



## **Balkan Travelling Summer School**

### **Professional Skills Development of Doctoral Candidates PhD for industry or academia?**

**29 August – 4 September 2011**

**The Summer School has been prepared under the lead of the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań in collaboration with Babeş-Bolyai University, the University of Trieste and two University Networks - the Santander Group the Central European Initiative UniNet.**

#### **Context**

Requirements of the knowledge-based economy led to the dramatic transformations of higher education in Europe, giving special importance to the strengthening of the 3rd cycle in the Bologna Process, exposing the role of PhD education as a driving force of innovation. A high demand of the R&D sector for qualified staff able to work in international teams and adapt to a changeable environments created an interest among students in pursuing their education at doctoral level.

Research has become a global activity where cutting-edge research teams create trends in higher education and set the pace of transformation in the wider knowledge society. More generally, the knowledge-based economy stimulates a demand for PhDs while globalisation stokes competition in attracting the best new researchers. Educating highly skilful knowledge professionals, who are capable of generating innovation, and finding creative solutions to complex problems, is a rising priority of universities. The demand for PhDs has gone up, but so have the expectations. In academia and industry, new researchers are increasingly asked to take on more responsibility, to lead and manage teams, to write grant-winning proposals, in short, to devise research strategies that will result in breakthroughs and significant results several years down the line.

The career path of doctoral holders is highly exposed to international or transnational contexts where mobility becomes a crucial, or very often, an indispensable element of career progression. In addition to intra- or inter-sectoral mobility, which is a common practice in research projects these days, research involves also a geographical mobility. The ability to adapt to multicultural and multidisciplinary challenges reinforces the competitive advantage of the doctoral holders on the job market. These conditions trigger a need to investigate skill requirements for enhanced career opportunities of doctorate holders, with special regards to transferable skills development such as technical proficiency, adaptability, creativity, team work, entrepreneurial mindset, social skills or leadership potential.





## **Objectives**

PhD students have more opportunities, but also carry more responsibility for their own career. One may work abroad, move from academia to industry (and back again), but each decision to take up a new opportunity comes with a certain risk to one's career progression. Hence PhD students must learn to plan and manage their careers.

In applying for the ***Balkan Travelling Summer School***, it is expected that the PhD students will **acquire necessary skills** to integrate better with the business or academic world of research and to **outline a personalised career plan** in which they will identify the steps to achieve their professional goals. The programme will be delivered by specialists with long-standing experience in the fields of entrepreneurship and research who will expose participants to a series of practical exercises through which they will strengthen generic and transferable competences. The Summer School will enable PhD researchers to pro-actively generate and assess strategic options for their careers with the aim to answer the central question whether, after completing their PhDs, they are better off continuing in academia or industry.

The programme will also provide more detailed insight into differences and similarities of post-doctoral career paths in industry and academia and will seek to: develop **career skills** such as writing a career development plan, leading teams, grant writing; **personal skills** such as motivation and creativity; provide the necessary tools to prepare scientific papers and posters; enhance personal and institutional networks and partnerships; identify funding from academic and non-academic sources such as industry, public sector, finally help gain the ability to **translate research outcomes into "products"** of recognisable economic and public value; **become aware of entrepreneurial opportunities** and research institutions beyond academia.

## **Who can participate?**

In a context where mobility has become an important factor for employability and research career opportunities, it was considered advisable to expose the participants of the ***Balkan Summer School*** to different locations in order to enhance their intercultural, adaptability and networking skills not only through the provided training activities but also by confronting them with different environments and mentalities. The school is addressed **to doctoral candidates from the Balkan Region and from the Santander Group member universities.**

To support this idea the organisers of the Summer School received a grant from the Central European Initiative whose resources can cover the participation costs of students (meals, accommodation and transportation between the school locations) from the CEI region, in this case **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYRO Macedonia, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine.** Candidates for the Summer School can come from partner universities of the project consortium listed below or other Santander Group member universities.

The participants from the Santander Group universities that do not belong to the CEI region are not eligible for funding under the CEI. The SG Network provides partial funding for them. However, **a fee of 160 Euros will be applied to participants from outside the project consortium** to cover their accommodation and local transportation.

The best students from the Santander Group can apply for a special **travel subvention grant of 300 Euros.** The application conditions can be found in the [SS Guidelines](#) available on the Santander Group website ([www.sgroup.be](http://www.sgroup.be)).





<b>Albania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fan S Noli University</li> <li>- University of Shkodra</li> <li>- Polytechnic University of Tirana</li> <li>- University of Gjirokastra "Eqrem Çabej"</li> </ul>
<b>Bosnia-Herzegovina</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Sarajevo</li> </ul>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sofia University</li> <li>- College of Tourism in Bansko</li> <li>- The Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv</li> </ul>
<b>Croatia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Zagreb</li> </ul>
<b>FYRO Macedonia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University American College Skopje</li> <li>- SS Cyril and Methodius University</li> <li>- University of St Kliment Ohridski Bitola</li> </ul>
<b>Italy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Catania</li> <li>- University of Trieste</li> <li>- Sapienza University of Rome</li> </ul>
<b>Kosovo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Prishtina</li> </ul>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Montenegro</li> </ul>
<b>Poland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adam Mickiewicz University</li> <li>- University of Wrocław</li> <li>- PWSZ Leszno, Higher Vocational State School in Leszno</li> </ul>
<b>Romania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Babeş-Bolyai University</li> </ul>
<b>Serbia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Novi Sad</li> <li>- University of Belgrade</li> <li>- University of Kragujevac</li> <li>- University of Niš</li> <li>- University of Mitrovica</li> </ul>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Ljubljana</li> </ul>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uman State P.G. Tychna Pedagogical University</li> </ul>





## **Registration criteria**

Each candidate should send the following documents:

- **Registration Form**
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Motivation letter** – (no more than one page) outlining their postdoctoral career goals, the path they expect to take and their motivation.
- **Letter of support from PhD supervisors**

The selection will be carried out by the International Relations Offices of the consortium partners in collaboration with the Santander Group Secretariat.

## **Locations**

The event will be hosted first in Ohrid, Macedonia and then in Bansko, Bulgaria.

**For practical purposes, speakers and participants will be picked up and dropped off at the Sofia Airport (Bulgaria)** so as to make travel reservations easier. All changes of locations will be done by bus.

## **Touristic Information:**

- **Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia** - <http://ohridmacedonia.com/>

Ohrid is a city on the eastern shore of Lake Ohrid in the Republic of Macedonia. It has about 42,000 inhabitants, making it the seventh largest city in the country. The city is the seat of Ohrid municipality. Ohrid is notable for having once had 365 churches, one for each day of the year, and is referred to as the Macedonian Jerusalem. The city is rich in picturesque houses and monuments, and tourism is predominant. It is located southwest of Skopje, west of Resen and Bitola, and east of Elbasan and Tirana in Albania.

A town of vast history and heritage, it was made a UNESCO heritage site in 1980. Ohrid is without a doubt the jewel in Macedonia's crown. Nestled between high mountains up to 2.800m and Lake Ohrid, it is not only a place of historic magnificence but also of outstanding natural beauty.

- **Bansko, Bulgaria** - <http://bansko.bg/content/category/8/25/30/lang/en/>

Bansko is a fascinating symbiosis of history, tradition and culture. Everything that the visitor could find here - ancient architecture, heroic history, authentic folklore, century old culture, preserved tradition and customs, special cuisine, incredible sense of humour and rich vocabulary - this mountain, rousing welcome town is of its kind a symbol of the Bulgarian spirit.

The municipality of Bansko comprises the most beautiful part of the impressive Pirin Mountain, parts of the Razlog kettle, from the picturesque gorge of Momina Klisura on River Mesta and from the Dubrashki ridge in the Rodopi Mountains.





## Programme

The course will be run in English.

The immediate result of the school will be a **career plan draft for research related career progression** prepared by each individual participant based on the acquired skills and knowledge. **The students who will be positively evaluated by their tutors will receive the certificate, endorsed by the Adam Mickiewicz University with 3 ECTS credit points.**

### Summer School Programme

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Topics covered</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>
<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Career planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PhD award: What next? Planning the research : main issues, collaborators, competitors, funding, planning professional development in the academic or industrial contexts</li> </ul>	Dr. Chris Armbruster, Max Planck Society
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Career opportunities in business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entrepreneurial skills development</li> <li>- Gaining the ability to translate research outcomes into "products" of recognisable economic value</li> <li>- Finding new business funding, getting support and staying in the business development</li> </ul>	Prof. Leo Verhoef, Eindhoven University of Technology
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Career opportunities in academies and research institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social and economic trends influencing the research and post-doctoral job environment</li> <li>- Raising awareness of trans-national career opportunities</li> <li>- Obtaining study and mobility grants</li> <li>- Research funding opportunities</li> <li>- Developing personal and institutional networks and partnerships</li> <li>- Obtaining support from suitable teams of</li> </ul>	Dr. Chris Armbruster, Max Planck Society
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Managerial skills development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project management: project cycles, resources planning, team building</li> </ul>	Joanna Morawska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Promoting research activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of scientific papers and posters, getting published in internationally recognised journals</li> </ul>	Prof. Titus Beu, Babeş-Bolyai University
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Socio-economic context professional careers of PhD holders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements for enhanced employability of doctoral holders</li> <li>- Skills assessment and management tools</li> </ul>	Wioletta Wegerowska, Santander Group European Universities' Network

