Work package 3:

Formulation of Award Criteria & Quality Standards in Doctoral Education

26 – 27th January 2015

Yerevan, Armenia

Organised by Bath Spa University

The focal point within the WP will be the definition of award criteria and quality standards and procedures in doctoral education. Based on defined university Road-maps and Salzburg principles, Armenian partners will provide general PhD award criteria accepted in Armenia (e.g. quality and competencies of mentors, internationalization, mobility, research, interdisciplinary, study program content etc). Likewise, KTH, BSU, UHMF, UdG and PC HEIs will prepare award criteria for PhD comparable with EU accepted criteria. The two documents will be distributed to 11 HEIs for discussion, assessment and feedback. The deadline for distribution of these documents is **19 January**.

To facilitate discussion between partners and reduce the amount of sitting listening to PowerPoint presentations we propose two more interactive methodologies for sharing information in these workshops. We will use the world café and lightning talks methodologies for our workshops. These promote conversation and discussion and avoid endless PowerPoint presentations. When done properly, with the right balance of informality and structure, the World Café can be a very effective way of facilitating a workshop that produces rich and innovative output. A lightning talk is a tried and tested way of rapidly sharing views on a topic across a diverse group of delegates.

NB to assist in the smooth running of the workshops all participants should circulate their current University PhD award criteria in advance so these can be read prior to the meetings – these should be presented in English.

Venue needed

Large room with data projector and six tables each with approx. 10 chairs. Each table needs a flip chart plus post-it notes and pens.

Room for lunch/coffee adjacent to main room.

Overview of Proposed Schedule for Day 1

Time	Activity
09.30	Arrival/ Coffee
10:00	Welcome Address – Marina Balasanyan
10:15	Road Map – current status of development – Oliver Gruss
10:30	Introduction to the workshop - Tim Middleton
10:45 – 11:10	World Café - Session 1
11:10 – 11:35	World Café - Session 2
11:35 – 12:00	World Café - Session 3
12.00 – 13.30	LUNCH
13:30 – 14.00	Session Host feedback
14:00 – 15.10	Lightning Presentations
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee
15.45 – 16.45	Closing workshop – what is a PhD? Discussion: A colleague has suggested to a graduate with a good academic record that s/he apply to your department to 'do a doctorate'. They call to ask you 'what is a doctorate?' 35 minutes: Sketch out your team's response Each table reports back – 5 minutes Summing up (BSU) – 5 minutes

Detailed Schedule for Monday 26th January

The first day of the workshop session will focus on discussion of the various EU & Armenian PHD award criteria with the aim of identifying shared core criteria suitable for the 11 pilot projects.

The discussion will take place via World café style groups.

The World Café Method

> **1. Setting:** The idea is to create a "special" environment; this is most often modelled after a café, i.e. small tables covered with a paper tablecloth that can be drawn/written upon. You can then add some extra paper and post-it notes, coloured pens.

> **2. Welcome and Introduction:** The overall host/facilitator begins with a warm welcome and an introduction to the World Café process, setting the context, sharing the Cafe Etiquette, and putting participants at ease.

> **3. Small Group Rounds:** The process begins with the first of three thirty-minute rounds of conversation for the small group seated around a table.

Participants discuss key aspects of the PhD award criteria under discussion – encouraged by group hosts to write, doodle and draw key ideas on their tablecloths or to note key ideas on large index cards, post-it notes or placemats (or something similar) in the centre of the group.

At the end of the time, the overall facilitator will get each group to move to a different new table (see schedule below).

This table hosts welcomes the new guests and briefly shares the main ideas, themes and questions of the initial conversation. They then encourage guests to link and connect ideas coming from their previous table conversations, listening carefully and building on each other's contributions.

By providing opportunities for people to move in several rounds of conversation, ideas, questions, and themes begin to link and connect. It is hoped that this will help to develop a broad and divergent discussion of the topic of what makes a PhD.

The initial world café groups are listed below – assuming each organisation is sending two delegates each table will have 1 rep from each organisation

After 30 minutes there will be a 5-minute break whilst everyone moves to a new table – by the end of the session everyone will have discussed all 5 EU award criteria and refreshed their understanding of the Salzburg principles.

Tables1 & 2 Jointly hosted: BSU & WUS To review PhD criteria from: BSU & WUS	Tables 3 & 4 Joint Hosts: Girona & Heidelberg Purpose: To review PhD criteria from Girona & Heidelberg	Tables 5 & 6 Host: Royal Technological Institute Purpose: To review PhD criteria from KTH_& Salzburg II
Yerevan State Medical University Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts Yerevan State University of Languages & Social Sciences Supreme Certifying Commission Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia	Yerevan State University Northern University National Academy of Science of the RA Vanadzor State University Education Quality	National University of Architecture & Construction of Armenia Gavar State University National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance Armenian State University of Economics The Ministry of Education & Science of the RA

In the afternoon Armenian colleagues will give presentations on current issues related to the key criteria of their institutions PhD award in the "lightning talk" style:

What are Lightning Talks?

Lightning Talks are <u>five-minute</u> talks – without exception presenters will be asked to stop after they have spoken for 5 minutes.

A lot of people do not get the point of lightning talks. They hear that they only get five minutes to speak they ask` `How can I squeeze a whole talk into five minutes?'' The point is that because the talk is only five minutes long, you have to say something brief and interesting and not try to cover a topic in detail.

For a Lightning Talk, you don't need to make slides, and if you do decide to make slides, you only need to make three.

Possible topics include: what causes PhD candidates most worry? What are the common issues that examiners raise? How do supervisors work with candidates to prepare for submission with the award criteria in mind?

As we will have all read the detail of the criteria for each university this session can be used to highlight challenges and strengths in working with the current criteria that we can build into the new criteria for the pilot projects

Schedule of 5-minute lightning talks

Yerevan State Medical University	14.00
Yerevan State University of Languages & Social Sciences	14.05
Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts	14.10
Supreme Certifying Commission	14.15
Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia	14.20
Education Quality	14.25
Yerevan State University	14.30
Northern University	14.35
National Academy of Science of the RA	14.40
Vanadzor State University	14.45
The Ministry of Education & Science of the RA	14.50
National University of Architecture & Construction of Armenia	14.55
Gavar State University	15.00
National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance	15.05
Armenian State University of Economics	15.10

Tuesday 27th January 2015: Day 2 – Quality Assurance & Quality Enhancement

The second day of this workshop will focus on the

- Quality assurance of the award

- The QA cycle of a PhD

- Quality enhancement activities to support QA

Overview of Proposed Schedule for Day 2

Time	Activity
09.30 – 09.45	Quality Assurance & Quality Enhancement - a UK perspective (BSU)
09.45 – 10.50	Lightning Talks – part 1
10.50 – 11.20	Coffee
11.20 – 11.55	Lightning Talks – part 2
11.55 – 12:15	Summing Up (BSU)
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.15	What Kind of Supervisor am I - workshop
14.15 – 15.15	Group Discussions – supervisors and QA
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee
15:45 – 16.15	Discussion Host feedback
16.15 – 17.00	Plenary: next steps for the project

Detailed Schedule for Tuesday 26th January

The day begins with an overview of government expectations of how the quality assurance aspects of PhD work are dealt with in the UK.

We then move to a lightning talk phase where all participants will talk for a maximum of 5 minutes to highlight the 2 aspects of their QA processes or other aspects of their current approach to PhD work that they feel most powerfully underpin/ protect the quality of their PhD awards. We also ask that you briefly highlight the one 1 aspect of your current process that tends to cause most issues.

Schedule of speakers for the 5-minute talks

KTH	09.45
Yerevan State Medical University	09.50
Yerevan State University of Languages & Social Sciences	09.55
Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts	10.00
Supreme Certifying Commission	10.05
Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia	10.10
Girona	10.15
Education Quality	10.20
Yerevan State University	10.25
Northern University	10.30
National Academy of Science of the RA	10.35
Vanadzor State University	10.40

Heidelberg University	10.45
Coffee Break	**10.50 – 11.20**
The Ministry of Education & Science of the RA	11.20
National University of Architecture & Construction of Armenia	11.25
Gavar State University	11.30
WUS	11.35
National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance	11.40
Armenian State University of Economics	11.45
BSU	11.50

In the afternoon we will focus on the role of the supervisor in quality assurance. Delegates will draw on their current experience or their University's current approaches to help build a collective sense of what works and what doesn't in the Armenian and EU contexts

Workshop: What kind of supervisor are you, or would you like to be?

We will collectively do this workshop exercise from Gibbs (see hand out) – using the space in the room to position ourselves according to the kind of supervisor we are/ want to be – this session involves moving around and is designed to combat the post lunch slump!

We then break into three groups – each hosted by a pair of Armenian universities to discuss these issues:

Supervisor: supervisee relations – apprentice/ acolyte model or team supervision?

Supervisors – what qualifies someone to be a supervisor – qualifications? Seniority?

How are supervisors appointed - formal or informal / institution or student led? Training course? License to supervise

How is the performance of supervisors evaluated and monitored - as part of institutional appraisal? Peer review? Student evaluations? Outputs? Why is monitoring important for quality of the award? – If it isn't why not?

Discussion groups

Table 1 & 2 Hosted by: YSMU YSAFA	Table 3 & 4 Hosted by YSU, NU	Table 5 & 6 Hosted by NUACA, GSU
Participants BSU WUS Yerevan State University of Languages & Social Sciences Supreme Certifying Commission Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia	**Participants** Girona Heidelberg National Academy of Science of the RA Vanadzor State University The Ministry of Education & Science of the RA	**Participants** Royal Technological Institute Education Quality National Centre for Professional Education Quality Assurance Armenian State University of Economics