



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



*Development of the internationalization of PhD studies in South Africa*

*“Toward institutional structures that support the complete PhD life cycle”*

Pretoria, Training session 2, 26-29 March 2019



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Erasmus+ Programme  
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**Workshops results**  
**Groups discussion – Day 2 – 27 March 2019**  
**SWOT ANALYSIS**

**TOPIC:**

Structures/services to support international mobility and collaboration on PhD level  
(mobility funding, attracting international researchers, joint degrees and cotutelle,  
setting up international (research) networks, etc.)

**5 GROUPS:**

each one with participants from different universities



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## Strengths

- Structured offices (IRO, Graduate school, legal departments)
- Credential analyst who can interpret international grades

## Weaknesses

- Lack of shared IT database for MoUs
- Lack of concern for IPR issues
- Lack of national cooperation
- Assessing international qualifications
- Difficulty to finish PhD in time (no reward, visa problems)

# SWOT Analysis

GROUP 1

## Opportunities

- Improved supervision capacity
- Expanded network and research
- Access to equipment & data at low cost
- Collective application to EU funds

## Threats

- Follow Ethics requirements
- Cost of international cooperations
- Risk of selection process of students
- Part-time jobs = reduced mobility
- Low recognition for PhD degree

## Strengths

- Dedicated office
- Funding for short-term mobility
- Centralizing different institutions
- Decentralized international offices
- South Africa's diversity

## Weaknesses

- Unclear division of resources and responsibilities
- Ill-preparedness for research of students and staff
- Supervisors look down on African PhD students
- Joint degrees are schleppey

# SWOT

## Analysis

GROUP 2

## Opportunities

- Use home relations of African PhD students
- Integrate internationalization in preparing staff and students
- Policy-driven institutions enables streamlining

## Threats

- Non-customer driven administrator staff
- SA Xenophobia
- Stakeholders of initial reforms block future reforms

## Strengths

- E.g. a dedicated person at central level negotiates joint PhD contracts
- Tracking system: CPUT; UM & SU and UCT at faculty level
- Legislation of IPR Act and TTO
- Visitors forms [CUT & UCT]

## Weaknesses

- No automated system for registration and follow-up of PhD students
- Tracking system: CUT; TUT & UWC
- Intellectual Property ownership not addressed in agreements [Universal]
- No structure to coordinate visitors to Universities [UWC; CPUT]

# SWOT Analysis

GROUP 3

## Opportunities

- E.g. joint investment in SA registration and follow-up system
- International collaborations
- YEBO funding opportunities
- YEBO Capacity building for SA universities
- Networking opportunity

## Threats

- E.g. difficulties managing workload due to increase of joint PhD contracts
- Incompatible systems
- YEBO Sustainable funding of PhD Studies
- Fragmented approach of universities to capacitate themselves



# STRENGTHS

- Abandoned the Silos
- Online system throughout the whole lifecycle.
- Online examination board/CENTRAL

# WEAKNESSES

- Bureaucratic processes
- Supervising capacity
- Overburdened academics - Quality??
- Not utilizing resources optimally
- Not sufficient support for PhD international students

GROUP 4

# THREAT

- Political environment in SA
- Competitive nature of HE
- Fluid policy changes
- Immigration Home Affairs /

# OPPORTUNITIES

- ~~Q~~ Domestic collaboration
- Need to build structures through clusters
- Increased access to funding modalities through collaboration

## Strengths

- Collaborations
- Dedicated offices
- Supporting government framework
- SA as hub to internationalization in Africa
- Achieving critical mass in research
- Understanding of interculturalism/diversity
- Innovative potential

## Weaknesses

- Lack of direction of value
- Lack of detail in policy implementation
- Lack of integrated approach in (international) PhD (e.g. IP)
- Lack of resources
- Lack of communication between staff/structures (e.g. academic vs. support)

# SWOT Analysis GROUP 5

## Opportunities

- Capacity building schemes
- Funding schemes
- Train/reach out to supervisors in/with regard to PhD value chain (e.g. IP)
- Working towards common knowledge and understanding
- Enriching content of the curriculum
- Increasing throughput rates in PhDs
- Integration of workflows, benchmarking, synergies

## Threats

- Loss of flexibility
- External factors in the environment, load shedding, water scarcities
- Transport
- Student protests
- VISA issues, work/study permits
- Increasing workload
- Leadership threats