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Key Lecture

European Ph.D

on Social Representations and Communication

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# CHANGES IN PhD EDUCATION IN SPAIN. TOWARDS JOINT PhDs?

Prof. Dr. M<sup>a</sup> del Mar DELGADO SERRANO  
Head of Master Studies Unit  
[mmdelgado@uco.es](mailto:mmdelgado@uco.es)

# NEW REGULATION FOR PhD STUDIES

## BACKGROUND

- Current Regulation for Doctorate in Spain is too 'soft' and doesn't really regulate the third cycle.
- A **draft** Regulation has been circulated by the Ministry of Education since last April
- No official publication yet
- This presentation is based in the ideas formulated in this draft

# THE NEW APPROACH

## BACKGROUND

- Focused on **Bologna Process**: PhD students as training researchers
- PhD at the core of the knowledge triangle (**Lisbon Strategy**):
  - education
  - research
  - innovation
- To promote **quality** Doctorates
- To **avoid fragmentation** of Doctorate studies

# MAIN DRIVERS

- **Doctoral Schools** as management structures. Integrate universities and other R&D&i institutions
- **Internationalization** and **mobility** as key elements
- **Evaluation** and **quality accreditation** as references for international acknowledgement and attractiveness

# ORGANIZATION

- Doctoral Schools as **key** elements
- At least 3 functions:
  - **administrative**
  - **management**
  - **strategic**
- The universities can add other functions



# DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

- One or more universities
- In charge of: PhD and joint PhD, scientific postgraduate studies, research training
- Possible collaboration with other research institutions (public, private, national or international): *collaborative doctorates/open innovation ...*



# DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

- **Quality control** of academic and researchers involved
- **Solid and well-organised** programs
- Management of several programs (**PhD, MSc, LLL...**)
- Compulsory **quality control** and **accreditation processes**





# DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

- Development of **scientific communities**
- Fostering **inter-disciplinarity** 
- Valuing and increasing the **visibility** of doctorates
- Strategies linked to the **research profile** of every university

# MAIN CHANGES

- Follow the general guidelines established in different **European documents**: Bergen, Glasgow, Nice, Helsinki, EUA reports...
- Introduce the possibility of **joint PhDs** with foreigner universities
- **Internationalization** as a key driver for research and researchers

# PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

- Coordinator of a research project on international PhDs (EA2009-0046)
- Joint PhD **legal framework**
- Few Spanish universities are **ready for joint PhDs**
- Step by step dealing with **internationalization**
- Institutional support only in the **rhetoric** (funding??)

# PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

## REFLECTIONS

- **World-class** individual researchers and research groups
- Need to increase the **critical mass** of research and researchers
- **Difficulties** to broaden the approach including more people in the universities
- Difficulties to deal with **administrative aspects** associated to joint PhDs

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Prof. Dr. M<sup>a</sup> del Mar DELGADO SERRANO  
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[mmdelgado@uco.es](mailto:mmdelgado@uco.es)