



## **ERADICATING POVERTY: PATHWAYS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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### **D6.4: Framework agreement European joint degrees**

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#### **Summary**

In the ADAPTED Consortium Agreement (section 4.5), the partners committed themselves to agreeing on a European Framework Agreement on Joint Doctorates to facilitate the establishment of joint doctoral programmes after the end of the project.

The present document provides the common template developed by ADAPTED and adopted in the partner meeting on 28 November 2024 that will be used for future agreements on the joint supervision of doctoral candidates. It reflects the experience of the ADAPTED project and is intended as a manual to facilitate future joint degree agreements.

This manual reflects a high degree of consistency in the arrangements for a joint doctorate between the ADAPTED partners. At the same time, it allows for adaptations to different national or university regulations. Notes on typical adaptation requirements included in the template are based on the experience of the partners during their cooperation within ADAPTED. Instructions on how to include references to a potential funding programme are also provided.

In its current form, the template is suitable for facilitating future joint degree agreements between the ADAPTED partners. It may also serve as a guide for other European universities, highlighting potential points of discussion and appropriate solutions when concluding joint degree agreements.

The partners agreed that the document should not be signed by university representatives, as this would not increase its legal binding force, which is always limited by changing national and university regulations. In this sense, the ADAPTED partners see the manual as a living document that can be continuously developed on the basis of their own experiences and those of other partner universities. Overall, it will simplify the conclusion of the necessary individual agreements for jointly supervised doctoral candidates in the future.

## Agreement for an individual Joint Doctorate Degree

between

[insert name of home university] (hereinafter also referred to as [insert short name], Home University) [here you can add further information, such as the organisation's registration details, if required]

[add address home university]  
represented by [title and name of formal representative]

and

[insert name of partner university] (hereinafter also referred to as [insert short name], Partner University) [here you can add further information, such as the organisation's registration details, if required]

[add address partner university]  
represented by [title and name of formal representative]

hereinafter also referred to separately as 'Partner University' and jointly as 'Partner Universities'.

and  
the Candidate

Name: [insert full name]  
Date of birth: [insert dob]  
Place of birth: [insert pob]  
Nationality: [insert nationality]

taking into account,

**[<add reference to a framework agreement/funding scheme if relevant>]**

**[Insert project logo if relevant]**

Hereby the Partner Universities agree, in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and the respective Doctoral Regulations in force in each of their respective countries, to jointly supervise doctoral research which – upon successful completion – will lead to a jointly awarded PhD qualification; a Joint Doctorate.

The Partner Universities agree to the following:

**Article 1      Legal Foundations [and Definitions <can be included here if required>]**

- 1.1 This Agreement is conducted under the provisions of:  
For [insert short name of home University]
  - (i) If applicable, insert reference to any relevant national regulations
  - (ii) Insert reference to the relevant doctoral regulations
  - (iii) If applicable, insert reference to relevant framework / funding agreementFor [insert short name of partner University]
  - (i) If applicable, insert reference to any relevant national regulations
  - (ii) Insert reference to the relevant doctoral regulations
  - (iii) If applicable, insert reference to relevant framework / funding agreement
- 1.2 In the event of contradictory stipulations, the Doctoral Regulations of the home university shall apply. [note: this can be a point of discussion between the partners if the agreement stipulates that the defence will not take place at the home university]
- 1.3 Definitions  
Insert a list of definitions if required, otherwise delete section

**Article 2      Home University and obligations of the Partner Universities**

- 2.1 The Home University of the doctoral candidate is [specify]. The Home University is responsible for overall administration. If applicable, the doctoral candidate also needs to follow up the administrative procedures at the Partner University. The Home University will verify that relevant procedures of [specify Partner University] have been followed as well.
- 2.2 Partner Universities undertake to notify each other of all the information and documentation useful for the purposes of organizing the Joint Doctorate.

**Article 3      Candidates' rights and responsibilities**

- 3.1 The Candidate shall be registered as doctoral researcher at both Partner Universities according to their respective rules and regulations and shall pay the normal registration fees, if applicable, to [insert name of home university] as Home University and be exempted from such fees at [insert name of partner university] as Partner University.
- 3.2 The Candidate shall observe the rules and customs of the Partner Universities.
- 3.3 The Candidate undertakes all steps necessary in order to arrange due health insurance, insurance cover against physical injuries and civil liability during his/her stay at each Partner University. Information about social security, (health) insurances and visa will be provided by the Partner Universities to the Candidate.

**Article 4      Doctoral project and Doctoral programme(s)**

- 4.1 The Candidate is enrolled in the Doctorate Programme [insert name of doctoral programme at Home University] at [insert name of Home University] and the Doctorate Programme [insert name of doctoral programme at Partner University] at [insert name of Partner University]
- 4.2 The (provisional) title of the doctoral project is [insert title]. [The project is part of <add framework agreement / funding scheme if relevant.> Also add reference to short description of

the individual project and overall research agenda if required and include respective documents in the appendix. Otherwise delete.]

## **Article 5 Joint Supervision**

- 5.1 The Partner Universities agree that they shall be jointly responsible for the educational programme of the PhD candidate and the supervision of his/her doctoral research and thesis.
- 5.2 The doctoral research work is jointly supervised by
- (i) [insert details of thesis supervisor at home university, minimum required information includes academic title, full name, institute, faculty or department, short name of home university], thesis supervisor at [insert name home university] as Home University
  - (ii) [insert details of thesis supervisor at partner university, minimum required information includes academic title, full name, institute, faculty or department, short name of partner university], thesis supervisor at [insert name partner university] as Partner University
- 5.3 The Supervisors will jointly be involved in the continuing assessment of the Candidate's work in progress and will fully carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the rules and requirements of their respective University [if applicable also add reference to the umbrella project / funding scheme to which the research belongs]. Where any such rules and requirements between the Partner Universities are in conflict, the supervisors will negotiate a compromise suitable to both Partner Universities regulations.

## **Article 6 Period**

- 6.1 The period for researching and writing the thesis shall be [insert duration, if regular period for a doctorate differs at both Partner Universities write as "x years at <Home University> and y years at <Partner University>"] years, commencing from [insert date].  
Where necessary, such term can be prolonged in accordance with the rules in force at both of the Partner Universities.
- 6.2 The maximum enrolment period is x years at [home university] and y years at [partner university] – complete if applicable, otherwise insert applicable regulation at your institution or delete section.

## **Article 7 Location of the research**

- 7.1 The thesis shall be researched and written in alternating periods (if required by one of the partner universities it can be added "more or less of equal length") at both Partner Universities. The duration and timing of such periods shall be fixed by agreement between the two thesis supervisors and the Candidate. The Candidate has to spend at least 6 months of the overall duration of the doctorate at the Partner University. During stays at the Partner University, the Candidate has the right to use facilities of the university according to local rules and regulations. [minimum access to facilities should be defined]
- 7.2 If applicable, "secondment" periods can be added here (e.g. those resulting from an externally funded project to which the research is linked.) Possible wording: The doctoral candidate will spend additional secondment periods as specified in the description of the doctoral project. The timing of these secondment periods will be agreed upon in a Training and Supervisory Plan.

## **Article 8 Training and Supervisory Plan [add <and Career Development Plan> or comparable if required by underlying funding scheme]**

- 8.1 A Training and Supervisory Plan in accordance with current regulations at the partner institutions shall be agreed upon by mutual consent of the Candidate and the supervisors.

The Home University is responsible for the overall follow-up of the Training and Supervisory Plan and commits to report to the relevant committees at the Partner Universities.

8.2 optional if required by one of the partner universities: The Doctoral candidate shall devote at least [specify hours / credits] to training. The partner institutions may grant an exemption covering all or parts of the training programme.

8.3 Reference to a Career Development Plan can be added here if required by an underlying funding scheme. Possible wording: The Training and Supervisory Plan is part of the Career Development Plan according to the rules of [add reference to underlying funding scheme].

## 9 Scientific Integrity Declaration

The Doctoral Candidate shall sign a scientific integrity declaration in accordance to the current regulations at the partner institutions. [Reference to a funding scheme can be included here if required.]

## 10 Approval and submission of the Doctoral Dissertation

10.1 The doctoral dissertation has to be submitted to both Partner Universities according to their respective rules and regulations following the written approval of the thesis supervisors.

10.2 The language of the doctoral dissertation shall be English. It can be written in another language upon permission of both Partner Universities. Summaries in the national languages of the Partner Universities can be requested in accordance with the current regulations at the institutions.

10.3 The front page of the thesis will be set up in accordance to the current rules and regulations at both Partner Universities. If required, the dissertation can bear two front pages, one for each of the Partner Universities, set up according to the rules and regulations of both partner institutions. In that case the Home University has the first front page. [Any specific requirements such as a reference to a funding scheme can be added here.]

## 11 Doctorate Committees

11.1 The Doctoral Committees will be nominated in consensus with both Partner Universities, so as to satisfy the regulations of both Universities, especially the ones regarding the composition of the committee that assesses the quality of the dissertation and the committee for the defence.

11.2 The Partner Universities shall each appoint an Assessment Committees that assesses the quality of the dissertation according to their Doctoral Regulations.

The assessment committee at [insert short name home university] shall be composed of [specify requirements of Assessment Committee at the Home University]. Specify conditions for acceptance of thesis for the defence if required.

The assessment committee at [insert short name partner university] shall be composed of [specify requirements of Assessment Committee at the Partner University]. Specify conditions for acceptance of thesis for the defence if required.

11.3 The Doctoral Committee that assesses the quality of the defense and decides about the award of the Doctorate shall be composed of the Assessment Committees mentioned in subsections 2 and [specify additional requirements here] according to the Doctoral Regulations of both Partner Universities.

[11.4 specific arrangements such as a two-phase assessment can be added here. Otherwise delete.]

## 12 Defence

The defence will take place in accordance to the current rules and regulations at both Partner Universities. As a rule, one defence will take place at [specify university] and is duly recognised by both Partner Universities. Language of the defence shall be English.

[Specific regulations for the defence can be added here, otherwise delete.]

### 13 Grading

Assessment reports are provided in accordance with the current regulations at the partner institutions. The language of assessment reports is English.

The grading will be in accordance with the current regulations at the partner institutions.

### 14 Degree Certificates and Award

- 14.1 The title of a Doctor is conferred jointly by the two partner institutions. Upon successful completion of the defence of the dissertation the doctoral candidate receives a certificate of each Partner University in accordance with the current regulations at the partner institutions. On the certificate, reference is made to the cooperation between the Partner Universities and the joint nature of the degree. Both degree certificates together constitute the award of a Joint Doctorate.
- 14.2 The Candidate shall be conferred the legal degree of a Doctor after the defence.  
The [insert name of home university] will award a [insert degree awarded].  
The [insert name of partner university] will award a [insert degree awarded].

### 15 Intellectual Property

- 15.1 [If applicable add reference to rules resulting from a funding scheme of which the research is part. Suggested wording: The regulations of the “xxx” grant agreement (include specific section in the agreement) apply. Delete if not relevant.]
- 15.2 Additional arrangements to safeguard and divide any intellectual property generated as a result of this Agreement shall meet the Rules of Intellectual Property of both Partner Universities.
- 15.3 With respect to copyrights, the results of the research performed by the Candidate will be available to the Partner Universities signing the present Agreement. The copyright of the thesis itself lies with the Candidate or the Partner Universities, depending on the Rules of Intellectual Property of the Partner Universities.

### 16 Personal Data of the Candidate

The Partner Universities in this Agreement have a responsibility to ensure that the Personal Data of the Candidate that will be subject to Data Processing are accurate and up-to-date, and will be well protected as required under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation, ‘GDPR’).

[if necessary due to regulations at one of the partner universities, further details can be added here.]

### 17 Financial arrangements

Contributions to the expenses of the doctoral candidate that are related to the doctoral programme and/or to the doctoral defence, are agreed upon by mutual written consent of all parties. A budget including travel expenses, printing costs and other costs is added to this agreement as an appendix. Each partner will cover its own financial costs pertaining to the defence, unless otherwise stipulated in the written consent.

[The above shall be adjusted if the doctoral project is part of an externally funded framework project which includes funding for the doctoral research.]

### 18 Disputes and applicable law

The Agreement shall be in every respect understood and operated as an Agreement made in [insert country] and according to [insert reference to country] Law. <note: normally reference should be made to the law of the country of the home university. In the event of a defence taking place in the country of

the partner university, this may lead to discussions, but the experience shows that reference to the country of the home university is accepted.>

In the event an issue arises that is not covered by this Agreement, the Partners shall make all reasonable efforts to settle disputes in an amicable way or find a solution through consultation [additional reference to relevant committee of a framework agreement / externally funded project can be inserted here if relevant, otherwise delete].

Any disputes that remain unsolved shall be heard exclusively by the competent court in [insert country as above].

## **19 Validity of the agreement**

This Agreement is drawn up in [specify number of copies and for whom / alternatively specify digital form], which have binding legal force.

This Agreement shall be effective as and from the date of its execution by the authorised representative of each Partner University and shall be valid until the thesis will be orally defended.

This Agreement can be modified or terminated by mutual consent of the Partner Universities with at least 12 months advanced by written notice. Arrangements will be made for the Candidate to complete the research.

## **20 Appendices**

The following appendices are an integral part of this agreement:

- (i) List relevant documents such as doctoral statutes of both partner universities,
- (ii) Short description of the doctoral project
- (iii) Research agenda of an overall (externally funded) project to which the doctoral project belongs
- (iv) ...

[Logo recruiting institution]

[Logo partner institution]

Signed,

**[Name Home University]**

[Title of the formal representative, e.g. Rector]

[Name representative]

**[Name Partner University]**

[Title of the formal representative, e.g. Rector]

[Name representative]

Signature

Signature

Place, date

Place, date

**[Details of faculty representative, e.g. Dean]**

[Name representative]

**[Details of faculty representative, e.g. Dean]**

[Name representative]

Signature

Signature

Place, date

Place, date

**[Details of supervisor]**

[Name supervisor]

**[Details of supervisor]**

[Name supervisor]

Signature

Signature

Place, date

Place, date

**Doctoral Candidate**

Name Doctoral Candidate

Signature

Place, date

Agreement for the Joint supervision of the Doctoral thesis of [insert name of candidate] [under <add framework agreement / funding scheme if relevant>]