

E³UDRES² Joint P(h)D Schools / Programmes & other Joint Doctoral activities

Open Call for collaboration

1. Introduction

As stated in the adopted E³UDRES² research strategy¹, the alliance aims to develop motivating framework conditions for academic careers, in line with the European Research Area², with the Recommendation on Attractive and Sustainable Careers in Higher Education³, and with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers⁴. Joint doctoral programmes in our alliance can make a significant contribution to this. These joint programmes, should be thematically related to the E³UDRES² focus areas, and expand P(h)D offers for those partners that are already legally allowed to award P(h)Ds. Above all, however, joint E³UDRES² doctoral programmes also enable those young researchers who do not have the opportunity to get a P(h)D at their home university, mainly due to national legal restrictions, to gain access to this advanced scientific degree. Moreover, specific training and qualification courses for P(h)D students and young researchers pursuing a doctorate should be offered within E³UDRES².

This call invites proposals to:

- (i) open existing courses to doctoral-level students within the E³UDRES² Alliance;
- (ii) promote co-supervision and other joint activities that expand access for researchers from partners without P(h)D degrees awarding powers;
- (iii) establish new, innovative joint doctoral programmes or schools aligned with the E³UDRES² focus areas.

The objective assumed by the E³UDRES² alliance is to establish 2-4 joint P(h)D schools / programmes based on E³UDRES² shared values, principles, methodologies and co-operation across the alliance.

The joint E³UDRES² concept & policy for doctoral studies⁵ in the scope to organize joint P(h)D schools or programmes involving different E³UDRES² partners, also including experts from universities without P(h)D awarding right has been developed by the WP4 sub-group as Milestone Document MS16 in June 2025 and has been approved by the E³UDRES² Executive Board.

¹ https://eudres.eu/assets/files/deliverables_phase_2/eudres_ms13_research_strategy.pdf

² <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/>

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/11/25/council-adopts-recommendation-on-attractive-and-sustainable-careers-in-higher-education/>

⁴ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/hrexcellenceaward/european-charter-researchers>

⁵ https://eudres.eu/assets/files/deliverables_phase_2/eudres_ms16_doctoral-studies-concept.pdf

The starting point and guiding principles of this Call, as stated in the joint E³UDRES² concept & policy for doctoral studies are:

- the mapped situation and doctoral study programmes conditions across partners' national systems
- the mapped partners' experience & capacity
- the established criteria, characteristics, model & rules, variable scope of partners' support and engagement, including financing and mobility model
- the identified feasible fields within the focus areas, agreements on lead universities and other partners' engagement
- the established framework for the development of concrete programmes

2. Scope of the Call

The goal of the present Call is to formalize and to collect activities at different levels and to provide support, especially for those that have the potential to help E³UDRES² to fulfill the KPI goal of implementing 2-4 joint doctoral schools/programmes.

There is no limit on the maximum number of proposals that can be selected according to this Call. The proposals for joint P(h)D Schools or Programmes will be evaluated and selected for their consistency with the requirements specified in the *E³UDRES² doctoral studies concept & policy* document, by the Work Package 4 team together with the members of the E³UDRES² Scientific Council and will receive feedback on the quality status and on the steps needed for further action.

3. Types of joint doctoral collaboration covered by the Call

According to the findings in the *E³UDRES² doctoral studies concept & policy*, the following possibilities have been identified for strengthening or starting joint P(h)D activities within E³UDRES²:

- *Joint coordination of P(h)D thesis in co-supervision*
- *Joint participation in international juries for P(h)D thesis defense*
- *Joint offer for general/specialised topics in doctoral research*
- *Development of Joint P(h)D programmes*
- *Development of Joint P(h)D schools*

Discussions (mainly on a bilateral or trilateral basis) have already started within the E³UDRES² Alliance regarding some of the activities mentioned earlier.

a) Joint coordination of P(h)D thesis in co-supervision

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	Proposals should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University that awards doctoral degree and type of degree (PhD, PD, etc) & name of the main supervisor • Collaborating universities & name(s) of co-supervisor(s)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal status of the supervisor(s): e.g. hold habilitation for conducting P(h)D researches or not (is that necessary or not); member of a doctoral school / research centre with the right to award doctoral degrees (details needed) • Field of doctoral studies, envisaged period • Subject of the thesis, if already established
Deadline for submission	<p><i>Continuous submission</i></p> <p>The purpose is to collect all initiatives, assess their feasibility and provide possible support at the E³UDRES² level</p> <p>No specific application form required.</p>

b) Joint participation in international juries for P(h)D thesis defense

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	<p>Proposals should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University that awards doctoral degree and type of degree (PhD, PD, etc) • Name of the P(h)D student that defends his/her thesis & name of the main supervisor • Collaborating universities & name(s) of the member(s) in the thesis defense jury • Field of doctoral studies & subject of the thesis • Date, language(s) and place of the thesis defense
Deadline for submission	<p><i>Continuous submission</i></p> <p>The purpose is to collect all initiatives, assess their feasibility and provide possible support at the E³UDRES² level. Multilingualism is encouraged.</p> <p>No specific application form required.</p>

c) Expressions of interest for participation in joint international juries for P(h)D thesis defense

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	<p>Proposals should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and university of the person that is willing to serve in joint international juries • Qualification to serve in such juries: P(h)D supervisor in his own university / holder of habilitation / other equivalent qualification or experience • Field of doctoral studies / research in which he/she can serve in joint juries • Language(s) in which he/she can contribute
Deadline for submission	<p><i>Continuous submission</i></p> <p>The purpose is to establish a database of researchers able and willing to participate in joint international juries for P(h)D thesis defense, in order to provide E³UDRES² partners with the needed information to select a jury member.</p> <p>No specific application form required.</p>



d) Joint offer for specialized topics in doctoral research

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	Proposals should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University that awards doctoral degree and type of degree (PhD, PD etc) • List of offers for specialized topics in doctoral research made by the main university that awards the P(h)D diploma • List of offers for specialized topics in doctoral research made by other E³UDRES² partner universities that do not hold the legal right to award P(h)D titles • Field of doctoral studies for each offer
Deadline for submission	<i>Continuous submission</i> The purpose is to collect all initiatives, assess their feasibility, help matching collaboration and to provide possible support at E ³ UDRES ² level. Multilingualism is encouraged. No specific application form required.

e) Offer of general and specialized joint-courses/trainings/lectures at doctoral level

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	Proposals should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University that offers joint courses/lectures at doctoral level or opens-up local online/hybrid offers also to doctoral students from other E³UDRES² universities • List of offers for general or specialized topics in doctoral research (research methodologies, academic writing – in English, research ethics, open science / open access publishing, research data management, use of Artificial Intelligence tools etc), including a short description of the objectives, learning outcomes, ECTS attached • Proposed tutor/mentor and means of delivery • Language(s) of the course(s)
Deadline for submission	<i>Continuous submission</i> The purpose is to collect all initiatives, assess their feasibility, create a bank of topics provided by E ³ UDRES ² partners, and provide possible support at E ³ UDRES ² level for the inclusion of those offers into ARENA. Multilingualism is encouraged. No specific application form required.

f) Development of E³UDRES² Joint P(h)D programmes

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	Proposals should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E³UDRES² universities involved in the proposal: university/universities legally awarding the P(h)D title, partner universities (specific role) • Field of doctoral studies for the proposed programme • Names and CVs of the main P(h)D supervisors involved • Names and CVs of the co-supervisors involved • Prove of registration in the E³UDRES² Bank of Researchers of all those involved in the proposal
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for helping new researchers to get the habilitation for conducting P(h)D research or other additional qualification needed • Description of the proposed curricula or content of the programme and expected outcomes • Means of delivery (fully onsite, hybrid, fully online, other) • Envisaged area to attract P(h)D students for the programme • Envisaged financial support for course development and/or for possible mobilities (students and/or academic staff) • Language(s) of the programme(s). Multilingualism is encouraged.
Deadline for submission	<p>05 April 2026</p> <p>The goal is to collect proposals in time to organize a discussion at the E³UDRES² General Assembly meeting at JAMK (22-23 April 2026).</p>
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals have to be submitted using the <i>Application Form</i> provided in this Call. • Evaluation of the proposals will be conducted by the Work Package 4 team members for eligibility and by the members of the E³UDRES² Scientific Council to assess their consistency with the requirements specified in the <i>E³UDRES² doctoral studies concept & policy</i> document (feasibility check) • There is no maximum limit on the number of accepted proposals • All proposals will receive feedback on the quality status. The ones accepted by the Scientific Council will also receive guidance on the steps needed for further action.

g) Other Joint activities at doctoral level

Proposed E³UDRES² joint P(h)D activity structure	<p>Proposals should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the joint activity envisaged (e.g. P(h)D Summer/Autumn/Winter School, Visiting Research mobilities, Short-term Guest lectures, Block courses or Guest talks for doctoral students - gaining research/teaching experience abroad etc.) • Universities involved and their roles • List of staff involved and their role • Academic discipline(s) and scientific topics • Language(s) for delivery. Multilingualism is encouraged. • Any other relevant information
Deadline for submission	<p><i>Continuous submission</i></p> <p>The purpose is to collect initiatives in order to provide E³UDRES² support. No specific application form required.</p>

4. Submission of Applications

The application form for Joint P(h)D programmes has to be completed and sent via email to office@eudres.eu by 5th of April 2026.

For any inquiries, please contact radu.vasiu@upt.ro.

5. Evaluation of applications

The submitted applications will be evaluated in two steps:

5.1. Eligibility evaluation

The evaluation of the proposal eligibility will be done by the E³UDRES² WP4 team according to the following criteria:

Field of doctoral studies aligned with E3UDRES2 priority areas	Yes / No
E ³ UDRES ² university legally entitled to award the P(h)D title (lead partner)	Yes / No
Partnership between at least two E ³ UDRES ² universities	Yes / No
Supervisor(s), legally entitled to conduct doctoral research in the envisaged doctoral field – minimum one	Yes / No
Co-supervisor(s) from different E ³ UDRES ² universities – minimum one from another E ³ UDRES ² university than the supervisor	Yes / No
Existence of a structured programme, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - defined roles for all partners' involvement (e.g. Supervision agreement, joint training etc.) - description of the curricula or content of the programme - description of the expected outcomes - description of the envisaged delivery mode (onsite, online, hybrid), envisaged support for doctoral students and/or staff - language(s) for delivery 	Yes / No

5.2. Feasibility evaluation

The feasibility evaluation of the eligible proposals will be done by the E³UDRES² Scientific Council according to the following criteria:

Quality and credibility of the proposed partnership (E ³ UDRES ² participants and possible other associated participants) – <i>application form sections 1.2, 1.3, 2.1. – 2.4</i>	Max. 20 points
Quality of the proposed team involved in the proposal: international visibility and performances of the doctoral supervisors and co-supervisors – <i>application form sections 3.1. – 3.4</i>	Max. 40 points
Quality of the description for the proposed programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field of research aligned with the E³UDRES² priority areas - Clear roles for all partners' involvement - Coherence and quality of the curricula or content of the programme 	Max. 40 points

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quality of the expected outcomes, their relevance and credibility for obtaining them- Coherence of the envisaged delivery mode (onsite, online, hybrid)- Envisaged support for doctoral students and/or staff- Language(s) for delivery <p><i>Application form sections 1.1, 1.4, 4.1 – 4.3.</i></p>	
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There is no minimum threshold for accepting the proposals. All eligible proposals will receive feedback on their quality and will receive further guidance from the WP4 team and the Scientific Council to develop their plans.

The ranking will only indicate how feasible the proposal is at this stage, in order to become one of the E³UDRES² joint doctoral programmes to be included in the E³UDRES² final KPIs in 2027.