

Newsletter n° 2
Association for the promotion and the development of
joint international programmes in higher education
(**ProDeJIP**)



JIPs always relevant!

Joint International Programmes (JIPs) are still very topical. The communiqué of the 2015 European Higher Education Area EHEA Ministerial Conference cited joint programmes and degrees as one of the foundations of the Area. There is indeed a continued interest in JIPs in Europe and beyond, as I was able to note during recent trips to Armenia and Russia. Interest alone is of course not sufficient to set-up a joint programme, but the collective experience gathered over the past dozen of years should help anyone interested to start such a programme. One of our Association's goals is precisely to gather such experience and to help in developing JIPs.

"The More the Merrier!"

However, before being able to do this on a broad scale, the Association has to grow further. Over the past 6 months we have been working on implementing the decisions taken during our last General Assembly. These include the legal registration of the Association in Rome, and the creation of the Association's website. I am pleased to announce that the former was completed mid-January, and that the website is being finalized and will be online very soon. Additionally, we have been preparing a call for membership, the second annual Congress and an Erasmus+ Strategic partnership project to be submitted by the end of March.

These tasks are not simple, as we are a truly independent Association, relying solely on the efforts of our members. On this note, I would like to express my thanks to Leiden University, one of our first institutional members, who will host the upcoming second Congress, which will take place on the 24-26th February.

I hereby invite all of those interested in developing and reinforcing JIPs to join us. The Leiden Congress is a good opportunity to learn more about us.

Hoping to see you in Leiden!

Boas EREZ
President of ProDeJIP

The **registration of the Association** was recently carried out in Rome, Italy. This allows ProDeJIP to function as an independent legal entity. Notable consequences of this status are that: (1) **ProDeJIP can** now sign contracts and so, for instance, **be an official partner in projects**, such as those represented in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme (EM Joint Master Degrees, Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education, etc.); and (2) **ProDeJIP can be paid/pay directly for services** it provides/requires.

The Association was present at the recent **seminar** on the "**National Implementation of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**" (EAQA), which was organized by the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) and the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). Wicher Schreuders, member of ProDeJIP's Executive Committee and Assistant coordinator of the EM/E+ EMLE master, contributed to a session on the current status of and future challenges facing the European approach. The EAQA was also cited as one of the foundations of the EHEA in the Yerevan Ministerial Conference communiqué and is considered a key structural reform to be implemented in order to ensure its success. The national implementation of the Approach is clearly a crucial issue. ECA's work in general, along with that of projects like JOQAR and agencies like ENQA and AQAS, makes an important contribution towards achieving this goal. The ECA/NVAO seminar provided an opportunity to bring these various stakeholders together to discuss the current state of affairs and challenges facing implementation. The Association follows closely the development of the European approach to QA and aims at formulating proposals on behalf of joint programme coordinators, following discussions to be held at the Leiden Congress.

The **Leiden Congress** is organized around three main activities: (1) the *Association's Annual General Assembly*, which takes place on Wednesday 24th of February in the afternoon; (2) a full day *Conference* on Thursday 25th of February; and finally (3) a *training session* on Friday 26th of February in the morning. The

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Conference programme will cover four main areas:

- Taking the lead from the ECA seminar, it will focus on the important question of *accreditation of joint programmes*.
- Present *experiences of JIPs involving non-European countries*.
- Discuss ways to work/exchange with *alumni of joint programmes*.
- Report on the *applications to the last EM JMD call and mapping of opportunities for JIPs*.



Academy Building, Leiden University

Finally, **the training session**, to be led by CIMEA, will offer an in depth introduction on *how to recognize and handle fraudulent qualifications*.

Conference registration will be opened in the coming days, and details on the programme put online along with practical information as soon as possible. Indeed, the ProDeJIP Secretariat will send out a message to announce this.