

1° EDLab Webinar

European policy experimentation in higher education: piloting a joint European degree label

The webinar is starting in a few minutes



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DI PADOVA





Introduction & Agenda

Our panellists



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How to join the conversation

- **Q&A:**
Use the Q&A box to direct questions to our panellists
- **Chat:**
Use the chat box to present yourselves and/or discuss the topics amongst yourselves

Agenda

- Overall policy objectives
- 'Pilot a Joint European Degree Label' Call
- The EDLab project
- How can you contribute?



Overall policy objectives

The European Strategy for Universities



EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
ACROSS EUROPE



Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

**Council Conclusions adopted by
EYCS Council 5 April 2022**

Strong call from higher education sector to act

Evolving context - intensification of transnational cooperation



UNIVERSITIES FACE OBSTACLES FOR ENGAGING MORE EFFECTIVELY IN TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

92%

of universities identified the **elimination of legal and administrative obstacles** as a **key issue**



- ❑ **Legal and administrative obstacles** to setup joint programmes and activities, including the award of joint degree, are **multiplied by the number of partners in an alliance** of HEIs in view of diverse national legislations
- ❑ **Uneven implementation of Bologna tools at national level** – quality assurance, ECTS
- ❑ **Difficulties to mutualise strengths and share joint resources** - financial, human, digital and physical resources, and services.

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION

**FACILITATING
TRANSNATIONAL
EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES**

FIRST STEP TOWARDS:

- Institutionalised cooperation instruments (e.g. legal status for alliances)
- Common criteria for a European label for joint programmes, followed possibly by voluntary joint degrees based on these European criteria

**SUSTAINABLE
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES
ALLIANCES**

**WIDENING THE
IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EUROPEAN
STUDENT CARD
INITIATIVE**

Reinforce **European transnational cooperation**
by building bridges

Support all higher education institutions and enhance the **coherence** of European higher education systems

Full implementation of existing instruments and exploring avenues for new ones

Recommendation for **national reforms and European support**

Council Recommendation adopted by EYCS Council 5 April

Two flagship initiatives



Explore common criteria leading to a potential **European label for joint programmes**, to be piloted as of 2022 under Erasmus+. Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged



Erasmus + pilot call topic 1:
Pilot a joint European degree label



Examining the need for and feasibility of institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible **legal status for alliances of higher education institutions**: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments



Erasmus + pilot call topic 2:
Pilot institutionalised EU cooperation instruments to explore the feasibility for a possible European legal status for alliances of higher education institutions

Key features of a possible joint degree

Full respect of Member States competence

Pilot a joint European degree label

Call concept and specific objectives

Ref: ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-EUdegree

A step by step approach



2023: Test the co-developed criteria in selected pilots

The pilots will test the proposed criteria and make proposals for their optimisation and further steps.

2024 and beyond: follow up action at EU level

Analyse the results of the pilots to inform future possible developments towards a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria.

Specific objectives



Exploring and testing the relevance of the criteria

Exploring and recommending possible optimisation of the set of criteria

Elaborating proposals aiming to facilitate the development and implementation of joint degrees in Europe. This would include **proposing an approach for the delivery of joint degrees based on co-created European criteria.**

How to test the criteria?

Screening existing joint programmes for compliance with the criteria

Identification of compliant joint programmes

Contribution to the **creation of the template of the European joint degree label** (physical and/or digital)

Awarding the label to students

Conducting a joint reflection, with authorities and stakeholders, on the optimisation of the proposed set of criteria and possible scenarios for the **delivery of a joint degree**

Co-created set of criteria (Call Annex)

Higher education institutions involved

Transnational joint degree delivery

Transparency of the learning outcomes

Quality assurance arrangements

Joint policies for the joint programme

Transnational campus – access to services

Co-created set of criteria (Call Annex)

Flexible and embedded student mobility arrangements

Multilingualism

Innovative learning approaches

Graduate outcomes

Inclusiveness and sustainability

Call results

- **6 projects** selected by the European Commission
- First projects started in **March 2023**
- **High interest** of European Commission & European Parliament in project results



The EDLab project

Objectives, partners and activities

Main objective

Further the implementation of:

- European and international joint programmes
- European Degree Label

Four target countries:

France, Italy, Portugal and Spain

Key information

European policy experimentation in higher education: piloting a joint European degree label

- **Duration:** 12 months (starting on 1 March 2023)
- **Budget:** 200.000,00 EUR (EU contribution)
- **4 Alliances represented:** Arqus, ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA, SEA-EU
- **13 Full partners** from 5 countries
- **Diverse associate partners:** national ministries and quality assurance agencies, European and global university networks, student and alumni associations, along with other partner universities from our four alliances.



Full partners

- **UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA, Spain** (Coordinator) – **Arqus Alliance**
- UNIVERSIDAD DE CADIZ, Spain – **SEA-EU Alliance**
- UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA, Spain– **EUTOPIA Alliance**
- UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE, Portugal - **SEA-EU Alliance**
- UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO, Portugal– **Arqus Alliance**
- UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA, Portugal– **EUTOPIA Alliance**
- UNIVERSITA CA' FOSCARI VENEZIA, Italy– **EUTOPIA Alliance**
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI PARTHENOPE, Italy - **SEA-EU Alliance**
- UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA, Italy – **Arqus Alliance**
- CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITE, France – **EUTOPIA Alliance**
- UNIVERSITE DE BRETAGNE OCCIDENTALE, France - **SEA-EU Alliance**
- UNIVERSITE LYON 1 CLAUDE BERNARD, France – **Arqus Alliance**
- UNIVERSITEIT GENT, Belgium – **ENLIGHT Alliance**

Associated partners

National authorities

Quality Assurance Agencies and networks

Student associations

Alumni associations

European Networks

Global University Networks

ENIC-NARIC

Universities from the participating alliances

Associated partners

- **National authorities:**
Ministries responsible for higher education in Flanders (Belgium), France, Italy, Portugal and Spain
- **Quality Assurance Agencies and networks:**
NVAO (BE), HCERES (FR), ANVUR (IT), A3ES (PT), Aneca, AQU and DEVA/ACCUU (ES), ECA
- **Student associations:**
European Student Union (ESU), Erasmus Student Network (ESN), local student associations (Minho, Padua....)
- **Alumni associations:**
Erasmus Mundus Alumni (EMA), Padua Alumni Association
- **European Networks:**
Coimbra Group, the Guild, Academic Cooperation Association
- **Global University Networks:**
Unimed, Montevideo Group (AUGM), CASA
- **ENIC-NARIC:** CIMEA (IT)
- **Universities from the participating alliances:**
Arqus – Graz, Leipzig, Vilnius, Wroclaw; **EUTOPIA** – Cluj, Ljubljana, Gothenburg, VU Brussels, Dresden, Warwick; **SEA-EU** – Split, Kiel, Gdansk, Nord, Malta; **ENLIGHT**: Bordeaux; Basque Country.

Specific objectives & activities

**WP₁ – Management
and coordination**
(Arqus – UGR)

Overall **coordination** of the work plan, finances, oversight of progress,
all reporting

**Key
deliverables**

Current activities

What's on at the moment?

- **Mapping of** existing joint programmes (**done**)
- **Analysing the suitability of the proposed criteria** for the award of the ED Label (**in progress**)
- **Screening** to assess fulfilment of the proposed criteria for the European Degree Label by existing joint programmes (**upcoming**)
- Analysing the **barriers** of all kinds existing for their fulfilment, with particular but not exclusive reference to France, Italy, Portugal and Spain (**upcoming**)
- Analysing existing joint degree models & (joint) degree certificate prescriptions (**in progress**)

Dissemination Activities

Save the dates & stay tuned!

- **2nd EDLab webinar on Joint Programmes Accreditation**, with the participation of national authorities – 26 May 2023
- 3rd EDLab webinar on Digital Certifications (*date tbc*)
- 4th EDLab webinar on the Global Dimension of Joint Programmes (*date tbc*)
- Final Conference, Feb 2024



How can you contribute?

How can you contribute?

- **Test the feasibility of Label criteria** by filling out EDLab Surveys (check with your institution!)
- **Share your feedback**, opinion, ideas on the European Degree Label → we will bring it for discussion at national & European level
- **Involve your partners** in the discussion
- **Participate** in focus groups, webinars and events on the topic
- **Contribute** to the shaping of a Joint European Degree !
- **Get in touch: edlab.management@ugr.es**

We look forward to working with all of you!

Dorothy Kelly, Arqus European Alliance Coordinator

Mara Thiene, Delegata per i Joint Degree e Ranking Internazionali, Università di Padova

Alessandra Gallerano, Direttrice Projects & Mobility Office, Università di Padova



EDLab

EUROPEAN DEGREE LABEL
Institutional Laboratory