
The European Approach in Joint Degree Preparation

Workshop in the Ulysseus Summit,
14th November 2024

Facilitators:
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The Ulysseus Action has received funding from the European Union under the grant agreement No 101124733. The views and opinions expressed in this communication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission

Agenda

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 14:30 | Welcome! |
| | Objectives and working mode of the workshop |
| 14:35 | A round of sharing experiences with insights from participants' preparatory work: <i>5 minutes per institution</i> |
| 15:20 | Presentations and discussion |
| | Marjaana: the EA process and planning of joint programmes |
| | Siegfried: financing and sustainability of joint programmes |
| 16:30 | <i>Pause</i> |
| 16:45 | Discussion and planning in small groups, followed by a wrap-up |
| 17:15 | Concluding comments from Ms Troshani |

Ms Anila TROSHANI, Head of Sector at the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

- o [EACEA - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/)

Workshop facilitation



- 14:30 Plenary, prepared statements from each Ulysseus partner university, presentations, Q&A
- 16:30 *Pause*
- 16:45 Ulysseus Speed World Café
- 6 topics, join three of these groups for 10 minutes, drop you thoughts, hosts will take notes at every desk :
- UCJP agenda
 - Preparing for the European Approach Accreditation
 - Added value of a JD for an institute and my university
 - Added value of JDs for the Innovation Hub Ecosystem
 - Sustainable financial scheme for Joint Degrees
 - The Ulysseus position on the European Degree (Label)
- 17:15 Concluding comments



1. To discuss building the joint programme consortium and engaging colleagues and faculties
2. To outline the principles of the **European Approach** in joint programme preparation
3. To share experiences gathered from the first accredited joint programmes
4. To discuss matters of importance in the accreditation process
 - Curriculum Development
 - Administration and legal aspects
5. To discuss the financial and sustainability planning of joint programmes
6. To reflect on other administrative implementation challenges

A round of sharing experiences with insights from the preparatory work of Ulysseus partners

5 minutes per institution, covering objectives 1, 3 and 6

Points for reflection:

- **What are the challenges and success factors identified in your own process and institution?**
- **What are your experiences and expectations? Are there open points in your institution?**

Commitment of Ulysseus 2: to build eight joint European Master's degrees and get them accredited

Status: two EA accredited joint programmes, two in EA accreditation process, two under construction, two Erasmus Mundus programmes → different process phases

The European Approach in joint degree preparation

Principles of the EA accreditation process

Experiences gathered from the first accredited joint programmess

Marjaana Mäkelä, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences



Background

- **Commitment of creating and accrediting eight joint European Masters (with respective PhD pathways)**
 - Alignment with: Key Goals of Ulysseus; Sustainable Development Goals, European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- **Diversity in the process: EA not yet accepted as a QA protocol in all Ulysseus countries**
- **Partnership and involvement in JP consortia depend on**
 - Fields of education, priorities, faculty availability, existing cooperation networks, possibility to award the degree
 - Negotiations on the most functional roles at the beginning are needed
 - Engaging the right people for an ideal consortium!
- **Each partner is responsible of coordinating at least one programme, connected to the Innovation Hub of the institution**
 - USE: Energy, Transport, Mobility, and Smart Cities (EA completed in 2023)
 - HHUAS: Artificial Intelligence for Business and Education (EA 2024)



Principles and guidelines

- **A Quality Assurance process introduced in 2015**
- **”[d]efines standards based on the agreed tools of the EHEA, without applying additional national criteria.”([Definitions – EQAR](#))**
- **The accreditation is carried out by an EQAR-listed QA agency and will be valid in all EHEA countries**
- **Agreed standards and sections of the Self-Evaluation Report**
 - Eligibility
 - Learning Outcomes
 - Study Programme
 - Admission and Recognition
 - Learning, Teaching and Assessment
 - Student Support
 - Transparency and Documentation
 - Quality Assurance

Process management:
sections assigned to two
different groups working on
the programme and on the
EA process simultaneously

- 1) European Approach
group
- 2) Curriculum Development
group

- **Protocol and timeline: example from *UlysseusAI* (MBA, AI for Business Transformation)**

- Workshop with the AQAS agency (February 2023)
- Agreement with AQAS (April 2023)
 - Building the consortium
 - EA and CD groups start working; co-creation with all partners, associate partners and students
- Submission of the SER (October 2023, pre-review, re-submission February 2024)
- Review panel assigned (March 2024)
- Site visit in Helsinki (April 2024, two days)
- Publishing the positive accreditation result (August 2024)
 - <https://data.deqar.eu/report/109668>
- 15 months

Experiences related to the two dimensions

Administration and legal aspects

- **Defining roles and participation of partners**
- **Joint admission criteria**
- **Adjustment with national and institutional rules**
 - Flexibility, openness, trust, communication
- **Scheduling the tasks; time management of experts**
 - Asynchronous working mode (Teams)
- **Challenge of the Consortium Agreement**
- **Financial planning and sustainability**

Curriculum development

- **Intended Learning Outcomes as the main approach**
 - Initially: common understanding and definition of concepts
 - Focus on competences, not on contents
 - Consistency in terminology (syllabi etc.)
- **Mobility scheme and adjustment with institutional academic calendars**
- **Combining existing courses with new ones**
 - Co-creation, jointness!
 - Cooperation with associate partners and students
 - Planning of teacher exchange
- **Master's thesis process**
- **Student-centeredness**
- **Ensuring adequate support, guidance and counselling**

- **The alliance structure is a strong support: trust!**
- **Finding the right experts is paramount**
 - Position should not count as much as engagement and expertise
 - Coordination and information flows on institutional levels should be ensured
- **Process management of both groups: explicit assignments and deadlines for asynchronous working**
 - Regular check-ups are needed
 - Prepare for delays and unexpected challenges
 - Document everything
- **Briefings are needed for different stakeholder groups prior to the site visit panels**
- **Designing a JP and preparing for EA is a great opportunity for co-creational learning and perusal of institutional practices.**

Additional insights can be discussed further in the second part

- USE (process completed)
- MCI (ongoing EA for two programmes)
- TUKE and UniGe (ongoing programme development, EA not in force yet)
- UniCA (two programmes with EM status)
- UM and UoM (new partners: expectations?)

Financing and sustainability of joint programmes

Siegfried Walch, MCI



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UlysseusSmileMD

European Joint Degree

MCI, HSWT, UniCa, UCG, USE

Financial Sustainability
November 2024

 **WEIHENSTEPHAN · TRIESDORF**
University of Applied Sciences



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Sustainable Joint Degree Finances Options

- Sustainable Joint Degree Finances by

Option A) Fees cover full costs of all partners based on successful position of the program on the market

Option B) Fees cover additional costs for international cooperation; program is integrated in national funding scheme of all degree awarding partner universities

A)

- E.g. ~15.000/year (MCI)

B)

- 3.000/year program country („**EU**“) students
- 7.000/year non-program country students („**Non-EU**“)
- in combination with national public funding

Fees cover costs for international cooperation

= *student participation costs*

- ***Student participaton cost*** covers:

Student participation costs are defined as all costs related to and including

- local tuition fees, including the provision of local courses, thesis supervision, library and laboratory costs, and any other mandatory cost related to the students' participation in UlysseusCitiesMD
- support in administrative and organizational issues by the consortium partners, including meetings and travel costs of staff members
- costs for enrolment at the consortium partner's institutions,
- all examinations and the issuing of the final diploma and diploma supplement
- Ad-hoc services such as tutoring for international students involved for joint degrees.
- Joint events, including partial travel reimbursement for students

- ***Student participation cost*** does not include:

Student participation costs do not cover

- accommodation,
- travel to and from partner universities,
- travel documents (visa, passport),
- any costs beyond the standard duration of the degree program such as re-examination fees.
- Ulysseus Cities participation cost will be charged for every additional semester beyond the standard duration of the degree program
- student's insurance (Exemption: in case of an EMJMD status insurances are covered by the pogram for scholarship holders)

Decision 1

Intended size of the program

CITIES COHORT 1 2026-2028		Budget Scenario Cohort I - 2026-28			
		The budget scenario is based on the assumption that all Ulysseus students pay a unified contribution to the participation costs in Ulysseus Joint Degree programs, covering tuition fees and a service fee for the international collaboration costs of the consortium (consortium costs, events)*			
NUMBER OF STUDENTS		EU students* self paying		NON-EU** self paying	
		students #	students %	students #	students %
Number of enrollees 1st year, sem 1		25	83%	5	17%
Number of enrollees 1st year, sem 2		25	83%	5	17%
Number of enrollees 2nd year, sem 3		25	83%	5	17%
Number of enrollees 2nd year, sem 4		25	83%	5	17%
Student per semester in total		100		20	
Participation FEE/participation cost EMJMD lump sum/ per semester		3.000,00 €		7.500,00 €	
					size of cohort
					30
					30
					30
					30
					120

Decision 2

Intended number of program/non program country students

CITIES COHORT 1 2026-2028	Budget Scenario Cohort I - 2026-28				
	The budget scenario is based on the assumption that all Ulysseus students pay a unified contribution to the participation costs in Ulysseus Joint Degree programs, covering tuition fees and a service fee for the international collaboration costs of the consortium (consortium costs, events)*				
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Number of enrollees 1st year, sem 2	25	83%	5	17%	30
Number of enrollees 2nd year, sem 3	25	83%	5	17%	30
Number of enrollees 2nd year, sem 4	25	83%	5	17%	30
Student per semester in total	100		20		120
Participation FEE/participation cost EMJMD lump sum/ per semester	3.000,00 €		7.500,00 €		
REVENUES					
Revenue year 1	€ 75.000,00		€ 37.500,00		€ 112.500,00 year 1
Revenue year 2	€ 75.000,00		€ 37.500,00		€ 112.500,00 year 2
Revenue per cohort in total	€ 150.000,00		€ 75.000,00		€ 225.000,00 cohort

Decision 3

Allocation of workload between partner universities

ALLOCATION Management Resources	MCI	HSWT	UniCA	USE	UCG
workload in %	30%	30%	13%	13%	13%
Salary calculator (Eurostat: costs per hour for a female clerical support worker, full time (40 hours), master's degree, 2 years experience)	1	1	1	1	1
Labor cost, index based on costs per hour (14 = 100)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Index for managerial role	200%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Decision 4

Allocation of resources for local fees?

1. Partner Core Costs Tuition Fees & Campus Fees	MCI	HSWT	UniCA	USE	UCG	
Locally claimed fee						
sum of student union plus campus fee plus local fee for EU/EEC students per semester, year 1	€ 385,00	€ 85,00	€ 420,00	€ 476,32	€ 300,00	
sum of student union plus campus fee plus local fee for EU/EEC students per semester, year 2	€ 385,00	€ 85,00	€ 420,00	€ 476,32	€ 300,00	
sum of student union plus campus fee plus local fee for NON-EU students per semester, year 1	€ 7.000,00	€ 750,00	€ 5.620,00	€ 3.000,00	€ 3.000,00	
sum of student union plus campus fee plus local fee for NON-EU students per semester, year 2	€ 7.000,00	€ 750,00	€ 5.620,00	€ 3.000,00	€ 3.000,00	
Locally hosted students						
# students Year 1 - Semester 1	30	0	0	0	0	
# students Year 1 - Semester 2	0	30	0	0	0	
# students Year 2 - Semester 3	0	0	10	10	10	
# students Year 2 - Semester 4	6	6	6	6	6	
Locally claimed core costs (#students * %EEC/EU or %Non-EU * fee)						
Transfer budget partners - Year one - Semester one (Y1 - S1)	€ 44.625,00	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 44.625,00
Transfer budget partners - Year one - Semester two (Y1 - S2)	€ -	€ 5.875,00	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 5.875,00
Transfer budget partners - Year two - Semester three (Y2 - S3)	€ -	€ -	€ 12.866,67	€ 8.969,33	€ 7.500,00	€ 12.866,67
Transfer budget partners - Year two - Semester four (Y2 - S4)	€ 8.925,00	€ 1.175,00	€ 7.720,00	€ 5.381,60	€ 4.500,00	€ 17.820,00
Subtotal partners core costs	€ 53.550,00	€ 7.050,00	€ 20.586,67	€ 14.350,93	€ 12.000,00	€ 107.537,60

Decision 5

How is the consortium budget (=revenues minus partner core costs = used to establish a strong program?

2. International COORDINATION COSTS						
to be discussed in detail	MCI	HSWT	UniCA	USE	UCG	consortium coordination in total
Academic Steering Committee/ Academic Coordinator, travel costs	€ 5.000,00	€ 5.000,00	€ 3.000,00	€ 3.000,00	€ 3.000,00	€ 19.000,00
Internal Quality Assurance Committee						€ -
Selection Committee						€ -
Management of program and boards	€ 20.000,00					€ 20.000,00
Local Coordination	€ 22.800,00	€ 11.400,00	€ 5.066,67	€ 5.066,67	€ 5.066,67	€ 49.400,00
Marketing	€ 5.000,00	€ 5.000,00				€ 10.000,00
other/unforeseen						€ -
Paypal costs						€ -
Subtotal consortium coordination costs	€ 52.800,00	€ 21.400,00	€ 8.066,67	€ 8.066,67	€ 8.066,67	€ 98.400,00
3. joint events (optional)						
						joint events in total
Welcome event						€ -
Summer school						€ -
Events mobility partners/e.g. University of Münster						€ -
Graduation ceremony						€ -
tbd						€ -
Subtotal additional consortium costs	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -

Consortium budget

- Partner Core Costs/Local Fees cover:
 - local tuition fees, including the provision of local courses, thesis supervision, library and laboratory costs, and any other mandatory cost related to the students' participation in UlysseusCitiesMD
 - support in administrative and organizational issues by the consortium partners, including meetings and travel costs of staff members
 - costs for enrolment at the consortium partner's institutions,
 - all examinations and the issuing of the final diploma and diploma supplement
 - ad-hoc services such as tutoring for international students involved for joint degrees.
- Consortium Coordination Costs
 - Management Coordinating University
 - Local Coordination
 - Admission, Application Procedure
 - Joint Quality Assurance
 - Marketing
- Joint Events
 - Joint (extracurricular) activities
 - Graduation
 - Summer School/Thesis Workshop

Governance & Administration

- **ACCOUNTING**

Transfer of money from the **Coordinating University** to the partners will be managed in due at the Coordinating University.

Consortium losses will be equally covered by Partners on a mutual basis. Consortium surpluses will be reinvested in improvements of the programme (*other Ulysseus JD programs?*) or student activities for the respective or future student cohorts.

- **BUDGET:**

*Concerning the 2024-2025 academic year the Financial and Sustainability Plan will be discussed by the **Academic Steering Committee** to be set up for the first ULYSSEUS joint Master Cities.*

- **LEGITIMATION**

The Financial and Sustainability Plan will be updated on the basis of facts gathered at each partner institution and may be reviewed every year, in line with the agreed on ULYSSEUS educational policy.

For incoming years, the Academic Steering Committee will propose the budget prognosis to the participating (both degree awarding and non-degree awarding) universities prior to the start of a new cohort for checking of the corresponding financial departments/auditing bodies.

The financial agreement needs to be signed by every participating university prior to the start of a new cohort.

Outlook – European Degree

Letta Report - *Learning without borders* (Sep 2024, p24-25)

- Letta fordert mehr Förderung für EUNI (€10 Mio pro Jahr pro EUNI, davon 2/3 aus Erasmus+, 1/3 aus anderen Programmen (nicht explizit genannt) – Report „Much more than a market“)
- *The **European Education Area** - fostering collaboration among European Union Member States to build more resilient and inclusive national education and training systems - will be a crucial dimension of the **fifth freedom**.*
- *To further boost transnational learning mobility, the European Commission has proposed a blueprint for a **European degree**. This project must be seen as a cornerstone in realising the fifth freedom.*
- *As a new type of degree, it would certify joint educational programmes offered by a group of higher education institutions in different European countries. It would be based on common criteria and offer more opportunities to study across multiple universities in Europe. Once Member States have enshrined it into national law, it would remove administrative and legal barriers that higher education institutions are currently facing when trying to put together joint degree programmes. Moreover, the European degree could in coming years be further extended to **develop European programmes for specific disciplines** (for example engineering, teacher education, European health professions, ICT/AI).*

Mission Letters

- **design. Kom. Mînzatu** (Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness, Sept. 2024)
- **Ekaterina Zaharieva**, design. Commissioner for Start-ups, Research and Innovation (Sept 2024)

A pause of 15 minutes



Discussion and planning in small groups, followed by a wrap-up



Concluding comments by Ms Troshani



Thank you

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