

**Teaching Board of PhD Course in Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences (SAAF) –  
(Cycles XXXVIII-XXXIX)**

**Minutes no. 12 - Meeting held on 22 October 2024**

Composition of the Teaching Board:

			P	AG	A
1.	Abdelfattah	Ahmed			X
2.	Abenavoli	Maria Rosa	X		
3.	Agosteo	Giovanni	X		
4.	Barreca	Francesco	X		
5.	Bernardi	Bruno		X	
6.	Bombino	Giuseppe	X		
7.	Campolo	Orlando	X		
8.	De Luca	Anna Irene	X		
9.	Di Fazio	Salvatore	X		
10.	García-Ruíz	Roberto		X	
11.	Giuffrè	Angelo Maria	X		
12.	Gulisano	Giovanni			X
13.	Li Destri	Giulia			X
14.	Lombardi	Fabio	X		
15.	Lucas-Borja	Manuel Esteban		X	
16.	Lupini	Antonio	X		
17.	Marcianò	Claudio		X	
18.	Marziliano	Pasquale	X		
19.	Modica	Giuseppe	X		
20.	Monti	Michele	X		
21.	Muscolo	Adele Maria	X		
22.	Nicolosi	Agata			X
23.	Palmeri	Vincenzo	X		
24.	Piscopo	Amalia Rosa Maria	X		
25.	Poiana	Marco	X		
26.	Porto	Paolo			X
27.	Proto	Andrea Rosario	X		
28.	Schena	Leonardo	X		
29.	Sicari	Vincenzo	X		
30.	Sorgonà	Agostino	X		
36.	Spampinato	Giovanni	X		
31.	Strano	Alfio		X	
32.	Sunseri	Francesco	X		
33.	Tassone	Valentina C.			X
34.	Zema	Demetrio Antonio	X		
35.	Zimbalatti	Giuseppe		X	

The meeting occurs live in the Francesco S. Nesci room of the Department of Agriculture. The meeting is chaired by the Coordinator, Prof. Leonardo Schena. Prof. Anna Irene De Luca acts as secretary for the minutes. The special channel "PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL) - MEETINGS" created by the Coordinator in the

Microsoft Teams platform is activated to allow the participation of the members of the Board residing abroad (Dr. Abdelfattah, Prof. García-Ruíz, Dr. Lucas-Borja, Valentina C. Tassone) and to allow the presentation of the annual reports of the PhD students who are currently carrying out a period abroad (Iolanda CILEA and Vizzari GIUSEPPINA). Dr. Lucas-Borja and Prof. García-Ruíz are considered absent for having previously sent a request by e-mail to the Coordinator. Dr. Abdelfattah and Dr. Tassone are considered absent because they have not sent any request and do not connect to the meeting on the platform.

The Coordinator, noting that the Board has been duly convened by invitation sent by e-mail on 17 October 2024 and that it is in a position to deliberate, declares the meeting open at 2:40 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Presentation of the annual reports (second year) of the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle starting in November 2022;
2. Communications;
3. Approval of minutes no. 11 of 24.07.2024;
4. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXIX cycle for admission to the second year;
5. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle, starting in November 2022, for admission to the third year;
6. Application for the award of the title of *Doctor Europaeus*;
7. Authorization for a foreign period;
8. Appointment of co-tutor.

### **1. Presentation of the annual reports (second year) of the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle starting in November 2022;**

The Coordinator points out that the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle who started their activities in November 2022 are called upon to report: Francesco CANINO, Iolanda CILEA, Ilaria LATELLA, Giuseppina VIZZARI and Maria Teresa RODINO'. The Coordinator reminds the Board that Drs. Iolanda CILEA and Vizzari GIUSEPPINA are currently abroad following regular authorization by the Coordinator (Prot. N. 0023669 of 02/09/2024) and the Board of Professors (Prot. N. 0016469 of 17/06/2024), in line with the provisions of the University Regulations on PhDs. For this reason, the doctors were authorized to report remotely using a specific channel "PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL) - MEETINGS" created by the coordinator in the Microsoft Teams platform. The other PhD students are present in the classroom.

Doctoral students currently abroad are initially invited to report and then continue in alphabetical order. Therefore, they present the PhD students in the following order:

- a. Giuseppina VIZZARI. Thesis title: "*Harnessing the plant microbiome to promote post-fire ecological recovery*". Tutor: Dr. Ahmed Abdelfattah
- b. Iolanda CILEA. Thesis title: "*Technological treatments to obtain high-quality food production*". Tutor: Prof. Marco Poiana.
- c. Francesco CANINO. Thesis title: "*Formulation of sustainable gluten-free beer from rice malt and potato processing waste with a view to a circular economy*". Tutor: Prof. Adele Muscolo
- d. Ilaria LATELLA. Thesis title: "*Diversity and community composition of Lepidoptera in relation to different human pressures in southern Italy*". Tutor: Prof. Orlando Campolo
- e. Maria Teresa RODINO'. Thesis title: "*Assessment of the effects of degradation of organic matter and biodegradable mulching films on soil prokaryotic communities (total and metabolically active) in different agricultural settings*". Tutor: Prof. Michele Monti

The presentation of each PhD student lasts about 15 minutes and is followed by a brief discussion in which the candidates answer the questions of the members of the Board.

### **2. Communications**

The Coordinator informs the Board that with Rector's Decree no. 273/2024 the selection acts for admission to the three-year PhD Course in "Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences" (XL cycle) have been approved for n. 5 positions of which n. 4 with scholarship of which n. 1 preferably reserved for any foreign candidates, as outlined below:

Grant	Financing	Theme
1	University	Free
2	DM 630/2024 with co-financing from the Italian Association of Organic Agriculture APS (AIAB)	Evolution of Community-led Local Development (CLLD) and Food and Biodistrict Districts in some Italian areas
3	DM 630/2024 with co-financing from the Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of Agricultural Economics (CREA)	Management and enhancement of the forest heritage
4	DM 630/2024 with co-financing from the Experimental Station for the Industries of Essences and Derivatives from Citrus Fruits - Special Agency - RC Chamber of Commerce	Development and enhancement of citrus products
Without	University	Free

The position without scholarship was not assigned due to the lack of suitable candidates. The Coordinator also reports that he has learned from the Doctoral Office that the post is based on funds from the DM. 630/2024 and the Italian Association of Organic Agriculture APS (scholarship no. 2) cannot be awarded because the only candidate who was found to be suitable, after initially accepting, gave up.

### 3. Approval of minutes no. 11 of 24.07.2024

The Coordinator reminds those present that the draft of the minutes of meeting no. 11 of 24.07.2024 drawn up in Italian and English was sent on 17 October 2024 to all members of the Board, together with the convocation of this Board. The minutes, in both versions (Italian and English) are approved unanimously.

### 4. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXIX cycle for admission to the second year

The Coordinator brings to the attention of the Board the evaluation of the PhD students of the XXXIX cycle: Roberta CARIDI, Laura MISALE, Emanuele PORCU, Antonio ZUMBO, Giuseppina PROCOPIO and Matteo SBAGLIA.

The Coordinator reminds the board that the documentation necessary for the evaluation of PhD students has been made available on the Team called "PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL)" to which all members of the PhD Board have access. The documents available are:

- Annual report on activities carried out;
- Study plan with the list of teaching and research activities carried out for the acquisition of ECTS credits;
- Tutors' judgment;
- Three-year PhD project;
- Evaluation forms completed by the committees of experts appointed at meeting no. 11 of 24.07.2024 for the evaluation of the three-year doctoral project.

The members of the Board present confirm that they have read this documentation.

**The Board, taking into account all the available documentation, having noted that all doctoral students have acquired the credits required for the first year by the "*Programming of the PhD Training Plan (XXXIX cycle)*" (resolution no. 8 of 21.11.2023), after a brief discussion, unanimously resolves to admit the PhD students Roberta CARIDI, Laura MISALE, Emanuele PORCU, Antonio ZUMBO, Giuseppina PROCOPIO and Matteo SBAGLIA.**

This point is read and approved immediately.

## 5. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle, starting in November 2022, for admission to the third year

The Coordinator brings to the attention of the Board the evaluation of the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle who started their activities in November 2022: Francesco CANINO, Iolanda CILEA, Ilaria LATELLA, Giuseppina VIZZARI, and Maria Teresa RODINO'. The Coordinator reminds the board that the documentation necessary for the evaluation of PhD students has been made available on the Team called "PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL)" to which all members of the PhD Board have access. The documents available are:

- Annual report of the activities carried out;
- Study plan with the list of teaching and research activities carried out for the acquisition of ECTS credits
- Tutor's judgment;

The members of the Board present confirm that they have read this documentation. Therefore, the evaluation of doctoral students is carried out.

The Academic Board verifies that all PhD students have acquired the 5 CFU in teaching activities planned for the second year as per the resolution of the Academic Board (meetings No. 3 of 02.03.2023 and No. 04 of 21.11.2023) and that the PhD students Francesco CANINO and Giuseppina VIZZARI have recovered the debt of CFU not acquired in the first year (resolution note no. 7 of 19.10.2023). For the Rodinò PhD student, there is a total teaching activity debt of 4.5 credits that can be acquired in the third year of the doctorate. As far as research activities are concerned, all PhD students have acquired the required CFUs.

**The Academic Board, after having read the documents and listened to the presentations of the doctoral students, taking into account the credits acquired, expresses a favourable opinion and unanimously resolves to admit the following PhD students to the third year: Francesco CANINO, Iolanda CILEA, Ilaria LATELLA, Giuseppina VIZZARI and Maria Teresa RODINO'.**

This point is read and approved immediately.

## 6. Application for the title of *Doctor Europaeus*

The Coordinator reports that he has received a request for authorization from the PhD student Ilaria LATELLA, enrolled in the second year of the PhD (cycle XXXVIII), to obtain the additional qualification of "*Doctor Europaeus*". According to the provisions of art. 21 of the "*University Regulations on the subject of PhDs*", the request must be made explicit, normally within the second year of the course, to the Academic Board of the Course and to the Department of reference, which, once the preliminary investigation has been completed, transmits it for the continuation to the competent Offices. The Coordinator points out that on the basis of the aforementioned Art. 21, the qualification of *Doctor Europaeus* is issued by the University when the following four conditions are met:

- a) the PhD thesis is planned as the result of a period of work and research lasting at least 3 months in a country of the European Union that is different from the country where the PhD student is enrolled;
- b) the thesis work is submitted for evaluation, through a special format, by at least two reviewers from two university institutions in two countries of the European Union, other than the one in which the thesis will be discussed;
- c) the Final Examination Committee of the Doctoral Course includes at least one member from a university institution of a European Union country other than the country in which the PhD student is enrolled; the mission expenses of the Commission referred to above are borne by the University;
- d) the discussion of the thesis work can also be carried out by video conference and takes place, as well as in Italian, in one of the languages of the European Union; the President of the Commission draws up a report of the examination in Italian and in the language in which the discussion is held by the PhD student, countersigned by all the commissioners.

The Board, after a brief discussion, expresses a favourable opinion on the issuance of the additional qualification of "*Doctor Europaeus*" to PhD student Ilaria LATELLA following the verification of the existence of the necessary conditions for the achievement of the title in compliance with the four conditions specified above.

This point is read and approved immediately.

## 7. Authorization of the foreign period

No requests were received.

## 8. Appointment of co-tutor

The Coordinator reports that he has received an application from Prof. Giuseppe Modica, tutor of the PhD student Lamia Raahali (XXXVIII Cycle), to propose the assignment of Drs. Giuseppe Badagliacca and Salvatore Praticò as co-tutors. The Board, having verified that the proposed co-tutors are widely qualified and possess the requirement of the "number of publications for the ASN in the associate bracket of the SSD of the professor or doctoral student" adopted by resolution no. 3 of 12 March 2021 (XXXVI cycle), unanimously approves their appointment.

Since there are no other topics for discussion and having dealt with all the items on the agenda, the meeting is closed at 4:30 p.m.

The Coordinator  
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

The Secretary  
Prof. Anna Irene DE LUCA