

# Latest developments towards regulations of doctoral studies in Poland

## INTERNATIONAL BOLOGNA SEMINAR

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Maria Ziótek  
Bologna Expert (Poland)



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji



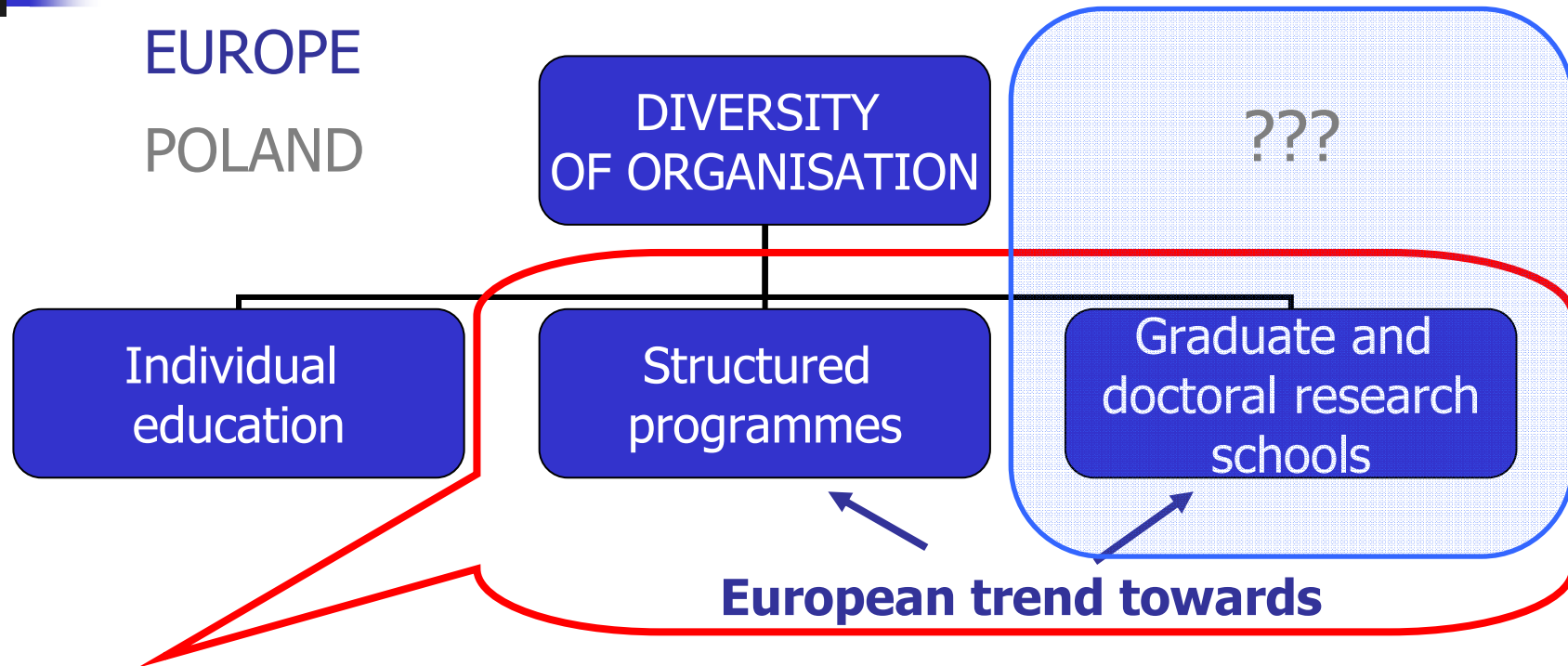


# Structure

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- Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland -  
present state of the art
- Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland –  
proposal of new rules
  - ◆ context
  - ◆ methodology
  - ◆ proposals
- Look into the future

# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland - present state of the art



## Different models

- Master students & doctoral candidates with crosscutting administrative support & transferable skills development
- Doctoral candidates only, often organised around a discipline or research theme, may involve several institutions

# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland - present state of the art



**Full-time or part-time programmes**

**Regulations:**

**ACT  
of 27 July 2005  
Law on Higher Education**

**Decree of Ministry  
(Dz. U. Nr 15, poz. 128)  
2004**



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland - present state of the art

## ACT of 27 July 2005 - Law on Higher Education

### Doctoral Programmes

#### Article 195

1. **Organisational units of a higher education institution which are authorised to confer either** the academic degree of *doktor habilitowany* or the academic degree of *doktor* in at least two different disciplines of a given area of science **may provide doctoral programmes** in the corresponding disciplines.
2. **Doctoral programmes may be provided as partnership-based programmes by units** referred to in section 1 in co-operation with other organisational units. The tasks of each organisational unit and the financing of doctoral programmes shall be specified in agreements concluded between the units involved.
- .....
5. **More than a half of the curriculum of a full-time doctoral programme shall require the presence of participants therein in the organisational unit providing the programme,** and shall comprise courses and research work requiring direct participation of academic staff or research tutors and doctoral students. **Part-time** doctoral programmes shall be organised in such a way as to ensure that doctoral programmes **may be followed by persons in an employment relationship.**
- .....
8. **No tuition fees shall be charged for full-time** doctoral programmes in public higher education institutions.
9. The **amount of tuition fees for part-time doctoral** programmes in public higher education institutions, where such fees are charged, **shall be determined by the rector.**

Institutional requirements

Programme

Payment



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland - present state of the art

## ACT of 27 July 2005 - Law on Higher Education

### Doctoral Programmes

#### Article 196

1. Access to doctoral programmes **shall be open to persons who hold the degree of *magister*** or an equivalent degree and fulfil admission conditions laid down by a given higher education institution. ...
2. The **organisation and schedule** of doctoral programmes, in so far as not regulated by this Act or separate legislation, **shall be laid down in the doctoral study regulations.** ...

Admission

#### Article 197

3. Doctoral students shall also be required to **undertake internships involving the teaching of courses or participation in the teaching of courses.** The maximum teaching load for participants in doctoral programmes may **not exceed 90 teaching hours** per year.

Practical training

#### Article 199

1. Doctoral students **may be awarded** financial support in the form of:
  - 1) a maintenance grant,
  - 2) an aid payment,
  - 3) a scholarship for learning achievements,
  - 4) a meals grant,
  - 5) an accommodation grant,
  - 6) a special grant for disabled persons.

Financial support

# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland - present state of the art

## ACT of 27 July 2005 - Law on Higher Education

### Doctoral Programmes

#### Article 201

The minister responsible for higher education shall lay down, by regulation, the requirements and procedure for the organisation of doctoral programmes, the provision of, and attendance at, such programmes, as well as the procedure, conditions and criteria for the award of doctoral scholarships and financial support benefits to doctoral students and amounts thereof, including:

- 1) **the duration** of doctoral programmes ...
- 2) **the admission procedure**, while having regard to the need to select best applicants;
- 3) **the precise powers of the body establishing a doctoral programme, ....**
- 4) a specimen **doctoral student identity card....;**
- 5) the eligibility **criteria for means-tested maintenance grants to be awarded ....**

.....

Regulated  
by  
Ministry's  
decrees

#### Article 167

1. Degree programme **graduates shall obtain national higher education diplomas** confirming the award of a corresponding degree. **Persons who have completed doctoral programmes, non-degree postgraduate programmes or retraining courses shall obtain certificates of completion of such programmes or courses.**

Qualification

↘ controversial



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Context

### Parallel actions since 2006

- 1) Proposal of Polish Qualification Framework - KRK (containing general descriptors of knowledge, skills and competences) – completed by Working Group in May 2010
- 2) Proposal of Fields Descriptors within 8 areas of research – completed by Working Groups in April/May 2010
- 3) **Proposal of Regulations of Doctoral Studies containing general descriptors of knowledge, skills and competences – completed in November 2008**
- 4) Ministry's proposal of amendments to Law on Higher Education – published on 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 (under discussion at present)

None of the proposals indicated in 1) - 3) can be implemented without amendments to Law on Higher Education



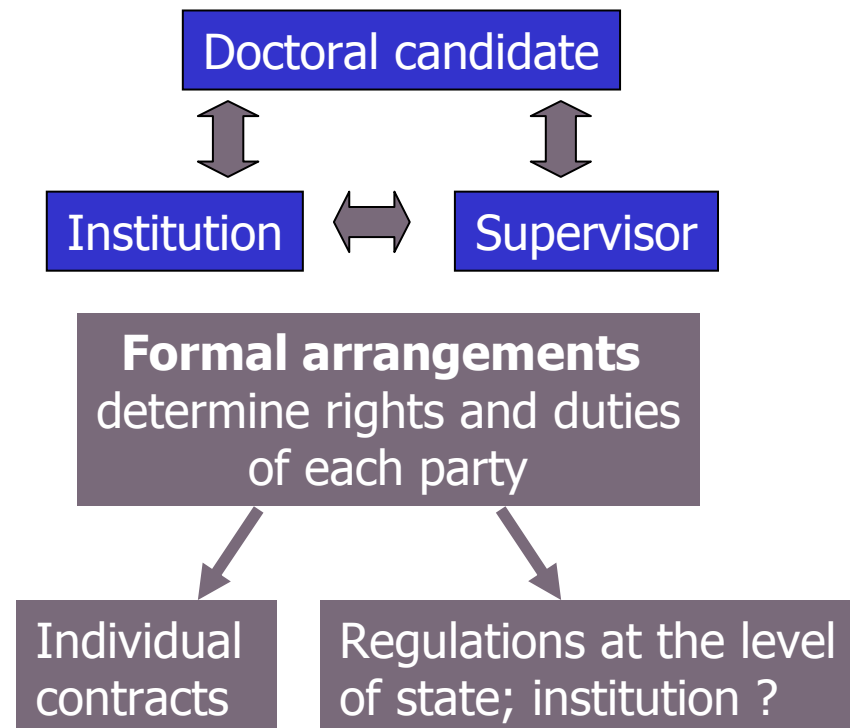
# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Methodology

Three parties

Their roles,  
rights and duties

Question about the range  
of state regulations

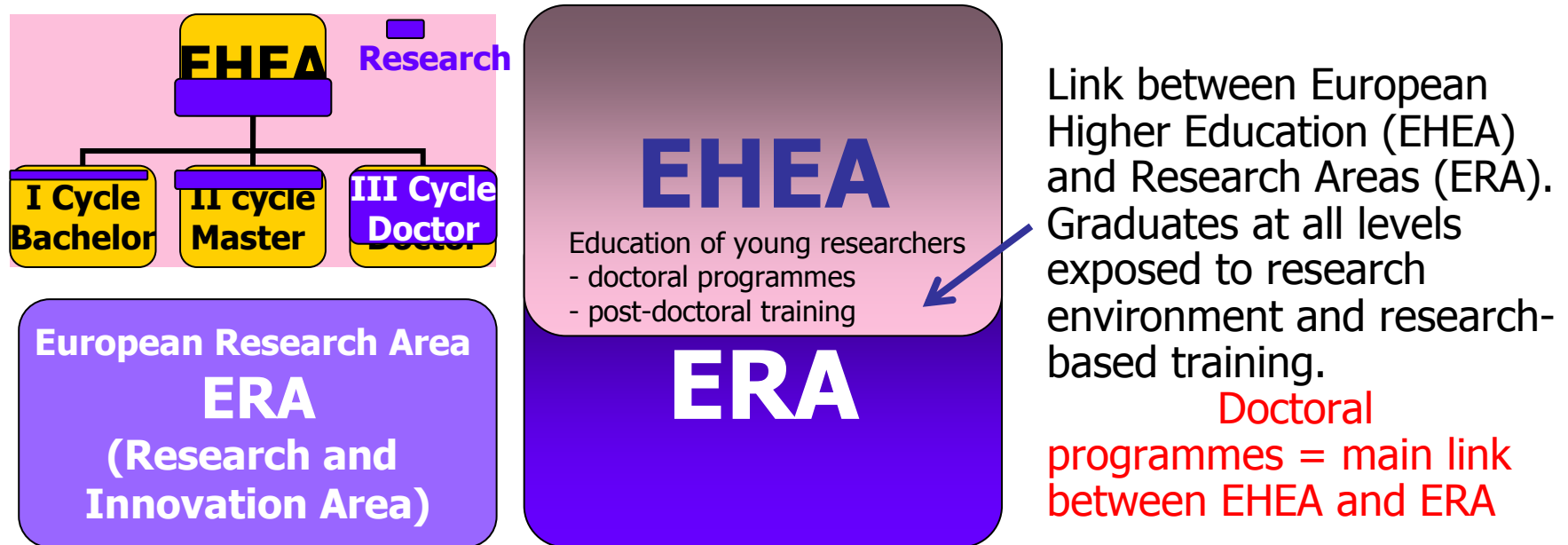


# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Methodology

1) Focus on research as an integral part of higher education

**Two pillars in the development of „Europe of Knowledge”**



Consensus: **original research** has to remain **the main component of all doctorates**



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Methodology

### 2) Tools of Bologna Process (QF, LO, ECTS)

**Question:** Should all the tools used in the organisation of the first and second cycle programmes be applied to the third cycle?

### 3) Structure of programmes

**Question:** Should the proportion between two components (original research and skills training) be regulated? What about the role of a supervisor?

Quality **standards** for **supervision** and **support** are **not included** in the proposal of new rules



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

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## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### CONTENT

- I. General provisions (duration, ECTS)
- II. Organization of education process
- III. Qualifications (completion of studies)
- IV. Learning outcomes
- V. Recommendations
- VI. Comments



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### I. General provisions

- 1) Duration – doctoral studies shall last between **six and eight semesters**
- 2) ECTS – allocated to **total** Learning Outcomes expected from **taught courses and training** elements = **45 – 60 ECTS**

**i.e. 25 % of the total workload of a doctoral candidate is devoted to transferable skills training,  
75 % - to original research**



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### II. Organization of education process

- 1) **Structure:** - organised programme containing taught courses & skills training
  - research under supervision of doctor habilitowany or professor
  - participation in academic events (national and international), e.g. symposia, conferences
- 2) **ECTS allocation:** - knowledge in the field of study – 20 ECTS
  - skills – 10 ECTS
  - attitudes – 5 ECTS
- 3) **Practical training** - possible in HE, research, cultural, economic, political institutions



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

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## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### III. Qualifications (completion of studies vs participation)

- 1) Doctoral studies end with obtaining a doctoral diploma
- 2) Certificate of the **participation** in doctoral programme can be obtained after completion of taught courses and training as well as having a record of significant research achievements



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

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## **Regulations of third cycle education**

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### IV. Learning outcomes

Generic LO defined in the categories of knowledge, skills and other competences (attitudes); based on Dublin descriptors

LO for 8 fields of studies are defined in other documents (still as proposal)





# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### V. Recommendations

- 1) Education can be carried out in individual or common programmes
- 2) It is recommended for a doctoral candidate to spend minimum one semester in the host institution
- 3) It is recommended for supervisors to involve doctoral candidates in joint (collective) research



mobilit  
y



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – proposal of new rules

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## Regulations of third cycle education

(proposal – November 5, 2008)

### VI. Comments

Implementation of new regulations requires, among other things:

- 1) Amendments of Law on Higher Education
- 2) Organization of the institutional internal quality assurance system
- 3) New rules for accreditation



# Regulations of doctoral studies in Poland – look into the future

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**Discussion in the higher education community and research institutes over the following proposals:**

- 1) Proposal of Polish Qualification Framework - KRK
- 2) Proposal of Fields Descriptors within 8 areas of research
- 3) **Proposal of Regulations of Doctoral Studies**
- 4) Ministry's proposal of amendments to Law on Higher Education

**Still not enough focus on internal quality assurance system for doctoral studies (e.g. training and assessment of the supervisors) and new regulations for accreditations**



# Some questions for further discussion

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- Should excellence be a distinctive characteristic of doctoral training?
- Should doctoral training remain clearly distinct from the first and second cycles of HE? (Tools of Bologna Process – QF, LO, ECTS)
- How to assure the high quality of doctoral training (**assessment – supervision**)?



**Thank you for your attention**

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