



Transfrontier Doctorials



In 2011, the first Transfrontier Doctorials were organized between the University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour and the University of Basque Country (UPV-EHU), the only event of its type in the European Union. The Doctorials are in fact an intensive workshop for PhD candidates, to prepare them for the job market. Thus, there are two important goals: first of all, for our graduate students, it is a unique chance to meet and exchange with other PhD candidates, in an international and interdisciplinary environment. Secondly, the week-long



event is an important means for these students to prepare themselves for employment, and is also, on the part of the participating Universities, a strong signal in terms of openness to the world of private enterprise, at the local, national and european levels. It should also be noted that the exchanges take place in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Basque.

The first edition, in 2011, was a demonstration of the dynamic transfrontier relations that exist in the research world. Since then, five more workshops have been held, the last one from October 10 to 14 2016 in Salies-de-Béarn (Pyrénées Atlantiques, France). Around 80 students participated, 72 from the two founding universites, with others invited from partner universities (University of Bordeaux-Montaigne, UNIZAR and UPN).

Local government (the Aquitaine Regional Council and the General Council of the Pyrénées Atlantiques) have supported the Doctorials in the pas, as well as the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research which provided (in 2012 and 2013) a grant as part of the franco-spanish *Mérimée* program for doctoral schools.