

POZITIVNÍ POZNÁMKY HODNOTITELŮ PROJEKTŮ ERA CHAIRS 2014

1. Kritérium Excellence (Excellence)

The general objectives of the proposal are consistent with the main aims of the Call: the rationale is clearly presented and the goals are of good quality and respond to real needs. The specific objectives are closely linked with the identified institutional weaknesses, particularly the low level of interdisciplinary cooperation, weak doctoral research and lack of international grants. In addition, the proposal adequately addresses the specific challenge to create the appropriate conditions for high quality researchers and research managers to engage with the host institution to improve the excellence of the research and amplify the research and innovation landscape.

Overall, the project's concept is sound: appropriate measures are planned to improve the doctoral programmes, both at an internal and external level. The possibility for the ERA Chair to promote the applicant's research performance and attract high quality human resources are argued convincingly: the ERA chair would be supported both by persons external to the applicant, bringing fresh ideas, and internals bringing experience and knowledge of the applicant's specificities. This is positive and finds a correspondence in the content of the work packages.

The concept is analytically presented with detailed activity description.

A well done SWOT analysis is presented. The SWOT analysis is convincing. Given the existing strengths listed, the opportunities provided by establishing an ERA Chair are well described. The SWOT analysis is very informative of the institution position within the national and the European context.

The SWOT analysis points towards several assets and problems, which form the basis for the project: the excessive fragmentation of the research lines and the limited internationalization are highlighted as main weaknesses, whereas the broad range of available specializations are outlined as strengths. The project's goals are clearly linked to the identified areas for improvement of the institution, and the action plan is adequate to foster changes in the highlighted key strategic areas.

The approach to strengthen links with industry is convincing; the relevant stakeholders will be involved from the beginning of the project.

Several measures are foreseen to foster excellence, such as a scientific exchange programme, national networking and international integration.

The gender issues are considered and the appropriate actions to ensure gender balance are to be taken during the project.

The project will offer enhanced course curricula for students, as well as a scholarship system to motivate the best students.

The role of the ERA chair is well addressed. As a regular member of the Scientific Committee and as the scientific advisor of the Rector, they will have the possibility to help the research organization to improve excellence.

Outstanding international researchers attracted by the EU support provided through the ERA chair project will introduce new standards of research, involve the existing faculty in international

networks and, by their concrete actions and their example, stimulate enduring structural changes, spilling out not only across the University and the nation but also into the wider region and the geographical area

2. Kritérium Dopad (Impact)

The composition of the Scientific Board is in compliance with ERA priorities, which ensures external peer review of the activities of the applicant.

The proposal is in line with national priorities and with the strategy of the region. The relevance of the project regarding the national smart specialization strategies and European Structural and Investment Funds is well presented. Contributing to the objectives of regional or national smart specialisation strategies is very well justified. The project is in-line with the Regional Smart Specialization Strategies and could be an important support to the investment already obtained thanks to the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Dissemination, exploitation and communication measures are appropriate. The effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate project results is enhanced by the planned establishment of a dedicated unit for knowledge management and transfer. It is very good that a data management plan will be developed to contribute to the implementation of dissemination measures.

Dissemination draws a clear distinction between research results and the structural change expected from the ERA Chair project, with appropriate strategies described for each. The main output of the research is free, open (gold standard) and prompt access to systematized data via a web platform. Conferences, as well as summer schools targeted at younger researchers and students, are the means to disseminate the project activities and methodological innovations.

The management of IPR is described.

3. Kritérium Kvalita a účinnost implementace (Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation)

The ERA Chair will be a part of the existing structure which will have positive effects on the sustainability of the Chair.

A clear vision and justification were provided on how sustainability of the research centre will be ensured

The work plan is in agreement/is coherent with the presented SWOT analysis.

The composition and tasks of the management team responsible for the implementation of the project are described well. The work plan includes 6 WPs that are coherent for the realization of the proposed activities. The inter relation between the work packages is clear and a Gantt chart is provided. The allocation of tasks is well described.

The selection of the ERA Chair holder and of his/her team complies with the ERA priorities in terms of open recruitment. The ERA Chair will collaborate and work together with the Scientific Council of the institution. His/her obligations and responsibilities covering research, strategic orientation and management are clearly presented.