

MANUAL FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING JOINT M.SC. PROGRAMMES

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Manual on Joint M.Sc. Programmes

Joint Programmes offer a vision of integration at a European level that is one step ahead of current Bologna reforms

Eric Froment, former President of EUA

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- BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES
- STRUCTURE

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BACKGROUND:

ELLS Framework for joint Master programmes

A comprehensive survey of the legal, administrative and financial issues in relation to joint programmes

A workshop with educational specialists during the annual ELLS conference at SLU in October 2005

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OBJECTIVES:

The manual will give instructions, recommendations and point out problems

It will give an idea of the time frame that is needed for getting an M.Sc. Programme approved

It will *not* design the one and only model for implementing a joint M.Sc. programme

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STRUCTURE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.2 Objectives of the Manual

2. COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

2.1 Recommendations on the ELLS Framework for Joint M. Sc. Programmes

2.2 Legal Questions

2.2.1 Legal Approval of M.Sc. Programmes

2.2.2 Double / Multiple Degrees

2.2.3 Joint Degrees

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2.3 General Regulations and Academic Aspects

2.4 Organisational and Administrative Questions

3. PROJECT PLAN

ANNEX:

- Comparative overview on academic calendars
- Organisation charts of the ELLS universities
- Overview of financial arrangements at ELLS institutions
- Recommendations for a consortium contract (still a project)

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Example:

PROJECT PLAN

Basic conditions

- an approved subject area
- Planning a completely new Master programme in which the involved universities contribute to different parts of the study programme

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1. Internal discussion in the SA-group on why the new programme is needed

- Existing demand for the new course
- Advantages of the course
- Students' interest
- Coherence with the ELLS guidelines for joint programmes
- European dimension

2. Information of the ELLS Board & Task Force

Recommendation:

*Application for funds (e.g. ELLS incentive fund or SOKRATES Curriculum Development)
for additional meeting of SA or for staff (scientific secretary)
Deadlines!*

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3. Development of the curriculum

Involvement of ELSA and the Quality Assurance Group

Need for strategic planning in each participating university:

- quality of the programme
- labour market perspectives
- overlap with existing programmes
- demand of society
- affordability, financial resources

Early Involvement of the IRO group

For all questions dealing with admission, examination regulations, legal issues and study aboard periods

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4. Prepare the necessary steps to get the M.Sc. Programme legally approved by the internal institutions of each university involved (see page 4ff)

Faculty Committees and Faculty Board:

SLU, UHOH, BOKU

University Committee for Education:

SLU, UHOH, BOKU, WUR, KVL

Senate / University Council:

UHOH, BOKU, WUR, SGGW

Executive Board / Rectorate:

UHOH, BOKU, WUR, KVL, CUA

University Board:

SLU, UHOH, BOKU (only statement)

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5. Approval by external institutions

National accreditation: UHOH (for new programmes before starting), WUR, CUA, SGGW

Ministry: UHOH, WUR (only for completely new programmes), KVL (only for completely new programmes), CUA, SGGW

6. Administration of the new programme

Programme committee for admission, examination and graduation

7. Information on the new programme and marketing

Website, brochure, flyer, poster

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University	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.
SLU													
UHOH													
BOKU													
WUR													
CUA													
SGGW													
KVL													

Block 1	Block 6
Block 2	Block 7
Block 3	Block 8
Block 4	Block 9
Block 5	Block 10

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mobility when starting a programme in autumn:					
SLU (after block 2)	to	CUA	CUA (after 3.02)	to	UHOH
		SGGW			BOKU
		KVL			SGGW
		UHOH			KVL
UHOH (after Block 5)	to	BOKU	SGGW (after 15.02)	to	UHOH
					BOKU
BOKU (after 4.02)	to	UHOH			CUA
		CUA			
		SGGW	KVL (after Block2)	to	UHOH
		KVL			BOKU
					CUA
WUR (after Block 2)	to	SLU			SGGW
		UHOH			
		BOKU			
		CUA			
		SGGW			
		KVL			

Support Team IRO

Proposal for further activities:

- Recommendations for a model consortium agreement
- Active cooperation with support teams like the Quality Assurance Group
- Improvement of staff exchange (mobility of teachers)