

European Graduate School in Animal Breeding and Genetics (EGS-ABG)

Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Consortium Agreement

between

AgroParisTech (*Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l'Environnement*)
[Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences, abbreviated as APT]
Coordinator of the Consortium, named hereinafter "Coordinator"

Aarhus Universitet
[Aarhus University, abbreviated as AU]

Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, Uppsala
[Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, abbreviated as SLU]

Wageningen University
[abbreviated as WU]

the *Directeur Général* of AgroParisTech,
the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology of Aarhus *Universitet*,
the Vice-Chancellor of *Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet*,
the Rector Magnificus or the President of the Executive Board of Wageningen University,

it has been agreed what follows.

1. General objective

In the context of the creation of the European Higher Education and Research Area (the Bologna process), the present agreement aims at facilitating the cooperation in education of doctoral candidates among the partners in the field of animal breeding and genetics.


2. General commitment

Towards this objective, the partners commit themselves to:

- a. exchange their experiences in the application of the Bologna process and in particular in their approaches to evaluation of doctoral education;
- b. promote, within current regulations in each country, the participation of teaching and research staff of the partner universities in supervision, courses, seminars and conferences they organize.

3. Collaboration on a joint doctorate program

This Agreement is drafted within the framework of the action entitled: "European Graduate School Animal Breeding and Genetics(EGS-ABG)" based on Framework Partnership Agreement number 2011-023 (hereinafter referred to as "FPA Agreement") between Coordinator and the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") and all related Specific Grant Agreements from 2011 on for Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate and Scholarships (hereinafter referred to as "SGA Agreements").


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The Coordinator is bound by the terms and conditions of the FPA Agreement and further amendments. Each Partner shall be bound in applicable parts by the terms and conditions of the FPA Agreement and amendments to the FPA Agreement, approved by all Partners when applicable. The Partners shall not act in any way that could risk the fulfilment of the Coordinator's duties and obligations under the FPA Agreement. On the basis of the present Consortium Agreement, the Partners shall together contribute to the achievement of the requirements of the FPA Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions as stated in the present Agreement.


4. Consortium organization

The Consortium has a joint governance structure with joint selection, admission, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures. The governance structure is (see also Annex 1):

- a. The coordinating institution of the Consortium is AgroParisTech. It hosts the Consortium Executive Secretariat.
- b. The Consortium appoints an Executive Board, in charge of coordinating the program, elaborating the strategic plan, managing the quality insurance process, supervising the thesis assessment process of each doctoral candidate, managing financial issues and reporting to the EACEA. The Executive Board comprises one Professor or Senior scientist from each Partner Institution and is chaired by the EGS-ABG coordinator.
- c. The Consortium appoints a Selection Committee in charge of managing the selection of PhD projects and the selection of Doctoral Candidates. The Selection Committee comprises at least one Professor or Senior scientist from each Partner Institution and is chaired by a person from a Partner Institution.
- d. The Consortium appoints an Education Committee in charge of elaborating and updating the portfolio of courses and of monitoring the implementation of the individual training plan of each doctoral candidate. The Education Committee comprises at least Professor or Senior scientist from each Partner Institution and is chaired by a person from a Partner Institution.
- e. The Executive Board and the Selection and Education Committees meet at least once a year.
- f. For any decision the Executive Board, the Selection Committee or the Education Committee takes, the four Partner Institutions must be represented. Decision making is based on reaching a consensus. In case of severe difficulties to find an agreement, the decision is taken after a vote (one voice per person, majority required).
- g. Cooperation with associate partners will be specified in separate associate partner agreements.

5. Joint selection and admission

- a. There is one joint selection and admission process, once a year, under the responsibility of the Selection Committee.
- b. The joint selection process comprises 8 steps:
 - 1st. A joint EGS-ABG call for PhD projects is opened and the proposed projects are submitted via an online application procedure.
 - 2nd. Each proposed PhD project is evaluated by two independent experts and the best PhD projects are selected by the Selection Committee.
 - 3rd. A joint EGS-ABG call for doctoral candidates is opened and students apply via an online application procedure.
 - 4th. Applications are screened for eligibility by the Coordinator.
 - 5th. Each eligible applicant is scored for competitiveness by two assessors from the Consortium and a list of preselected applicants is established by the Selection Committee.


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