

## Topics for Round Table Discussion

### 1. Admission to doctoral studies:

- What are the criteria? (Does an average grade of 8.5 and more indicate that the candidate is prepared to engage in academic research?)
- Since the candidates are interviewed, what is expected of them at the interview?
- How many candidates are admitted to the doctoral studies? (Should that number be reduced or not? Who is responsible for the admission and what criteria will determine the number of candidates admitted?)
- Could the publishing of academic papers on undergraduate and master's level be one of the criteria for admission and even should it be? Regarding that, how much are undergraduate and master students guided and trained to do academic research?

### 2. The programme of doctoral studies:

- How long do the doctoral studies last? How many courses do they include, both compulsory and elective? Are the courses from other study groups compulsory to take and why?
- Are the lectures organized or not and if not, why?
- What is the role of a mentor?
- Do doctoral students have opportunities to attend lectures given by experts in their field of study (from other faculties, other countries)?
- Who monitors students' work during doctoral studies and in what way?
- Is there a possibility of student mobility on doctoral level? How does it work?
- Are seminar papers on doctoral level regarded as research or not? Are those academic or professional papers?
- What is plagiarism and what is not? What is an original academic paper and what is not?
- Foreign language examinations during doctoral studies
- Who selects the topic for doctoral dissertation? What is regarded as a "good" topic?
- Are doctoral dissertations still extensive as they were before the introduction of the Bologna Process?
- Who can be a mentor? Which requirements should a professor meet in order to become a mentor? (e.g. papers published in the SCI-indexed journals?)
- Is a doctoral student obliged to participate in conferences and publish academic papers? Is it planned by the programme of doctoral studies?
- Do doctoral studies have levels after which students obtain certain rights, meet certain requirements, etc?

### 3. Practice

- Are doctoral students involved in the teaching process? How relevant is this? Should this depend on the faculty, department or should this be pre-determined? Whose decision is it?
- What criteria are applied in making a decision on the candidate that will be involved in the teaching process?
- In what way are doctoral students involved in the teaching process?
- Who monitors a doctoral student's involvement in the teaching process if anybody?
- What are the criteria for evaluating the quality of a doctoral student's involvement in the teaching process?
- Reporting on a doctoral student's involvement in the teaching process.
- The issue of cooperation among scholars is also very important. How does this work abroad?

#### 4. Goals

- Are students expected to work individually or should they be instructed and trained as well?
- Should they be trained for doing academic research, teaching or something else?

#### 5. Funding

- Do students cover their study costs and if yes, what are the fees?
- Is there a possibility of students' being financed from the budget and if yes, how many students could be financed in this way? Who decides on this?
- What do the study costs cover?
- Do students involved in the teaching process have any financial benefit?

#### 6. After finishing doctoral studies

- Are students who have received their doctoral degree appointed to a teaching position at the faculty? Who decides on this and what are the criteria?
- What happens to doctoral students after receiving their degree? What are the job prospects? Is this taken into account when creating the programme of doctoral studies?
- What are the criteria for the appointment of young scholars and researchers to a professorship/teaching position? Are academic papers published in SCI-indexed journals required for that?

**Members of the Programme Committee who will participate in the Round Table Discussion:**

Prof. Dr Ivana Živančević Sekeruš  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Prof. Dr Pavle Sekeruš,  
Vice-Rector for International Relations and Science, University of Novi Sad

Doc. Dr Aleksander Urkom  
University Eötvös Loránd, Budapest, Hungary

Doc. Dr Milivoj Alanović  
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Prof. Dr Vesna Mikolič  
University of Koper, Slovenia

Doc. Dr Andrea Lešić-Thomas  
University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prof. Dr sc. Zvonko Kovač  
University of Zagreb, Croatia

Prof. Dr Martin Homza  
Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

Prof. Dr Lino Veljak  
University of Zagreb, Croatia