The Joint Master Degrees under the Erasmus+ Programme

International Association for the Promotion and the Development of Joint International Programmes

Rome, 25 June 2015
STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

Part I: Erasmus Mundus (2007-2013)  
Review of Achievements

Part II: Joint Master Degrees under Erasmus+ (2014-2020)

Part III: New call for proposals (autumn 2016)
PART I
ERASMUS MUNDUS (2004 – 2013)
REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- To what extent have the EMMCs achieved ‘jointness’?

- To what extent have EMMCs contributed to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)?

- To what extent are the courses contributing to the employability of their graduates?

- What are the sustainability prospects of these courses after the end of EM funding?
JOINTNESS

- The process of cooperation between stakeholders from programme design and implementation

  - Design of an integrated course (including mandatory mobility with clear added value)
  - Development of joint and integrated management structures
  - Interinstitutional transfer of knowledge (sharing practices, overcoming disciplinary boundaries, different teaching and management practices)
  - Harmonisation and recognition of awarded degrees
  - Integration of scholarship holders in local environment and of local students into courses
CONTRIBUTION TO EHEA (I)

- Better needs assessment and knowledge sharing across Europe
- Enhancement of joint research, structured networks, increased internationalisation, global visibility, contents addressing global issues
- Enhancement of innovation and development with studies and research projects in tune with emerging economic and scientific needs (academic staff implication as well as these results)
- Promotion of interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinarity (innovative training paths and mobility)
CONTRIBUTION TO EHEA (II)

- Quality control mechanisms, through several institutional, national and external practices and standards
- Mobility as a means to ensure coherence in course content, delivery and performance assessment
- Common understanding of differentiation in student performance and grading with criteria and conversion defined in partnership agreement, joint examination boards, transnational defence of thesis
- Student centred learning (innovative approaches to studying, professional tracks, acquisition of transversal skills)
EMPLOYABILITY(I)

- Curricular integration with internationalisation of the academic content does not automatically increase employability.

- No measurable indicators of the extent to which the EM degree has enhanced employability more than comparable national high quality masters.

- Number of studies available (course evaluation reports, surveys of course coordinators, EMA, EM cluster study on employability, Graduate Impact studies).
EMPLOYABILITY (II)

- Employers not always well acquainted with double, multiple or joint diploma system
- Importance of the Diploma Supplement to facilitate the readability of the degree and help promote its market value
- Quality of the academic provision: standard internal quality control according to practices of each university combined with programme level procedures including external peer review and student assessment
EMPLOYABILITY(III)

- Internships and work placements which equip students with professional skills and competences tailored to market needs
- Complementary skills through programmes that involve non-academic sector (guest lecturers), innovative evaluation models for defending thesis
- Structured career guidance plan combining individual guidance with programme-level events (career and industry days)
PROMOTION AND SUSTAINABILITY(I)

- Primary purpose: attract the best students for scholarships as well as renowned scholars
- But also: raise awareness, recruit self-paying students and attract a broad range of stakeholders for networking
- Best results achieved through the development of promotion strategies and marketing programmes jointly by all partners
- However, whilst most programmes are well established and recognised, they still depend to a large extent on the scholarship funding by the European Commission
PROMOTION AND SUSTAINABILITY(II)

- All programmes successful in attracting excellent third-country students
- Oversubscription extremely high (selection rate as low as 5/10%!)
- Students coming from 20 or more countries, in some cases 50
- Broad transfer of knowledge between countries, avoiding bias towards only best known universities and wider diversity amongst student population with introduction of EU students
- Average: 2 EM scholarships for 1 self-paying (but very variable)
- Relatively small number of self-paying students combined with the fact that these were mainly from EU who paid lower tuition fees meant that consortia struggled to reach financial sustainability
Many consortia successful in raising interest of industry

Other means: bursaries from partners, waivers, national programmes for additional scholarships, sponsorships from local authorities, national or regional organisation for joint events and workshops

Many consortia lacked business plans

Only few consortia set targets or explored possibilities for co-funding or matched funding

Little information as to whether universities continued cooperation with guest lecturers or whether efforts were made to set up joint research programmes with national co-funding

Alumni have a crucial role to play in linking students with the network of future employers and generate requests from the professional sector
CONCLUSIONS (I)

- ‘Jointness’ has contributed significantly to the Bologna process
- EMMCs offer high quality education and promote the EU dimension in higher education through joint curricular development and inter-institutional cooperation
- Joint recognition of qualifications and support of mobility streams within Europe and between the EU and partner countries contribute the worldwide attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA
CONCLUSIONS (II)

- Strong indication that the professional internships offered well-tailored and appreciated competences
- EMMCs are highly attractive for students and scholars but still depend to a large extent on the scholarship funding from the EU Commission
- Failure to renew will often result in abandoning the project, decreasing the number/international profile of students or decreasing mobility options
CONCLUSIONS (III)

• Notable efforts have been made by various consortia to negotiate additional scholarships from industry/public authorities but few have explored options for support from national or regional programmes.

• More efforts should go into developing business models, exploitation and marketing plans and an impact analysis in view of sustainability.

• More efforts need to go into raising the value of the learning outcomes among potential employers.
PART II

ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION
# International Co-operation between Programme Countries & Partner Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Countries</th>
<th>Partner Countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EU Member States:</strong> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom</td>
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<td><strong>Other programme countries:</strong> Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Balkans</td>
<td>Eastern Partnership Countries</td>
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<td>Southern Mediterranean Countries</td>
<td>Russian Federation Asia</td>
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<td>Central Asia</td>
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<td>Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACP – Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Gulf Cooperation Countries</td>
<td>Other Industrialised Countries</td>
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Erasmus+ International Actions (I)

- **Degree mobility**: excellence, attractiveness of European HE, support to Joint Master Degrees, high level scholarships to attract talent.

- **Capacity building**: support partner countries in modernising and reforming their HE systems and institutions. Funding of Joint Projects and Structural Projects.
Erasmus+
International Actions (II)

- **Credit mobility**: student and staff mobility, Erasmus-type, incoming and outgoing mobility.

- **Jean Monnet**: promoting excellence in teaching and research in EU studies. Support to courses, research, conferences, networking activities, and publications.
Erasmus+
International Dimension

- 135,000 student & staff exchanges with Partner countries over 7 years
- Joint Master Degrees: 350 JMDs and 25,000 students
- 1,000 Capacity Building Projects with 150 Partner countries
Management

- Centralised management through Executive Agency in Brussels – degree mobility, capacity-building and Jean Monnet

- Decentralised management through National Agencies set up in programme countries – credit mobility
Who can apply

- Joint Masters & Credit mobility: Only HEIs in Programme countries.
- Capacity building & Jean Monnet Both Programme and Partner countries.
EMJMD structure

- Integrated international master programmes of excellent quality to attract the very best students worldwide
- Developed & delivered by a consortium of HEIs from Programme countries + Partner countries (if relevant)
- Duration 12 – 18 – 24 months (60 – 90 – 120 ECTS)
- Mandatory study period in at least 2 different Programme countries
- Award of fully recognised joint or multiple degrees
Main characteristics and aims (I)

- **Attractiveness** and **Excellence**: very high selectivity of EMJMDs, only excellent joint master programmes selected and funded
- Increase **quality & attractiveness** of the EHEA
- "**Jointness**" - Integration of the course design and structure, recognition of degrees
- **Joint degrees** encouraged but not mandatory (double/multiple degrees still eligible)
Main characteristics and aims (II)

- **Invited scholars/guest lecturers** contribute to the teaching/training/research activities
- **Full scholarships** for the best master students worldwide, priority on Partner country students (min. of 75 %)
- Bridging **academic and job-market needs** (trans-disciplinary approach), **employability** of graduates
- **Sustainability** after EU funding
Opportunities for HEI's

- High degree of visibility in a programme of Excellence
- Multi-cohort grant and personalised management support by EACEA
- Attractive EU co-funding scheme
- Select top students worldwide
Opportunities for Students

- Top academic expertise and specialisation options
- Unique mobility experience recognised joint/multiple degree
- Full scholarships with attractive financial envelope
- Support by consortium partners and EMA
Lessons learnt from EMMCs

- Invest in **internship programmes**
- Participation of non-academic organisations in curriculum development and performance evaluation
- Develop **complementary competences** for EM students
- **Business and marketing plans** for financial sustainability
- Outreach activities to raise visibility and acceptance of **awarded joint degrees** among academia and business community
EMJMD Award Criteria

- Relevance of the project (max 30 points)
- Quality of the project design and implementation (max 25 points)
- Quality of the project team & the cooperation arrangements (max 20 points)
- Impact and dissemination (max 25 points)

- 2 Steps evaluation procedure with the assistance of external experts
  - **First step: 75%** (22.5 points) of the maximum allocated points for "Relevance"
  - **Second step: 60%** of the maximum allocated points for each of the remaining award criteria
Additional Scholarships –
10 targeted regions (2015)

- Applicants may apply for additional scholarships for one or more regions/ countries of the world:
  - Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, South Africa, Latin America, Eastern - Southern neighbours, Gulf countries

- Funded through the EU External Financing Instruments

- Additional award criterion:
  - cooperation with HEIs from Partner Countries in the targeted region
  - attract highly talented students from the targeted region
EMJMD funding rules
An EU grant for an EMJMD will be indicatively ~ 2-3 Mio €

**HEI:** Contribution to the consortium management costs
(incl. costs for invited scholars and guest lecturers)
- 20.000 € for preparatory year and 50.000 € per student intake
  (= 170.000 € in total)

**Student:** max 25.000 € per academic year and per scholarship; actual amount varies according to:
* EMJMD's length of studies (60, 90 or 120 ECTS)
* Student's country of residence
* EMJMD level of participation costs
**Overview – students scholarships grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution to participation costs</th>
<th>Students from partner countries</th>
<th>up to 9.000 € per year</th>
<th>Students from programme countries</th>
<th>up to 4.500 € per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to travel costs</td>
<td>2.000 € per year if residence is less than 4.000 km from EMJMD coordinator</td>
<td>3.000 € per year if residence is 4.000 km or more from EMJMD coordinator</td>
<td>1.000 € per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to installation costs</td>
<td>1.000 EUR</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living allowance (max 24 months)</td>
<td>1.000 € per month (not when in country of residence, and max. 3 months in any partner country)</td>
<td>1.000 € per month (not when in country of residence)</td>
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EMJMD implementation

- **EMJMD Consortium Agreement:**
  - institutional commitments of all organisations participating in the EMJMD consortium
  - in line with the principles of the European Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)
  - must cover all academic, operational, administrative and financial aspects related to the implementation of the EMJMD

- **Duration of the project:** 1 preparatory year + 3 intakes (5 years maximum)

- **Fixed total budget for the 3 intakes** (between 13-20 students per intake → 39-60 students per grant agreement).
PART III
NEW EMJMD Call 2016

- Deadline: 1st Quarter 2016 (tbc)
- Budget: 57 M€ + 17,8 M€ for "targeted regions" (tbc)
- Nr. of projects: ~25 EMJMDs
- Nr. of scholarships per intake/per project:
  - 14 (around 42 per Grant Agreement)
  - plus 3 (around 9 per Grant Agreement) for targeted regions
Information sources

- Information on Erasmus+ and EMJMD (Programme Guide, Call for Proposals 2015, application procedure, etc.)
  - [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en)

- EMJMD scholarship catalogue (selected beneficiaries)

- “Joint International Master Programmes: lessons learnt from Erasmus Mundus” (free of charge e-brochure)