

Joint Degrees – European experiences

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JD correspond to (at least some of)
the following characteristics:

- jointly developed / approved programs;
- joint admission and examination boards;
- studies at all (or some) partner institutions;
- comparable length of periods abroad and home;
- studies automatically recognized among partners;
- staff also teach at partner institutions,
- awards: a degree awarded jointly or national degrees of each partner institution

Joint degrees are relevant to several objectives of the EHEA

- **Better understanding between/ convergence of HE systems,**
- **cross-border employability of graduates,**
- **student and staff mobility,**
- **Transparency**
- **development of joint QA,**
- **Improving recognition**
- **Cumulative effect of JDs**

... relevant to EHEA objectives:

- **European dimension of studies**
- **attractiveness of European higher education**
- **reaching “critical mass”**
- **better positioning of own institution**

Wide variety in ways of cooperation

- institutionalized JDs (“transnat. universities”)
- double degrees between 2 partners
 - joint degree partnerships of several members
 - huge consortia awarding JD or DD,
 - joint curriculum with little mobility
 - situation close to franchise

Problems

- National legislation
- Institutional restrictions
- National recognition of joint degrees,
- International recognition of joint degrees

Measures to solve problems

- Council of Europe/Unesco Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint degrees
- Revising and amending national legislation (according to Bologna process National reports of 2005)
- Introducing joint quality assurance

Council of Europe/ UNESCO Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees

Principles

- Recommendation concerns all the kinds of joint degrees
- Convention applies to national degrees, Recommendation also concerns joint degrees
- Holder of a joint degree has the right to fair assessment
- Principle of substantial differences is applied also to joint degrees
- Recognition of foreign components of the joint degree should be flexible

Requirements towards joint degrees

- There should be evidence that each part of JD is quality-assured
- If the joint degree comes from a large consortium, each consortium member should be a trustworthy institution
- Joint character of the degree should be made visible

**Some reflections
on joint degrees
in 2005 National Reports**

- 39 countries had analyzed their legislation with regard to JDs**
- 14 countries report no legal problems to award and recognize JDs, of them:**
- 6 countries - new legislation has been adopted (*Austria, Belgium, Italy, France, Finland*)**
 - 9 countries - existing legislation is OK (*Albania, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, UK*)**

legislation with regard to JDs

9 countries – problems identified, new legislation being drafted:

Andorra, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland

7 countries: problems exist to award JDs, but not to establish Joint programs, no new legislation planned:

Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Estonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Sweden

2 countries – severe legal problems

Spain, Switzerland

JDs – at which levels?

All levels (8) :	Austria, Belgium (FI), Czech rep., Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, Turkey, UK
II-III cycle (6):	Greece, Iceland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain,
II cycle (3):	Albania, Bosnia, Ireland
I-II cycle (2):	Estonia, Latvia

JDs – what extent?

Biggest number of JDs running/being established:

Belgium (FI), Germany (more than 130), France (3000 students), Italy (310), Netherlands, Norway (19), UK

Many JDs being established, some running (4):

Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden

Some JDs (5):

Hungary, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland

Few or being considered (11):

Albania, Andorra, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Serbia-Montenegro, Spain,

Forms of awarding JDs (21 answers)

- Joint degrees 8
- Double degrees 18
- Single degree (with or without informal certificate) 7

Program organisation aspects (19 answers)

- Joint admission of students 8
- Joint curriculum 11
- Joint examinations 7
- Student mobility 17
- Teacher mobility 7

Some conclusions for 2005

- Majority of countries have analyzed their legislation with regard to joint degrees
- 6 countries have recently amended legislation, another 9 are preparing amendments
- In most countries at least JPs and DDs are or will very soon be possible

Some conclusions ...(II)

- More “real” JDs are emerging, but DD is still the most widespread way of awarding
- Student mobility and joint curriculum are the most characteristic features of JDs while teacher mobility, joint admission and joint examinations seem less widespread
- While JDs are still more widespread at II and III cycle levels, they are penetrating into I cycle as well,

Joint degrees in 2007 Stocktaking exercise

Stocktaking indicator on Joint Degrees

Green	Legislation explicitly allows/encourages JPs and JDs and their national recognition
Light green	JDs not mentioned in legislation but no obstacles to JPs, possible to award at least DDs
Yellow	No legal obstacles to JPs, but not to award JDs or DDs
Orange	There are obstacles even to establish JPs, but legislation is being drafted.
Red	No legal possibilities for JPs and JDs, and no plans to amend legislation

Thanks for your attention!