

## Handout for dissertations (FPromO Tech – dated Feb. 27, 2025)

### Explanation of Section 11 FPromO Tech – Requirements for the Doctoral Thesis

(1) <sup>1</sup>The thesis must be a standalone monograph written independently by the doctoral candidate that provides evidence of scientific findings which can be accredited to the author.

<sup>2</sup>The doctoral candidates shall use scientific methods to investigate, document and provide sound reasons for their scientific findings. The findings are required to generate added value for the specific subject area.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral thesis shall be written in a uniform format and shall include an introduction describing the general topic of the research and the relationship between the various chapters. <sup>2</sup>The doctoral thesis must include a detailed summary in German and English. <sup>A</sup>

(3) <sup>1</sup>Doctoral candidates are encouraged to actively publish partial results while the thesis is being written, and this will not jeopardize the thesis in any way (Section 11 (2) **RPromO**). <sup>2</sup>The doctoral thesis may include articles that have been published or submitted for publication. <sup>3</sup>A thesis must not consist of a compilation of already published articles printed in the original publishers' layout. <sup>4</sup>If publications with several authors are included in the doctoral thesis, the thesis shall include a separate section stating these publications, the candidate's personal contribution to these theses and how they contribute to the doctoral thesis as a whole. <sup>B</sup>

(4) In the case of co-authored publications, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may require the doctoral candidate and the co-authors to submit written confirmation of the contribution made by the doctoral candidate. <sup>C</sup>

### Explanation of Section 18 FPromO Tech – Use of AI-Technologies

<sup>1</sup>Tools for generating or improving texts (e.g. artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies) may only be used to improve readability and language. <sup>2</sup>Doctoral candidates shall submit a declaration naming the tools they have used and stating what they were used for. <sup>3</sup>The doctoral candidate shall declare that they are responsible for the content of the doctoral thesis.

<sup>4</sup>The declaration shall be included at the beginning of the dissertation. <sup>D</sup>

---

<sup>A</sup> The German and English abstracts should be placed at the beginning of the dissertation. The dissertation itself should be written in a consistent language (either German or English).

<sup>B</sup> This section is placed at the beginning of the dissertation, e.g. as a section entitled "Own publications and contributions" in the introduction.

<sup>C</sup> This applies, in particular, if entire publications are used within the dissertation or if a significant part of the dissertation is based on publications. Each of these publications must have an author contribution statement clearly showing the own work of the candidate. Alternatively, i.e. for each publication without author contribution statement, the form "Confirmation of Co-authorship of Publications" must be provided and signed by all co-authors. Note that these confirmations do not need to be included in the dissertation, but must be submitted with original signatures or advanced electronic signatures (eS) of the co-authors and uploaded to DocDaten.

<sup>D</sup> A best practice example is given below.

## **Best practice example for declaring the use of AI technologies**

### **Declaration about the usage of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies**

During the preparation of this work, the author used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON].<sup>E</sup> After using these tools, the manuscript was carefully reviewed and the content was edited as needed. No tools or services were used for content generation. The content of this dissertation was entirely created by the author, who has ensured that all material presented reflects their original work and research. The author takes full responsibility for the content of the dissertation.

---

<sup>E</sup> For instance: „[TOOL1] was used in order to check for grammar and style consistency and [TOOL2] was used in order to assist with rephrasing and improving readability.”