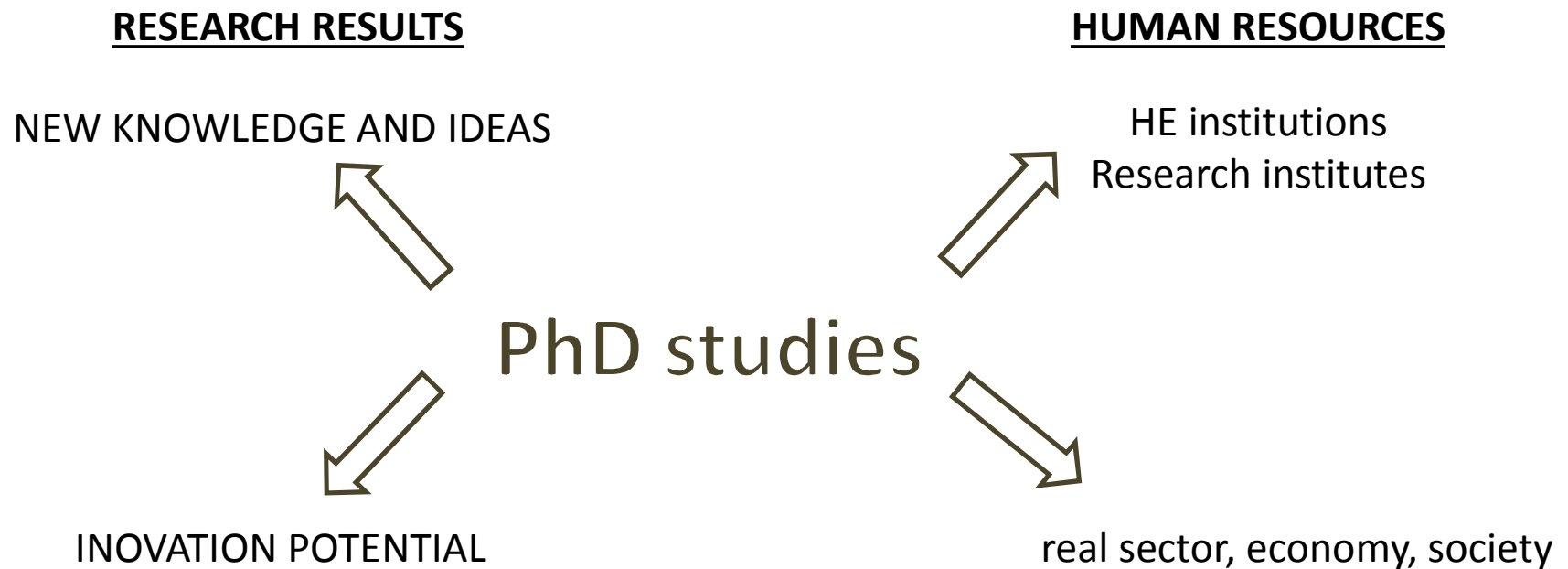


# Restructuring Doctoral Studies in Serbia

## Doctoral Schools some inputs for discussion

*Radmila Marinković-Nedućin*

## SPECIAL ROLE OF PhD CYCLE



## DOCTORAL SCHOOLS IN EHEA

**recognizable term** for organizational unit meeting

**common challenges in doctoral training in Europe:**

- quality and efficiency of PhD studies based on original research
- support to the students and staff in realizing specific demands in original research projects based on ethical principles and responsibility;
- cooperation and networking of young researchers in global environment;
- gaining knowledge and skills necessary for future carrier in academic and other sectors;
- contacts with the broader environment outside academia and job market during PhD studies

## IS THERE A NEED OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DOCTORAL SCHOOLS IN SERBIA?

- Analysis of PD studies in Serbia (comprehensive, published)
- Analysis of European experiences and practices
- Strategy of education in Serbia 2020 (adopted)
- **Strategy of scientific and technology development of Republic of Serbia in the period 2016-2020 (proposal, November 2015)**

## IS THERE A STANDARD/OPTIMAL FORM AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DOCTORAL SCHOOLS?

- **NO** – the answer is based on the analysis of a broad spectra of European experiences and HE systems, as well as on the analysis of overall parameters and identified problems in HE in Serbia

BASIC CONCEPT

HARMONIZATION OF GOALS INSTEAD OF STANDARDIZATION

## Legal basis for DS in Serbia?

- Law on higher education (LHE) defines the accredited PhD programs as the prerequisite for university accreditation;
- LHE defines the institutional rights to define its own organizational structure;
- The university and faculty statutes define different organizational units in specific areas, their scope and responsibilities;
- Joint degrees are defined in LHE as possibility for inter-institution defined and performed programs .

**No legal restriction for formation of doctoral schools as institutional unit in Serbian academic area**

## Common components of doctoral schools established on different institutional levels

- realization of accredited PhD study programs (already established or new initiatives );
- common quality standards and procedures ;
- continuous monitoring of the results and reporting to the university/faculty bodies;
- optimization of human and infrastructural resources in PhD program realization;
- additional doctoral training program:
  - ✓ courses in selected research fields, fostering participation of staff from different institutions based on national/international cooperation
  - ✓ courses/seminars/workshops directed to transferable skills
  - ✓ contacts with industry/business/job market

### CERTIFICATE ON DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM



*Tempus RODOS, BOKU Round Table, December 2015*



## ON WHICH LEVEL DOCTORAL ACHOOLS COULD BE ESTABLISHED?

*BASIC PRINCIPLE: harmonization versus standardization*

### FLEXIBLE STRUCTURE REFLECTING THE STRATEGY, MISSION AND VISION OF THE INSTITUTION :

- UNIVERSITY LEVEL– WITH EMPHASIS ON INTER- AND MULTIDUSCIPLINARY PROGRAMS
  - INTER-UNIVERSITY LEVEL– joint degrees (Law HE, **Article 23**)
  - FACULTY LEVEL
  - INTER-FACULTY LEVEL
- 
- Recognition of DS in new HE Law and new standards for joint diplomas could contribute to the retaliation of the basic goals



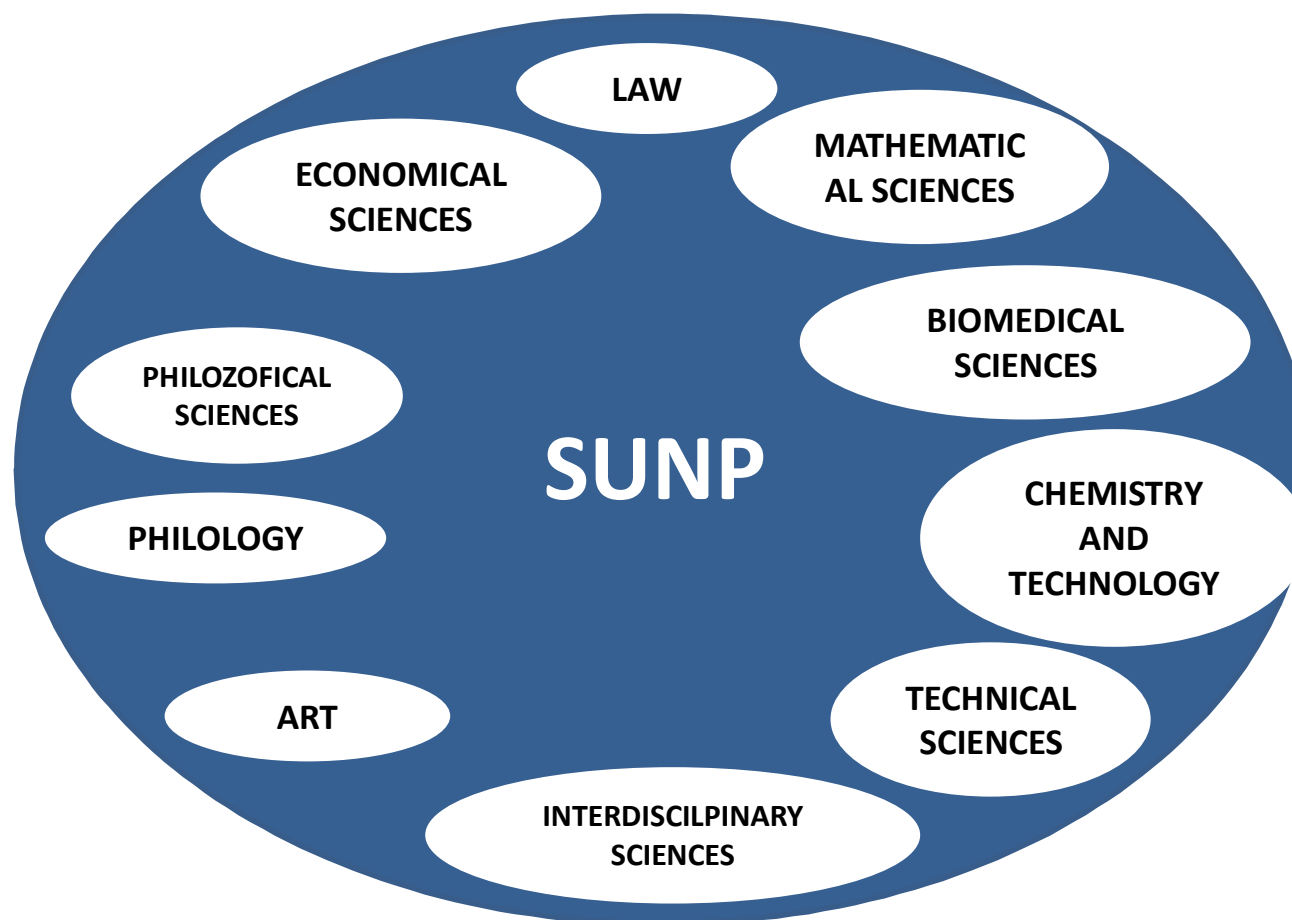
# EXAMPLE

## *DOCTORAL SCHOOL AS AN INSTITUTIONAL UNIT ON INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY*

*Ćemal Dolićanin*  
*State University of Novi Pazar*

# STATE UNIVERSITY OF NOVI PAZAR

Integrated university base on  
DEPARTMENTS



# DOCTORAL STUDIES

## ACRREDITED PhD PROGRAMS

BIOTEHNOLOGY (2010)

ARCHITECTURE (2010)

ECONOMY (2013)

MATHEMATICS (2013)

COMPUTER SCIENCES (2013)

SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
(2013)

# DOCTORAL SCHOOL

## Goals and Advantages

- **Integration of university resources** in increasing the quality, efficiency and transparency in PhD cycle;
- **Creation of an adequate research environment** / critical mass of researchers;
- **Fostering the cooperation between various disciplines** - supporting intr- and multidisciplinary research projects;
- The **supervision/mentoring quality assurance**;
- Realization of **doctoral training program** as added value;
- **Improving the environment for realization of joint programs** with national and international partners

# DOCTORAL SCHOOL INSTITUTIONAL UNIT

## LEGAL BACKGRUOND

**LHE**

**SUNP STATUTE**

**Article 30.**

The organisational units or University are:

- departments;
- centres;....

as well as other units, based on the decision of University Senate and University Council.

# EXAMPLE

## Obligatory/common courses

- Methodology of research work
- Application of IC methods and techniques in research work
- and result interpretation
- Scientific communication and presentation of the research results

## Research field oriented course

- Selected in relation to the research project in cooperation with the mentor

## Courses, seminars and workshops - transferable skills

## PhD institutional bodies – some possibilities

### **DOCTORAL COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY/FACULTY**

organization and monitoring of PhD studies; analysis and reporting on the results; proposal on quality standards and quality monitoring; proposal of new PhD programs and doctoral training program; appointment of PhD thesis Review Committee and consideration of their report.....

### **Executive Body – Director**

**The Office of Doctoral School** responsible for the administrative management

**ADVISORY BOARD** – participation of representatives of economy, business and other the real sectors for continuous feedback

## STUDENT PATH

### key phases in successful accomplishment of PhD studies

- introduction to methodology, ethical principles and responsibility in research;
- definition of the goals and priorities in the early phase of research;
- selection and processing of the relevant literature data;
- adopting the own strategy of research and time planning;
- team work and networking in a broader research community;
- evaluation of the results, directing further research and solving inevitable dilemmas and problems in continuous contacts with the supervisor;
- defining the strategy in writing and publishing of research results in global research environment;
- planning the future carrier based on the knowledge and skills gained and the contacts with economy, business and society.....



## **STUDENTS IN THE CENTER OF CONCERN:**

**Motivation of PhD students is high, but the overall goals relatively foggy and the path to the expected results not sufficiently structured, dilemmas, obstacles and traps being always a part of the original research work.**

**Doctoral schools – structured support to the students for achieving expected results .....**

Remainder on relevant events concerning doctoral school concept:

1. Study visit to Technical University of Crete, September 2014; special session: PhD Studies/ European Experiences - Some Examples
2. Common meeting of National Council for Higher Education and National Council for Research and Technology Development, Belgrade, December 2014. (opened to academic and research community, more than 100 participants)
3. The study visit to BOKU University, December 2014; special session devoted to the structure, programme and additional facilities offered by Doctoral Schools
4. TREND 2015 Conference, Zlatibor, February, 2015; the papers *QUALITY ASSURANCE IN DOCTORAL STUDIES: DOCTORAL SCHOOLS and WHY SERBIA NEEDS DOCTORAL SCHOOLS? POTENTIAL MODELS* (authors RODOS team members) presented
5. Study Visit to Gent University, March 2015) specially focused to the experiences of Gent University Doctoral School, as an example of additional Doctoral Training Programme,
6. Meeting on the University of Novi Sad (April 3 , 2015), with all Serbian consortium members representatives, being opened to academic and wider community
7. Meeting organized in the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia (Belgrade, April 23, 2015)
8. Workshop „Oil industry and higher education“, National petroleum committee of Serbia of World Petroleum Concil, Belgrade, June 2015
9. Meeting organized in the Chamber of Commerce of Kragujevac, June 2015
10. Tempus RODOS MB meeting, Technical University of Crete, September 2015.
11. Meeting organized in the Chamber of Commerce of Nis, September 2015
12. Presentation „Doctoral Schools – a New Approach in Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies“ on WBCInno2015 International Conference, Novi Sad, September 2015.
13. Invited lecture “ Doctoral schools -concepts and application”, prof.dr. S. Stankovic, SENSEIVER 2015 International Conference, University of Novi Sad, October 2015.