

# *Cotutelle* (and joint thesis supervision)

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ULB PhD Day 2025



## Cotutelle ?

*A **cotutelle** is the joint organization and supervision, **by two academic institutions**, of research work in preparation for a doctoral thesis. The cotutelle enables the PhD candidate to benefit from **a broader and richer scientific framework**, as well as to acquire international experience when the partner institution is located abroad.*



## Some statistics

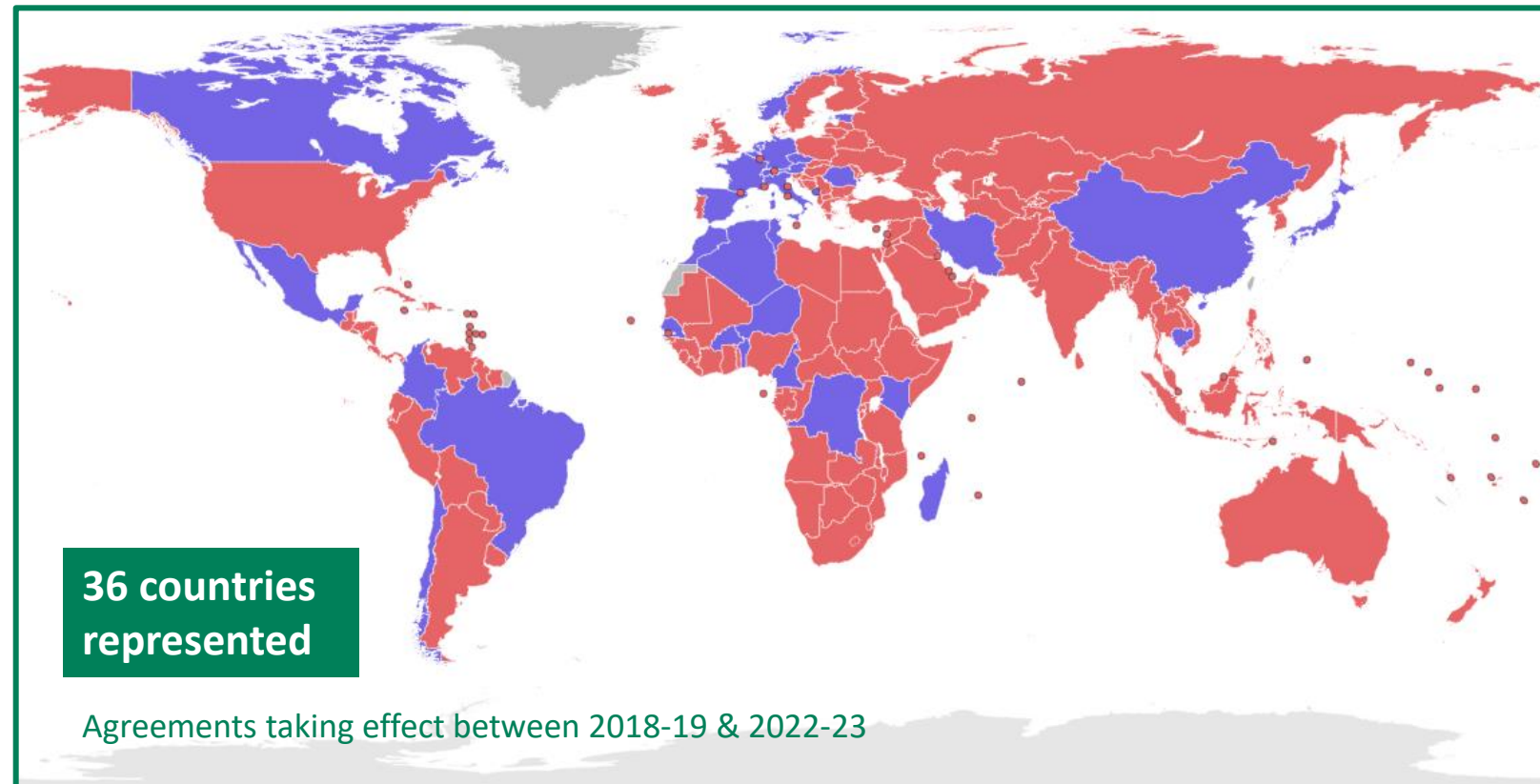


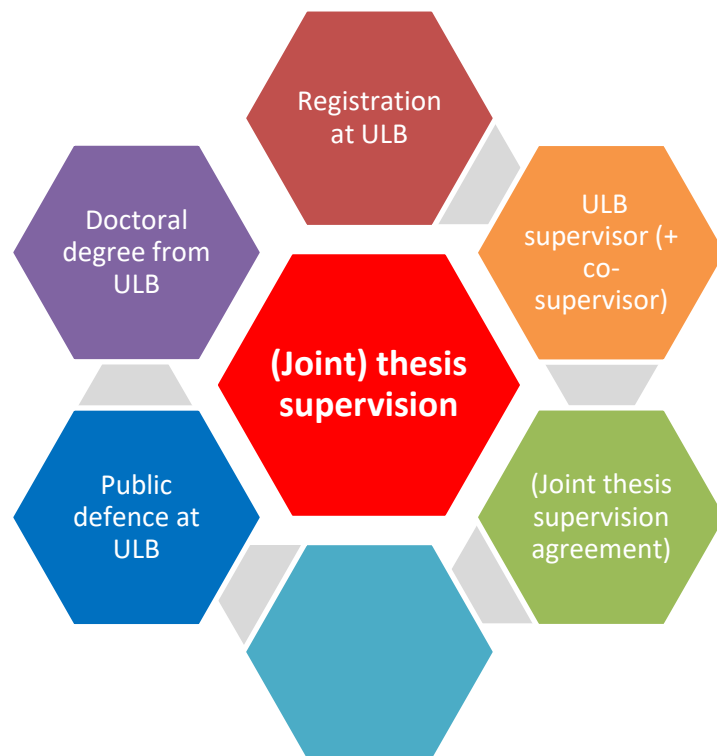
## Introduction

### Current figures:

#### → Number of cotutelles in progress: 253 (12,5% ULB theses)

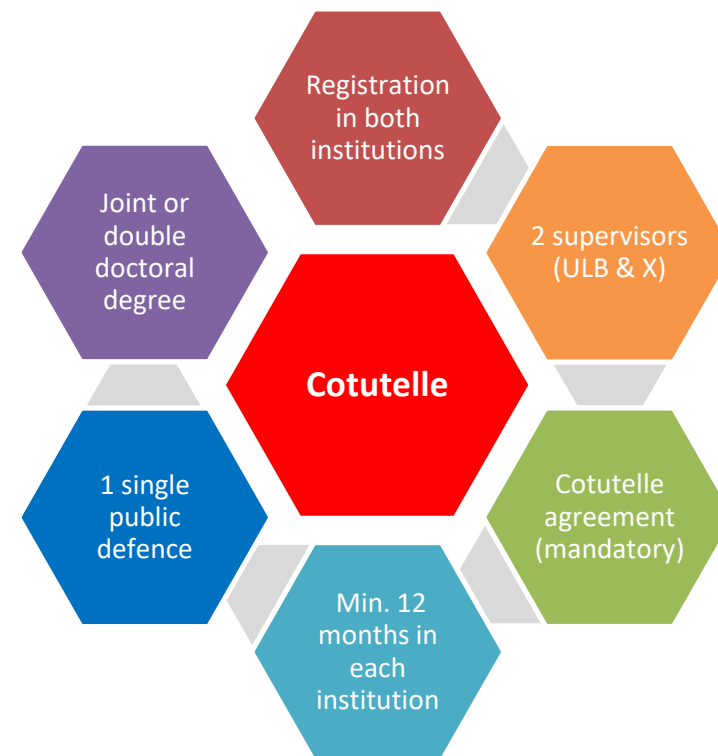
- Number of cotutelles with FWB universities (& ERM): 61
- Number of cotutelles with Flemish universities: 61
- Number of cotutelles with EU institutions (except BE): 77
- Number of cotutelles with NON-EU institutions: 54





**(JOINT) THESIS SUPERVISION**

## Doing a cotutelle



**COTUTELLE**



## Particularities of cotutelles

# Cotutelle agreement



## Doing a cotutelle

The cotutelle agreement is drawn up in order to find **common ground** between the doctoral regulations of the two institutions

- The cotutelle agreement is **individual**
- In the event of a dispute, the cotutelle agreement **takes precedence**
- Negotiations are conducted via the **DocFiRe unit** of the Research Department
- Any institution offering doctoral degrees is eligible by default. **In Belgium: 10 universities + ERM**

# Cotutelle agreement



## Doing a cotutelle

### Main points of discussion:

- Double **registration** and associated costs
- **Supervision**: identification of the 2 supervisors and the members of the supervisory committee
- **Doctoral training programme**: equivalence, ECTS, compulsory content, etc.
- **Intellectual property**: sharing results
- **Defence process & composition of the jury**
  - Private defence format
  - Supervisors as voting members
- **Degree**
  - Joint if FWB universities
  - Double if other institution

# Cotutelle agreement



## Doing a cotutelle

### Signatures :

ULB	Partner institution
Research Department Director (Rector's delegation)	Representative 1
Dean of the faculty	Representative 2
Supervisor	Supervisor
PhD candidate	

## Resources & contact



## Doing a cotutelle

### JOINT THESIS SUPERVISION

[https://www.ulb.be/en/phd/  
joint-thesis-supervision](https://www.ulb.be/en/phd/joint-thesis-supervision)

### COTUTELLE

[https://www.ulb.be/en/phd/  
joint-phd-programme](https://www.ulb.be/en/phd/joint-phd-programme)

[cotutelle@ulb.be](mailto:cotutelle@ulb.be)

**Sabrina DEJONGH**  
*Europe & Africa*



**Hélène KITSOPOULOS**  
*Flanders & Rest of the world*

### 5 agreement templates:

FWB universities  
Flemish universities  
CIVIS alliance universities  
Other universities  
Joint thesis supervision agreement

No document should be  
signed without first going  
through the DocFiRe Unit!



## Other possibilities

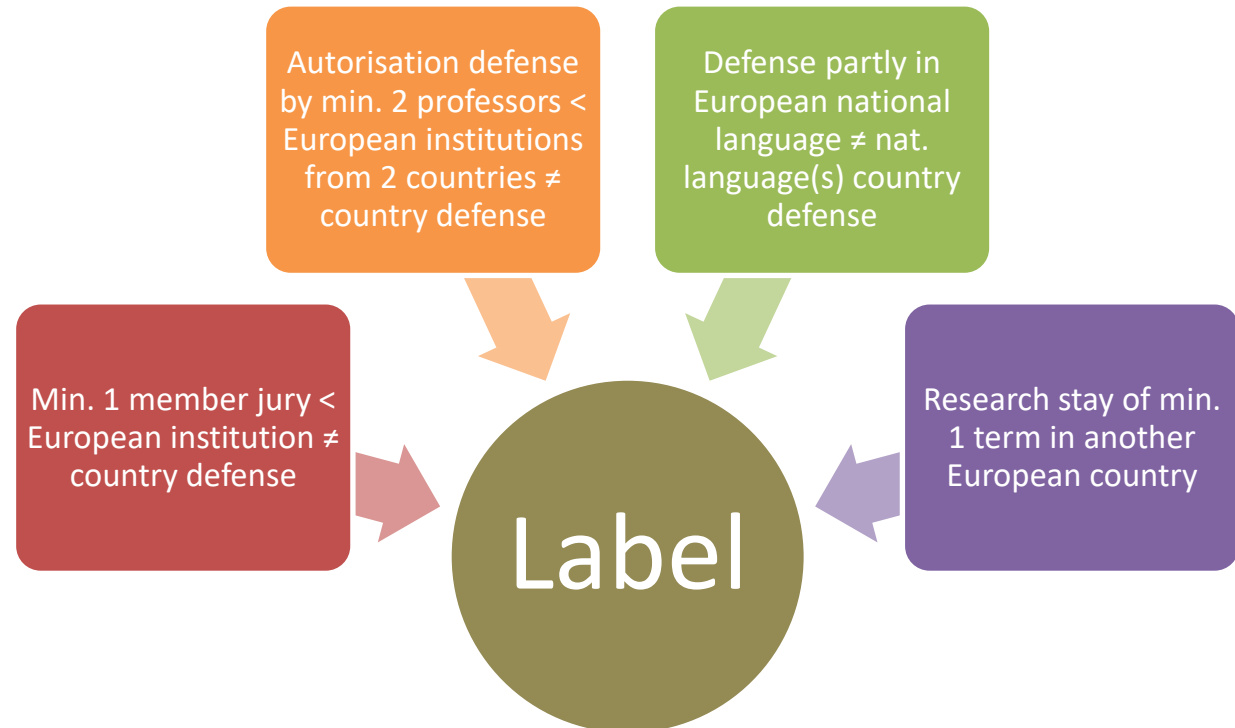


### Mobility and internationalization

- **Short-term stays:** conferences, seminars, summer school, etc.
- **Long-term stays:** field research, research visits to foreign laboratories, etc.

→ **Funding and certification (?)**

**European PhD label (when submitting the thesis to the faculty) :**



## Many other resources



## Resources

### Make the most of this day by:

- Gather information that will be useful throughout your (post)doctoral studies
- Identify resource people at ULB
- Meet other PhD candidates & postdocs

**Don't forget: we are re here to help you!**

[doctorat@ulb.be](mailto:doctorat@ulb.be)

Thank you for your attention!

**Questions?**

