Survey assessing the level of compliance and the level of relevance of the 40 principles of the Charter and Code at the UMU. Main Conclusions

For all principles, respondents were asked to choose improvement actions related with the measures that will be put in practice through the Action Plan.

A consultation was launched by the Vice-Rectorate for Internationalisation which is responsible for managing international research programmes and organising the international mobility at the UMU, on 31st October 2018. The survey ran until 22nd November 2018 and was available in Spanish and English to all UMU researchers (R1-R4). The participation was 15.1%, which is considered a high participation rate in this type of surveys. The most participative age ranges were 41-50 years, with 32.1%, and 51-60 years, with 30.7%. In terms of gender, 60.6% of participants were male, 35.3% female, and 1.1% chose not to answer.

The scientific community of the Universidad de Murcia analysed each of the 40 principles of the Charter and Code with respect to two variables: the level of compliance and the level of relevance of each principle. The "gap type" was calculated by taking as a "serious" gap a difference of more than one point between the level of compliance and the level of relevance and understanding, and a "slight" gap as a difference of less than 1 point between the level of compliance and the level of relevance.

The rationale used was:

1. Principles identified in the survey with serious gap and having failed, regardless of whether or not they are implemented in the GAP Analysis, have been categorised as priority 1 principles.

2. Principles derived from those identified in the survey as a serious or slight gap, but that they are not valued as having failed, have been considered as priority 2 principles.

Special attention has been paid to those in which the assessment made by the Working Group in the GAP Analysis is high (fully implemented), but which the survey indicates a serious gap in terms of the level of compliance and the level of relevance (principles 5, 17 and 21).

Against this backdrop, eleven Priority 1 principles 7, 11, 12, 16, 18, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32 and 34, have been identified to be developed during the first year of the Action Plan. The predominant thematic blocks within these principles are those relating to working conditions and social security, recruitment and selection, and career development. Principles 5, 17 and 21 are also included.
Six Priority 2 Principles have been identified: 15, 23, 29, 33, 36 and 38 and will be addressed, at the latest, in the corresponding actions of the second year of validity of the Action Plan. The predominant thematic blocks within these principles are those relating to working conditions and social security, recruitment and selection, and career development.

It is noteworthy that most of the principles identified by the Working Group in the gap analysis coincide entirely with the principles to take suggested by researchers at the University of Murcia. The survey has been a very important outcome during the process because it has helped to prioritize the actions to be included in the Action Plan, fully taking into account the real needs of the R1 – R4 community at the UMU.

The results from the survey and the actions identified in the Gap Analysis were also discussed in a meeting on Thursday 17th January 2019 with a Focus Group of Researchers, comprising 10 researchers from R1 to R4. The suggestions collected at that meeting have been included in the final version of the GAP Analysis as well as in the Action Plan.