

PCAM/THINFACE meeting at the University of Milano-Bicocca,

Sala Lauree, Dipartimento di Scienza dei Materiali, via Cozzi 55, 20125 Milano.

May 6th, 2014; 10am – 4.30pm

Participants: G. P. Brivio (UMB), A. Cofler (UMB), M. Riva (SG), M. Madsen (SDU), K. Rubahn (SDU), T. Pitarke (CICN), N. Witkowski (UPMC), W. Ernst (TUG), L. Beverina (UMB), R. Donetti (PIR), S. Miskinis (KTU), K. Vandewal (TUD), R. Kobuski (JUK), L. Wirtz (UL). The following Institutions are represented:

UMB: University of Milano-Bicocca

SG: SAES Getters

SDU: University of Southern Denmark

CICN: CIC NanoGUNE

UPMC: University Pierre and Marie Curie

TUG: Graz University of Technology

PIR: Pirelli tyre

KTU: Kaunas University of Technology

TUD: Technical University of Dresden

JUK: Jagiellonian University of Cracow

UL: University of Luxembourg

Chairman: G.P. Brivio.

New initiatives for PCAM of the University of Milano-Bicocca, presented by Prof. M.C. Messa (The Rector of the University of Milano-Bicocca): Prof. Messa guarantees full support to PCAM as outlined in the new contract (see below).

International initiatives for advanced studies at the University of Milano-Bicocca, presented by Prof. A. Biondi (Vice-Rector)

Cotutorship and EC initiatives for the doctorate, Dr. A. Cofler (Director of the International Affair Office)

The main points of her presentation are:

- Some new text is included in the partnership contract, which constitutes the initiative outlined by Prof. Messa, namely: *The administrative headquarters of the Doctorate Programmes in Physics and Chemistry of Advanced Materials (PCAM) are situated at the University of Milano-Bicocca.*
- *The University of Milano-Bicocca is in charge of:*
 - *issuing the additional certificate mentioned in article 5 after checking the candidates' requirements;*
 - *managing convocations of the Governing Board and preparing minutes of meetings;*
 - *managing the agreement with all its Annexes.*
- Other points:
- The governing board should meet twice per year (teleconference also possible)
- Co-tutoring is added to the agreement and is considered very important within EC-FP8 programme. Also double Ph.D. title award is stressed.
- Each partner is to go through the modified partnership agreement and submit changes to G. P. Brivio

Note that the modified partnership agreement is distributed in the meeting and sent by email in the same day.
Comments:

- *R. Kobuski: The co-tutoring is not simple to implement between the different countries and it needs structuring*
- *W. Ernst: This is already active within the joint doctorate diploma – a double degree diploma has officially to go through the university administration*
- *G.P. Brivio: 6-18 months are needed for co-tutorship, and it requires an agreement from the start of the student doctorate.*
- *W. Ernst: Two PhD diplomas are possible (with bilateral contracts)*
- *T. Pitarke: Joint diplomas may require joint doctorate programme*
- *A. Cofler: Bologna process: cotutorship and double title is already agreed among five countries (Italy, Spain, France, Switzerland, Germany).*
- *A. Cofler: The EC PCAM doctorate certificate is not a legal document: However, it states that six months are a minimum required for obtaining it and the diploma emphasizes the role of the whole network and outlines the education background of the PhD candidate.*
- *W. Ernst: The double title solution is more realistic – two degrees made on an individual basis is possible and is better than a general diploma.*
- *Brivio: The ITN partners should strongly consider to enter cotutorship/double title agreements for the THINFACE ESRs*

PACM communications, G. P. Brivio

- List of PCAM current partner Universities.
- PCAM webpage is to be updated
- Current PCAM students are listed. All THINFACE students are expected to be also PCAM students.
- Three Ph.D. grants for six months (10.000 EUR each) are available at UMB for PCAM students. Application to be opened soon.

- Comments:
 - *N. Witkowski: What is the status of Lund – will they enter as partner?*
 - *G.P. Brivio: They have been contacted but haven't replied yet*
 - *The delegates confirm their interest in Lund University joining PCAM.*

Presentation of the PCAM activities at the University of Luxembourg, L. Wirtz

PDF slides available on web site

Presentation of the PCAM activities at the Technical University of Dresden, K. Vandewal

PDF slides available on web site

Withdrawal of the University of Bochum

- *G.P. Brivio: Following Prof. Muhler's request the delegates regret to take notice of the withdrawal of the University of Bochum from PCAM (since C. Wöll left some time ago). It will not appear in the new contract.*

Forthcoming summer schools

- *G.P. Brivio: Summerschool 2014 in Sønderborg, 2015 hosted by Graz (at Lake Como), 2016: UPMC, 2017: TU Dresden is suggested.*
- *K. Rubahn: Participation in 2014 Summerschool in Sønderborg: Please inform colleagues/students to register*

Outline on initiatives in the framework of Horizon 2020, K. Rubahn

PDF slides available

- *N. Witkowski: Are there any calls with a TRL of 1?*
- *K. Rubahn: Yes, in the excellent science part*

Informal discussions on the updated PCAM agreement, new EC initiatives and the THINFACE project

- *G.P. Brivio: Informal discussions on:*
 - *Double title: PhD students starting double title (6 months minimum)*
 - *Horizon2020: Possible applications*
 - *THINFACE industries may be associated to PCAM.*
- *Discussion on being active partner*
 - *Discussion from Como: Each PCAM partner is expected to send a total of 5 active participants to two consecutive Summer Schools*
- *University of Jena as partner: To be decided at a later stage*

- *M. Madsen: THINFACE status is outlined as follows:*
 - *New industry partners needed after Novald and Danfoss decided to withdraw from being full partners*
 - *Riva: Saes Getters may consider to re-enter the consortium (will follow-up on this once discussed with colleagues)*
 - *Vandewal: There might be other relevant industry partners in Dresden (will follow up on this after the meeting)*
- *Horizon 2020:*
 - *Graphene flagship:*
 - *Pitarke: NanoGUNE already involved.*
 - *W. Ernst: TUG interested*
 - *L. Wirtz: It is difficult since there is only one basic research call out of 12*
 - *General discussion on what the TRL needs to match the consortium to have a chance*
 - *Possible calls:*
 - *Individual stipends - Marie Curie (Madsen will provide a link to those)*
 - *NMP calls – check TRL – should match the network partners*
 - *ERC – Synergy, an option but very competitive*
 - *ITN – new version*
 - *FET – check consortium limits for open calls*
- *Next PCAM meeting to be held in Graz in 2015.*

No more to be discussed, the meeting ends up at 4.30 pm.

The Chairman: Gian Paolo Brivio

The secretary: Morten Madsen.