TU Berlin acquires EUR 400,000 funding to promote the careers of doctoral candidates

Interdisciplinary skills, for example in the areas of project management, entrepreneurial thinking, management, communication or technology transfer, are among the standard requirements sought by employers, both within the academic world and beyond.

Doctoral candidates are, however, often not sufficiently equipped with these skills at the outset of their careers. TU Berlin started the “Training the mindSET – Improving and Internationalizing Skills Trainings for Doctoral Candidates” (mindSET) project in fall 2018 with the help of EUR 400,000 funding from the Erasmus+ program and will be working over the coming three years on developing a curriculum for these transferable skills with its strategic partners – the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Politecnico di Milano and Warsaw University of Technology. The aim is to better prepare doctoral candidates within the STEM subjects for different labor markets.

The curriculum will be implemented during the project in joint workshops given by trainers from all four universities. A training manual is to be developed for dissemination via various channels, such as webinars, and will be made available, with the assistance of the network partners, to other European universities to help strengthen the teaching of interdisciplinary skills. The project partners will also develop an assessment tool to allow doctoral candidates to test their interdisciplinary skills, as well as a manual for future coaches.

The three-year project is one of 20 projects approved by the German Erasmus+ National Agency as part of the Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships 2018 funding line. The following organizations within TU Berlin are involved in the project: the Center for Scientific Continuing Education and Cooperation, TU-DOC – office for doctoral and postdoctoral services, and the International Projects section of the Office of International Affairs.

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