

ÖSTERREICHISCHER AKKREDITIERUNGSRAT

OAR

Österreichischer Akkreditierungsrat

**Joint Programmes
A Challenge for Accreditation**

**Elisabeth Fiorioli
Prishtina 2010**

Bologna and EHEA

Prag Communiqué 2001 :

Call for more modules, courses and curricula offered in partnership with HEI from other countries and leading to joint degrees

Joint programmes relate strongly to the Bologna objectives (mobility, promoting European dimension in HE)

Characteristics of Joint Programmes

Programmes developed and approved jointly by several HEI

Students from each HEI study at the other HEI

Students' stays are of comparable length

Periods of study and exams passed at partner HEI are automatically recognised

Professors of each HEI teach also at the other HEIs and form joint commissions for admission and examination

Graduates obtain either the national degrees of each HEI or a degree awarded jointly by them

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Robin van IJperen
European Commission
10 June 2010, Graz

Joint Programmes – a success story ?

60% of HEI say they have JP in at least one of the 3 cycles (mostly at Ma level), only 4% say they see no need for this

15% have JP in all three cycles

HEI in DE, ES, FR, IT, NL and UK have the largest number of JP

BUT: very small numbers of participating students – too early to assess impact of JP

Joint Programmes – a success story ?

No legal problems any more: 75% of countries have included JD in legislation

In 25 % of countries, more than half of HEI are involved in JD cooperation

In half of the countries, less than 25% of HEI are involved in JD

In 20% of countries no JD exist at all

Approx. 2500 JP running in the EHEA

Joint Programmes – a success story ?

Legal obstacles in most countries removed

BUT

a lot of ‚technical‘ obstacles still remaining

Need for

trust in other higher education systems

less burdensome procedures

The Contribution of Quality Assurance

ECA - TEAM II Project

European methodology for **single accreditation (quality assessment) procedures** regarding joint programmes

Facilitating ENIC/NARICs for sharing good practices regarding the recognition of qualifications from joint programmes

5 pilot projects

Current Situation

Barriers for Joint Programmes

different legal framework

different QA/ accreditation agencies involved

Multiple accreditation procedures

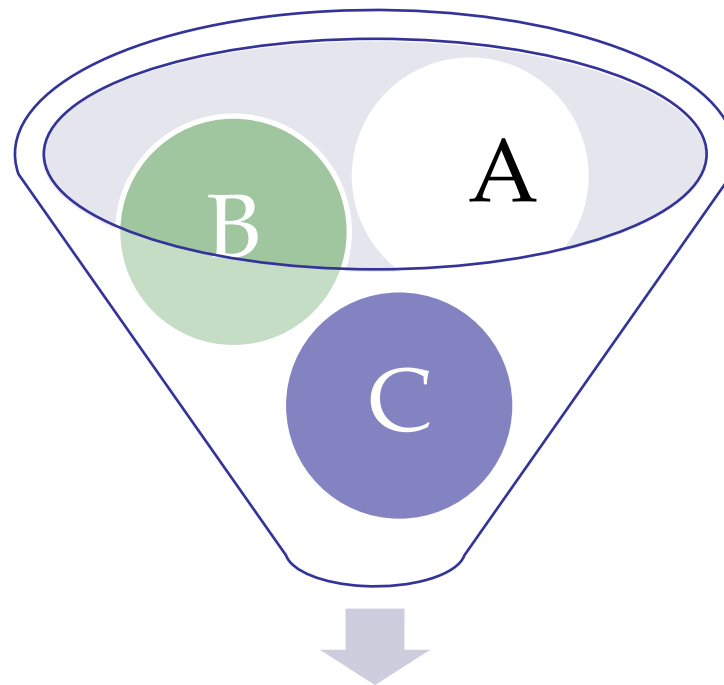
Multiple recognition procedures

In the Future?

Joint programmes should be able to apply for one single accreditation procedure replacing the different national procedures



One single procedure?



Accredited Joint Degree

Methodological Challenges I

How does the national context and legal framework affect the procedure?

Legal framework

Criteria and Requirements (core model + local requirements?)

Cultural differences

Methodological Challenges II

What elements contribute to an effective and efficient single accreditation procedure?

Coordination

Application/SER

Selection of Experts

Site Visit

Methodological Challenges III

What makes the results of one single procedure accepted by all countries involved?

Report

Decision

ECA - the next steps

MULTRA – mutual recognition agreement

Coordination point

QROSSROADS

To learn more about ECA TEAM II

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ECA website. The page title is "Joint Programmes: Too many cooks in the kitchen?". The main content area features a photograph of chefs in a kitchen and a text block discussing the challenges of accreditation for joint programmes. A sidebar on the left lists various programme-related resources, and a right sidebar provides information about the JOIMAN project.

eca european consortium for accreditation

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Joint Programmes: Too many cooks in the kitchen?

Challenges for Accreditation, Recognition and Transparency

The European Consortium for Accreditation in higher education (ECA) will organise the conference Joint Programmes: Too many cooks in the kitchen? The conference is aimed at agencies, higher education institutions, students, recognition authorities and governments, and will be held in Graz (Austria) on 10 and 11 June 2010. You are cordially invited to look at the programme and register on line (see menu at the left).

Joint programmes are confronted with national quality assurance and accreditation procedures in the countries involved. One programme therefore has to undergo several different, national procedures. These procedures then lead to decisions that only have an impact in one national higher education system. The conference in Graz presents a methodology for a single accreditation procedure of joint programmes. An accreditation of a joint programme by one agency can then be accepted by other agencies.

Furthermore, the recognition of a joint programme in one country does not necessarily entail recognition in the other countries concerned. This then leads to recognition problems regarding the

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus) of the European Union.

JOIMAN project

Joiman is not a project of ECA, but is a European Commission funded LLP project focusing on Erasmus Mundus programmes.

Joiman aims at providing a platform in which an experienced group of partners could share knowledge and know how on the solutions found for the problems faced during the first stage of the Erasmus Mundus Programme.

[Joiman website](#)