Doctoral Education at Aalto University School of Engineering and Doctoral Programme in the Built Environment (RYM-TO)

Prof. Kauko Viitanen
Head of the Dept. of Real Estate, Planning and Geoinformatics

ERES Educational Seminar, Espoo 30.11.2012
Existing professorships at the Department

- Real Estate Studies
- Economic and Environmental Law
- Land Management
- Real Estate Business
- Strategic Urban Planning
- Land Use Planning
- Geodesy
- Cartography
- Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
- Planning GIS
- Cadastral systems in 3D
- Land use policy

Aalto University
The Doctoral Programme of Engineering

- consists now of 18 research fields e.g.  
  - land use planning and urban studies,  
  - real estate economics,  
  - environmental law  
  - geoinformatics
- In the future most likely 5 research fields, e.g.  
  - Sustainable built environment
- Studies nowadays 40 ECTS + doctoral thesis
- In Real Estate Economics about four doctor’s per year
National Doctoral Programmes

- Doctoral programmes is a national structure which was established in the late 90’ies
- Doctoral students studying in national doctoral programmes receive a basic salary financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- The Academy of Finland supports organising the activities in the programmes giving annually about 3500 €/MEC per financed student place
- The programmes and student places in them was applied every second year for four years period
National Doctoral Programmes

• Students apply to the special programmes
• Normally the student place has been filled in for four years, reviewed after second year
• One student can be financed for max. four years
• The system is going to be finished at the end of 2015
• After that the universities shall alone take the responsibility to arrange doctoral programmes
Doctoral Programme RYM-TO

• Origanates from the Graduate School in Real Estate and Facilities Management which started 2003
• The present name RYM-TO was taken 2010
  • combines old doctoral programmes and new units
    • Wood Construction and Planning from 2012
• Consists of seven universities and two research institutes
• Over 80 affiliated professors
• Covers extensively research and doctoral education in the field of Built Environment in Finland
Organisation and fields
Organisation

• The Doctoral Programme in the Built Environment is governed by an Executive Board representing all participating universities.

• Daily operations are overseen by the Head of the Board with the assistant and coordinator supporting and preparing the decisions making process.

• Head of RYM-TO Prof. Kauko Viitanen
• Assistant Pia Pässilä
• Coordinator Arhi Kivilahti
What does the doctoral programme offer?

• Financing
  – Salaried positions
• Other funds
  – travel grants and grants for research exchange
  – for courses and seminars
  – for internationalization, networking
• Common forum for researchers
• Co-operation with other Doctoral Programmes
• Co-operation with public and private sectors (including strategic centre for science, technology and innovation in the field of built environment, Rym Oy)
• Co-operation with various international partners
Changes in the PhD positions and student activities in 2009

- Digium license
- RYM General meeting
- Facility Management course 2008 invoice
- Housing seminar (26.3.2009)
- Support ERES seminar (27.-28.3.2009)
- Fotogrammetry (October 2009)
- Conference on Urban Structure&living environment (Autumn 2009)
- Workplace Research Seminar (5.10.2009)
- RYM Annual Meeting (November 2009)
- Construction IT seminar (8.-9.6.2009)
- Facility Management course (Autumn 2009)
- Stream restoration and sediment transport in theory and practice / Fuvial restoration: different practicers and perspectives seminar (25.-27.5.2009)
- Housing Markets (cancelled)
- Brian Atkin
- Tyttöjen tohtorikoulu (December 2009)
RYM-TO doctoral students

- Funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture: 32 (42 due transitions)
- Other full-time students: appr. 80
- Part-time students: appr. 300
- Graduated in 2010 and 2011: 8-9
- After 2000 -> (including previous graduate schools): appr. 100 graduated

**Gender (N=122), including 2010-2011 graduated**
- Male: 48%
- Female: 52%

**Nationality (N=122), including 2010-2011 graduated**
- Finnish: 83%
- Foreign: 17%
The fields of research of RYM-TO doctoral students (n=122, including 2010-2011 graduated)

- Construction 25%
- Real Estate 29%
- Urban Planning 18%
- Environmental engineering 15%
- Housing 9%
- Building service technology 4%

- In many cases fields overlap, in this picture only one chosen
Annual activities of RYM-TO

- Individual meetings with the head of RYM-TO (evaluation), RYM Coffee, December
- New funded doctoral students start, January
- RYM Coffee, Executive Board Meeting, February
- Boat Seminar, March
- Call for finance for the courses, RYM Coffee, April
- Call for applications for RYM-TO scholarship, Annual reporting, September
- Get-together lunch, Executive Board Meeting, August
- Executive Board Meeting, Invoicing the salaries by Jun 1st, May
- RYM Coffee, June
- July
- June
- May
- April
- March
- February
- January
- December
RYM-TO Handbook

http://rym.aalto.fi/en/

Total finance about one million € a year
+ finance from the departments involved