

Description of the activities and working methods

There are three basic types of course activities within the DPMS:

- **ME:** *acquiring scientific tools: courses on imaging, analytical and modelling techniques.* The main techniques used by all members of the DPMS are image analysis, scanning and transmission electron microscopy with its various applications, laser ablation ICP-MS, microthermometry, microtomography, Raman spectroscopy, and stable and radiogenic isotope analysis. We plan to offer at least two short courses per year in these techniques. As the techniques are all available at different CUSO sites, the courses will be given mainly by the respective authors of this proposal at their sites, in close collaboration with other members of the teaching staff.
- **SB:** *acquiring a broad scientific background: conferences on scientific topics of general interest in Mineral Sciences.* For this purpose, we invite highly reputed speakers from Europe and abroad. These conferences are held at different CUSO sites and combined with oral and poster presentations given by the doctoral students on their research topics in order to enhance and facilitate discussion between the invited speakers and the doctoral students;
- **SK:** *acquiring soft skills: oral and poster presentations given by the doctoral students.* Within the DPMS students will have one opportunity per year to present their scientific results. In addition, they are encouraged to present their results at international conferences.
Conferences and workshops on soft skills: project management, preparation of written and oral scientific presentations, marketing strategies for job hunting, ethics in science, communication techniques and equal opportunities. Up to two events are planned per year, held by invited non-university professionals.