwiga Mirecka (Warsaw)**

From DEU HEALTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE:

**Prof. Dr. İbrahim Astarçioğlu (Director)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zübeyde Erbayraktar (Vice Director)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selim Karabekir (Vice Director)
Prof. Dr. Hüray İşlekel (Chair, DEU Labelling Committee)
Prof. Dr. Gül Güner Akdoğan (Advisor, DEU Labelling Committee)**

SUMMARY OF MEASURES TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH ORPHEUS STANDARDS

1. Increased central control over the programmes

- 1. Tranferable courses made common to ALL PhD programmes.**
- 2. Two new courses: “Teaching Skills” and “Personal development Skills (leadership, etc)” were added, as recommended.**
- 3. Uniformity was achieved in the admission procedures and proficiency examination**

SCIENCE, RESEARCH CULTURE, AND TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- **Planning, Carrying Out and Evaluating Experimental Research Projects**
- **Recording and Presenting Experimental Research Data**
- **How to Write and Publish Research Articles**
- **Teaching Skills**
- **Personal skills**
- **History and Philosophy of Science**
 - **Ethics in Health Sciences II**
 - **Computer Applied Statistics**
 - **Creativity, Discovery and Innovation in Science**
 - **Data-Base Searching in Health Sciences and Evidence-Based Medicine**
- **Research Methods and Advanced Analysis Techniques in Health Sciences**
- **Biomedical Management**

SUMMARY OF MEASURES TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH ORPHEUS STANDARDS

**2. The programme overload with theoretical courses
should be further reduced.**

- **90 ECTS from was further reduced to 60 ECTS**

SUMMARY OF MEASURES TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH ORPHEUS STANDARDS

- 3. Introduction of a mandatory course in ethics**
- 4. Introduction of clear independence of the Assessment Committee and clear external evaluation of the thesis and oral exam**







DOKUZ EYLÜL UNIVERSITY
DIRECTORATE of the GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCE



PhD THESIS DEFENSE – MINUTES AND CONCLUSION

The jury for Nüket Eliyatkin, PhD candidate of the Basic Oncology PhD programme of the Department of Oncology, has been formed by the Graduate School Directory Board, according to the article No 12 of the PhD Education and Code of Practice of Dokuz Eylül University Graduate School (The jury consists of six actual and two substitute members three of whom are from the student's thesis (supervisory) committee and at least two of whom are from outside the university. The second supervisor cannot be a jury member. The supervisor cannot be the jury Chair and cannot vote. Jury Chair is determined by jury members at the beginning of the defense. Member(s) who are not present in the University in the course of the defense may participate by means of electronic communication as necessary).

The jury actually convened at 09:00 on 04.06.2015 at the conference room of the Oncology Institute. The thesis defense was open to the public and previously announced in the Graduate School. The jury elected Prof. Nur Olgun from the Oncology Institute as the Chair. The PhD candidate presented her thesis to the audience. According to the code of practice, the jury asked questions to the candidate and the candidate responded. The whole process took 2 hours.

The thesis entitled "Breast Cancer and the Role of P95 in the Resistance to Transtuzumab" was found to be successful by the Jury, unanimously.


Prof. Dr. Nur OLGUN
(Oncology Institute, Dokuz Eylül University)
CHAIR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yaşemin BASKIN
(Oncology Institute, Dokuz Eylül University)

MEMBER

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Merih GÜRAY DURAK
(Faculty of Medicine, Dokuz Eylül University)

MEMBER



Stamp of the Graduate School:



Organisation for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Science
in the European System



Graduate School of Health Sciences

Dokuz Eylül University

Izmir, Turkey

has been awarded an ORPHEUS label in recognition of its
excellence in PhD training and its compliance with the

ORPHEUS/AMSE/WFME

Standards for PhD education in Biomedicine and Health
Sciences in Europe

Robert Harris

President, ORPHEUS

Michael Mulvaney

Chairman ORPHEUS Labelling Board

8 October 2015

“Safeguarding” the Quality

- **Continuous training for Supervisors, faculty, and PhD candidates**
- **Induction WS for newly admitted PhD's and those who have petitioned to join the Orpheus system**
- **Planning a regular Feedback monitoring (from the PhD's as well as supervisors and faculty).**
- **Special attention given to the PhD thesis defense organization.**

IMPACT on DEU

- **Short Term Impact**
 - **Activation (Supervisors, PhD candidates...Administrative staff..)**
 - **All newly admitted PhD's are in the Orpheus system**
 - **From those registered before the Label, 32 have made petitions to be allowed to be admitted to the Orpheus system**
- **Long Term Impact ???**

WIDER IMPACT....

**-YOK (Higher Education Council at Ankara)
summoned a WS at the national level)**

**“New objectives for PhD Training in Health Sciences in
Turkey”**

- DEU was invited to help shape the programme**
- ORPHEUS delegate was invited as the Plenary
Lecturer**

CONCLUSION

DEU is nearer to meeting the Salzburg 3 Principles

“Broad, systematic, and inclusive”.

Expression of Thanks to:

- Prof. İ. Astarcioglu (Head of DEU Graduate School)
- Prof. Michael Mulvany (Chair, Labeling Committee of ORPHEUS)
- Prof. Robert Harris (President ORPHEUS)
- Prof. Melita Kovacevic (Head of the Steering Committee, EUA-CDE)
- Dr. Tomas Jorgensen (Head, EUA-CDE)
- Prof. Hakan Orer (ORPHEUS EC)



THANK-YOU !

