

Newsletter n° 1

Association for the promotion and the development of joint international programmes in higher education (ProDeJIP)



I'm happy to introduce the logo of the Association for the Promotion and the Development of Joint International Programmes (JIPs) in higher education. It represents the realization of an idea, which a number of coordinators of JIPs have worked on for the past ten years.

JIPs are a non-traditional kind of curriculum, which offer great, new opportunities to students. Being based on the close cooperation of people, they contribute positively to the internationalization of higher education.

Every new JIP requires innovative thinking both from academics and administrative staff, as well important commitments from all the institutions involved. The established JIPs face different challenges: the issue of sustainability, of which the financial aspect is only the most visible; the ever evolving environment of higher education, with its mergers and changes of regulations; the moving job market; etc. Our Association aims to offer all JIPs, be they in the make or already running, support from and a forum to discuss with people, with experience in the field and who believe JIPs are important.

As recalled in the Yerevan communiqué, JIPs remain one of the foundations of the European Higher Education Area, and our Association stems from the development of JIPs following the creation of the Erasmus Mundus programme. Our experience has grown within this European context, but we firmly believe that JIPs may and should be developed at the international level.

The newsletter will cover the highlights of the Association's life and collect information that may interest those working for JIPs. I hope that it will encourage you to join us!

Boas EREZ
President of ProDeJIP

The **first annual Conference of the Association** took place at LUISS University in Rome on June 25th, and was attended by some 70 participants from across Europe and even further afield. This audience was made up of professionals already well accustomed to setting up and managing joint international programmes in Higher Education, as well as those looking to broaden their activities by moving into the field. Participants were able to benefit from an open atmosphere, where discussion and exchange of experiences were encouraged.

The first of **three morning plenary sessions** was delivered by **Klaus Haupt**, Head of Unit for Erasmus+ JMD programmes at the **EACEA**.



Participants seemed to appreciate his willingness to listen and respond to their concerns. This was followed up by a presentation by **Caroline Duits of NUFFIC**, on their Joint Programmes from A to Z (JDAZ) guide, and then the third by **James Jowi of ANIE¹**, who gave some early impressions of the Erasmus+ programme from an African perspective. The final session was moderated by **Giovanni Finocchietti**, Director of Research at the **Fondazione RUI** in Rome, and analysed whether European policy really supports joint programmes, taking into account both programmes within the European Higher Education Area and those with an International, non-European dimension.



¹ African Network for Internationalization of Education

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The afternoon was devoted to **three parallel sessions**, which covered specific topics relevant to both the creation and management phases of joint programmes. **The first focused on the difficulties in running joint programmes in an evolving institutional context**, and was moderated by **Boas Erez** (Bordeaux), with contributions from AgroParisTech, the University of Valencia and KTH, Stockholm. **Wicher Schreuders** of Erasmus University (Rotterdam) led **session two**, giving participants the benefit of his experience on **how to set up a robust partnership**. Finally **Krzysztof Ostrowski** of Pultusk Academy of Humanities and **Luca Lantero** of CIMEA² looked at how to **incorporate partners from outside the EU into joint programmes**. The day was rounded off with summaries of the three parallel sessions for the benefit of all participants, as well as reflection on the meaning of “sustainability” of JIPs.

A **training session** for the Conference participants took place the following morning and was comprised of **three sessions**: A first session on **recognition in joint**



programmes by **Luca Lantero**, which focused on the place of recognition at the creation, selection and awarding phases of JIPs; a second by **Manuela Costone**, external expert for the EACEA in the capacity building for higher education programme, which looked at **joint programmes and capacity building within Erasmus+**; and a third by **Mattea Capelli** of the University of La Sapienza, who spoke about the **promotion and marketing of Erasmus Mundus Master Courses**, following the experience of her institution within the EM Action 3 “EM-ACE” project.



Participants expressed their satisfaction with the quality and relevance of the content, as well as with the organization of the event, in particular the onsite organization. Therefore **we would like to mention the major role played by CIMEA** in the organization, and we also reserve **special thanks for LUISS University**, for providing us with the venue and resources for the General Assembly, Conference and training session.

The **General Assembly of the Association**, was held before the Conference on the **24th of June**. Decisions were taken by the Assembly, which **voted** on a number of issues crucial to the current and future functioning of the Association, including the **budget**, and an **action plan** including a more concerted call for membership. Regarding **membership**, four institutions had applied to join the Association as **Constituents**; these were AgroParisTech, CIMEA, Ghent University and Leiden University. All four were admitted as Constituents by unanimous vote. In terms of individuals the Association currently has **58 members**, of which 45 are full members and 13 are associate.

Central to the action plan is the launch of four main **task forces** of the Association. The task forces are on *Supporting JIPs, Monitoring and strategy, Conference and event organization, and Communication*. The first of these four is split into two sub-groups; *Sustainability of JIPs and Training*.

CIMEA has agreed to act as **service provider to the Association**, in particular in its creation phase (registration of the Association and statutes in Italy), in the set up and management of the website and as leader of the task force on training. The Association’s website should be ready by September 2015. Part of the secretariat will continue to operate from Bordeaux, in particular communication and central dissemination, and the management of membership.

For **further information** on the General Assembly and Conference please click on the following link:

<http://erasmusmundus.it/notizia/prodejip--1st-international-conference.aspx>

If you are interested in becoming actively involved in ProDeJIP, or even in simply following our activities to begin with, we invite you to contact us!

² Italian association specializing in the recognition of academic qualifications and mobility. Former Italian National Erasmus Mundus Contact Point.