



ESSENTIAL

*Evolving Security Science
through Networked Technologies,
Information policy And Law*

Building a European Joint PhD Program: The ESSENTIAL Experience

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AN INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL

WHAT?

International PhD program, financed by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

WHEN?

January 1st 2017- December 31st 2021

WHO?

Groningen University, Norwegian Technological University, University of Malta, Consiglio Nazionale delle Recherche, Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy, Edith Cowan University, Netherlands Forensic Institute



STARTING POINT

Disciplinary specialization can produce tunnel vision

“Your planet is very beautiful,” [said the little prince]. “Has it any oceans?”

“I couldn’t tell you,” said the geographer. . . .

“But you are a geographer!”

“Exactly,” the geographer said. “But I am not an explorer. I haven’t a single explorer on my planet. It is not the geographer who goes out to count the towns, the rivers, the mountains, the seas, the oceans, the deserts. The geographer is much too important to go loafing about. He does not leave his desk” (The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)



THE CHALLENGE OF THINKING BEYOND DISCIPLINES

- ❖ "breaking down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation"
(<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>)
- ❖ A combination of cognition + application + understanding + taking action



MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS

- ❖ Converging Technologies and Networked Ecosystems
- ❖ Trust and Resilience
- ❖ Security and Safety in the Digital Society
- ❖ Governance, Online & Offline Citizenship



JOIN EDUCATION EVENTS

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Career Management
- ❖ Research and Valorisation addressing the topic of publishing Internationally and in an interdisciplinary context (
- ❖ Leadership and Efficiency on the topic of mind-maps for complex structures
- ❖ Design and coordination of network-wide events
- ❖ Doing Research
- ❖ Thinking Research
- ❖ Managing Research
- ❖ Communicating Research
- ❖ Advanced Information Security
- ❖ Trust and Security Technologies Big Data and intelligence operations
- ❖ Regulation of Cybercrime



KEY TAKEAWAYS



A JOINT PROGRAM IS NOT FOR EVERYONE



- truly novel research
- a range of different career paths
- a stimulating intellectual life
- greater potential impact

- additional academic challenges
- logistical challenges
- more resources of time, effort, imagination and money than single discipline research

KNOW WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- **Different Fields Move at Different Speeds**
- **Different Fields Have Different Rules**
- **Different Fields Have Different Reward Models**
 - Flexibility
 - Patience
 - A 360° perspective of the disciplinary contexts
 - the (self)-organization of a community is dependent to the ideological and normative polarization, and not to a framework of analysis grounded in expertise



THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

- the need for relevance to real world problems - industry or end-users
 - strong interdisciplinary proposals - in close collaboration with potential users
 - access to research data
 - access to research subjects
- do users automatically have a better understanding than academics of the 'real world' nature of problems?
- interactions with stakeholders can be problematic
 - key research partners move posts unexpectedly
 - commercialisation or other pressures lead to demands for premature delivery of outputs
 - delays in delivery of project outputs jeopardise commercial applications
 - delays in obtaining research funding cause users to lose interest in the project



INVOLVE WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS

- More than one supervisor
- Depend on multiple collaborators
- Meetings, seminars, and conferences with vastly different foci
- Planning+contingency planning



IT REQUIRES A DESIRE TO

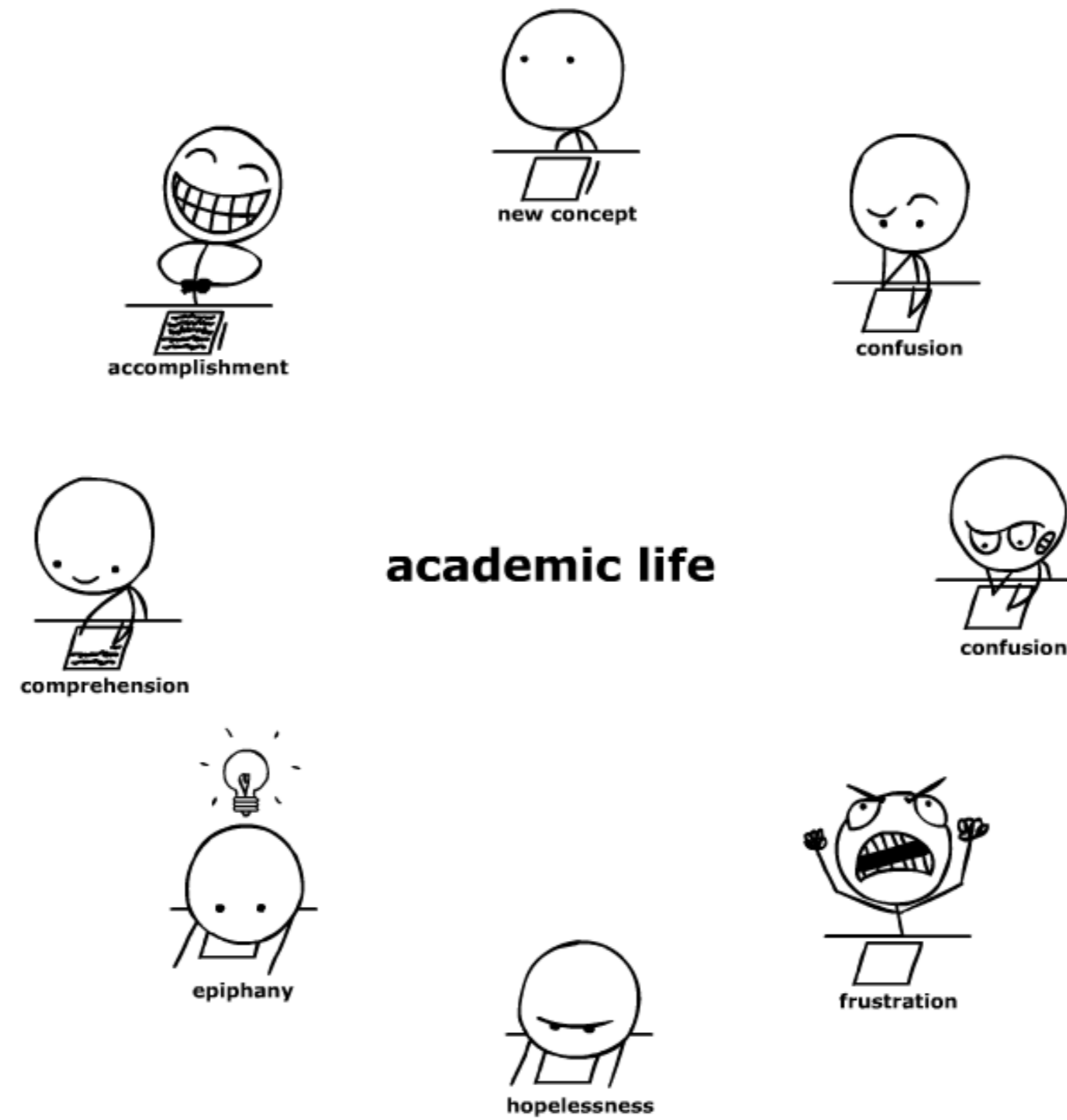
- engage with ‘real world’ problems
 - tackle socially relevant issues
- contribute to the advancement of academic disciplines



CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ Different worlds divided by different regulations, professional norms and values
- ◆ The nature of interdisciplinary research - always significant gaps in knowledge
- ◆ Various roles: coach, team-player, advisor, academic (co)supervisor





Thank you for your attention

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