

Reforming Dual Degree Programmes for Employability and Enhanced Academic Cooperation

Workshop on joint programs
Politecnico de Torino, 19-23/06/2017



Erasmus+

State of the art

- Joint Programs: European context
- Joint Programs: national context
- Joint Programs: university context
- Joint Programs: REDEEM consortium
- Employability and European Higher Education
- First survey results: Joint Programs and Employability
- Interest of REDEEM and main challenges

Joint Programs: European context

- Trend of Joint Programs began in the 1990's
- Joint Programs on the agenda of Bologna conference since 1999
- 2009: 2.500 Joint Programs are in place in the EHEA
- 2011: 84% of universities worldwide offer Joint Programs
- EU provides the member states with transparency tools:
 - ECTS credit transfer system
 - Guideline for recognition of degrees (ENIC/NARIC)
 - Diploma supplement
 - Quality standards (ENQA)

Joint Programs: national context

- legal power related to higher education policy and the implementation of Joint Programs mainly lies within the national or sub-national legislation
 - Autonomy of universities
 - Numbers of min. ECTS taught in home institution
 - Type of degree awarded for Joint Programs
 - Funding and tuition fees
- Bologna Process have shaped the national legislation and vice versa

Joint Programs: university context

- University framework is most important to JP's
 - Internationalisation strategy – JP's strategy
 - Target countries and partners
 - Internal guidelines and templates
 - Tuition fees
 - Structure of curriculum
 - academic/administrative working groups
 - Recognition, Study plan, Enrolment...
 - Teaching in English
- Implication of academic and administrative level

Joint Programs in the REDEEM consortium

- **"JDAZ: Joint Programs from A to Z". A reference guide for practitioners 2015**

“A Joint Program is a **programme offered jointly by several higher education institutions**. These institutions can be located either in the same country or in **different countries** (the focus of this guide). A Joint Program does not necessarily lead to a joint degree. It is only one of the possible awards. After completion of a Joint Program a graduate may be awarded: **a single national qualification, a double (or other multiple) qualification or a joint qualification.**”

Joint Programs within REDEEM have common characteristics:

- Minimum of 1 semester prolongation of studies in order to obtain a DD
- High involvement of the partner institutions (choice of partner is important)
- Collaboratively built complementary curricula
- Min. number of ECTS at the home/partner university ranges from 15 to 60 ECTS
- JP is much more demanding than a simple Erasmus stay and selection requires high score
- The majority of the reported Joint Programs are at the master's level
- Most of the Joint Programs are public funding based
- Traditional partners are European countries
- Joint Programs are most common in engineering, business and natural sciences study fields
- Double degrees are much more common than joint degrees. Most Joint Programs involve rather two HEI than multiple partners. But there are also large HEI consortia.
- Participation rate in Joint Programs is rather small (5-25 students per group)

Joint Programs within REDEEM have common motivations:

- Increase internationalization
- improve and broaden educational offering and quality
- strengthening research collaboration
- Offer innovative solutions to students and demand of the global labour market
- increase visibility and prestige gain for HEI European identity and citizenship
- two diplomas for the price of one, intercultural learning and understanding
- added value in academic and political terms

Employability and European Higher Education

- 2009 Leuven/Louvain la Neuve: Call to work on employability
- “Employability - that is, the combination of factors which enable individuals to progress towards or enter employment, to stay in employment and to progress during their career - is a complex concept, involving not only each individual's characteristics, skills, attitudes and motivation, but also other external factors which lie beyond the scope of education and training policy, such as labour market regulations, demography, the structure of the economy and the overall economic situation (Council of the European Union. 2012a: 10).

First survey results: JP-Employability

- International mobility → skills development → employability
 - Ex: language skills, intercultural competences, adaptability to new environments, problem solving, empathy etc.
- employability is often addressed but not yet sufficiently researched, especially when it comes to Joint Programs
 - juvenility of Joint Programs
 - small study groups
 - few generations of Joint Program students on the labour
- Principally the consortium members do not have results from internal studies on double degrees
- More general studies about the effects of international mobility on skills and employability give an insight to the topic

First survey results: JP-Employability

■ Erasmus Impact Study 2014

- International mobility (Erasmus, IP, Work placement) has a positive impact on the entry to the labour market and on tasks attribution with international character

■ German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) conducted by Cologne Institute for Economic Research 2016

- Globalization leads to attractiveness of international profiles for employers
 - Employers estimate graduates with international experience perform better in general and are more qualified for international tasks
- Technical knowledge, cognitive skills, social competence, personal attitude and practical experience are still most important to employers but international experience can make the difference in the recruitment process
- Less impact on income and career
- Employers have preference for 3-6 months mobility with work experience and cultural immersion
- **! Employers have a rather neutral position towards JP's graduates although they are representing the perfect target group**

First survey results: JP-Employability

- German-French University Employability study on JP's (DD) 2014:
 - 60% the double degree was an advantage for finding a job
 - 70% of the alumni needed less than 3 months to find an adequate job
 - More than two thirds are working in an international environment and estimate that the double degree had a positive impact on their professional mobility
 - “Only” 38% agree that a double degree represented an improvement of their career options.

Interest of REDEEM and challenges:

- Despite the high reputation of JP's they are still not in the center of internationalisation activities of HEI because of their cost and complexity
- HEI need to invest in comprehensive development, sustainable funding and marketing strategy to maintain the high standard of Joint Programs
- More surveys are needed
- REDEEM contributes to the research on the impact of JP's on employability: **Do Joint Programs really matter?**
 - 6 European countries
 - JP's in Sciences and Technologies
 - Improvement and adjustment of JP's → survey results and guidelines

Thank you for your attention

- <https://www.redeemproject.eu/documents/>