



CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This is to certify that

Feyza Aricioglu

participated at the Orpheus Conference
10th - 12th April 2025, in Cavtat, Croatia.

For Organizing Committee

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QUALITY IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

DOCTORAL TRAINING IN BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES IN BELGIUM, CROATIA, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS THROUGH THE IMPACT OF THE ORPHEUS LABEL PROCEDURE

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With over 130 members worldwide, ORPHEUS promotes best practices in PhD education in the health sciences. In 2014, it launched a voluntary labeling program recognizing institutions adhering to its Best Practice guidelines.

This study aims to compare ORPHEUS-labeled institutions across four geographically distinct European Higher Education Area (EHEA) regions—Belgium, Croatia, Portugal and Turkey. All countries participate in the Bologna Process, ensuring alignment with European higher education standards. However, the institutions examined vary significantly in size, historical background, institutional culture, research environment, and the number of active PhD programs.

Key doctoral education components—administrative structure, coursework, supervision, supervisor training, publication policy, thesis format, defense, and funding—were assessed based on similarities and minor or significant differences.

Our initial findings reveal that, despite differences in societal needs, institutional structures, and research traditions, doctoral training exhibits a high degree of similarity across these diverse settings. The results underscore the effectiveness of ORPHEUS Best Practices as a tool to foster highly versatile graduates who are well-prepared for academic and non-academic careers.

ORPHEUS was founded to bridge the gap in PhD training across diverse EHEA regions, and it has become a platform where members learn from each other. As a continuum to the previous publications aiming to know how PhD training is delivered in the UK and Scandinavian institutions (1) and across the Atlantic between Europe and the United States (2), such studies help foster mobility and cooperation across international research environments and offer insights into the impact of ORPHEUS-labeled programs on doctoral education.

References

1. Williams, A., et. Al. A Comparison of Doctoral Training in Biomedicine and Medicine for Some UK and Scandinavian Graduate Programmes: Learning from Each Other. *FEBS Open Bio* 2019; 9:830-39.
2. Barnett, J. V., R. A. Harris, and M. J. Mulvany. A Comparison of Best Practices for Doctoral Training in Europe and North America. *FEBS Open Bio* 2017; 7:1444-52.