Blueprint for a European degree

Vanessa, Debiais-Sainton, European Commission
Head of Unit Higher Education (EAC B1)

European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029

" **Tackling the skills and labour gaps**

We need to make sure that we benefit from all high-quality skills irrespective of where and how they were acquired. This is why we will continue to work towards a **European Degree** and will put forward a Skills Portability Initiative to ensure a skill acquired in one country is recognised in another.

18 July 2024

European Commission

European degree: Policy objectives

01

Increased employability
&
skills relevance

02

Cutting red tape for increased adaptability

&

visibility of higher education systems

03

A driver of

strategic cooperation &

global competitiveness

European Commission

Joint degree vs European degree

Joint degree	European degree
A single diploma awarded by the higher education institutions offering the joint degree programme.	A **new type of joint degree embedded in national legislation**: a single diploma awarded by the higher education institutions offering the joint degree programme **matching the European criteria.**
It needs to meet **all the different national rules** of each participating country to award a national degree.	It needs to meet the agreed European criteria only. **Member States would not add national constraints on top**.
Less than one third of EU joint programmes manage to deliver a joint degree, usually between max two or three of the participating higher education institutions. Beyond this, the incompatibilities between the national rules make it impossible or very burdensome to deliver a joint degree. That is why **joint degrees are limited in numbers, and in number of universities participating**.	A **huge simplification** for any higher education institution wishing to develop a joint degree programme with as many partners as they wish within the EU, based on a **common denominator for all Member States**.
	Lead to more joint degree programmes and making it a lot easier for alliances such as European Universities wishing to deliver joint degree programmes between 9 countries on average.

Annex 3 – Staff Working Document: list of obstacles to overcome

+50 legal and administrative obstacles

Examples

- differences in academic years, grading scales and workload
- minimum semester requirements to be spent at home or maximum at partner institution
- final exam forms (obligatory public examinations, length of a thesis, specific number of final exams)
- Lack of recognition of blended/online learning
- Diploma: different paper type, size, logos, language use, and signature requirements
- Imossibility to have traineeships or BIPs embedded in curricula
- Different mandatory teaching languages

European Commission

Joint degree vs European degree

The situation today:

The road for creating a joint degree programme is extremely complex as every partner must fulfill different and often incompatible national requirements

The situation tomorrow:

A European degree is **embedded in national legislation** as a new qualification, <u>**alongside other national degrees**</u> at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. **It is based on European criteria. No national criteria on top.**

A wealth of evidence to test European criteria for a European degree

+2500 students surveyed

140 universities

17 ministries

20 Quality Assurance agencies

+80 interviews and focus groups

+1000 joint programmes used for the testing

+100 stakeholders views gathered ⭐

2 years consultation with stakeholders ⭐

ED-AFFICHE

ΕΤΙΚΕΤΑ

FOCI

JEDI

SMART.T

EDLab
EUROPEAN DEGREE LABEL
Institutional Laboratory

⭐ This includes Member States authorities, accreditation and quality assurance agencies, higher education institutions, labour market representatives and students in all Member States.

European Commission

Examples of proposed European criteria
(full list in Annex to the CR on a European QA and recognition system)

Boosting the implementation of the Bologna instruments

European quality assurance standards and guidelines

European approach to quality assurance of joint programmes

ECTS User Guide

Diploma Supplement

+ **going beyond the Bologna tools & boosting high quality higher education**

Transnational programme, organisation and management:
- **At least 2** participating HEIs from 2 EU Member States (**non-EU countries possible beyond that**)
- Comply with Bologna and EU tools and standards
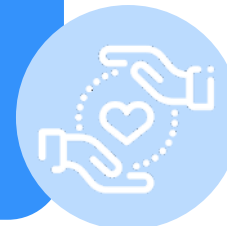- Joint programme leads to a joint degree

Learning experience:
- Embedded student mobility
- Student-centred
- Include interdisciplinary components
- Labour market relevance
- Digital skills

European Values, inclusiveness & multilingualism
Joint programmes should promote democratic values, multilingualism, inclusiveness and the green transition

European Commission

European degree: horizontal principles

MS / Region / Institution deliver =>
**Subsidiarity √
Institutional autonomy √
Academic freedom √**

Universities award jointly - **on a voluntary basis**

Open to:
all types of HEIs
all disciplines
Bachelor, Master, PhD

Built on existing **EU / Bologna process tools**

Cutting red tape to establish joint degrees => **less administrative burden**

Based on **common European criteria** tested & agreed with **Member States, stakeholders and HEIs**.

European Commission

The road towards a possible European degree: illustration of possible next steps

Blueprint for a European degree March 2024

Q3-Q4 2024
- Erasmus+ pilot projects final report published
- Discussion in EP CULT Committee
- **Discussions at national level**

By 1st semester of 2025
- Council discussions in EDUC Committee
- Adoption of the **European degree criteria**
- Setting up the **European degree policy lab**

2025-2027
- Member States can implement the European label
- And review their national systems

End of 2025 and end of 2026
1st and 2nd **European Degree Forum**

Mid-2025
Launch of Erasmus+ call to support **European degree pathway projects** and **European degree exploratory action**

2027
Commission tables a proposal for a **Council Recommendation on a European degree**

2028 - 2030
Mainstreaming of the European degree across all Member States

European degree mainstreamed all over Europe

European Commission

Thank you

European Commission