

2023 EUA-CDE ANNUAL MEETING

Engaged research - the role of communication in doctoral education

Jointly hosted by Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology and University of Helsinki
14-16 June 2023 | Lahti, Finland

Draft programme as of 14 March 2023

Doctoral schools and programmes are highly communicative environments and actors. They communicate with doctoral candidates, supervisors and other partners inside and outside of universities. And they are increasingly present in public, for example, through "my thesis in 3 minutes" contests. Communication is also an integral part of each doctoral candidate's journey, be it by presenting at conferences, interacting with peers and supervisors, or writing scientific articles or a dissertation. At the same time, communication is a critical skill in various careers - both inside and outside of academia - and doctoral candidates need to identify and communicate the broad array of competencies they acquired during their doctorate. Therefore, it is not at all surprising that the [2022 EUA-CDE survey](#) identified scientific communication as the most frequently offered topic among training courses for doctoral candidates in European universities. Also, training in thesis and proposal writing is highly popular. But communication can also lead to new challenges. Pressure to get results out quickly, as well as the effects of "hyper-communication" on mental health, calls for a more considered approach than the frequent demand for "always more" in communication". The 2023 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting is dedicated to what can be described as a pivot to communication in doctoral education, where not only content and skills but also the ability to communicate these is a transversal theme that touches nearly all elements of doctoral schools and programmes activities. During the three-day conference, participants will look at the different dimensions of communications in doctoral education and comprehensive approaches to including communication in doctoral education strategies and practices.

Wednesday 14 June 2023

09:00 – 12:00 EET	<p>Opportunity for national and regional meetings self-organised by EUA-CDE members</p> <p>EUA-CDE members are invited to organise meetings with their peers at national or regional level.</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Pre-meeting workshop I</p> <p>Strategic communication in doctoral education</p> <p>Doctoral schools and programmes communicate with various stakeholders and partners - internally with doctoral candidates, supervisors, and the administration, or externally with employees, journalists and the wider public. Both traditional and new forms of communication play an important role. But what can a strategic approach to different</p>

communication elements look like, and what pitfalls lurk? In this hands-on workshop, we will discuss aspects of a comprehensive communication strategy for doctoral schools and programmes. Participants are especially encouraged to talk about their own experiences and thus contribute to mutual learning.

12:30 – 14:00 **Pre-meeting workshop II**
New to doctoral education and/or CDE

This pre-meeting workshop will welcome new participants to doctoral education. We will introduce policies and good practices aimed at further developing doctoral education within institutions. The workshop will also provide an overview of the current state of doctoral education in Europe, as well as the main working areas and publications of EUA-CDE. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and discuss topics of common interest among peers.

14:00 – 14:30 **Opening session**
Welcome address

14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary session I**
Doctoral education as communication hubs

Communication competencies are essential not only for researchers in different stages of their careers but also for everyone working within universities. While exchanging ideas and sharing scholarship has already been, for a very long time, the basis of any success in academic endeavours, communication outside of academia has become increasingly important. Early-stage researchers are part of the debate, while institutions are tasked to convey the value and essence of doctoral education. Good communication is also necessary to foster successful exchanges between supervisors, doctoral candidates and institutions. The first session of the Annual Meeting looks at the different dimensions of communication in doctoral education and discusses which communicative challenges doctoral schools are confronted with.

16:00 – 16:30 *Break*

16:30 – 17:15 **Keynote**
Building trust for science in society

This keynote will be about the challenge that science and research face in engaging with broader society. It will address how academia should react when society tasks it with providing certainties and complete clarity, while the scientific endeavour is very much based on questioning consensus and embracing complexities.

17:15 *Welcome reception*

Thursday 15 June 2023

09:00 – 10:15 EET Plenary session II**Integrating science communication into doctoral education as training and tool**

Equipping doctoral candidates with science communication skills has become one of the most widely offered form of skills training in doctoral education, as confirmed by the outcomes of the [2022 EUA-CDE survey](#). This increases the impact of research within the scientific community, but also towards the broader public. Effective science communication makes science more accessible and contributes to countering misinformation and the spread of misconceptions that can have real-life effects. The ability to communicate with diverse audiences is also important for the future careers of doctoral candidates, and is one of the preconditions of successful collaboration and teamwork. During this plenary session, speakers will share several initiatives and good practices for improving science communication training offered at the doctoral level.

10:15 – 10:45 *Group photo followed by a coffee break***10:45 – 12:15 Parallel session I**12:15 – 13:30 *Lunch***13:30 – 14:45 Plenary session III****Scholarly communication today - fast science, opus magnum and the increased relevance of visualisations**

The doctorate is a research-based degree, and doctoral candidates play an important role in research within the university. Therefore, an essential part of the academic output in terms of publication is also carried out by doctoral candidates. At the same time, the dissertation - whether through articles or a book - is still widely considered as evidence of a doctoral holder's qualification and an integral part of the doctoral journey. However, multiple debates are currently taking place in the context of Open Science, research assessment reform (with a broader understanding of what constitutes science), and the role of authorship related to research integrity. This opens the question of the future role of the dissertation and academic publishing and what this means for doctoral education as a whole.

But scholarly communication is not limited to book and articles. Doctoral candidates also experiment with new techniques and forms of showcasing and visualising data and research. Hence, visualisation skills have become increasingly important to sharing and explaining research among the academic community and the wider public.

14:45 – 15:45 EUA-CDE – Plans for the coming year**Invitation to 2024 EUA-CDE events**15:45 – 16:15 *Coffee break***16:15 – 17:15 My doctoral school in 180 seconds**

In this format, similar to “my thesis in 180 seconds” competitions - which have become very popular within European universities - contributors have three minutes to present their doctoral school/ programme and what makes it unique. For example, this may be related to specific characteristics such as interdisciplinary approaches or themes, specific support structures or forms of collaboration.

19:00 – 22:30 *Gala dinner*

Friday 16 June 2023

09:30 – 10:30 EET **Plenary session IV** **Intercultural communication in supervision and training**

Doctoral schools and programmes are meeting places for people from very different backgrounds. More than half of doctoral candidates in certain European countries are from abroad, and similar figures can be found among academics. This makes the question of interculturality and intercultural communication particularly relevant. In addition, intercultural communication is one of the central challenges in doctoral education and is often included in transversal skills training. In this session, the topic of intercultural communication will be addressed, considering theoretical and practical approaches.

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 12:00 **Parallel session II**

12:00 – 13:15 **Fishbowl discussion** **Building academic culture on social media**

Should doctoral schools and doctoral candidates engage at all on social media? And if yes – how? While some consider the ability to actively use and navigate social media to be one of the critical competencies for early-stage researchers and institutions alike, others warn about social media's negative impact on public discourse, safeguarding privacy and mental well-being. Whatever the answer is, social media plays a role in many areas, including research communication, policy making, community building and career development. In the context of a fishbowl discussion format, participants will exchange and elaborate on what doctoral education means in the age of social media and how an academic culture can be jointly built. In addition, we will discuss how current developments in artificial intelligence, from ChatGPT to AI generated deep fakes, together with the increased role of social media, impacts communication culture and the mutual trust within the academic community.

13:15 – 13:30 **Closing session**

13:30 – 14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 *Social programme*