In response to the requests for clarification received, the following is specified:

1) WHERE THE COURSES ATTENDED (ESSENTIALLY SOFT SKILLS) DO NOT HAVE THE ECTS CREDITS ASSIGNED TO EACH OF THEM BY THE PROVIDING INSTITUTION, THE PHD CANDIDATE SHOULD CONSIDER 1 ECTS CREDIT FOR EVERY THREE HOURS IF ATTENDED IN PERSON, AND 0.5 ECTS CREDITS IF ATTENDED ONLINE. For seminars, there is no conversion of hours to ECTS credits, but rather: 1 in-person seminar = 1 ECTS; 1 online seminar/webinar = 0.5 ECTS.

The "Lezioni d'Europa" cycle provided by the Siena University falls within the soft skills area, so, for example, if 8 hours are attended in person, 2 ECTS credits are acquired (always rounded to the nearest whole number).

2) For the soft skills hours in 2024, if no "pre-established" assignment of ECTS credits is provided by the delivering institution (Siena usually does this, but I understand that Pisa may not always do so), consider 3 hours = 1 ECTS in person, 0.5 ECTS online. If the "soft skill" lesson is delivered exclusively online, 3 hours = 1 ECTS.

3) For the educational activity, meaning the lessons provided by Siena, Florence, and Pisa, EACH LESSON CORRESPONDS TO 1.5 ECTS CREDITS. For example, if both lessons of a teaching day in Florence (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) are attended, 3 ECTS credits are acquired. Keep in mind that there is an obligation to attend TWO lessons per location each year. Taking Florence as an example, if the morning lesson of day X and the afternoon lesson of day Y (with X and Y being different!) are attended, the obligation for Florence is fulfilled and 3 ECTS credits are acquired. Nothing, of course, prevents attending all four lessons in Florence (one in the morning and one in the afternoon on both days X and Y), in which case 6 ECTS credits will be acquired. Thus, if a PhD candidate attends ALL 12 lessons scheduled in a year, they will acquire 18 ECTS credits.

The calculations to be made are as follows: for each year, a total of 60 ECTS credits must be acquired, of which 35 (1st and 2nd year) and 50 (3rd year) are automatically obtained from research activities certified by the annual report (1st and 2nd year) or the thesis writing (3rd year), while the remaining 25 (1st and 2nd year) or 10 (3rd year) can be acquired by attending the educational activities deemed most appropriate. When planning the educational activities that will allow the acquisition of 25 or 10 ECTS credits per year in addition to the research credits, it must always be considered that, for each year, 9 ECTS credits must be acquired from lessons at the three locations (3 ECTS per location) and 12 ECTS credits must be acquired from soft skills. The 12 TOTAL ECTS credits from soft skills are mandatory (and can be distributed) OVER THE THREE YEARS, with a preference (preference, not obligation!!) for acquiring them in the first two years.

To conclude, here is a hypothetical example of ECTS distribution over the three years:

1st year: research 35 ECTS + in-person teaching 10.5 ECTS (7 lessons of 2-3 hours) + in-person seminars 5 ECTS (five seminars attended) + online seminars 3.5 ECTS (7 seminars/webinars attended) + 1 ECTS from PhD Day + 5 ECTS from soft skills (based on the "pre-established" assignment or based on the hour conversion mentioned above) = 60

2nd year: research 35 ECTS + in-person teaching 12 ECTS (8 lessons of 2-3 hours) + in-person seminars 4 ECTS (four seminars attended) + online seminars 4 ECTS (8 seminars/webinars attended) + 1 ECTS from PhD Day + 7 ECTS from soft skills (based on the "pre-established" assignment or based on the hour conversion mentioned above) = 63

3rd year: research 50 ECTS + in-person teaching 9 ECTS (6 lessons of 2-3 hours, 2 per location) + conference participation 1 ECTS + PhD Day 1 ECTS = 61

To conclude:

1) You must always reach the annual minimum of 60. If you exceed it, there is no problem.

2) You must always attend AT LEAST 6 LESSONS (2 per location) each year.

3) You must acquire 12 ECTS credits in soft skills over three years, distributing them as you see fit (paradoxically, even all 12 in a single year).