

Minutes of the Academic Board of the SAAF PhD n. 14 (cycles XXXVIII-XXXIX-XL)

Meeting of 22 January 2025

Composition of the Academic Board:

| | | | P | JA | 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 (Exit 11:00) | | |
| 26. | Porto | Paolo | | | X |
| 27. | Proto | Andrea Rosario | X | | |
| 28. | Schena | Leonardo | X (Entry 11:15) | | |
| 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 takes place in person in the Francesco S. Nesci room of the Department of Agriculture. The meeting is initially chaired by the Vice-Coordinator, Prof. Anna Irene De Luca, since the Coordinator Leonardo Schena is simultaneously engaged in a meeting convened by the Coordinator of the University Doctoral School. Prof. Anna Irene De Luca herself 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 PhD students who are currently carrying out a period abroad (Lamia Rahali). Dr. Lucas-Borja and Dr. Tassone are considered absent justified by having previously sent a request by e-mail to the Coordinator. Dr. Abdelfattah and Prof. García-Ruíz are considered absent since they have not sent any request and do not connect to the meeting on the platform.

The Vice-Coordinator, having noted 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 10:10 a.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Presentation of the annual reports (second year) of doctoral candidates of the XXXVIII cycle (starting in February 2023)
2. Approving minutes of meeting n. 13 (18.12.2024)
3. Communications
4. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle for admission to the third year (starting in February 2023)
5. Designation of the PhD representative in the joint teachers-students committee
6. Appointment of Co-tutors
7. Authorization of the foreign period

1. Presentation of the annual reports (second year) of doctoral candidates of the XXXVIII cycle (starting in February 2023)

The Vice-Coordinator points out that the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle who started their activities in February 2023 are called upon to report: Edda FRANCOMANO, Corinne GIACONDINO, Gabriella IMPALLOMENE, Dorra KOUKA, Leonardo Maurizio MANTI, Mariateresa OLIVA, Domenica PANGALLO, Lamia RAHALI. The Vice-Coordinator reminds the Board that Dr. Lamia RAHALI is currently abroad following regular authorization from the coordinator (Prot. No. 0012751 of 09/05/2024) and for this reason, she has been 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.

The PhD student Lamia RAHALI, who is currently abroad is invited to report. Subsequently, following a draw, the other PhD students are called to exhibit. The order of presentation is, therefore, as follows:

- a. Lamia RAHALI. Thesis title "*Implementation of innovative geospatial models and workflows to analyze, characterize, and monitor the vegetative vigor of Mediterranean crop systems*". Tutor: Prof. Giuseppe Modica; Co-tutors: Dr. Salvatore Praticò and Dr. Giuseppe Badagliacca;
- b. Corinne GIACONDINO. Thesis title "*Extension of the shelf-life of food through the use of biodegradable innovative packaging*". Tutor: Prof. Amalia R.M. Piscopo; Co-tutor Prof. Alessandra De Bruno;
- c. Dorra KOUKA. Thesis title "*Building performances modeling and assessment in the food industry*". Tutor: Prof. Francesco Barreca;
- d. Gabriella IMPALLOMENE. Thesis title: "*Smart and sustainable greenhouses*". Tutors: Prof. Francesco Barreca; Co-tutor Prof. Fabio Filianoti;
- e. Leonardo Maurizio MANTI. Thesis title: "*Use of logs downed by wildfire as erosion barriers to encourage forest auto-regeneration in Mediterranean area*". Tutors: Prof. Giuseppe Bombino; Co-tutor: Prof. Pasquale Antonio Marziliano;
- f. Mariateresa OLIVA. Thesis title "*Innovative strategies to protect natural resources and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture: Solutions for soil quality assessment and protection.*". Tutor: Prof. Adele Muscolo;
- g. Domenica PANGALLO. Thesis title "*Design and test of an automated and optimised aerated lagoon system for agri-food wastewater treatment*". Tutor: Prof. Demetrio Antonio Zema; Co-tutor: Prof. Paolo Salvatore Calabrò;

- h. Edda FRANCOMANO. Thesis title "Construction of Machine Learning models for plant microbiome analysis and classification". Tutor: Prof. Leonardo Schena; Co-tutor: Prof. Antonino Malacrinò.

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. Prof. Marco Poiana exit at 11:00 a.m. from today's meeting of the doctoral board due to a concomitant institutional event that requires his presence. Prof. Leonardo Schena joins the participants at the meeting at 11:15 a.m. and for the subsequent items chair the board.

2. Approving minutes of meeting n. 13 (18.12.2024)

The Coordinator reminds those present that the draft of the minutes of meeting no. 13 of 18.12.2024 drawn up in Italian and English was sent on 17 January 2025 to all members of the Board, together with the convocation of this Board. The minutes, in both versions (Italian and English) are approved unanimously.

3. Communications

The Coordinator informs the Board that the project entitled "The European Green Deal for the sustainability of Agri-food Systems" presented by the SAAF doctorate together with the other doctorates of the Mediterranean in the context of the "TERRITORIAL PACTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR COMPANIES (DECREE LAW 6 NOVEMBER 2021, NO. 152 ART. 14 BIS) MUR DECREE no. 2329 of 21.12.2023" has been funded.

4. Evaluation of PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle for admission to the third year (starting in February 2023)

The coordinator brings to the attention of the Board the evaluation of the PhD students of the XXXVIII cycle who started their activities in February 2023: Edda FRANCOMANO, Corinne GIACONDINO, Gabriella IMPALLOMENI, Dorra KOUKA, Leonardo Maurizio MANTI, Mariateresa OLIVA, Domenica PANGALLO, Lamia RAHALI.

The coordinator reminds 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;
- Training plan with the list of teaching and research activities carried out for the acquisition of CFUs;
- Opinion of the tutors.

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 preliminarily verifies whether the PhD students have acquired a total of 40 credits of teaching activities in the first two years of the PhD as per the resolutions of the Academic Board (meetings No. 3 of 02.03.2023 and No. 04 of 21.11.2023). With the sole exception of PhD student Dorra KOUKA, all PhD students have acquired at least 40 CFU. The coordinator points out that Dr. KOUKA will have to acquire missing credits during the third year of the PhD. 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: Edda FRANCOMANO, Corinne GIACONDINO, Gabriella IMPALLOMENI, Dorra KOUKA, Leonardo Maurizio MANTI, Mariateresa OLIVA, Domenica PANGALLO, Lamia RAHALI.

This point is read and approved immediately.

6. Designation of the PhD representative in the joint teachers-students committee

The coordinator recalls that the joint teachers-students committee of the Department includes a representative of the Doctorate, highlighting that this role has been played in previous cycles by Prof. Fabio Lombardi. He emphasizes that following the resignation of Prof. Lombardi, to whom the Board thanks for the

work done, it is necessary to appoint a new representative and informs the Board that he has acquired the availability of Prof. Angelo Maria Giuffrè. The Board, after brief discussion, unanimously approves the appointment of Prof. Giuffrè.

6. Nomina co-tutor

No requests were received.

7. Authorization of the foreign period

The coordinator reports that he has received a request from PhD student Francesco Canino, countersigned by the Tutor, Prof. Adele Muscolo, to be authorized to spend an abroad period in Belgium at the "*Faculty of Engineering Technology (Technologiecampus Gent) – KU Leuven*" from **01.02.2025 to 01.08.2025**. He recalls that Canino has already carried out a six-month period (10.01.2024 to 10.07.2024) at the same institution following regular authorization from the PhD Coordinator (Prot. N. 0000532 of 10.01.2024). Since with this second request the PhD student asks to be able to carry out a total period of one year abroad, in line with the provisions of *the University Regulations on PhD* (Art. 6, paragraph 2, letter C; Art. 28, paragraph 3), the authorization of the Academic Board is required. The Board, after brief discussion and the request for some clarifications, unanimously approves.

This point is read and approved immediately.

Since there are no other topics for discussion and having dealt with all the items on the agenda, the meeting is closed at 12:40.

The Coordinator
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

The Secretary
Prof.ssa Anna Irene DE LUCA