Harnessing Digitalisation
Doctoral education is at the forefront of Europe’s digital transformation, not only in mobilising, training and raising awareness among digitally-minded researchers, but in promoting crucial Open Science policies and practices that will revolutionise Europe’s scientific potential.

Safeguarding Research Integrity
Doctoral education is at the centre of a global confrontation on ethical challenges that impact information, knowledge and research. Doctoral education preserves and develops a moral compass in Europe that is vital for strong research integrity in the Digital Age.

Connecting Innovation and Society
Doctoral education is highlighted in the “Renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education” as a place where higher education, innovative research and society meet. It trains researchers capable of engaging with society and contributing innovative solutions to Europe’s industry and other economic sectors.

Fostering International Collaboration
Doctoral candidates connect universities and facilitate international collaboration. This talent pool is one of the foundations of Europe-driven inclusive cooperation within the European Higher Education and Research Areas, with the European Neighbourhood and the world.

“Doctoral education is at the forefront of ensuring that Europe has the necessary skills to face a changing labour market, an active citizenship participating in diverse, mobile, digital and global societies, and the frontier knowledge and discoveries necessary for the continent’s overall progress.”

Luke Georghiou
Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester
EUA-CDE Steering Committee Chair
The EUA Council for Doctoral Education

The EUA Council for Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) is an integral part of the European University Association. It aims to strengthen the doctoral research capacity of European universities, allowing them to attract and shape talented early-stage researchers in a competitive and global environment. By promoting collaboration and exchange of good practices, it makes an important contribution to the development of doctoral education and research training in Europe.

Notably, EUA-CDE has guided a university-led reform process that has been marked by a Europe-wide exchange on policies and practices, fostering mutual learning and collaboration between higher education institutions from across the continent.

Key milestones in European doctoral education reform:

- **September 2003**: Berlin Communiqué
  - The Bologna Process refers to doctoral education as a potential meeting place between the European Higher Education and Research Areas.

- **February 2005**: Salzburg Principles
  - After surveying 48 universities from 22 countries, EUA establishes the “Salzburg Principles” for doctoral education reform.

- **May 2005 and 2007**: Bergen and London Communiqués
  - The Bologna Process welcomes progress made and encourages EUA to further support the sharing of best practices in doctoral education.

- **June 2008**: EUA-CDE
  - EUA-CDE is launched with academic leaders and doctoral education professionals from more than 100 universities in over 30 countries.

- **June 2011**: Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training
  - The European Commission issues a set of “Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training” based on and including key elements of the “Salzburg Principles”.

- **October 2010**: Salzburg Recommendations
  - EUA publishes the “Salzburg Recommendations”, an updated set of common guidelines on doctoral education for universities.

- **June 2016**: Taking Salzburg Forward
  - Doctoral education is widely recognised as a key contributor to the knowledge society. EUA-CDE connects 239 universities in 36 countries.

- **June 2011**: Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training

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