



Workshop 2: Recognition Instruments for the Dialogue between joint programme coordinators

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EM-iDEA

**Bringing the Erasmus Mundus community together
to disseminate, exchange and act**

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Workshop 2:

**Recognition instruments for the dialogue
among joint programme coordinators**

Presentation:

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0. Structure of the Presentation

- Recognition: problems, needs and good practices emerging from the BRIDGE Project and the Recognition Cluster
- Recognition: the EAR - European Area of Recognition recommendations
- Evidences from the field:
 - a) “Recognition Cluster” survey on recognition
 - b) EMA survey on recognition in Latin America
 - c) study case from BRIDGE - recognition of EMMC
EMDIREB joint degree
- Topics for discussion in the workshop

1. The BRIDGE Project

- **Bridge - Best Recognition Instruments for the Dialogue between Global Experts**
- Main purpose: to strengthen cooperation among the EMNSs and the NARIC, ENIC and MERIC Centres
- practical tools & good practices for the awarding and the recognition of double, multiple and joint degrees

BRIDGE is a project co-financed by the European Commission in the framework of Erasmus Mundus Action 3 - Promotion of European Higher Education, and is a cooperation of:

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Kunsill Malti għall-Kwalifiki
Malta Qualifications Council

2. The scenario: joint degrees & Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997)

Recommendation on the recognition of joint degrees (June 2004):

- fair assessment of joint degrees
- flexibility in joint degrees recognition procedures
- national legislation: removing legal obstacles to the recognition of joint degrees
- Information: Diploma Supplement and ECTS

Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation:

- recognition of a joint degree is often more difficult than recognition of a “pure” foreign national degree; this is unjustified and paradoxical

Why?

“the problem is not one of a lack of information, but rather of
a lack of PERTINENT and FOCUSED information”

3. Joint programmes and recognition

Problems related to recognition issues

during the different phases of a joint programme:

- **creation phase**: taking into account differences among Higher Education systems;
- **selection phase**: candidates are chosen on the basis of
 - ✓ evaluation of their foreign qualification
 - ✓ status of the awarding institution;
- **awarding phase**: complying with different national regulations on joint programmes and joint degrees when
 - ✓ double/multiple/joint degrees are awarded
 - ✓ Diploma Supplement is issued

4. Creation phase

- **binary systems**: different nature of HEIs
- **qualifications**: different nature/aim and same level (professional, academic, research)
- **accreditation/recognition status**: private institutions with official programmes; official institutions with not recognised programmes; diploma mills; TNE HEIs etc.
- **different duration of programmes**: 3+2; 4+1; (2+3) 5; 3+1 etc.
- **credit systems and grading scale systems**: national; international; institutional etc.
- **levels/cycles**: Bologna, EQF, NQF, ISCED, national, etc.

5. Selection phase

- **required documents:** national legislation, institutional rules etc.
- **admission requirements:** final qualification, number of credits, recognition of prior learning, etc.
- **admission rules:** institutional/national requirements
- **'consecutive/non consecutive' models:** students need / don't need a Bachelor to enter in a Master / a Master to enter in a PhD etc.

6. Awarding phase

- **Diploma**: national format, joint/double/multiple, etc.
- **Registration rules**: national / institutional rules
- **Nature of degrees**: professional/academic rights; different levels/aims etc.
- **Diploma Supplement**: national legislations, institutional rules, free of charge, national/joint document etc.

7. Recognition: needs emerging from the BRIDGE experience

- **Stronger connections** among operators and officers (NARIC/ ENIC/MERIC and EMNS, credential evaluators, quality assessment agencies, etc.)
- **Better circulation** of relevant information
- Dissemination of **good practices**
- **Training** on general and specific topics

Next developments:

- **BRIDGE Project Final Conference (Malta, 18-19 October 2012)**
- **INTER-Hed on-line course - 1st edition (mar - sept 2013)**

8 INTER-HED - The Internationalisation of Higher Education

**An on-line training course for EM Administrators
An Erasmus Mundus Action 3 Project**

Partners NSs: Italy (c), Belgium FC, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal

Aims: professional-oriented course providing the learners with basic knowledge, skills and tools on the main ongoing issues and topics relevant for JPs. “Hands on” approach, focusing on practical case studies and concrete tips for the daily job in the field. Examples and practical exercises will be provided, as well as a section on information sources.

Target Groups: Members of Erasmus Mundus National Structures & academic and administrative staff in HEIs involved with implementation, assessment and monitoring of JPs.

When: February-September 2013 (40 participants per edition)

How to apply: 01 October - 15 November 2012 on www.interhed.eu

9 Structure of the INTER-HED course

MODULE 1 – UNDERSTANDING HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

- 1.1 Characteristics of Higher Education systems
- 1.2 Higher Education Institutions
- 1.3 Degree structures and Qualifications Frameworks
- 1.4 Higher Education in Emerging Countries: Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs)
- 1.5 Terminology & information resources on Higher Education systems

MODULE 2 – DEVELOPING JOINT PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 Characteristics of joint programmes
- 2.2 Characteristics of joint degrees
- 2.3 Networks and partnerships among Higher Education institutions
- 2.4 Student management in the framework of joint programmes: VISA, services and selection
- 2.5 Terminology & information resources on joint programmes

MODULE 3 – RECOGNITION PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Academic recognition procedures: national, European and international legal frameworks
- 3.2 Professional recognition procedures
- 3.3 Awarding & recognition of joint qualifications
- 3.4 Bologna Process instruments for recognition
- 3.5 Terminology & information resources on recognition procedures

FACE-TO-FACE SESSION

How to create & manage an international consortium/network

10. EAR - European Area of Recognition

- **EAR Project** carried out by 8 NARIC/ENIC (NL- coord; BE-fc; CZ; DK; F, LT; PL; UK), funded under LLP
- **Aims:**
 - ✓ to tackle differences in which LRC criteria are applied by Naric/Enic, which turns into obstacles to student mobility;
 - ✓ To make a bridge from theory to practice making use of LRC criteria and recommendations
- **Results:** EAR Manual - Practical guidelines for fair recognition of qualifications (January 2012)
- **Website:** www.eurorecognition.eu

11. Recognition of qualification awarded by JPs - the EAR Manual recommendations

- **Credential evaluators** should assess qualifications taking into account the LRC recommendation (see slide 2)
- Competent **recognition authorities** should recognise JPs qualifications unless they can demonstrate that there is a substantial difference between the JP qualification and their Higher Education system qualification
- Recognition with the **greatest flexibility possible**
- **Elements to check:**
 - ✓ Institutions involved in a JP are recognised/accredited in home systems
 - ✓ JP recognised by all participating HEIs / the ones where students studied

(to be cont.)

12. Recognition of qualification awarded by JPs - the EAR Manual recommendations

- **Elements to check** (cont.):
 - ✓ If a JD is awarded in the name of a larger *consortium*, all members are appropriately recognised/accredited
 - ✓ At least institutions/programmes in which the student effectively have studied are quality assessed
 - ✓ What are the legal regulations on JPs and JDs in the countries involved
 - ✓ If the JD was awarded in accordance with the legal frameworks of the awarding institution
 - ✓ If the JD was signed by the competent authorities of the awarding institution/s.
- More information available in the **Diploma Supplement**
- Focus on the **learning outcomes**; decision should not be motivated by duration (merely one indication)

13. Erasmus Mundus Cluster on sustainability and recognition of degrees and joint degrees

- The Cluster brings together EM JPs, Action 2 & 3 projects, National Structures, EM-A, and stakeholders (e.g. labour market)
- Workshops (march 2012); Survey Report (tbp); Practical Guidelines (tbp)
- Survey carried out by Ecorys UK Ltd (2011-2012)
- Website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/clusters/sustainability_en.php

14. Outcomes of the Survey on Recognition of degrees and joint degrees

- **Legal issues** and regulations (both national and institutional)
- **Complexity of the recognition process**
- **Time** taken in formally awarding degrees
- **Slow delivery** of certificates and formal documentation
- **Innovative complexity** of JPs introduces recognition challenges
- Recognition challenges in **EMJDs**: less concern than in EMMCs
- Role of **Erasmus Mundus National Structures** in bridging national and international recognition process
- Erasmus Mundus Programme has an **impact beyond its scale**

15. Outcomes of the EM-A Survey on Recognition in Latin America

- Case study **Brazil** - outcomes:
 - ✓ Recognition is sole responsibility of universities
 - ✓ Procedures vary widely
 - ✓ Costs may be high (€ 30 - 870) and not refundable
 - ✓ Time: 30 days - 6 months
 - ✓ Lack of clarity and standardisation of procedures
- Survey on **Latin American countries** - outcomes:
 - ✓ Differences among countries: governmental bodies and/or universities
 - ✓ Low recognition rates among surveyed sample (7%)
 - ✓ Complexity of process and uncertainty regarding the outcomes
 - ✓ Lack of information
 - ✓ Costs.

16. A study case from the BRIDGE Project: EMMC EMDIREB

- EMDIREB - Diagnosis and repair of buildings (2007 -2013)
- Consortium members: Sevilla (E; coord), Reggio Calabria (IT), Lublin (PL)
- 90 ECTS; joint degree awarded by coordinating institution
- Website: www.emdireb.eu
- **Problems faced in previous years:**
 - ✓ Lack of legislation on JD and DS in E and PL
 - ✓ JP split into two different programmes/degrees (60-30 ECTS)
 - ✓ Long time to issue and award diplomas (up to 2-3 years)
 - ✓ Only a substitute certificate issued, not valid for recognition
 - ✓ No joint Diploma Supplement (PL: national DS)

17. A study case from the BRIDGE Project: EMMC EMDIREB (cont)

- **Present situation:**
 - a JD of 90 ECTS is issued and awarded by the coordinating institution on behalf of all partners
 - This JD is awarded to all students of previous editions
- Recommendations of Spanish authorities: limit to max 6 months the time period to issue JD and Ds
- **Problems still open:**
 - ✓ Time constraints to issue diploma and DS
 - ✓ Lack of information on the correspondence of the JD awarded with national degrees

18. Topics for discussion

- Your personal experience – if any – in recognition of JD
- Recognition in European and in Third countries: which feedback from JD holders?
- National rules, national actors: state of the art in your countries
- Cooperation with other actors - national/international level (strong/weak points; good practices; needs to be addressed)
- How to improve information on recognition issues
- How to face the issue of a “too long time” for issuing a JDs and for the recognition process?
- How do you assess the “Innovative complexity” of Erasmus Mundus JDs as a further challenge for international recognition?
- *Any other topic*