



The concept of the European Degree

European Quality Assurance Forum



European Commission: Political Guidelines 2024-2029



18 July 2024

“ Tackling the skills and labour gaps

Europe needs a radical step change in ambition and action – for all skill levels and for all types of training and education. This is as important for people’s careers and prospects as it is for our competitiveness. To do so, we will establish a **Union of Skills**.

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.

Joining forces for high quality skills provision

Joint degrees in highly sought-after fields

Following the good example of:

- European Universities Initiative
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters
- MSCA joint doctorate



The situation today:

Differences in
use of ECTS

Requirements
for diploma
templates

Admission
policies,
mobility rules

Accreditation
requirements,
restrictions on
language use

Possibility to have
traineeships
embedded in
curricula

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

The Bologna tools and automatic recognition of qualifications alone will not facilitate the provision of joint degree programmes.

Address existing **incompatibilities** between national legislations, such as incompatible rules on:

- curriculum structure,
- duration of BA or MA
- mandatory teaching languages,
- number of semesters abroad,
- recognition of blended/online learning,
- diploma templates...



Goals of a European Degree



Easier design and delivery

of joint educational programmes across Europe



An enabling framework

instead of a multitude of case-by-case obstacles



Boost the implementation of the Bologna process



More opportunities

for students, staff, institutions and systems to benefit from transnational cooperations

**The situation tomorrow with
a European degree:**



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

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**



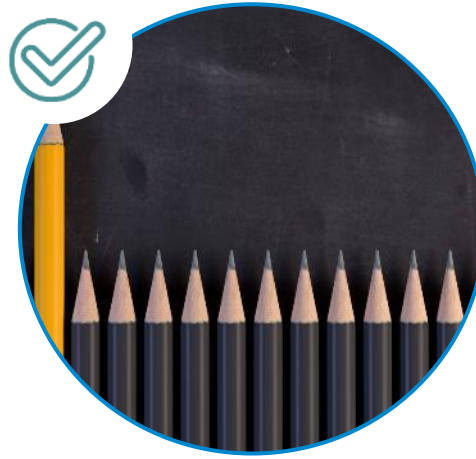
Cutting red tape to
establish joint degrees
=> **less administrative
burden**

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

Proposed Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system



Transversal
recommendations for
all quality assurance
systems



System-specific
recommendations for
more agile
transnational
cooperation



Laying the
foundations towards
a European degree



Implementing
automatic recognition

Recommendation: Annexes

Annex 1:

- Building blocks for a cross-institutional quality assurance framework for alliances of higher education institutions

Annex 2:

- European criteria for a European degree (label)

Building blocks for a cross-institutional Quality Assurance Framework for alliances of Higher Education Institutions

- Builds on the outcomes of the Erasmus+ funded project EUniQ;
- The evaluation should fully incorporate the ESG.
- The Alliance's internal quality assurance ensures that the joint education programmes :
 - (a) comply with the standards of the European Approach;
 - (b) meet the European (degree/label) criteria.
- The evaluation should be carried out by one EQAR-registered agency, chosen by the Alliance.
- The methodology should ensure that each procedure is tailored to the individual Alliance, considering the Alliance's mission, composition (for example, size and geographic spread), and the scope of jointly managed activities.

Examples of proposed European criteria

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





Synergies

- Bologna instruments included in European criteria:
 - Internal and external Quality Assurance in accordance with ESG
 - European approach for quality assurance of joint programmes
 - Learning outcomes & credits aligned with ECTS Users Guide
 - Joint Diploma Supplement

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**

Thank you



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