

Feedback from the Closing Session of the First EDAMBA Winter Academy held at the Grenoble Ecole de Management, 26-30 March 2008

1. Present at the Hotel Novotel Closing Session on March 30, 2008

- Hans Siggaard Jensen, Learning Lab Denmark
- Maj-Britt Hedvall, HANKEN Swedish School of Economics and
- Dimitris Assimakopoulos, Grenoble Ecole de Management & LINC Lab
- About 25 from the Winter Academy Participants, see Appendices for the complete List of Participants and Schedule of Program

2. Feedback – Emerging Themes

- Balance of 60/40 between the new emerging global research system and doctoral supervision
- Shift on workshops and small groups, less formal lectures
- Preparation with readings and allocation of groups before the academy takes place next year

3. Unstructured Comments and Feedback

“I would rather prefer the format of the sessions to shift to small groups, in parallel with formal lectures... the doctoral supervisor’s sessions ought to be further developed and role play encouraged providing insights of different viewpoints, ie, program directors, doctoral supervisors and students.”

“It would have been useful to prepare before the winter academy... I wish all the supporting materials and documents to have been distributed beforehand so that I would study in more depth some of the issues, including getting to know my fellow participants and their experiences in different countries and contexts.”

“I wish the focus of the academy to shift from its content on the philosophical debates of scientific work and relationships with appropriate scientific and technological communities to doctoral supervision and how to become a more effective supervisor for my doctoral students.”

“The program and schedule of the academy ought to communicate clearly for next year what are its aims, including networking, epistemological issues, doctoral supervision and target audiences. Please also reduce the length of lectures in favour of more interaction and learning among the academy participants in small groups.”

“I would have liked to see more emphasis on the process issues, taking us from doctoral application selection of candidates, to topic framing, to financing doctoral studies, to writing up and viva, with more insight of how to understand and manage the student / supervisor relationship not only before but also after the thesis. It would have been beneficial to form small groups before we come here and start preparing presentations, etc...”

“I found this first winter academy very useful and intellectually stimulating, especially the rather philosophical discussions of the emerging global research system; I think it would be equally useful to make this event more practice oriented, with prior preparation and reflections on one’s supervisory and research practice.”

“It would have been equally enlightening to discuss not only best practices and successful cases, but also share and exchange in such an intimate group the difficult cases, what we would call ‘failures’ and ‘bad practice’. More time for discussion about what is the role of the Association and Universities in such a debate it would be welcomed. ”

“I feel that this event has brought an amazing group together from a broad range of disciplines and places. It would be truly useful to follow up with the creation of an online community sustaining continuous interactions and learning across boundaries.”

4. A Survey Questionnaire Follow up

Given the issues raised orally above, it is worth taking up Hans’ suggestion to follow up with eliciting further feedback in a semi-structured manner, via an e-mail survey to all participants, say in May-June. To this end, I would welcome the help of Hans and colleagues, now that the ‘dust has settled down’. The analysis and presentation of results from this survey should be done over the summer for further consultation and discussion in the next Executive Committee meeting in Newcastle in early September, for informing the preparations for the second winter academy in 2009.

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