Introduction

A key driver to promote the leading role of women in science is to train new generations offering international research networking and career opportunity in and outside academia. Our contribution outlines how this goal has been pursued through the European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication (http://www.europhd.eu).

This networked joint doctorate is a pioneer case of the integration of the triple “V” (international, interdisciplinary, intersectoral) transversal dimensions of the innovative doctoral training, selected by the European Commission as the top project among the 1147 projects submitted in the 2013 call Marie Curie People – ITN-IDP (Innovative Doctoral Program) with top marks 98,80/100 (http://www.europhd.eu/SoReComJointIDP).

Combining the strength of its long-term institutional history and the power of its capacity for innovation, currently this doctoral program represents a substantial development of a well-established European/International Joint Doctorate, formally recognised since 1993 within the framework of Universities, Ministries, the European Commission.

Headquartered at the state of the art Social Representations and Communication Research Centre and Multimedia Lab of Sapienza University of Rome, currently the European/ International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication is an international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary networked doctoral programme led by Sapienza University (Italy) in 12 EU (AT, BE, CZ, FR, IT, NL, RO, ES, PT, SE, SK, UK) and 6 extra-EU countries from North America (U.S.A. and Canada) and Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico) to China. It includes a worldwide network of 25 universities, 1 French Research Institute IFSTTAR (a national research institute of science and technology for transport, development and network with extensive and intensive cooperation with the private sector), 2 SME in Sweden and in Italy in diversified sectors (information technologies, work and organisation, communication and marketing) and the multinational Elsevier in the strategic sector of publishing and science dissemination.

The European/International Joint PhD in SocialRepresentations and Communication is an institution working across the globe for gender equality and excellence in science.Concerning the selection process, in case of "draw" between two equally good applicants, priority is given to women.

Social Representations

This research training program focuses on a supra-disciplinary area of the social sciences, and in particular of social psychology, inspired by the Social Representations Theory, one of the most important theories of the social construction of knowledge. Founded by Serge Moscovici (program director of the European/International Joint PhD in S.R. & C.) in 1961, the study of social representations, originally specifically European, is currently a multilingual, worldwide discipline with a substantial body of literature, involving feeding scholars from social psychology and other social sciences. The field of Social Representations represents a unifying meta-theoretical perspective on the social construction of knowledge and its relation to socially situated practices. It has important applications for the public and private sectors, acting as a bridge among disciplines including psychology, social psychology, sociological studies, organizational behaviour, education, semiotics, socio-history, anthropology, and communication studies (also including multidisciplinary approaches from computer sciences and new technologies) with important applications for institutional and organizational contexts, culture and health practices, inter-group relations, ideology and politics, economics, the environment, etc. Interested in how scientific knowledge is transformed by lay people and the media into common sense, it is also a supra-disciplinary field because it has activated a conversation among social, human and natural scientists in a wide range of internationally recognized research programs. These concern public understanding of the sciences and discoveries in various fields, such as medicine, environmental studies, biology, economics, information, politics, social science, etc., and the social representations of complex new multidisciplinary topics like biogenetic foods, medical innovation, globalization and climate change, forms of interaction through new media, the risk society, immigration, non-racism, multicultural rights, human rights, European integration and enlargement, etc. Consequently, this doctoral program is open to trans-disciplinary and multi-methodological research approaches (experimental and field work). The “objects” studied have a strong societal impact and important practical applications “within” and “for” society in the political, economic and social spheres.

Women in Science

Women in the

European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication

The European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication is a women in science worldwide (from Europe to North America, Latin America and China) and constitutes a way to empower female participants from different gen-cultural backgrounds to become leaders, promoting excellence in research.

GENDER is a very sensitive issue in our research training network from many points of view:

a. it is a scientific topic related to identity, minority groups, including women in the sciences, women as managers and in the political hierarchy, etc.;

b. consistent with the general trend in the social and human sciences, most of the research trainees in our programmes are women;

c. contrary to the general trend in academic leadership (in European FP7 projects only 21.2% are led by women compared to 78.8% of males), the creator and director of both the European/International Joint PhD in S.R. & C. programme and of the SoReComTHEmatic NETwork is a woman: Annamaria Silvana de Rosa.

Women in Sciences: Enhancing their International Training and Career Prospects through an Innovative networked triple “I” Doctoral Program (the European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication)

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www.europhd.eu

Source: Special issue of Nature (2013)

Source: MO BIO Labs (2015), www.mobio.com

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