

## SUMMARY

### TAM event – HERE Regional Seminar “Developing and Implementing Joint Master’s Degree Programmes: Current Challenges and Prospectives” (25-26.04.2024, hybrid)

Keynote speaker-expert Ulrike KRAWAGNA, responsible person for the management of the Joint Programmes and the “CIRCLE” Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s degree programme at the University of Graz, demonstrated a high level of competence in the issues of developing and implementing Joint Master’s programme as well as in global trends and best practices in these issues.

The Seminar is relevant for the participants, HEREs, because they understood the policy implications of developing joint programmes, existing regulations and quality assurance instruments to implement its in frame of the national framework and make necessary changing in regulations.

The most important lessons learnt and good practices deriving from this event are relevant resources, cases, key terminology as well as European trends and approaches:

- [ENIC-NARIC Joint Programmes and Joint Degrees](#)
- [EQAR. European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#)
- [EU-CoE joint programmes portal](#) by the Council of Europe
- [Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters](#)
- [The Guide “Joint Programmes From A To Z: A Reference Guide For Practitioners” \(2020\)](#)

Cases:

Case 1: [Arqus Joint Programme European Studies](#)

Case 2: [Joint International Master in Sustainable Development](#)

Some results and recommendations of the TAM event and the future developments of the topic (based on TAM event presentations of Ulrike KRAWAGNA, University of Graz).

Key Terminology.

*Joint Programme* – a study programme developed and/or provided jointly by two or more HEIs, possibly also in cooperation with other institutions, leading to the award of a double, multiple or joint degree (Joint Study/Joint Curriculum / Joint Degree / Double Degree / Multiple Degree / Erasmus Mundus Joint Master / Cotutelle de these).

*Joint Degree* – a single diploma (document) issued by at least two HEIs offering an integrated programme and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. Certifies the completion of one joint programme.

*Double Degree* – two national diplomas issued by two HEIs and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. Certify the completion of one joint programme.

*Multiple Degree* – more than two national diplomas issued by more than two HEIs and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located. Certify the completion of one joint programme.

Double/Multiple Degree is perceived as easier to implement and manage; students value the “standard” format because employers are familiar with it. Joint Degree tends to be encouraged as institutional and political mission (European Degree criterion).

Key elements of Joint Programme: (1) Jointly developed curriculum; (2) Joint selection; (3) Mandatory mobility period at a partner institution; (4) Automatic recognition; (5) Joint/Double/Multiple Degree.

Level of Joint Programme integration: (1) Track in an existing study programme; (2) Stand-alone study programme.

Stand-alone programme or programme track:

- Partners may offer both but vary in their reasoning/requirements
- Aspects to consider
  - ◇ stand-alone programmes are more visible, better PR opportunities
  - ◇ admission requirements are also more transparent for students
  - ◇ programme tracks might be easier in terms of formal set-up and accreditation, but it is sometimes difficult to integrate them in the existing structure.

Joint Programme according to study cycles:

- Many universities are quite active in Joint Programme, may have several Erasmus Mundus implemented
- Most Joint Programmes are offered on Master's level, Bachelor's level is underrepresented
- Joint Programme on PhD level are complex, most partners work with cotutelle de these (Joint supervision of the PhD thesis).

Recommendations:

*Joint Programme Development phase:*

- ✓ Keep your goals in mind and communicate them to the others involved
- ✓ Acknowledge the cooperation agreement as centerpiece of each Joint Programme
- ✓ Draft a curriculum table • Tackle accreditation and identify necessary documents
- ✓ Learn about your institutional and the joint degree awarding mechanism and regulations
- ✓ Draft a Degree certificate
- ✓ Consider additional mobility agreements with associate partners
- ✓ Discuss costs, fee policy and potential funding within the consortium

*Joint Programme Implementation phase:*

- ✓ Plan ahead: Discuss the different regulations and time frame for the implementation, approval or accreditations of new study programmes including degree options
- ✓ Allow for sufficient time for each partners' legal checks and board meetings: usually they take longer than anticipated

Topics: • Promotion activities & Website • Data storage • Communication and Meetings • Application procedure & Selection Process • Admission & Student services.

On 28 November 2024 NEO – Ukraine conducted [follow up event – Seminar “Development and Implementation of Joint Master’s Programmes”](#) with participation of policymakers, academics.