

D3.3 ACCREDITATION ACTION PLAN

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Polytechnic of Leiria (IPL), Portugal and

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), Ireland

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
1.0 RUN-EU PLUS APPROACH TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF JOINT PROGRAMMES	7
2.0 DEVELOPMENT OF RUN-EU JOINT MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES.....	10
2.1 RUN-EU Master’s Degree Programme Framework	10
2.2 RUN-EU Partner Qualification Framework regarding Joint Degree Programmes at Master’s Level12	
2.3 RUN-EU Partner Validation/Accreditation Process of Joint Degree Programmes at Master’s Level14	
2.4 Institutional International Joint Awards at Master’s Level	17
2.5 Proposed Models for the Development and Validation Accreditation of RUN-EU PLUS Joint Research Programmes at Master’s Level	19
3.0 DEVELOPMENT OF RUN-EU JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES	21
3.1 RUN-EU Doctoral Degree Programme Framework	21
3.2 RUN-EU Partner Qualification Framework regarding Degree Programmes at Doctoral Level	21
3.3 RUN-EU Partner Validation/Accreditation Process of Joint Degree Programmes at Doctoral Level.....	23
3.4 Institutional Joint/Multiple Awards at Doctoral Level	23
3.5 Proposed Model for the Development and Validation/Accreditation of RUN-EU PLUS Joint Research Programmes at Doctoral Level	24
4.0 TRANSFER PATHWAYS TO PHD WITH RUN-EU	25
4.1 PhD Pathway 1	25
4.2 PhD Pathway 2	27
4.3 PhD Pathway 3	28
4.4 PhD Pathway 4	30
4.5 PhD Pathway 5	31
5.0 MAPPING OF PARTNER MASTER’S PROGRAMMES TO RUN-EU PLUS DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES	33
6.0 RUN-EU JOINT PHD PROGRAMMES DEVELOPED	35
7.0 PLATFORM FOR CO-CREATION OF PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS.....	36
8.0 INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION FACILITATION	37
9.0 RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCH CANDIDATES	37
8.1 Identification, Attraction & Recruitment	37
8.2 Alignment with Gender & Diversity Challenges.....	38

8.3 Internationalisation at Home.....	38
Appendix 1	40
Appendix 2	49
Appendix 3	52
Appendix 4	53

Table of Figures

Figure 1 Overview of TUS process for validation of collaborative degree programmes.	15
Figure 2 Proposed model for the development of RUN-EU PLUS joint master’s degree programmes.	20
Figure 3 Proposed model for the development of RUN-EU PLUS joint doctoral degree programmes.	24
Figure 4 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 1	26
Figure 5 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 2	28
Figure 6 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 3	29
Figure 7 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 4	31
Figure 8 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 5	32

Table of Tables

Table 1 <i>General framework for RUN-EU joint Professional and Practice Research Master’s degree programmes</i>	11
Table 2 <i>General design for RUN-EU joint Professional and Practice Research Doctorate Programmes</i>	21
Table 3 <i>Mapping of RUN-EU partner master’s programmes with PhD programmes and RUN-EU PLUS thematic areas.</i>	33
Table 4 <i>Collaborative RUN-EU PhD programmes jointly supervised by RUN-EU partners</i>	35

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Abbreviations

D	Deliverable
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
EEA	European Economic Area
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EIH	European Innovation Hub
ENQA	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
EQF	European Qualifications Framework
EQAR	European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education
ERA	European Research Area
ESG	European Standards and Guidelines
FHV	Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria
HAMK	Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IPCA	Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave, Portugal
IPL	Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal
MSA	Main Scientific Area
NHL Stenden	NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
ORDP	Open Research Data Pilot
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
RUN-EU	Regional University Network – European University
RUN-EU PLUS	Regional University Network – European University: Professional Research Programmes for Business and Society
SZE	University of Győr – Széchenyi István University, Hungary
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Ireland
UAS	University of Applied Sciences
WP	Work Package

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

D3.3 Accreditation Action Plan for the RUN-EU PLUS project presents a shared action plan for Professional Practice-based Research Degrees identifying the action plan for the accreditation of the new degrees and demonstrating a suitable collaborative platform for the co-creation of the programme documents.

The action plan will address the strengthening of international collaboration on research supervision through the development of digital platforms and an enhanced capacity to facilitate the interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers. The action plan will take cognisance of all necessary legal/ethical frameworks and will address strategies for the identification, attraction and recruitment of master's/PhD researchers, alignment with gender and diversity challenges and the inclusion of 'internationalisation at home' (both within and beyond Europe).

RUN-EU PLUS deliverable 3.1 (**D3.1 Strategic Research Priorities Report**) presents the findings of an analysis of the regional strategic development plans for RUN-EU partner regions which identified Sustainability, Digitalisation and Social Innovation as common priority areas for development across RUN-EU regional partners. Human Capital Development was also identified as a key area necessary for strategic development of the regions. RUN-EU PLUS deliverable 3.2 (**D3.2 Degree Development Roadmap**) presents the framework and delivery mechanism for the practice-based master's and doctoral programmes developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project.

A key task in the preparation of this accreditation action plan was to identify a validation and accreditation model for the collaborative master's and doctoral programmes developed by the RUN-EU partners that can deliver institutional transformation at research and innovation level in the RUN European University. The shared action plan presented in this report addresses the education and qualification framework in each of the regions and identifies the common and bespoke steps required for validation/accreditation/approval

of the proposed new RUN-EU degree structures, in line with the constraints of the legislative and certification procedures operating in each region.

A collaborative programme is one which is jointly developed and delivered. Such a programme may lead to a single award (1 awarding institution) or to a joint award (2 or more awarding institutions). The purpose of this document is to present the current awarding powers of RUN-EU partner institutions at master's and doctoral level. From this information, an accreditation action plan has been developed which will support the development of RUN-EU joint awards at master's level, the development of doctoral transfer pathways for RUN-EU researchers and finally the development of joint PhD awards which will allow expansion from single to joint awards as the doctoral awarding powers of RUN-EU partner institutions evolve.

RUN-EU PLUS research master's and doctoral programmes:

- are collaborative programmes with joint development and delivery
- lead to single or joint or multiple awards depending on the awarding powers of the partner institutes
- are jointly supervised with a supervision team of 2 or more partner institutes
- have regional organisation involvement
- undertake research with a sustainability/digitalisation/social innovation theme.

1.0 RUN-EU PLUS Approach to the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Fostering excellence, innovation, and inclusion in higher education across Europe are the underpinning principles of the RUN European University. The members of our European University believe the outputs of their collaborative research and innovation activities will impact on their regions and Europe by focusing on the translation of labour market and societal demands to education and research outputs, with measurable downstream societal benefits. RUN-EU members have a history of strong engagement with their regional stakeholders, public and private, and are knowledge-experts in regional development. The RUN-EU alliance supports the creation of a single market for research, fostering open access approaches and flexible interaction of researchers, scientific knowledge, and innovation, to encourage a more competitive European industry.

RUN-EU PLUS delivers on the core objectives of the European Research Area by fostering the free movement of researchers, scientific knowledge, and innovation, and encouraging a more competitive European industry. RUN-EU PLUS stimulates and creates joint interregional research, innovation, and regional stakeholder engagement activities across the alliance, which are underpinned by the expansion of the activities of our existing European Innovation Hubs (EIHs) and RUN Discovery Programme where students, staff, and researchers from all parts of Europe can enjoy seamless mobility and create new knowledge together, across countries and disciplines.

In cooperation with other European Universities through our participation in the FOREU2 European University group, we boost the excellence dimension of higher education, research, and innovation by sharing new innovative best practice approaches in research delivery models, innovation, and service to society developed as part of our work. RUN-EU PLUS plays a critical role in promoting the European way of life as it prioritises the common EU values as part of its own shared values. It also promotes the strengthening of the

European identity by bringing together a new generation of Europeans through the development and delivery of its portfolio of joint collaborative research opportunities. RUN-EU PLUS contributes directly to achieving the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Research Area (ERA) in synergy with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) through shared operational entities and our portfolio of joint research opportunities which will facilitate collaboration and transfer of knowledge between partner universities and key regional stakeholders, facilitate the use of new research and innovation in the development of new future and advanced skills programmes and further promote collaboration across the European Higher education landscape and increase staff and student mobility and facilitate employability.

A key innovation action of RUN-EU PLUS is to develop a framework to support a new cohort of professional graduates skilled in research methods and approaches that can lead change within their business, industry and/or societal organisations or environments. Implementation of a common research and innovation (R&I) agenda and associated collaborative action plan will focus on the strengthening of academic-business partnerships in R&I development across the RUN-EU network. This will complement the existing RUN-EU strategic vision for teaching, learning, research, and engagement activities in the delivery of societal transformation across the regions of the alliance.

The RUN-EU PLUS roadmap for the development of RUN-EU Professional and Practice-based Research Degrees was delivered in **D3.2 Degree Development Roadmap (M12)** and laid the groundwork for this deliverable which describes a RUN-EU shared action plan for the accreditation of collaborative professional and practice-based research degree programmes including a suitable collaborative knowledge portal platform to support co-creation of programme documents by trans-European programme development teams. The teams will develop practice-based joint research degrees both at master's level and PhD equivalence for bespoke industry co-designed master's programmes and for bespoke industry co-designed PhD programmes. The joint programmes will have an integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions (HEIs)

from European Higher Education Area (EHEA) countries leading to a joint degree ([European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes \(eqar.eu\)](#)).

The Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA (initiated by the Bologna Declaration) defines a set of descriptors for qualifications awarded on completion of the third cycle – known as the ‘Dublin Descriptors’ - which include the concept that ‘research is used in an inclusive way to accommodate the range of activities that support original and innovative work in the whole range of academic, professional, and technological fields and is not restricted to any preclusive traditional scientific method (<http://ehea.info/>). Qualifications that signify completion of the 3rd cycle will be awarded to RUN-EU students who have demonstrated a systematic understanding of their field of study and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field and have demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial process of research with scholarly integrity through original research that extends the frontier of knowledge. We envisage that master’s level research projects will generate sufficient innovation to allow transfer to the PhD programme register. This will be accomplished using recognition of prior learning practices to allow the transfer of master’s students to PhD registers amongst and between consortium partners. Both will require the production by the learner of an individual thesis that addresses the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy review by peers. The proposed programme design will incorporate the structure of the practice-based master’s qualification and articulation requirements into the Doctoral programme, thus providing a clear transfer pathway to the higher degree. The accreditation action plan presented in this document takes the inconsistent regulatory framework across the RUN-EU alliance into consideration, a situation recognised as challenging by the European Universities Initiative ([European Universities Initiative first lessons, main challenges and perspectives](#)’).

These innovative degrees will be based on a unique cross-sector, cross-region, and cross-disciplinary framework to also train our researchers to support innovation in the regional eco-system with specialist domain-specific master’s and PhD programmes run in

collaboration with business thereby ensuring our RUN-EU researchers will be positioned at the junction of practice and theory.

The graduates from the RUN-EU PLUS research degree programmes will be expected to be leaders of change and enablers of societal transformation within their regions. These capabilities will have been developed by our students through undertaking of the various career development programmes in research integrity, IP management and career development. As they develop through their research programmes our students, through their research endeavours, will inform their industry of their research achievements effectively acting as lead knowledge transfer conduits directly to their industry partner factory floor or business model. As our students progress, we expect them to gain the leadership skills and knowledge not only of academia but also of industry through their direct interaction with the industrial environment.

2.0 Development of RUN-EU Joint Master's Degree Programmes

2.1 *RUN-EU Master's Degree Programme Framework*

All RUN-EU joint research master's degree programmes are collaborative programmes with formal Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) in place between RUN-EU partners involved in the joint programme. The template MOA agrees the academic, administrative, and financial management of the joint programme which is agreed by the signatories.

Table 1 presents the framework for joint professional and practice research master's degree programmes as agreed by RUN-EU partners which is documented in the RUN-EU PLUS **D3.2 Degree Development Roadmap**.

Table 1 General framework for RUN-EU Joint Professional Practice Research Master’s degree programme

Semester*	Curricular Units	Area	ECTS	Total ECTS	TUS	Leiria/ Cávado Ave	HAMK	NHLS	FHV	SZE	RUN-EU
1st semester	Subject 1	MSA	5	20	Structured 30 ECTS	Structured 60 ECTS	Structured 60 ECTS	Structured + Research 120 ECTS**	Structured 60 ECTS + Research Projects and Research Classes 60 ECTS	Structured + Research 120 ECTS	No less than 30 ECTS + Research Project
	Subject 2	MSA	5								
	Subject 3	MSA	5								
	Subject 4	MSA	5								
	Subject 5	IR	5	10							
	Subject 6	IR	5								
2nd semester	Subject 7	IR	5	10	Research Project 90 ECTS	Research Project 60 ECTS	Research Project 60 ECTS				
	Subject 8	IR	5	10							
	Subject 9	LR	10	10							
	Subject 10	TP	10	10							
3rd & 4th semesters	Subject 11	T/P	60	60							

MSA: Main Scientific Area (e.g., Biotechnology, Education, Healthcare), IR: Introduction to Research (e.g., research integrity, ethics, methodology); LR: Literature Review; TP: Thesis Planning (e.g. contact with the partner company / enterprise); T/P: Thesis/Project.

* The structure in this table is an option where the main body of the proposed research is undertaken in semesters 3 and 4. This proposed structure is provided as a guideline framework.

** University of Applied Sciences (UAS) in the Netherlands do not identify research master’s degree programmes (it is in the law). UAS have master’s degree programmes of 60 ECTS. Since 1 September 2021 it is possible to apply for a master’s degree programme of 120 ECTS. This requires very specific requirements to be met.

2.2 RUN-EU Partner Qualification Framework regarding Joint Degree Programmes at Master's Level

There are no limitations placed upon **IPL** or **IPCA** regarding the award of joint master 's degrees. All joint courses must be accredited by the national A3ES agency, which oversees the assessment and accreditation of Portuguese Higher Education Institutions and their degree programmes (including joint master's programmes). All universities and polytechnics are regulated as per the same accreditation and evaluation procedure. The A3ES Quality Assurance approach is based on an external Quality Assurance model, a combination of internal Quality Assurance system, self-assessment, and external evaluation, in which the higher education institution's internal monitoring and evaluation processes are analysed and used in the external quality audit and accreditation process. It adheres to standards defined in the ESG, transposed into national legislation that establishes educational institutions as those primarily responsible for the quality of the education provided.

Every HEI is responsible for defining the internal evaluation model. Each has a duty to adopt a Quality Assurance policy for their study cycles, ensuring appropriate procedures, promoting a culture of quality and Quality Assurance, as well as developing and implementing a continuous quality improvement strategy. The A3ES management board makes the final decision on accreditation. Where there are professional associations, their opinions are considered. Programmes are accredited for a period of six years. There might be conditional accreditations for a shorter period. All programmes once accredited need to follow the registration requirements as determined by the Directorate General for Higher Education (DGES). Following national legislation, evaluation results are public and published on the A3ES and HEI website/study cycle evaluated. The complete information on the responsible bodies and approaches and methods for Quality Assurance is thoroughly explained in the following links:

<https://dre.pt/dre/legislacao-consolidada/lei/2007-107985094>

https://www.a3es.pt/sites/default/files/DL_74-2006_RJGD.pdf

https://www.a3es.pt/sites/default/files/DL_369-2007_A3ES.pdf

IPL has signed two double degree agreements with FHV which include a double degree Master's in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Master's in Mechatronics and the double degree Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. IPL has also signed with SZE a double degree programme named Master's in Sustainable Tourism Management and Tourism Management.

TUS may award joint awards at master's level, a draft TUS Policy and Procedures for Collaborative Provision (National and Transnational) 2023 – 2028 is currently being considered for approval by the TUS Academic Council. Under the terms of this policy, TUS shall not enter 'Serial Collaborations', instances where TUS would enter a collaborative arrangement with a partner organisation which, in turn, would use that arrangement as a basis for establishing collaborations of its own with third parties.

HAMK currently is unable to engage in joint degree awards at master's level with a national partner. Double degree awards with RUN partners at master's level are permitted, HAMK Management in Sustainable Business has double degree agreement with FHV International Business signed in February 2023 ([Management in Sustainable Business](#), [Sustainable Technologies](#)).

NHL Stenden can award joint degrees for a master programme. A 'research master's programme' is not recognised in the Dutch system. There are two options for a joint award under the Dutch Higher Education Act, both require a joint programme. A joint programme should be a genuine joint programme consisting of a jointly developed curriculum and joint procedures for admission, tuition etc. The first option for a joint award is that the joint award leads to two or more degrees, depending on the number of participating partners in the joint programme. The second option is that the joint programme results in one joint

degree. NHL Stenden adheres to the rules and regulations for awarding joint degrees as set out in the [Dutch Higher Education Act](#) under article 7.3c through to 7.3g.

SZE is officially authorized to develop joint awards at master's level in accordance with the [Education and Exam Regulations](#) of Széchenyi István University and the Hungarian government's [Act of Higher Education 2011 CCIV](#).

FHV is allowed to award joint programmes at master's level. Austrian joint M.Sc. programmes must align with the University of Applied Sciences Act (Fachhochschulgesetz) – FHG, BGBl. No. 340/1993, as amended (in especially Art. 3 para. 2 subpara. 10 and Art. 3a – see [RIS Dokument \(bka.gv.at\)](#)) and the Federal Act on External Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria ([Higher Education Quality Assurance Act – HS-QSG](#)) as well as the “Fachhochschul-Akkreditierungsverordnung 2021” (FH-AkkVO 2021) - Accreditation Regulations for University of Applied Sciences). The Joint Programme can either lead to a “joint degree” (which means all the institutions will award one degree) or to “double/multiple degrees”.

2.3 RUN-EU Partner Validation/Accreditation Process of Joint Degree Programmes at Master's Level

At **IPL** and **IPCA**, new proposals must be initially accepted by internal committees of both institutions and then submitted for appreciation by A3ES. The proposal must include all goals and the structure of the master's programme (including curricular structure), as well as, the faculty, a description of facilities and a comparison with equivalent national and European courses. All new proposals must be submitted until the end of October for recognition by A3ES. The application is performed in a specific form provided by the agency and submitted online. In case of acceptance by the A3ES, the new course can start in the next year after the submission. Typically, after acceptance, the students can individually apply for the master programme between July and September. Concerning joint master's programmes, both institutions must be indicated at the application form.

There are three typical discrete stages to establishing a prospective collaborative provision relationship with **TUS**, namely:

1. Institutional approval of initial exploration
2. Detailed investigation and consideration
3. Collaborative provision development and implementation.

An overview of the three stages is presented in **Figure 1**, while a more detailed flow diagram illustrating the key steps involved is presented in the draft TUS Policy and Procedures for Collaborative Provision (National and Transnational) 2023 – 2028.

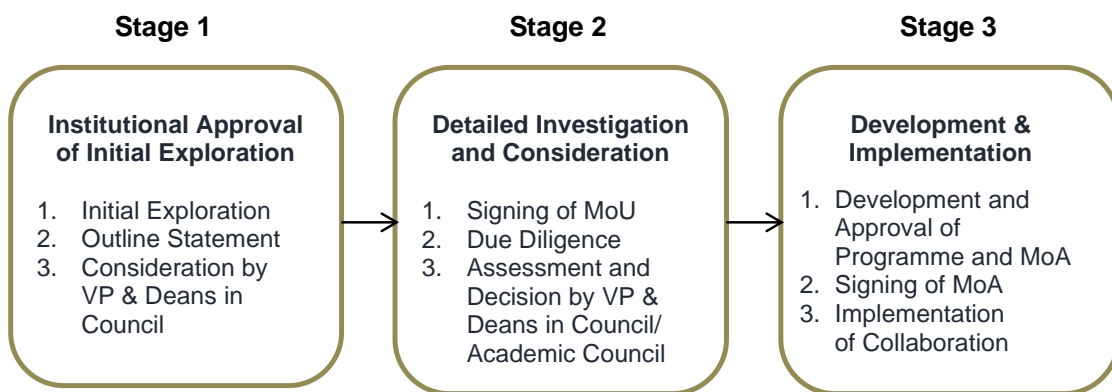


Figure 1 Overview of TUS process for validation of collaborative degree programmes.

The accreditation process followed at **NHL Stenden** depends on whether the degree programme already exists or if the joint programme concerns a completely new degree programme.

1. If the degree programme already exists and is redesigned to become a joint programme (either leading to two or more degrees or one joint degree), the new joint programme needs to be accredited. This can either be done nationally or using the European approach.

2. If the degree programme does not yet exist and a completely new joint programme is created there are two procedures that need to be completed. The first procedure is that the minister for Education decides on the macro-efficiency of the new degree programme. A positive decision means the degree programme will be funded by the Dutch government resulting in a fixed tuition fee (changes yearly) of approximately €2300. If the decision on macro-efficiency is not sought or negative the degree programme is not funded by the Dutch government resulting in a tuition fee of approximately €16,000. Besides the macro-efficiency, the new programme needs full accreditation as a new programme. This initial accreditation for a degree programme can be combined with accreditation through the European approach.

The approval process of **SZE** is based on the *Cooperation Agreement* between two or more partners (the document containing the detailed curriculum).

The following bodies regulate the accreditation of programmes at Széchenyi István University:

- Programme Development Committee
- Faculties Committee
- Senate
- Board of Trustees of Széchenyi István University.

The registration procedure at national level is the responsibility of the Hungarian Educational Authority (https://www.oktatas.hu/projects_educationalauthority) and the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (<https://www.mab.hu/>).

For **FHV**, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in Austria must have published a call for applications for new study places before it can consider developing a new master's degree programme. This happens roughly every 2-3 years. When a call is open, every University of Applied Sciences can apply for new study places within a new M.Sc. programme or within existing M.Sc. programmes. The application sums up the most relevant aspects (topic, organizational aspects, etc.) of the new study programme within

about 5-10 pages. All applications are then evaluated by the ministry, and it is decided which applications are successful. If the application is successful, the development of the study programme can start together with the partner and with the ultimate goal to apply for official accreditation via AQ Austria – Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Austria ([AQ Austria - Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria](#)).

2.4 Institutional International Joint Awards at Master's Level

At **IPL** and **IPCA**, international joint programmes are subject to the same process as described previously in **Section 2.3**. Agreement between/among the partners is required but there are no compulsory topics to be covered in the agreement. The national legal framework foresees the concept of “degree in association” applicable to all levels. The legislation does not explicitly use the terminology Joint/Double/Multiple degrees but provides for degrees in association awarded by all institutions together, by only one of the institutions or by each institution. A Diploma Supplement (DS) must be issued to provide further information. Accreditation of degree programmes with foreign or international HEIs can consider the results processes of assessment and accreditation conducted by foreign or international institutions, provided they comply with the ESG for Quality Assurance principles. This also means the European Approach may be possible.

TUS may award joint awards at master's level with an international partner as stated in **Section 3.1** of the draft TUS Policy and Procedures for Collaborative Provision (National and Transnational) 2023 – 2028 is currently being considered for approval by the TUS Academic Council. The policy allows for co-delivery and joint programmes (with one or more partners). The validation process is presented previously in **Figure 1**.

While **HAMK** is currently not permitted to engage in joint degree awards at master's level with a national partner, research awards with an international partner at master's level may be developed. Such joint awards are planned in the field of Bioeconomy, when an

English curricula of HAMK Solutions in Bioeconomy MSc has been developed. The validation/accreditation process for such awards is currently not defined/developed.

NHL Stenden may be involved in joint master's awards with international partners and **SZE** is also officially authorized to develop international joint awards at master's level in accordance with the [Education and Exam Regulations](#) of Széchenyi István University and the Hungarian government's [Act of Higher Education 2011 CCIV](#). The accreditation process follows the procedure as previously outlined in **Section 2.3**. The registration procedure at EU level is the responsibility of EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education) and ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education).

FHV generally is allowed to award joint awards at master's level together with one or more international partners in accordance with the University of Applied Sciences Act (Fachhochschulgesetz) – FHG, BGBl. No. 340/1993, as amended (in especially Art. 3 para. 2 subpara. 10 and Art. 3a – see RIS Dokument (bka.gv.at)) and the Federal Act on External Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (Higher Education Quality Assurance Act – HS-QSG) as well as the “Fachhochschul-Akkreditierungsverordnung 2021” (FH-AkkVO 2021) - Accreditation Regulations for University of Applied Sciences).

The first step in the validation/accreditation process is that the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research in Austria has published a call for applications for new study places. Each University of Applied Sciences in Austria may apply for new study places within a new M.Sc. programme or within existing M.Sc. programmes. The application sums up the most relevant aspects (topic, organizational aspects, etc.) of the new study programme within about 5-10 pages. All applications are then evaluated by the ministry, and it is decided which applications are successful. If the application is successful, the development of the study programme can start with the ultimate goal to apply for official accreditation via AQ Austria. For joint programmes, the mentioned document sums up the procedure in Chapter C. The most important sentence can be found on page 8: “The cooperating institutions should jointly select a suitable EQAR-registered quality assurance

agency. The agency should communicate appropriately with the competent national authorities of the countries in which the cooperating higher education institutions are based.” i.e., that the study course must be accredited by one accreditation agency that has to be found in advance and together with the partner(s). As soon as the accreditation agency is found, the main steps are 1) Self-Evaluation Report, 2) Review Panel, 3) Site Visit, 4) Review Report, 5) Formal Outcomes and Decision.

If a joint programme with the participation of an Austrian higher education institution is accredited by an EQAR-registered agency, it is possible to apply the “European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes”. This goes in line with § 4 Abs. 4 Z 2 FH-AkkVO 2021 (the so-called “Fachhochschul-Akkreditierungsverordnung” - Accreditation Regulations for Universities of Applied Sciences), in which it is stated that the institutions can apply the European Approach upon request. If approved, they do not have to follow particular sections of the AkkVO. AQ Austria will recognise the accreditation process without starting its own procedure. However, this is only possible if the joint programme is accredited by an EQAR-registered agency.

2.5 Proposed Models for the Development and Validation Accreditation of RUN-EU PLUS Joint Research Programmes at Master’s Level

The RUN-EU PLUS project has identified the model presented in **Figure 2** for the development of joint research master’s programmes within the RUN European University. Programme development teams for each master’s programme will be created which are comprised of academics, research leaders and Quality Assurance managers (as appropriate) from RUN-EU partners with competency in the research fields relevant to the proposed master’s programme. These teams will complete the RUN-EU PLUS Joint Master’s Degree Programme development template as presented in **Appendix 3**. Each partner will validate the programme as a joint programme in accordance with their validation/accreditation process, naming collaborating RUN-EU partners on the joint award.

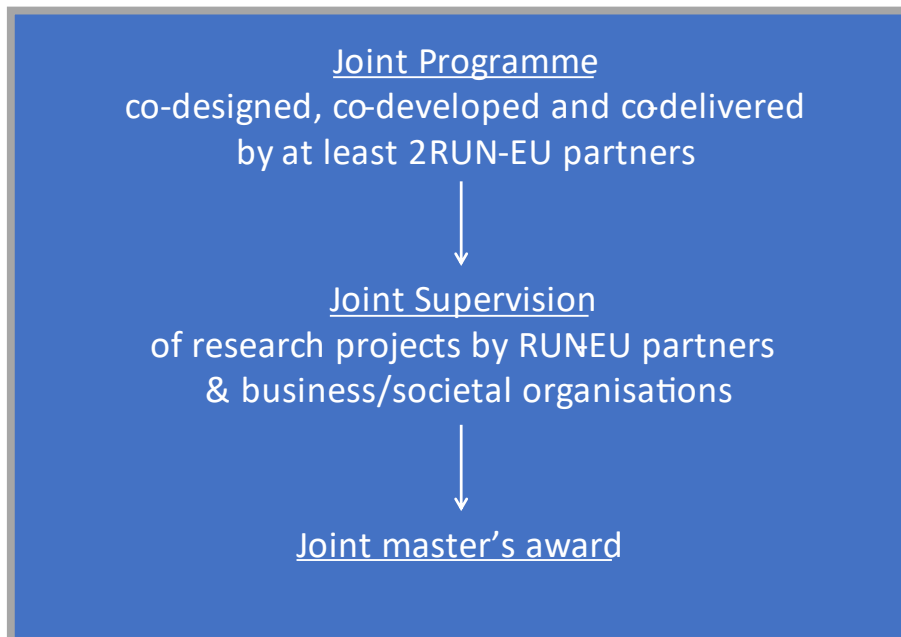


Figure 2 Proposed model for the development of RUN-EU PLUS joint master's degree programmes.

3.0 Development of RUN-EU Joint Doctoral Programmes

3.1 RUN-EU Doctoral Degree Programme Framework

Table 2 presents the framework for joint Professional and Practice-based doctoral degree programmes as agreed by RUN-EU partners which is documented in the RUN-EU PLUS **D3.2 Degree Development Roadmap**.

Table 2 General design for RUN-EU joint Professional and Practice Research Doctorate Programmes

Semester	Total ECTS	TUS	Leiria + IPCA	HAMK	NHLS	FHV	SZE	RUN-EU
1st year	60	Structured 60 ECTS	Structured max 60 ECTS	Structured 60 ECTS	Structured + Research Project 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS)	Structured 30 ECTS	Structured + Research Project 240 ECTS	Structured 60 ECTS + Research Project
2nd year	60	Research Project 180 ECTS	Research Project 180 ECTS	Research Project 180 ECTS		Research Project 150 ECTS		
3rd year *	60							

3.2 RUN-EU Partner Qualification Framework regarding Degree Programmes at Doctoral Level

In February 2023, **IPL** and **IPCA** were granted authority by the Portuguese government to award at doctoral level. Additionally, the designation of the Portuguese Polytechnic Institutes was modified to Polytechnic Universities. In this sense, all Polytechnic Universities are now allowed to create Doctoral Programmes and to submit them for

accreditation by A3ES until October 2023. The new doctoral programmes, if recognized by the national agency, can start in September of 2024. Concerning the required steps to create a doctoral programme, all procedures are in line with the previously reported for master's programmes. The main difference lies in the more stringent requirements that are necessary to qualify for awarding a PhD degree, regarding the research background of research centers and professors.

TUS became a Technological University in October 2021 and therefore TUS may award at doctoral level under the [Technological Universities Act 2018](#). The legacy [Athlone Institute of Technology and Limerick Institute of Technology Postgraduate Programme Regulations](#) currently apply to TUS PhD programmes. TUS regulations governing postgraduate programmes are currently being considered for approval by TUS Academic Council. **HAMK** does not have doctoral awarding power at present and therefore the PhD pathways presented in **Section 4** will support their student researchers to pursue a PhD award within the RUN European University. **NHL Stenden** currently does not have the authority to award at doctoral level. A pilot for professional doctorates was launched in 2023 which is specific to the Universities of Applied Sciences.

SZE awards degrees at doctoral level in accordance with the following policies:

[Doctoral Regulation of Széchenyi István University](#)

[Doctoral Study and Examination Regulations of Széchenyi István University](#)

[Doctoral School's Study and Examination Regulations - Doctoral School of Multidisciplinary Engineering Sciences.](#)

[Hungarian Government's Act 2011 CCIV of Higher Education.](#)

FHV is not allowed to award at doctoral level (as this is the case for all Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria right now), and it is not realistic that this will change within the next 5 years. Collaboration and co-supervision are possible with different (national or international) universities at PhD level. However, in any case, the partner university, which has the power to award PhD degrees, will award the PhD degree, not FHV (sometimes, the FHV supervisor is named on the award certificate).

3.3 RUN-EU Partner Validation/Accreditation Process of Joint Degree Programmes at Doctoral Level

It is envisaged that the doctoral approval process which will be implemented at **IPL** and **IPCA** when using doctoral awarding power will be similar to the validation process for master's programmes, namely the programme must be first approved through an internal approval process prior to submission for approval by the Portuguese national agency A3ES. If approved, the course may start in the next academic year, typically in September. Each student must apply individually for the programme, normally between July and September.

At **TUS**, application for approval of a PhD programme is initially made to the Postgraduate Studies and Research Sub-committee of Academic Council which subsequently recommends the programme to the TUS Academic Council for approval. At **SZE** the approval process is based on the cooperation agreement (the document which contains the exact curriculum). The following bodies regulate the accreditation of programmes at Széchenyi István University:

- Doctoral Council
- Senate
- Board of Trustees of Széchenyi István University.

The registration procedure at national level is the responsibility of the Hungarian Educational Authority (https://www.oktatas.hu/projects_educationalauthority) and the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (<https://www.mab.hu/>).

3.4 Institutional Joint/Multiple Awards at Doctoral Level

At present, **TUS** and **SZE** are the RUN-EU partners authorized to develop joint awards at doctoral level. The recent legislation will also allow **IPCA** and **IPL** to develop joint PhD programmes for submission to accreditation in September. **FHV** may collaborate with different universities at PhD level, but it is always the case that the partner university

awards the PhD title, not FHV (sometimes, the FHV supervisor is named on the award certificate).

3.5 Proposed Model for the Development and Validation/Accreditation of RUN-EU PLUS Joint Research Programmes at Doctoral Level

The RUN-EU PLUS project has identified the model presented in **Figure 3** for the development of joint doctoral programmes within the RUN European University.

Programme development teams for each doctoral programme will be created which are comprised of academics and research leaders from RUN-EU partners with competency in the research fields relevant to the proposed PhD programme. These teams will complete the RUN-EU PLUS Joint PhD Degree Programme development template as presented in **Appendix 4**. Partners will validate the programme as a joint programme in accordance with their validation/accreditation process, naming collaborating RUN-EU partners on the joint award.

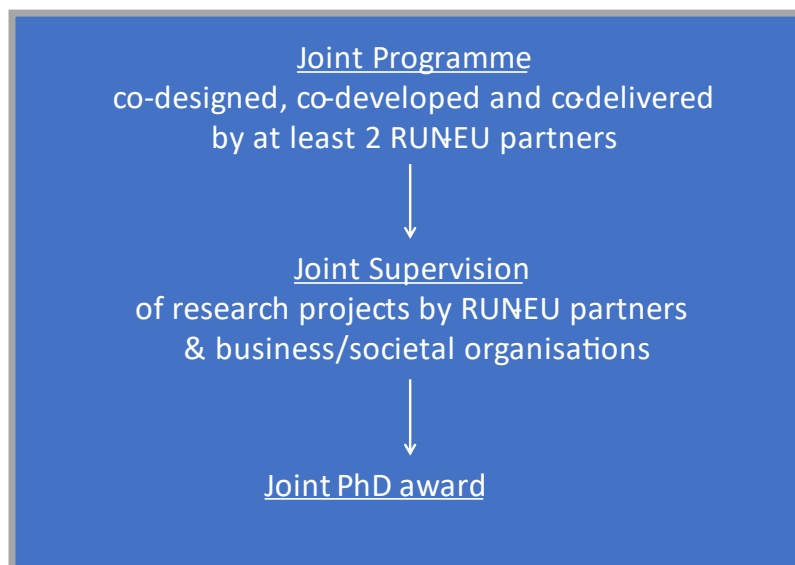


Figure 3 Proposed model for the development of RUN-EU PLUS joint doctoral degree programmes.

4.0 Transfer Pathways to PhD with RUN-EU

As a result of the current lack of PhD awarding power by some of the RUN-EU partner organisations, the RUN-EU PLUS project has identified several pathways available to RUN-EU research students to undertake a PhD within the RUN European University. All PhD pathways are collaborative programmes with formal Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) in place between RUN-EU partners involved in the PhD programme. The template MOA is presented in **Appendix 1** and in it the academic, administrative, and financial management of the PhD programme is agreed by the signatories.

Each RUN-EU PhD programme involves joint supervision of the PhD research project between RUN-EU partners. Pathways 1, 2 and 3 lead to a single PhD award while 4 and 5 lead to joint awards. Currently only 2 RUN-EU partners have PhD awarding power and are the only institutions who can currently be involved in the joint PhD awards referred to in PhD Pathway 4 and Pathway 5. Pathway 5 is a collaborative PhD programme which may evolve from a joint award between 2 RUN-EU partners to a joint award with multiple awarding partners as more RUN-EU institutions are designated as PhD awarding institutions.

4.1 PhD Pathway 1

This PhD pathway allows a student with an honours Bachelor's degree to register on a research master's degree programme at the PhD-awarding (host) institution. After a specified period of time, a transfer process is initiated which, if successful, will transfer the student researcher to the PhD programme. This PhD programme is jointly supervised by RUN-EU partner institutions and the PhD award is a single award which is awarded by the host institute, which has PhD-awarding power. This pathway is presented in **Figure 4**.

The entry requirements to a **TUS** PhD programme are an honours Bachelor's degree and therefore TUS is eligible to be the host institution for this PhD Pathway. In principle this

option is possible for students of **HAMK**, but the student's connections to HAMK would be quite loose making this option not so relevant from HAMK's perspective.

This PhD pathway is possible for **IPCA** and **IPL** students with a Bachelor's degree (Licenciado). It is thought that graduates of **NHL Stenden** would most likely have a preference to undertake a master's programme in the Netherlands than select to follow this PhD pathway option.

This PhD Pathway is also available to **SZE** students who are allowed to attend PhD courses during master's level studies, and these courses will be accepted during the accreditation in his/her PhD studies. If the master's programme at TUS can be done remotely, then this might be an option for **FHV** students, however, PhD Pathway 2 is far more likely.



Figure 4 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 1

4.2 PhD Pathway 2

The second PhD pathway allows a student with a master's degree to register on a PhD degree programme at the PhD-awarding (host) institution. This PhD programme is jointly supervised by RUN-EU partner institutions and the PhD award is a single award which is awarded by the host institute, which has PhD-awarding power. This PhD pathway is presented in **Figure 5**.

TUS and **SZE** are eligible to be the host institution in this PhD pathway. This is the most appropriate PhD pathway option for **IPCA** and **IPL** students with a master's degree who wish to embark on a PhD degree programme with RUN-EU. Pathway 2 is the natural and clear pathway for those that have completed a master's degree at **HAMK**. This is also a viable PhD pathway for **NHL Stenden**, and it is the option likely to be taken by a **FHV** researcher based in research centres at FHV.

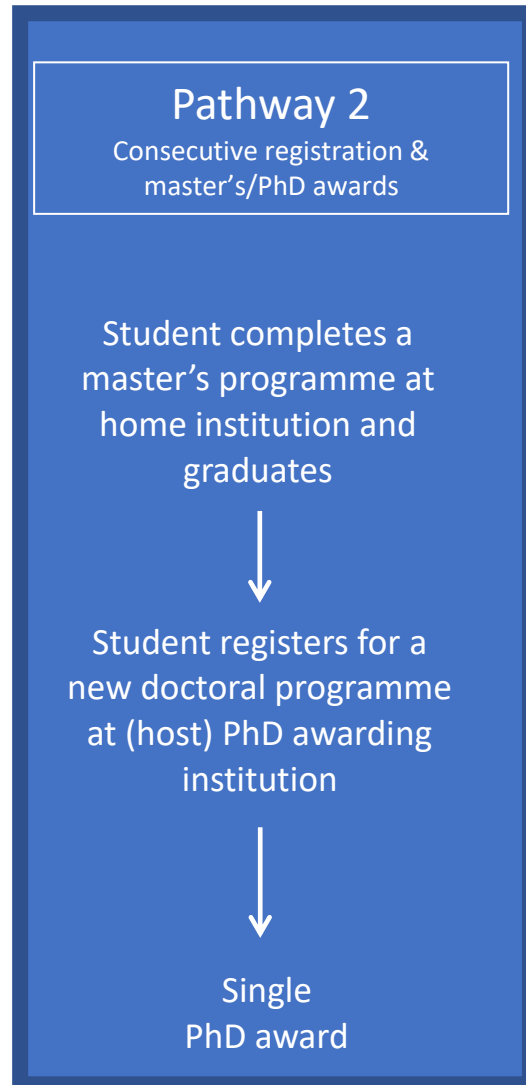


Figure 5 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 2

4.3 PhD Pathway 3

The third PhD pathway available to RUN-EU student researchers allows registration on a master's degree programme with their home institution. Upon completion of this master's programme the student may present for examination and if successful be awarded a master's degree by their home institution. Alternatively, the student may apply to transfer to the RUN-EU PhD programme which is jointly supervised by the home institution and a RUN-EU partner with PhD awarding rights (host). The PhD award may be a single award if a single host institute is involved or a joint award where there are

more than 2 PhD awarding partners involved. This PhD pathway is presented in **Figure 6**.

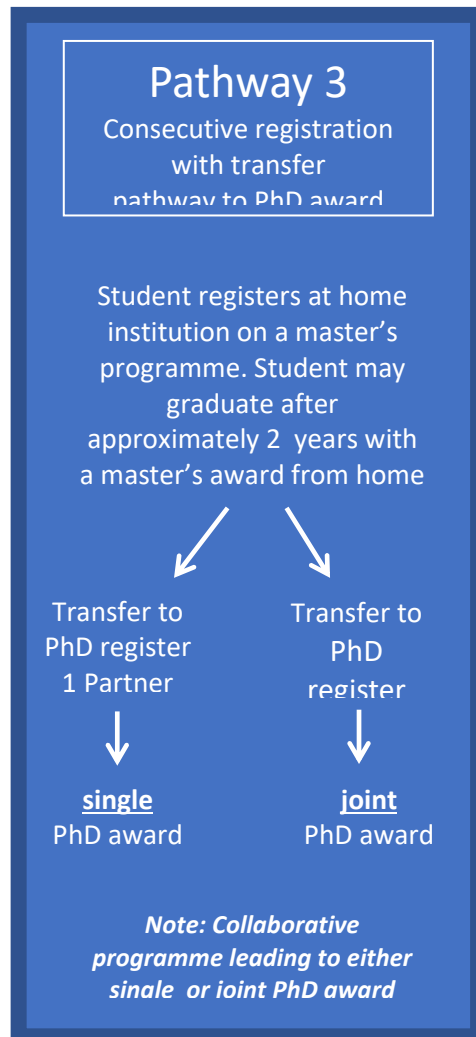


Figure 6 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 3

This PhD pathway option is viable for students of **IPL, IPCA, HAMK, NHL Stenden** and **FHV**. The research student initially registers on a master's programme in their own institution and can either submit for examination for a master's award or apply to transfer to a doctoral programme (which results in either a single PhD award or a joint award of TUS and SZE). This PhD pathway involves the student applying for recognition of prior learning (RPL) from TUS and SZE, a process which is addressed in policy documents of both institutions.

4.4 PhD Pathway 4

PhD Pathway 4 available to RUN-EU student researchers sees them registered concurrently at their home institution on a master's programme and on the PhD register at the PhD awarding institution(s). The student has the option to present for examination and finish with a joint master's award rather than completion of the PhD programme. This PhD pathway is presented in **Figure 7**.

This PhD pathway is an option which is available to **IPL** and **IPCA** research students. Pathway 4 however is a complex PhD pathway for **HAMK** students considering the current roles of the Universities of Applied Sciences in Finland. This is not a viable option for **NHL Stenden** students or **FHV** who is not allowed to award joint PhDs based on Austrian law.

Dual registration is not allowed at **SZE**. The case is suitable only when the student is doing a master's degree at SZE. Dual registration is permitted at **TUS** once a host and home institution are identified.

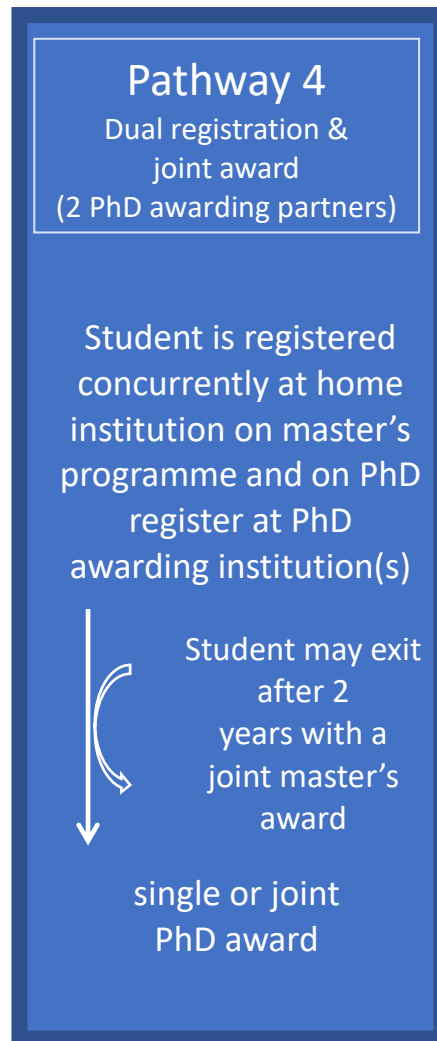


Figure 7 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 4

4.5 PhD Pathway 5

PhD Pathway 5 registers a RUN-EU student researcher concurrently with their home institution on a master's programme and on the PhD register at the PhD awarding institution(s). The student has the option to present for examination and finish with a joint master's award rather than completion of the PhD programme. This PhD pathway is presented in **Figure 8**.



Figure 8 RUN-EU PLUS PhD Pathway 5

PhD Pathway 5 is the pathway which delivers the RUN-EU PLUS joint doctoral degree award as presented previously in **Figure 3** of **Section 3.5**.

This PhD pathway is an option which is available to **IPL** and **IPCA** research students. For **HAMK** however, this option currently requires administrative negotiations. Neither is this pathway a viable option currently for **NHL Stenden** or **FHV** students as these institutions do not have PhD awarding power.

Dual registration is not allowed at **SZE**. The case is suitable only when the student is doing a master's degree at SZE. Dual registration is permitted at **TUS** once a host and home institution are identified.

5.0 Mapping of Partner Master’s Programmes to RUN-EU PLUS Doctoral Programmes

PhD Pathways 2 and 3 presented in **Section 4.0** are the pathways which currently provide the greatest number of RUN-EU student researchers with the opportunity to complete a doctoral programme within the RUN European University network. Students currently registered on a master’s programme with a RUN-EU partner may apply to transfer to a RUN-EU PhD programme or to register on a new PhD programme with a PhD-awarding RUN-EU partner once their current master’s degree has been awarded. While PhD Pathway 5 (**Section 4.5**) presents a joint PhD programme leading to a joint PhD award involving multiple awarding RUN-EU partners, it is currently limited by the number of partners with PhD-awarding rights.

Pathways 2 and 3 have been developed continuously by the RUN-EU PLUS project, and a mapping exercise was undertaken by project members which mapped existing master’s programmes available at their institutions to PhD programmes available at TUS and SZE both in terms of the research field and the RUN-EU PLUS thematic areas (Sustainability/Digitalisation/Social Innovation). It was important to map the discipline specific expertise in addition to the supervision capacity which currently exists within the RUN-EU alliance. **Table 3** presents a sample of existing master’s programmes currently provided by RUN-EU partners mapped to both existing PhD programmes delivered by PhD-awarding RUN-EU partners and to the 3 RUN-EU PLUS thematic areas identified as of strategic regional importance (**D3.1 Strategic Research Priorities Report**).

Table 3 Mapping of RUN-EU partner master’s programmes with PhD programmes and RUN-EU PLUS thematic areas.

RUN-EU Partner	Existing Master’s Programme	Total ECTS	RUN-EU PLUS PhD Programme Pathway	RUN-EU PLUS thematic area
HAMK	Solutions in Bioeconomy	60	TUS: Science, SZE: Crop Sciences or Food Engineering	Sustainability
HAMK	Master of Sustainable Business	60	TUS: Business and Finance Services,	Sustainability

			SZE: Business and Management Sciences	
FHV	International Management and Leadership	120	TUS: Business and Finance Services, SZE: Business and Management Sciences	Sustainability
FHV	Sustainable Energy Systems	120	TUS: Electric Engineering, Mechanical Engineering	Digitalisation
FHV	Business Informatics - Digital Transformation	120	TUS: Information Technology, SZE: Business and Management Sciences, Informatics	Digitalisation
FHV	Master of Arts in Social Sciences (MA)	120	TUS: Social Care	Social Innovation
NHL Stenden	International Tourism & Events Management	60	TUS: Sustainable Tourism	Sustainability
TUS	Business Administration	120	SZE: Business Administration	Social Innovation
IPL	Fine Art	120	TUS: Fine Art	Social Innovation
IPL	Product Design	120	TUS: Design	Sustainability
IPL	Business Statistics	120	TUS: Business and Finance Services	Social Innovation
IPL	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	120	TUS: Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Digitalisation
IPL	Tourism and Environment	120	TUS: Tourism	Sustainability
IPL	Exercise Prescription and Health Promotion	120	TUS: Sport, Health & Exercise Science	Social Innovation
IPL	International Business	120	SZE: Business and Management Sciences	Social Innovation
IPL	Computer Engineering - Mobile Computing	120	SZE: Informatics	Digitalisation
IPL	Civil Engineering	120	SZE: Civil Engineering - Building Construction	Sustainability

6.0 RUN-EU Joint PhD Programmes Developed

Table 4 presents a sample of collaborative RUN-EU PhD programmes which are jointly supervised by RUN-EU partners. In line with the RUN-EU PLUS research master’s and doctoral programme characteristics, each PhD programme is a collaboration between 2 RUN-EU partners which have been developed jointly. Each programme will lead to a single or joint PhD award and are jointly supervised with a supervision team spanning 2 or more partner institutes. There is a regional focus and involvement with regional partners and the projects will undertake research with a sustainability, digitalisation or social innovation theme.

Table 4 collaborative RUN-EU PhD programmes jointly supervised by RUN-EU partners.

PhD Programme	Partner 1	Partner 2	Sustainability theme	Digitalisation theme	Social Innovation theme
Artificial Intelligence Based Approach to Live Speech Mapping	IPCA	TUS		✓	✓
Hybrid behaviour-based network intrusion detection system	IPL	TUS		✓	✓
From sea to pharmacy: an integrated and sustainable valorisation of the red weed Gelidium corneum for cosmeceutical applications	IPL	TUS	✓		✓
OncoNavigator: Development of a Novel Breast Cancer Navigation Framework involving collaboration between a Medical Robot and Medical Imaging and Magnetic Breast Lesion	IPCA	TUS		✓	
HydruFlow: Application of Wireless Smart Sensing to the Accurate Measurement of Urinary Flow and Colour	IPCA	TUS		✓	
Development of a Smart Framework to Improve Standard Urological Procedures	IPCA	TUS		✓	
Smart Health Assistant for Monitoring Children: Development of a Framework based on Computer Vision, AI and Smart Assistants to Monitor Common Illnesses	IPCA	TUS		✓	
Development of real-time condition monitoring for predictive failure in Biotech Manufacturing	SZE	TUS		✓	
The Development of a Rehabilitation Framework using Intelligent and Autonomous	IPCA	TUS		✓	

Processes to Support the Self-monitoring of Recovery Procedures					
Smart Breast Screening: Development of a Deep Learning Framework for Multimodal Breast	IPCA	TUS		✓	
MLOps practices to help accelerate the development of machine learning software products by reducing related risks for small and medium sized businesses	TUS	HAMK		✓	
A pedagogical framework for skills-based training using XR technologies in an applied learning context	TUS	HAMK		✓	
Where have all the chefs gone? Labour shortages in culinary industry (working title)	TUS	IPL			✓
Film Induced Tourism in Europe: Impacts & Marketing Strategies	TUS	IPL			✓
Analysis of the factors that influence the choice of tourist destination purchase	IPL	TUS			✓
Hospitality Management Accounting - key performance indicators for the financial sustainability of hotels	IPL	TUS	✓		
Sustainability of 3D printing for building construction using innovative and ecological materials	IPL	TUS	✓		
An examination of sustainable and green practices and the adoption of indicator systems in the hospitality industry in Portugal	TUS	IPL	✓		
Framework for the Development of Integrated Sports Tourism Strategies	TUS	IPL			✓
An examination of the sustainable management of tourism in Portugal	TUS	IPL	✓		
Developing a model to understand the Impacts of Tourism on Poverty Alleviation in Central Asia	TUS	IPL	✓		✓

7.0 Platform for Co-creation of Programme Documents

The Cloud of Knowledge Portal developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project (MS8) will provide the collaborative space for RUN-EU academics to work together on the development of joint master’s and doctoral programmes. Template documents and guidelines developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project to assist master’s and Doctoral

Programme Development Teams (PDTs) have been presented previously in the RUN-EU PLUS **D3.2 Degree Development Roadmap. Appendix 2** of this document contains the discussion guidelines available for these PDTs to support the co-design and development of joint master's and doctoral degree programmes.

8.0 Interdisciplinary Collaboration Facilitation

The research master's and doctoral programmes developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project are collaborative programmes which are co-designed and developed in partnership with regional stakeholders and are focused on their future sustainability, digitalisation or have a social innovation theme. The thematic focus which drives these research programmes makes them interdisciplinary by nature. The RUN-EU PLUS project facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration within the RUN European University by strengthening international and interdisciplinary collaboration on research supervision. These programmes are jointly supervised by a supervision team of 2 or more RUN-EU partner institutes which have expertise in the relevant research fields.

Interdisciplinary collaboration has been facilitated by the RUN-EU PLUS project through networking opportunities provided by the RUN-EU PLUS annual ICARUS conference, workshops delivered by the RUN-EU PLUS Researcher Career Development Training Programme, Supervision Capacity Programme and Group Exploratory Missions of the RUN-EU project. An application to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 programme ([HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01-01](#)) is being explored. This funding would offer mobility & placement fellowships for RUN-EU researchers to relocate to RUN-EU partner research groups.

9.0 Recruitment of Research Candidates

9.1 Recruitment

Students currently registered on a master's programme with a RUN-EU partner may apply to transfer to a RUN-EU PhD programme or to register on a new PhD programme with a PhD-awarding RUN-EU partner once their current master's degree has been

awarded. **Table 3** presented previously in **Section 5.0** maps existing master's programmes currently provided by RUN-EU partners to both existing PhD programmes delivered by PhD-awarding RUN-EU partners and to the 3 RUN-EU PLUS thematic areas identified as of strategic regional importance (**D3.1 Strategic Research Priorities Report**).

The RUN-EU PLUS project master's and PhD programmes are practice-based with the objective of contributing to the strategic development goals of the RUN-EU alliance member regions. Research candidates may be current employees of regional organisations or graduates of RUN-EU alliance members who will work on a research project which is a collaboration between a RUN-EU research cluster and a regional organization thereby providing them with state-of-the-art facilities and expertise. Recruitment processes and eligibility criteria will be in line with RUN-EU partner policies and procedures.

9.2 Alignment with Gender & Diversity Challenges

The RUN-EU PLUS project members are committed to ensuring gender equality in the recruitment of research candidates. Supported by the RUN-EU PLUS Gender and Equality Ambassadors, RUN-EU PLUS will adopt a gender participatory approach to ensure the equal distribution of resources and authority to all programme participants, as well as ensure equal opportunities to engage with target groups and to have an impact through the research aims and objectives of the research programme.

9.3 Internationalisation at Home

Through the RUN-EU PLUS project activities, all RUN-EU researchers (including those research candidates based in regional organisations) will be integrated into the RUN-EU trans-European research community through the purposeful incorporation of international and intercultural elements into the research master's and doctoral programmes. The RUN-EU PLUS annual ICARUS conference, workshops delivered by the RUN-EU PLUS Researcher Career Development Training Programme, Researcher Mobility Programme, joint international supervision of research programmes, RUN-EU

researcher networking events and Research Exploratory Missions of RUN-EU will each contribute to the RUN-EU PLUS 'internationalisation at home' agenda.

Appendix 1

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
(JOINT)**

Between:

(Partner 1 Name) hereinafter referred to as **XXX**, VAT number **XXX**, with headquarters in **(address)**, here represented by President, **(President Name)**.

and

(Partner 2 Name), hereinafter referred to as **XXX**, VAT number **XXX**, with headquarters in **(address)**, here represented by its President, **(President Name)**.

The present memorandum of understanding agreement is concluded, on this **XXX** date, approving joint research activities including Doctoral Programmes in relevant discipline areas within the RUN-EU European University framework, under the following terms:

Article 1

(Object)

The present MOU articulates between **(Partner 1 Name)** and **(Partner 2 Name)** regarding the operation of the doctoral programmes in relevant discipline areas with an equivalence the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System as appropriate), hereinafter referred to as RUN-EU European University PhDs, offered in association between the two institutions, and with the awarding of a diploma under the responsibility of **(Partner 1 Name)**. The PhD programmes will take place in a mixed regime (face-to-face and distance learning) on the premises of both institutions.

Article 2

(Organisation)

1. The faculty responsible for the implementation of this Agreement at **(Partner 1 Name)** is [NAME FACULTY/DEPARTMENT], in articulation with [NAME OF RESEARCH UNIT].
2. The faculty responsible for the implementation of this Agreement at **(Partner 2 Name)** is [NAME FACULTY/DEPARTMENT], in articulation with [NAME OF RESEARCH UNIT].
3. The PhD programme is organised according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

ARTICLE 3

(Competences and obligations)

As regards the competences and obligations of each institution, it is the duty

1. Of **(Partner 1 Name)**:

- a) To contribute to the operation of the PhD programme with its scientific and technological competences, as well as all the knowledge and experience accumulated in teaching and learning;
- b) To provide the necessary teaching infrastructures for the implementation and monitoring of the PhD programme;
- c) To ensure the teaching, tutoring and scientific supervision of research work of their responsibility, as foreseen in the study plan of the PhD programme.
- d) To organise and arrange the final *viva voce* examination for the PhD programme conducted by a Chairperson with at least two examiners one of which will be external to both institutions.

2. Of **(Partner 2 Name)**:

- a) To contribute to the operation of the PhD programme with its scientific and technological competences, as well as all the knowledge and experience accumulated in teaching and learning.
- b) To provide the necessary teaching, supervision, and research infrastructures for the implementation and monitoring of the PhD programme.
- c) To ensure the teaching, tutoring and scientific supervision of research work of their responsibility, as foreseen in the study plan of the PhD programme.

3. Of both Parties:

- a) To carry out the joint scientific and academic direction of the PhD programme in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.
- b) To ensure, at each institution, administrative and secretarial support to the PhD programme.
- c) To contribute to the development and organisation of the dissemination plan of PhD programme.
- d) To ensure the viva voce defence of the PhD.

ARTICLE 4

(Management model)

- 1. The administrative and financial management is the responsibility of **(Partner 1 Name)**.
- 2. The academic supervision management will be shared between **(Partner 1 Name)** and **(Partner 2 Name)** according to the responsibilities associated with the **(Partner 1 Name)** PhD programme application form.
- 3. **(Partner 1 Name)** will assume the administration of the management and logistics inherent and proper of the doctoral education with complementary distance and network education.
- 4. Within the scope of the management referred to in Number 1, **(Partner 1 Name)** shall be responsible for:
 - i. All administrative and financial matters related to the PhD programme, including secretarial work in the reception and organization of applications, publication of results, enrolment and registration of admitted students, receipt of fees and charges, sending and receiving mail, requisitioning of various support services, payment of current expenses, organization and logistics of face-to-face sessions, accounting management of income and expenses, among others, that ensure the proper execution of the annual plan and budget of the PHD programme;
 - ii. To send to the other party any accounting elements of annual financial execution that may be required regarding the cost centre or cost centres associated to the PhD programme.
 - iii. Performing the adjustment of any balances due to the other party, until the end of each calendar year.

ARTICLE 5

(Economic and financial viability model)

The parties agree to establish an economic and financial viability model for the PhD programme that allows defining the minimum limits for its operation in terms, mainly, of numerous clauses and the annual tuition fee to be established by means of a budget agreed by the parties and approved by the responsible authorities in each institution.

ARTICLE 6

(Distribution of the income generated by the tuition fees)

The financial costs of the activities to be organised in the scope of this agreement must be included in specific research agreements and/or contracts to be signed.

ARTICLE 7

(Numerous clauses)

The parties agree that the numerous clauses of the programme shall be established annually by joint order signed by the competent bodies of the Partner Entities, and never exceeding the maximum number of admissions considered in the accreditation process of the study programme.

ARTICLE 8

(Programme Supervisory Steering Committee)

1. The parties agree that the management of the PhD programmes will be carried out by a Steering Supervisory Committee composed of elements from both partners.
2. The Supervisory Committee for each PhD programme will be composed of suitably qualified researchers and academics from **(Partner 1 Name)** and from **(Partner 2 Name)**, whom will be appointed by the competent bodies of each partner.

ARTICLE 9

(Programme Supervision)

1. The Principal Supervisor of the Supervisory Committee will be from **(Partner 1 Name)**. The co-supervisor will be from **(Partner 2 Name)**. The supervisory committee shall remain in place for the duration of the PhD programme.

ARTICLE 10

(Responsibilities of the Supervisory Committee)

1. The Supervisory Committee has responsibility for the academic supervision of the Research Candidate and will:

- Be accessible to their Research Candidate for consultation, advice and assistance and should meet them on a regular basis during the academic year.
- Ensure registered Research Candidates are attending and actively engaged in their Research Degree Programme (RDP).
- Monitor the progress of the Research Candidate's work by setting appropriate academic standards and milestones.
- Identify insufficient progress as early as possible in order to allow adequate time for re-orientation and address by the Research Candidate.
- Assess performance and provide constructive feedback.
- Provide guidance to the Research Candidate on attendance at conferences and seminars.
- Review and provide guidance to the Research Candidate on drafts of the thesis/exegesis/exhibition work.
- Attend at a *viva voce* where appropriate.

ARTICLE 11

(Competences of the Supervisory Committee)

The Steering Supervisory Committee will be made up of suitably qualified members of both institutions.

The Principal Supervisor will be a staff member of **(Partner 1 Name)** holding a PhD Degree research qualification. The co-supervisor will be a staff member of **(Partner 2 Name)** holding a

a PhD Degree research qualification. Both Supervisors will have responsibility for supervising the Research Candidate on a regular and frequent basis. Where a Supervisor or Supervisory Committee has not supervised a Research Candidate to PhD by research, a Supervisor Mentor may be appointed. In addition to the Supervisor(s), an Adviser or Advisers may be proposed to contribute some specialised knowledge or a link with an external organisation.

ARTICLE 12

(Curricular structure)

Scientific areas and credits that must be gathered to obtain the degree:

Scientific Areas	Sigla	Compulsory	Optional
Name	XX	XX ECTS	XX ECTS
Name	XX	XX ECTS	XX ECTS
Name	XX	XX ECTS	XX ECTS

ARTICLE 13

(Study plan)

The study programme established:

Curricular Units	Scientific Area	Semester	Hours	Contact hours	ECTS	Remarks

ARTICLE 14

(Qualifications for admission)

The applicants to a PhD programme are:

1. Holders of at a minimum an undergraduate 2.1 Bachelors Honours Degree in a relevant discipline area or legal equivalent.

2. Holders a master's degree in a related area, or legal equivalent, provided that they hold a particularly relevant academic or scientific curriculum that is recognized by scientific authorities as attesting the capacity to carry out this programme.
3. Holders of an academic, scientific, or professional curriculum vitae that is recognized by the scientific authorities as attesting the capacity to carry out this programme.

ARTICLE 15

(Diploma of studies)

Students that prove at all the curricular units that integrate the study plan of the programme shall be entitled to a doctoral degree that certifies the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

ARTICLE 16

(Final provisions)

1. The parties agree to review the present agreement, when the **(Partner 2 Name)** is legally competent to award the Doctoral degree.
2. The review mentioned in the previous number shall also contemplate the implementation of a shared administrative and financial management.

ARTICLE 17

(Gaps)

Any other aspects not considered in this agreement shall be resolved on a case-by-case basis and by agreement between the signatory parties.

ARTICLE 18

(Data protection)

1. When parties need to collect, use, and process personal data for the organisation of activities under this agreement, they are obliged to do so in compliance with personal data protection legislation, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679) of 27 April 2016 and all other applicable legislation.

2. Parties are obliged, among other duties, to:
 - a) Respect the rights of the data subjects, namely the right to access, request information, update, erase and object.
 - b) Keep the personal data for the period required for the processing purposes they were collected under this cooperation agreement to ensure its confidentiality.
 - c) Process personal data according to all applicable legislation, verifying the lawfulness of all conditions.
 - d) Apply adequate technical and organisational methods to ensure all requirements of the GDPR on personal data processing and data subject rights protection are met, guaranteeing a security level that is adequate and proportional to the risk, to protect an accidental or illicit destruction or loss, change, dissemination or non-authorized access.
 - e) Immediately inform the other party when it is known that there has been a personal data breach or security accident and collaborate on possible upcoming investigations or audits.
 - f) Limit access to personal data and other confidential information only to specifically authorised members of staff, who need to access data only for the purposes stated in the agreement and who guarantee not to disseminate to third parties.
 - g) Inform their staff members about workers who have access to personal data regarding their duties of secrecy and confidentiality even after the termination of their contract of employment or the termination of this cooperation agreement.

ARTICLE 19

(Specific requirements)

The parties of this agreement will respect each other characteristics, such as their statutes and internal regulations, organisation, working periods, budgets, institutional relations, as well as the legislation that govern them.

ARTICLE 20

(Duration)

1. This agreement is valid for a period of four years, becoming effective on the day it is signed and shall be automatically renewed for equal periods, unless it is terminated by either party, with at least 90 days notice.
2. This agreement can be changed at any time if approved by both parties. The adjustments to the agreement must be written.
3. If one of the parties decides to terminate this agreement, both parties are obliged to continue all ongoing activities until the end of their estimated duration.

This agreement is executed in duplicate and both institutions have received an official copy of it.

(Partner 1 Name)

(Partner 2 Name)

Appendix 2

RUN-EU PLUS Co-design and Development of Joint Master’s & Doctoral Degree Programmes

Discussion Guidelines

NOTE: These discussion guidelines may be used to support the co-design and development of a new joint Research Degree Programme between RUN-EU partners and external collaborators from business and/or society. They are intended as discussion guidelines only; the Research Degree Programme and the Research Degree Programme candidate must be registered via the formal registration process of the lead RUN-EU partner institution in accordance with institutional policies and formal procedures.

1.	Introductions	
..	Give your collaborator some general information about research and research programmes at your university (number of research students and staff, available masters and doctoral degree programmes, specific areas of research expertise relevant to the proposed programme, National Qualification Authority regulations concerning masters and doctoral programmes, existing masters and doctoral degree programmes, your supervision experience, links to industry and other external organisations).	
2.	Collaboration goals	
..	<p>Discuss the collaboration within the framework of the RUN-EU PLUS masters and doctoral programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this a research programme which is being proposed? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Does the proposed programme fall under the theme of Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Social Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> • If ‘Other’ state what theme • Is it a Master’s <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Doctorate <input type="checkbox"/> programme? • At which RUN-EU partner institution will the student be registered? • Is there business or social sector financial support committed for this programme? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Name of business/organisation • Will the research learner be undertaking their research programme in the company <input type="checkbox"/> or RUN-EU research cluster <input type="checkbox"/>? • Name of RUN-EU research centre/group. 	
3.	Basic information about the Research Degree Programme	
..	Name the RUN-EU partners involved in this joint research programme.	
	Level of Research Degree Programme	Master's Degree, level 7 EQF <input type="checkbox"/> PhD/doctoral, level 8 EQF <input type="checkbox"/>
	Type of the degree	e.g., Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Science

	Title of the degree	e.g., Hotel Management, International Business
	Duration	e.g., 4 years
	No. of Credits	e.g., 240 ECTS credits
	Supervision arrangements	Identify the Principal supervisor, co-supervisor, advisor. Is a mentor supervisor required?
4.	Structure of the Research Degree Programme	
..	<p>Discuss the structure, delivery, and assessment of the Research Degree Programme. The following elements should be described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry requirements to the programme. • In terms of ECTS credits, how is the programme structured in terms of taught modules and research elements? • What is the discipline specific and generic skills to be acquired by the researcher during the programme? • Which compulsory modules and which elective modules are in place? • Mode of study (full time, part time, work & study) • Semester scheduling (e.g., during the day, in the evening, blocked courses etc.) • Are compulsory internships part of the curriculum, if so when and for how long? • What assessment requirements are in place e.g., end-of-module written exam/continuous assessments/final thesis/viva voce examination. • English is the official language. • Mobility options. • Academic calendar. • Comparison of study content and the learning outcomes. 	
5.	Information regarding specific graduation requirements for the Research Degree Programme	
..	<p>Please consider the national and institutional requirements for joint Research Degree Programme Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University 1 <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University 2 	
..	Are there specific graduation requirements of the research degree programme specified (e.g. compulsory publication, presentations, internships, thesis, final exam)?	
6.	Intellectual Property Rights/Confidentiality	
..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss any potential foreground IP which may arise from the research project. • Should the outcomes of the research be kept confidential? 	
7.	Agreements	
..	Tick what agreements may be required as part of this Research Degree Programme: Memorandum of Understanding <input type="checkbox"/> non-Disclosure <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality <input type="checkbox"/> IP Agreement <input type="checkbox"/>	
8.	Next steps	
..	<p>Agree follow-up actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan further meetings, set a time frame. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information still needs to be submitted and when? • Who should be involved in the further meetings?
9.	Possible obstacles identified
..	<p>Have any obstacles been identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, which ones? Please specify. • Discuss the possible solutions.
10.	Information flow about the outputs of this meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please update the RUN-EU PLUS members from your university about the outputs of the meeting. • Please inform the Dean of your faculty as well as Head of the Department about the outputs of this meeting.

Appendix 3

RUN-EU PLUS Joint Master's Degree Programme Framework

Semester*	Curricular Units	Area	ECTS	Total ECTS	Responsible	Institution
1st semester	Subject 1	MSA	5	20		
	Subject 2	MSA	5			
	Subject 3	MSA	5			
	Subject 4	MSA	5			
	Subject 5	IR	5	10		
	Subject 6	IR	5			
2nd semester	Subject 7	IR	5	10		
	Subject 8	IR	5			
	Subject 9	LR	10	10		
	Subject 10	TP	10	10		
3rd & 4th semesters	Subject 11	T/P	60	60		

MSA: Main Scientific Area (ex.: Biotechnology, Education, Healthcare); IR: Introduction to Research (ex.: research integrity, ethics, methodology,); LR: Literature Review; TP: Thesis Planning (ex.: contact with the partner company / enterprise); T/P: Thesis/Project

* The structure in this table is an option for the case, the research is in semester 3 and 4. This is a guideline framework.

Appendix 4

RUN-EU PLUS Joint PhD Degree Programme Framework

PhD RUN-EU PLUS	Curricular Units	Area	ECTS	Semester/Year	Responsible	Institution
Structured 60 ECTS + Research Project	Subject 1					
	Subject 2					
	Subject 3					
	Subject 4					
	Subject 5					
	Subject 6					
	Subject 7					
	Subject 8					
	Subject 9					
	Subject 10					
	Subject 11					

