

HERE Seminar

Joint programmes and degrees: Strategy, management, implementation

University of Novi Sad, Serbia

17-18 March 2016

As a member of HERE team in Montenegro, I participated in the seminar on joint programmes and degrees with the special focus on strategies, management and implementation. With the premises that joint programmes and joint degrees are increasingly seen as a strategic means to internationalize higher education institutions, the main aim of the seminar was to reference and promote existing guidelines and good practices that have been developed in Europe and EU, as well as some European projects and initiatives.

Two-day seminar was organized through several sessions: Joint programmes and degrees: What are they and what are they good for; Joint programmes and joint degrees.... different forms of cooperation with different implications; Development of joint programmes: partnership, curricula design, coordination, mobility (working groups); Joint programmes in times of digital provision; Quality assurance of joint programmes and degrees; Joint programmes and strategic internationalization (institutional investment in JPs, role of leadership, evaluating impact, spin-off cooperation and wider strategic partnerships) and Joint programmes: Opportunities under Erasmus Plus. Although the mentioned seminar lasted for two days, I must underline that Day1 was organized with presentations that had been more basic with an accent on difference between joint programmes and joint degrees.

There were several interesting presentations as well as discussions within working groups, but I must emphasize one session about joint programmes in times of digital provision. Since we're all living and working in digital times, we must manage to organize study programmes internationally: people and resources do not have to be physically together in one place. Nevertheless, it is important to have other tools and mechanisms to carry out tasks related to organization of the educational programme. In that sense, Tim Deprez presented the case of International Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (Sept 2008 – August 2017), as well as International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources and Joint Doctoral Programme in Marine Ecosystem Health and Conservation. They have all showed the

need for one online tool in which all joint aspects of running a joint programme can be managed without requiring the users to be IT experts. All segments of educational organization must be available to all target groups (for example: teachers and students who interact during thesis production: grading also happens based on online platform – 75% of grade on the written manuscript and 25% on thesis presentation during symposium).

Based on the HEREs interest in the planning and design of joint programmes, I can conclude that learning outcomes (Get acquainted with different types of joint programmes; understand and analyze the strategic motivations to develop joint programmes; assess the institutional approaches to develop joint degrees as well as the possibilities that digitalization can provide; develop an understanding of the necessary internal and external quality assurance measures) are fulfilled in the most of its segments. Seminar was organized at the Rectorate of University of Novi Sad and Faculty of Law.

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March, 2016.