

YUFE Approach to Doctoral and Postdoctoral Training

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Milestone 6.1 – Start of “YUFE Model for Doctoral Learning” Pilot Programme

Background information

The YUFE Model for Doctoral Learning Pilot Programme was launched in May 2024. This milestone marks the official launch of the YUFE pilot on Doctoral Learning. The launch was preceded by an extensive preparation and co-creation process involving experts in doctoral training from across the YUFE Alliance. The Pilot Programme was based on a shared vision statement stemming from the [DIOSI Model for Doctoral Learning](#) and outlining common principles for doctoral training and development (Figure 1).

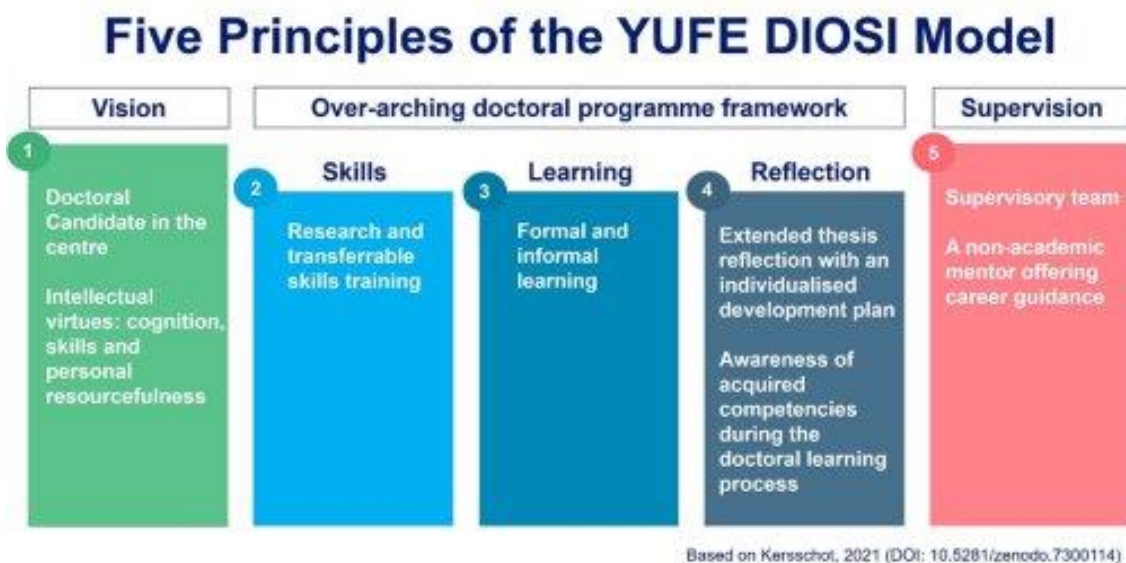


Figure 1: The YUFE DIOSI Model for Doctoral Learning

Out of the ten YUFE universities, seven universities participated in the launch of the pilot:

- University of Antwerp (UAntwerp)
- University of Bremen (UBremen)
- University of Eastern Finland (UEF)
- University of Essex (UEssex)
- Nicolas-Copernicus University (NCU)
- University of Rijeka (UNIRI)
- University of Sorbonne-Nouvelle (USN)

Later, the University of Maastricht joined the pilot during the second cohort (launched November 2024).

This document describes the start of the pilot programme, and includes details regarding the communication campaign, participants, and kick-off events.

Communication

A coordinated communication campaign was carried out in spring 2024 (February–April) across the universities participating in the pilot. A similar campaign was launched again in autumn to recruit the second cohort. The campaign was targeted at:

- the university-specific official bodies (boards, councils, etc.) responsible for organizing doctoral training to ensure their support
- the doctoral candidates to get them interested in the pilot
- doctoral education personnel interested in YUFE activities

The university-specific official bodies were informed in local meetings and via emails. The doctoral candidates were reached via local events, webinars, emails, YUFE webpages, university webpages, and social media (LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, X/Twitter).

Communication material templates for marketing, such as PowerPoint slides and posters, were prepared by the University of Antwerp. Every university adapted the communication materials and communication strategy to their own needs to maximise the participation potential. Examples of the posters and other communication material can be found in the Figure 2 below. All communication materials have been collected and are available upon request.

Join us in developing a doctoral education support system!

The pilot

Belonging to the academic community, adequate supervision, and awareness of career opportunities are essential to the well-being and engagement of doctoral researchers. The YUFE pilot for doctoral learning (DLO) aims to provide support for these critical points.

The pilot runs from **May 2024 until December 2025**. Altogether **20** participants will be selected.

What's in it for me?

If you are a **doctoral researcher**, you will receive extra informational support for your doctoral studies, engage in peer support, get new local and international networks, get more structured supervision, get experience in organizing events, receive support for planning your career, and have the possibility to participate in a work-life mentoring programme.

If you are a **supervisor**, you will benefit from the shared responsibility of supporting your supervisees. You will receive new concrete tools for supervision (e.g. supervision plan) and for helping your supervisees in planning their career. You will also have a chance to participate in information sessions and training and join a peer network.

What is expected of you?

If you are a **doctoral researcher**, you are expected to commit yourself to the pilot for its entire duration, fill in the questionnaires at the beginning and end of the pilot, and take ca. 3 hours per month for the piloting activities.

If you are a **supervisor**, you are expected to conclude a supervision plan with your supervisee at the beginning of the pilot. Other activities are optional.

Who can join?

Doctoral researchers from all disciplines who 1) are at the beginning/midway of their doctoral studies, 2) have initiative and an active attitude, 3) can commit to the whole pilot, and 4) have a supervisor willing to commit to the supervision plan.

Apply by April 17!



<https://forms.office.com/gpH2Ld734v>



Sveučilišni Savjetovanišni Centar
Objavljuje Instagram • 29. travnja u 14:45

👉 S ponosom Vas obavještavamo da Sveučilište u Rijeci kreće s provedbom tzv. YUFE DIOSI modela doktorskog obrazovanja. 🎉

Radi se o inovativnom programu koji nudi iskustvo interdisciplinarnog i međunarodnog obrazovanja s još šest europskih sveučilišta unutar YUFE alijanse. 🌍

📅 Provedba programa započinje u svibnju 2024. godine, a planirane aktivnosti namijenjene doktorandima i doktorandicama svih sastavnica provodit će se do studenog 2025. godine. 📅

Koje prilike možete ostvariti sudjelovanjem u novom modelu doktorskog obrazovanja? 🤔

- Sudjelovati na raznolikim događajima osmišljenima s ciljem osnaživanja, umrežavanja i povezivanja doktoranada i doktorandica u cijeloj YUFE alijansi;
- Istražiti profesionalne mogućnosti te teme održivosti, etike, integriteta, uključivosti i pravičnosti u istraživanju kroz internacionalne online edukativne programe;
- Unaprijediti svoja znanja i vještine iz područja otvorene znanosti, poduzetništva i upravljanja karijerom kroz edukativne programe koji će se održavati na UNIRI;
- Koristiti usluge individualnog karijernog savjetovanja u Uredu za karijere SSC-a.

👉 Sudjelovanjem u navedenim aktivnostima moći ćete ostvariti do 5 ECTS bodova (sukladno odluci vašeg matičnog Fakulteta).

📄 Kako se uključiti?
Ispunite kratak obrazac za prijavu <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx...> do 02. svibnja 2024. godine.

Prijavite se i iskoristite jedinstvenu priliku umrežavanja i razvoja kompetencija u međunarodnom okruženju! 🌍👥

#doktorskistudij #studenti #uniir

YUFE DIOSI MODEL DOKTORSKOG OBRAZOVANJA

MEĐUNARODNO OBRAZOVANJE
7 EUROPSKIH SVEUČILIŠTA

EDUKATIVNI PROGRAMI

UMREŽAVANJE

KARIJERNO SAVJETOVANJE

ECTS BODOVI

PRIJAVE SU MOGUĆE

Figure 2: Examples of marketing materials for the Doctoral Learning Pilot Programme in April 2024. This serves as an example, similar communication was made by the other partners

Besides local communication, communication at the YUFE-level was also done to inform everyone interested in YUFE activities. Various webpages and social media were targeted to invite doctoral candidates to the YUFE Pilot on Doctoral Learning. An example is provided below.

Young Universities for the Future of Europe

HOME ABOUT EXPERIENCE CATALOGUE NEWS APPLY NOW

YUFE Pilot Doctoral Learning

Join the YUFE Pilot on Doctoral Learning!
30 September 2024

The YUFE alliance is continuing their work on a vision for joint European education and alliance-wide career support and piloting the YUFE DIOSI Model for Doctoral Learning from May 2024 until December 2025 in the YUFE Pilot on Doctoral Learning to stimulate responsible research as part of this vision.

When participating in this pilot, you will be able to follow internationally organised YUFE courses for doctoral candidates on topics such as 'Sustainability', 'Intercultural Communications', 'International Career Development' as well as informal 'Apero Doctoring' sessions on varying topics such as 'Time Management' and 'Good and Bad Days of a PhD'. Derived from the French word *apéro*, these sessions aim to stimulate and nurture the researchers' needs while marrying peer competencies with expert advice.

The YUFE Pilot on Doctoral Learning started with a YUFE-wide kick-off across all participating YUFE institutions on May 7th.

Figure 3: Webpage post about the possibility to join the YUFE Pilot on Doctoral Learning during the second cohort.

Participants

The calls for participation were opened in March 2024 and again in September 2024, when the University of Maastricht also joined the pilot. Every YUFE university spread the word about the pilot as extensively as possible.

The pilot consisted of three cohorts. The first cohort of doctoral candidates started in spring 2024.

By 7 November 2024 when the last YUFE-wide virtual kick-off was organised, we had a total of 214 participants. There is no cut-off registration date to enable as many doctoral researchers to participate in the pilot programme (even after these kick-offs), as the programme is open and flexible without any mandatory aspects.

Virtual kick-off events

The YUFE-wide virtual kick-off was organized three times: on May 7, May 31, and November 7, with a total of 90 participants (Table 3). In the kick-off, the YUFE DIOSI model for Doctoral Learning and its benefits were introduced, the contents of the training programme were presented, and various engaging activities were used to promote networking.

University	Number of participants
<i>UAntwerp</i>	34
<i>UEF</i>	9
<i>UEssex</i>	9
<i>UM</i>	6
<i>NCU</i>	0
<i>UNIRI</i>	15
<i>USN</i>	17
TOTAL	90

Table 1: The number of attendees of the virtual kick-offs from the participating universities.

[Deliverable 6.2, 'Report on pilot of YUFE Model for Doctoral Learning'](#), includes an evaluation of the pilot, with particular attention to its strengths and weaknesses.

Conclusion

This milestone represents a tangible advancement toward YUFE's strategic goal of creating inclusive, impactful, and structured support for doctoral candidates across its partner institutions. A summary of the achievements is outlined below.

- The pilot officially launched in April 2024 with seven YUFE universities involved. Later, the eighth university joined the pilot.
- Multi-channel communication campaign was executed locally and at the YUFE-level.
- Participation: 214 doctoral researchers registered by 7 November 2024.
- Three YUFE-wide kick-off events were organized.

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