

**INTERUV Joint study programmes: facilitator for university internationalisation
Conference 21 and 22 May 2014, The Hague**

Conclusions INTERUV JDAZ Working Group Session

Thursday 22 May

Participants were asked to discuss 15 questions in small groups, covering different aspects of joint programmes. The task was to identify the main similarities, differences and suggestions regarding the development of joint programmes, which were reported plenary.

Agreement / Similarities

- Three cycle degree structures, Masters thesis length, Diploma Supplement
- Most Joint Degrees are based on bilateral cooperation
- Establishing Joint Degrees is possible
- Institutional strategies underline the importance of joint programmes but in general no separate funding is allocated, there is little or no recognition for the hard work (ie in terms of salary increase or incentives)
- Management of joint degrees: important to have commitment from the Rector, international office, Ministry of Education / Science and QA organizations.
- Strong motivation is needed to implement joint programmes

Differences /challenges

- Confusion around definitions
- Institutional strategies for joint degrees are different, or there is a lack of institutional guidelines
- Different national quality assurance contexts, as well as procedures for programme-level quality assurance
- Different national processes of introducing new programmes into HEIs
- Issuing of Diploma's in different legal frameworks
- Entrance exams
- Financing and tuition fees
- Sustainability, including differences in demographic realities
- Language barriers
- Rules and regulations concerning PhD education, length, structure
- Short experience of joint programmes in the Western Balkans area

Suggestions

- Funding schemes at national level are needed
- Strong institutional commitment is needed, enthusiasm and flexibility
- Trust in partners and colleagues is needed
- Coordination between academic staff and administration within the institution is needed; internal institutional communication should be improved
- One accreditation for joint degrees and acceptance of resolutions should substitute multiple

accreditations

- Strong links to the labour market should be encouraged
- Double degree should be equally interesting for both partners
- Sustainability: identify other target groups for joint programmes (older groups in the framework of lifelong learning)
- Increase staff mobility as a means to start joint education
- Information helpdesk about relevant programs
- Promotion of benefits of the joint programmes is needed
- Recognition of the future degree to guarantee students rights is essential (ENIC NARIC should be consulted)

Projects containing relevant information regarding recognition and accreditation of joint programmes

- JOQAR, Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded
http://www.ecahe.eu/w/index.php/JOQAR_2010-2013
- Portal Joint programmes http://www.ecahe.eu/w/index.php/Portal:Joint_Programmes