



INGENIUM
European University

Deliverable 6.1

Regulations for the INGENIUM Research School

Work package 6 – INGENIUM for research

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Document information

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Description of the deliverable (3-5 lines)	The regulation of the INGENIUM Doctoral School, now called the INGENIUM Research School Board (IRSB), sets the requirements and procedures for establishing Joint Doctorate Programmes and the joint supervision of PhD theses. Therefore, it also establishes the conditions for awarding Joint and International PhD degrees.
Key words	Joint PhD Programms, PhD Theses, Joint supervision

Document history

Date	Version	Prepared by	Description
30/09/2023	final	INGENIUM research school Board	Final

Definitions & Acronyms

Definition/Acronym (in alphabetical order)	
IRSB	INGENIUM Research School Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary/abstract, including introduction to the context/objectives.

The regulation governing the INGENIUM Doctoral School, which has been renamed the INGENIUM Research School Board (IRSB), specifically delineates the criteria and processes required for the creation of Joint Doctorate Programmes and the collaborative oversight of PhD theses. Therefore, this regulation also lays out the foundational conditions necessary for the conferment of Joint and International PhD degrees. These stipulations ensure that the standards for academic excellence and international collaboration are met, facilitating a structured and uniform approach to doctoral education across the institutions involved in these programs.

DESCRIPTION, METHODOLOGY AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Description, including methodology applied, constraints faced, pathway towards results and results actually obtained.

The regulation has been collaboratively drafted through a series of email exchanges and two key online meetings, which were held in July and September of 2023. This methodical approach allowed for extensive input and revisions from all INGENIUM partner involved. During the meetings, participants discussed various aspects of the regulation, refining its content to ensure clarity and effectiveness in meeting its intended purposes. The final outcome of this process is a comprehensive set of guidelines that not only establish the operational framework for Joint Doctorate Programmes and the supervision of PhD theses but also set the standards for awarding Joint and International PhD degrees. This collaborative and iterative drafting process has resulted in regulations that are well-informed and robust, effectively reflecting the collective expertise and objectives of the academic community involved.

Discussion of the final outcome, in compararison to the DoA objectives (including, IF ANY, deviations from the DoA and contingency plans/measures activated.

The final outcome of the regulation drafting process has largely met the initial objectives outlined in the Description of Action (DoA). The established guidelines provide a clear and effective framework for managing Joint Doctorate Programmes and supervising PhD theses, in alignment with the goals to enhance collaborative academic efforts and maintain high standards of doctoral education. However, there were minor deviations from the DoA, primarily related to the adaptability of the guidelines across different academic environments in partner countries. To address these discrepancies, contingency plans were activated that involved further refinements to the regulations, ensuring that they remain flexible and applicable across diverse educational systems.

Additionally, the name of the doctoral school was changed from 'INGENIUM Doctoral School' to 'INGENIUM Research School Board (IRSB)' due to specific challenges encountered in some of the partner countries. In these countries, there were already existing entities known as 'doctoral schools,' and to avoid overlap and confusion, a unique and distinct name was necessary. This change not only resolved potential conflicts but also reinforced the identity and distinctiveness of the program within the international academic community. This strategic renaming ensures clarity and distinct positioning in the global educational landscape, aiding in the recognition and reputation of the IRSB

1. Regulation of the INGENIUM Research school Board

Art I. Introduction

This regulation delineates the foundational structure for the INGENIUM Research School, a pivotal institution within the INGENIUM European Alliance (henceforth referred to as "the Alliance"). The Research School serves as an essential hub for the assessment of cooperative Ph.D. programs, including joint, double, multiple Ph.D. programs, and co-supervision agreements. It also promotes collaborative research, cultivates academic excellence, and facilitates the mobility and cooperation between various research groups across the Alliance. The primary objective of the INGENIUM Research School is to create a dynamic and innovative environment that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers. By bringing together expertise from various partner universities, the INGENIUM Research School aims to enhance the quality and impact of doctoral education and research within the Alliance. Furthermore, through the INGENIUM Research School, doctoral researchers have access to a wide range of resources, opportunities, and support mechanisms. These include specialized training programs, workshops, seminars, and networking events that promote the acquisition of advanced research skills, critical thinking, and effective communication. The INGENIUM Research School also fosters the development of transferable skills, such as project management, leadership, and entrepreneurship, to prepare researchers for diverse career paths in academia, industry, and beyond. These resources, opportunities, and support mechanisms will be available to all doctoral researchers pursuing any PhD program delivered at the partner institutions. However, priority will be given to doctoral researchers enrolled in Joint/Double/Multiple INGENIUM PhD programs. The INGENIUM Research School actively encourages mobility and cooperation between research groups within the Alliance. It facilitates exchanges, collaborations, and joint research projects among researchers, fostering a vibrant and interconnected research community. The INGENIUM Research School serves as a catalyst for advancing doctoral education and research excellence within the Alliance. Through its initiatives and support mechanisms, the INGENIUM Research School aims to develop a new generation of highly skilled researchers equipped to tackle complex societal challenges and drive progress in their chosen areas of study.

Art II. Composition of the INGENIUM Research School Board

The establishment of the INGENIUM Research School Board within the Alliance serves as a cornerstone for effective governance, guidance, and quality assurance of the research programs within the Alliance. The Board will be composed of a representative of each of the partner Universities.

Section 2.01 Membership: The Board members are selected based on their internationally recognized research track record and successful supervision of PhD students to completion. To maintain a smooth functioning of the Board, each partner university nominates a faculty member with expertise in doctoral education and research. In case of the representative's absence, they have the option to delegate a colleague from their

university who possesses the necessary expertise and knowledge to participate effectively. This provision ensures continuity and seamless operations even in situations of temporary absence or scheduling conflicts.

Section 2.02 Chairperson: The Board appoints a chairperson from among its members to lead and facilitate the meetings and activities of the Board. The chairperson is responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the Board are met, and that discussions and decision-making processes are conducted in a fair and constructive manner. The role of the chairperson encompasses various responsibilities. They preside over the meetings, setting the agenda, and ensuring that all relevant topics are discussed. The chairperson facilitates productive discussions, encourage active participation from all members, and promote a collaborative and inclusive environment where diverse perspectives are valued. Additionally, the chairperson oversees the implementation of decisions made by the Board, ensuring that they are effectively carried out and monitored. The chairperson also represents the Board in relevant external meetings or events, acting as a liaison between the Board and external stakeholders. The chairperson can receive valuable support from the WP6 coordinator to ensure a thorough and up-to-date understanding of all the activities planned within the WP that involve the INGENIUM Research School Board. This collaborative procedure enables all members of the INGENIUM Research School Board to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the chairperson when necessary. The chairperson is elected by a majority among the Board members and serves a maximum term of two years. This allows for the rotation of different members in this leadership role, enabling them to contribute their distinct perspectives and leadership styles. The chairperson's position may be subject to reappointment. Together with the chairperson, a deputy chairperson is also nominated. The deputy chairperson acts on behalf of the chairperson in case the chairperson is not available.

Art III. Objectives and Aims

The INGENIUM Research School of the INGENIUM European Alliance is guided by the following objectives and aims:

Section 3.01 Promotion of Collaborative Research: the INGENIUM Research School serves as a catalyst for fostering collaborative research by nurturing interdisciplinary approaches, facilitating knowledge exchange, and emphasizing the integration of education, research, and innovation.

Section 3.02 Academic Excellence: The INGENIUM Research School is committed to maintaining the highest academic standards in doctoral education and research, based on disciplinary standards, accreditation requirements, and the specific goals and objectives of the doctoral programs or involved institutions. It aims to provide a stimulating and intellectually challenging environment that nurtures the development of critical thinking, research skills, and scholarly competence.

Section 3.03 Facilitation of Mobility and Cooperation: The INGENIUM Research School plays a pivotal role in coordinating research cooperation and fostering the interlinkage between research and education. It places a special emphasis on the development of

third cycle programs. Moreover, the INGENIUM Research School actively promotes and facilitates the mobility of doctoral students, as well as encouraging collaboration among research groups within the Alliance. It strives to facilitate exchanges, research visits, and joint activities among partner universities to cultivate a vibrant cross-pollination of ideas and foster synergistic collaborations.

Section 3.04 Contribution to Sustainable Development: Research activities should align with Agenda 2030 principles, goals and targets as outlined by the United Nations. This ensures that the research contributes to the broader global agenda, addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges underpinned by a human rights approach.

Section 3.05 Professional Development: The INGENIUM Research School supports the professional development of doctoral students, equipping them with transferable skills, research ethics, and responsible conduct of research. It facilitates opportunities for career exploration, networking, and engagement with the wider academic and professional communities.

Art IV. Responsibilities of the Board

The INGENIUM Research School Board is entrusted with the following responsibilities, that applies into the INGENIUM Alliance:

Section 4.01 Evaluation of Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program proposals: The INGENIUM Research School assumes a critical role in the evaluation process of Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program proposals within the Alliance. Its primary objective is to ensure that the proposed programs are in alignment with the overarching goals and objectives of the Alliance. Moreover, it meticulously assesses whether the programs meet the necessary academic standards and provide substantial opportunities for collaboration among the partner universities. A particular emphasis is placed on addressing the social impact of research, as well as emphasizing sustainability, ethics and research integrity.

Section 4.02 Development and implementation of Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program: The Board is responsible for contributing to the development and review of policies, guidelines, and regulations pertaining to the Joint/Double/Multiple doctoral programs offered within the Alliance. It ensures that these programs are in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Alliance. The involved institutions bear the responsibility of ensuring that the Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. programs meet national and local requirements.

Section 4.03 Development and implementation of Ph.D. Students' Co-Supervisions: The Board is responsible for facilitating the development of co-supervision systems that align with the goals and objectives of the Alliance. Under this system, the doctoral student is enrolled at one INGENIUM institution (home institutions) and is co-supervised by two thesis supervisors: one from the home institution and the other from another INGENIUM institution. This co-supervision system offers several advantages for doctoral students, including dual supervision, opportunities for international mobility, access to the resources of both institutions, and the expansion of their professional network, among others. Section 4.04 Excellence and Innovation of PhD programs: The Board organizes at

least 2 series of short, specialized training courses, including training in transversal skills and competences, that will be delivered each academic year, relying on on-line resources to involve participants from the 10 partner Universities. These courses are meticulously designed to provide targeted training and knowledge enhancement in areas essential to their research. By offering these courses, the INGENIUM Research School ensures that PhD candidates receive comprehensive and tailored education, equipping them with the necessary skills and expertise required for their respective fields.

Section 4.05 Joint research groups. The Alliance supports the establishment of joint research groups through competitive calls for applications, which will be open to groups of researchers from at least three INGENIUM partner institutions. Each call for application will provide detailed information on eligible activities, selection criteria, the types of costs that can be funded, and the collaborative budget management procedures adopted by the participating institutions. The INGENIUM Research School will approve the proposals.

Art V. Meetings and Decision-Making

Section 5.01 Meeting Frequency: The Board will meet at least twice a year to approve and oversee the PhD programs to be delivered each year, discuss and make decisions on matters related to the activities organized and supervised by the INGENIUM Research School. The Board meetings will be convened with at least a six-week notice period. Additionally, the meeting agenda, which outlines the topics to be discussed and any materials to be reviewed, will be circulated to all Board members at least 14 days prior to the scheduled meeting to allow them to contribute effectively during the meeting and offer valuable insights on the agenda items. The meeting Agenda will be proposed by the Chairperson the INGENIUM Research School Board and will be approved by all members at least one week in advance. Ad-hoc online meetings are allowed when urgent matters may appear.

Section 5.02 Quorum: For the validity of the Board meetings, the presence of representatives from at least 80% of the partner universities is required. Section

5.03 Decision-Making: The Board endeavors to achieve consensus for decisions whenever possible. If disagreements arise, voting procedures may be invoked, with each partner university being allocated one vote. Decisions are finalized if they receive the agreement of the absolute majority (50%+1) of the entire alliance, not just the majority of those present.

Art VI. Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program within the INGENIUM European Alliance

Section 6.01 Requirements of a Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program

(a) Program Proposal: The establishment of a Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program within the Alliance should be proposed jointly by at least three partner universities. The proposal should outline the collaborative research areas, objectives, and expected outcomes of the program.

(b) Duration of the Program: The Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program should have a defined duration, taking into consideration the national rules of the proposing partners.

(c) Research Mobility: The Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program should incorporate a provision for research mobility. This provision would encourage Ph.D. students to spend a minimum duration of six months in mobility settings. This mobility period will allow students to access specialized facilities, resources, and expertise relevant to their research projects. To facilitate transnational cooperation and address the additional costs associated with such collaborations, the Alliance offers, if available, support for mobility.

(d) Societal impact: Doctorate programs are actively encouraged to establish collaborations with social or industrial partners. In line with the commitment to sustainability, Joint/Double/Multiple PhD programs are expected to actively promote and prioritize sustainability in their research and educational endeavors. By doing so, these programs aim to cultivate a generation of scholars equipped to tackle global challenges and make meaningful contributions to a more sustainable future. Emphasizing sustainability within the Joint/Double/Multiple PhD programs aligns with the Alliance's broader goals of addressing environmental, social, and economic concerns through research and innovation.

(e) Joint supervision: Each Ph.D. student enrolled in the Joint/Double/Multiple Ph.D. program should have at least one primary supervisor and one co-supervisor from two different participating Universities. The supervisors should provide guidance, support, and ensure effective communication and collaboration between the partner universities. The names of the supervisors shall be specified in the individual annex.

(f) Home Institution: One of the partner institutions shall be designated as the "home institution." The "home institution" of the doctoral program is the institution with which the doctoral program is officially affiliated. The remaining institutions shall serve as "host institutions."

Section 6.02 Program Proposal and Structure When preparing a proposal for a Joint/Double/Multiple PhD program, it is necessary to define the following aspects based on the national and local regulations of the participating partners:

- Objectives and Scope
- Consortium Partners
- Admission and Selection Procedures
- Curriculum and Research Plan
- Supervision and Mentoring
- Mobility and Exchange
- Quality Assurance and Evaluation
- Degree Awarding
- Financial Support

Dissemination and Impact Proposals for Joint/Double/Multiple PhD programs should be submitted to the INGENIUM research school board by the representative of the proposing

institution at least two months prior to the scheduled INGENIUM research school board meeting for approval.

Art VII. Amendments and Review

This regulation for the INGENIUM Research School Board of the Alliance may be amended or revised as necessary by mutual agreement among the partner universities. Any changes to the regulation will be communicated to the Board members in a timely manner.

CONCLUSION

The regulation serves as a foundational framework that will enable partner universities within the INGENIUM Research School to significantly enhance their research collaborations. By establishing clear guidelines and structures for joint, double, and multiple Ph.D. programs, as well as co-supervision agreements, the regulation facilitates a more coordinated approach to academic partnerships and scholarly exchanges.

Annex 1.

Annex 1. Matrix to be used by partners to list and to monitor the progress of their key institutional priorities related to the deliverable.

Institutional transformation objectives	<i>This deliverable might help partner universities boost their internationalization strategies.</i>
Barriers faced to achieve those objectives at the institutional level	<i>Establishing new PhD programs comes with a financial burden, as in most countries PhD students are paid.</i>
Potential Actions to be taken at the institutional level	<i>Push the governance to invest money in joint PhD programs.</i>
Actions to be taken at other levels	<i>Joint degrees are feasible in Italy, so no action is required from the government.</i>
Responsible(s) within the institution	<i>All PhD program coordinators and the director of the advanced school for doctoral studies should be involved.</i>
Expected timeline and key milestones	<i>We aim to establish four Joint/Double/Multiple PhD programs by the end of the funding period, with the first one expected to start in November 2025. Push the governance to invest money on joint PhD programs</i>