

Curricular Elements and Necessary Agreements on Contents, Assessment and Recognition of Joint and Double Degree Programs

Transatlantic Degree Programs
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.....the next 15 minutes

- Franco-German University
- Joint Degree – what is that?
- FGU how-to-do
- Curricular and Extra Curricular Requirements for FGU-Labeled Programs
- Practical Experience
- Questions and Conclusions

.....Franco-German University

- Bi-national institution, international statute
- established 1997
(«Weimar Agreement» = intergovernmental agreement)
- present budget around 12 Mio. USD/ year

.....member universities

- network of
147 Higher Education Institutions (HEI)
from France and Germany
- nearly all types of HEI



.....Franco-German University – main tasks

- strengthen the cooperation in the higher education and research field between France and Germany
- initiate, coordinate, promote and support of
 - integrated Franco-German degree programs
 - common research and development activities (e.g. Co-Tutelle)
- mobility increase
- cooperation with third country partners



.....joint degree – “phantom” of the EHEA?

a joint degree may be issued as

- 1) single, joint diploma issued by the institutions offering the study program without any national diploma
- 2) one or more national diplomas as the only attestation of the joint qualification
- 3) a joint diploma (certificate) in addition to one or more national diplomas



.....one example for a joint diploma



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..... how to do

- 1) FGU → Call for Proposals (BA/ MA/ other)
open to all disciplines and state recognized HEI
→ "Best practice" transfer by quality standards
intercultural experience
- 2) Member Universities → Program Development
→ scientific, didactic experience
- 3) FGU → Selection, **Quality Assurance**, Labelling
→ mobility grants
infrastructure funding

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..... Curricular Elements and Necessary Agreements

▶ Prerequisite

- equivalent national degrees

▶ Agreements between Partners

- integrated curriculum
jointly developed, complementary modules
- joint study regulations
respecting national and local frame
e.g. joint examination board,
admission conditions
assessment
- full recognition of credits
European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- fees



..... Curricular Elements and Necessary Agreements

- often practical training
- language and intercultural preparation
in future: certificates?
- joint group of French and German students with a
minimum number of participants
- accompanied exposure to both educational and
cultural different systems
- support for incomings

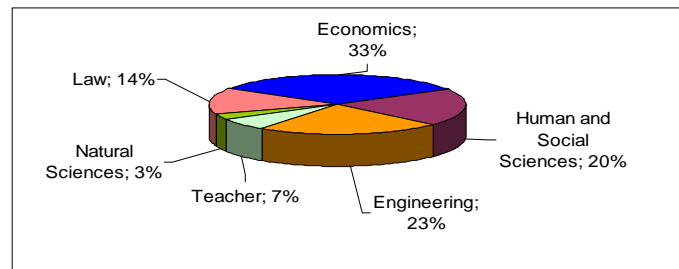
▶ Agreement between FGU and Partners

- funding, grants, marketing



..... a sustainable success for transnational mobility

- ▶ 121 bi- or tri-national courses with 4300 students
 - ▶ 1/2 of the present double degrees in Germany
 - ▶ 1/3 of the entire Franco-German student exchange



..... why is it working well?

- ▶ decentralized network
 - experience of member universities
- ▶ FGU - scout and central "Anchor"
 - political player
 - ▶ support services
 - Franco-German Forum
 - yearly Franco-German job/study fair
 - Marketing
 - Consulting, Best-practice transfer
 - Quality Assurance
 - ▶ grants and infrastructure funding

..... positive by-effects

- ▶ close concertation fosters the international “culture” at universities
 - commitment
 - attractive to international students
 - employability
 - international orientated teachers
 - interlocking of scientific communities and social systems

- ▶ enhances sustainable transnational structures



..... nothing is paved with gold: daily questions, not only for Franco-German joint/double degrees

University level not considered!

- structural diversity
 - f.ex. 3 + 2 system in France
 - 3 to 4 + 1 to 2 system in Germany
 - different academic years and exam periods
- restrictive handling of given European 2-tier frame by some national administrations
- different transition dynamics to 2-tier structure
- exemptions for state regulated professions
- transnational Quality Assurance – a kind of jungle
- 3-year bachelor as mobility killer?
- tuition fees



...integrated joint degrees are the “via regis” to sustainable transnational mobility

...but it's a long and rocky trail



Extension works based on

trust
pragmatism
funding



.... !

...thank you!

