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## European Doctoral School for the Human and Social Sciences

### The project

Four European universities with solid experience in advanced doctoral and post-doctoral studies in the human sciences have decided to establish a European Doctoral School for the Human and Social Sciences.

The partner institutions are the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) and the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) in Paris, the Humboldt Universität in Berlin and the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM) in Florence.

It is envisaged that participation in the project may be extended to other universities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Iberian peninsula and Scandinavia.

The goal is not to introduce a simple exchange programme, but to set up a permanent network structure, which will award PhDs undersigned by the rectors of all the participating bodies.

This model is utterly unique in the European context, and has the potential to bring together resources and experience that a single institution is unlikely ever to be able to match, thereby enabling Europe to keep up with the United States in the increasingly decisive field of advanced studies.

The aim, then, is to make the Doctoral School a permanent point of reference for advanced studies and research in the human and social sciences in Europe.

### Teaching plan

Initially it is envisaged that two doctoral programmes will be set up, one in history and one in the social sciences. The **Doctorate in History** will be organized into three different curricula, each with its own course of study: *Europe and the Invention of Modernity* (organized by the SUM, Florence); *Comparative History of Knowledge* (organized by the EHESS, Paris); and *The Classic Tradition and its Mediations in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim Worlds* (organized by the EPHE, Paris). The **Doctorate in Social Sciences** will also comprise three curricula: *Europe in the Context of Globalization* (organized by Humboldt Universität, Berlin); *The Social and Political Bases of Europe* (organized by Humboldt Universität and by the SUM); and *The Social Sciences of Religions* (organized by the EHESS and the EPHE, Paris).

The programme of curricular activities may be supplemented with a number of advanced courses on specific themes. For instance, in autumn 2009, the SUM will start a European course of advanced study in Byzantine Studies designed to support the development of research and the training of young scholars in an important specialist area that has not received adequate attention in the ambit of advanced European studies.

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The doctoral programmes will have an open, dynamic structure so as to ensure the maximum degree of exchange and collaboration. The research training seminars for each doctorate will be held in three different countries. The courses will be concentrated into two-month periods per semester for the first two years of the programme, so as to leave the whole of the third year free for students to write their theses.

The School will have centres at each of the partner institutions.

Each student will have a main point of reference, namely the institute spearheading the doctoral programme in which they are enrolled.

### **Time scale**

The partner institutes signed a joint declaration of intent in Berlin on 22 February 2008. A number of meetings were then held in the course of 2008 between representatives of the institutes, which led to the preparation of the text of a formal agreement, which has already been approved by the EHHS and the SUM, and is currently being considered by Humboldt Universität and the EPHE. The teaching plan was also subject to in-depth analysis. If resources are available, the first joint call for applications for the planned doctoral programmes and for the European study programme in Byzantine Studies could be issued in autumn of 2009. Teaching activities would then start in spring 2010, and the first cycle would be completed in 2012.

### **Organizational structure**

For each doctorate there will be a general coordinator and local coordinators for the programmes run at the institutes.

The School will be presided over on a rotation basis by the Rectors of the participating universities and it will be governed by a Council of Scholars made up of professors teaching on the doctoral programmes, in joint representation of the partner institutions.

When the call for applications is made a central secretariat will be set up for the School, with one staff member working exclusively for the School. When the second cycle gets underway, the secretariat will receive a second member of staff.

### **Resources**

The partners will make their premises, research resources, and teaching, technical and administrative staff available for the realization of the project.

The necessary financial resources could come from the budgets of the partners; from ministries and public, national, regional or local bodies in the countries where the partners are based; from private companies and bodies; and from the European Union.

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## Partners:

**Humboldt Universität** is one of Germany's most prestigious state universities. Its research and teaching activities cover all the main disciplinary fields. The humanist disciplines are organized into four faculties (Fakultäten).

**École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)** is a state institution devoted to advanced university study in the social sciences at a doctoral and post-doctoral level. Its mission is to provide research training through research. It runs doctoral and master programmes in history, sociology, economics, anthropology, philosophy, law and mathematics.

The École's main base is in Paris, with other centres in Lyons, Marseilles and Toulouse.

**École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE)** is a state institution devoted to advanced university studies at a doctoral and post-doctoral level. Its mission is to provide research training through research. It runs highly specialized degree courses, doctorates, post-doctoral and master programmes. It is organized into three sections: Life and Earth Sciences, Historic and Philological Sciences, Religious Sciences.

The École is based in Paris.

**Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM)** is a state university devoted to advanced study and research in the human and social sciences. It runs doctoral and post-doctoral programmes. Based in Florence and Naples, it has a network structure made up of the Schools of Advanced Study of the Universities of Bologna, Florence, Rome 'La Sapienza', Milan-Bicocca, Naples 'Federico II', Naples 'L'Orientale', Naples 'Suor Orsola Benincasa' and Siena.