REDEEM – Final Report

Activity Report – Intellectual Output 4: Manual for the restructuring and development of attractive and effective double degree programmes (*output title of the application*)

1. Output description:

The creation of a manual for the restructuring and development new double degree programmes is one of the key products of the project (see annex "Guidelines for reforming and creating joint programmes to enhance student employability and academic cooperation"). These guidelines seek to assist administrative and scientific staff at HEIs in creating new joint programmes and reforming existing ones. The manual contains checklists with questions and recommendations that one should both take into account when developing or improving a joint programme.

The manual was developed according to the results of IO1 (state of the art), IO2 (online survey), IO3 (interviews) and thematic workshops at open events (mid-term, staff training). In these different project phases between all project target groups (students, alumni, employers, joint programme designers, and joint programme coordinators) provided input to the creation and revision of the manual. Thus, the creation of the manual was clearly driven and influenced by all relevant stakeholders.

This sort of manual is a clear novelty for the project members and for European HEIs in general, since it has a special focus to enhance student employability. This makes this manual novel in regard to all other existing papers or materials documented in IO1 "state of the art". Moreover the manual seeks to bridge management gaps between administrative/supporting units and academic/scientific units at HEIs while planning and reforming a joint programme. In addition it also enhances academic cooperation of these units between the involved international HEI partners.

The manual has already been tested in a staff training week with supporting and scientific HEI staff from different European universities (including universities beyond the project consortium). We strongly believe that this openly shared IO will have a broad impact on the management of European joint programmes. It is, thus, one sustainable key element of the project.

2. Division of work

TU Darmstadt led the output with all partners providing information. The IO is based on all other IOs and implies input and ideas that came up at different activities or events during the whole project term. For example at the mid-term event in Barcelona different stakeholders had been asked in workshop groups to provide suggestions for categories or topics to be addressed in a manual. The final work on the IO was then divided into the following activities:

Activity 1: A workshop involving different local and regional stakeholders was organized in Darmstadt to discuss actual data of previous IOs and consequential checklists and recommendations for the guidelines.

Activity 2: The guidelines were developed on the basis of the collected material and feedback received throughout the project term. The project team was discussing the results of IO1-3 and the subsequent impact on management topics, recommendation and checklists to be addressed in a manual.

Activity 3: A training event for professionals involved in the development and implementation of joint programmes at the partner universities and beyond was organized in June 2017 in Turin (Italy). The workshop contained:

- Presentation of the REDEEM project and its preliminary results

- Parallel workshops to work with the manual / guidelines

- Best practice presentations by key note speakers

- Case studies (JP real cases) working groups: discussion and poster session

This training event provided further information about the usability of the manual and was a helpful activity to include additional expert feedback to the final version of the manual.

Activity 4: Including all the different input from the above mentioned activities and external experts, who had been additionally asked for feedback, the Manual was revised and composed as a final IO.