

Towards a Joint European Degree



EC Work Programme 2024: Communication on a joint European degree

In higher education, the Commission will propose a blueprint for the future **joint European degree**, which will contribute to achieving a European Education Area. It will be supported by recommendations on quality assurance in higher education and on attractive academic careers.

13. A joint European degree

- a) **Joint European degree** (non-legislative, Q2 2024)
- b) **Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education** (non-legislative, Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, Q2 2024)
- c) **Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system** (non-legislative, Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, Q2 2024)

Problems the initiative aims to tackle

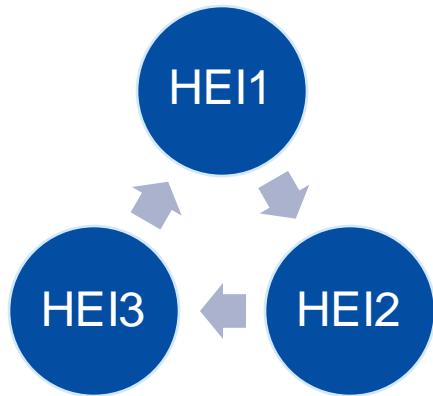
Complex and contradictory national rules leading to high administrative burden for the design and delivery of joint degree programmes

Lack of a common framework at European level for the design, delivery and award of joint degrees signaling the added value of European cooperation

Uneven level of trust in quality assurance of higher education institutions which hampers cooperation and automatic recognition of qualifications

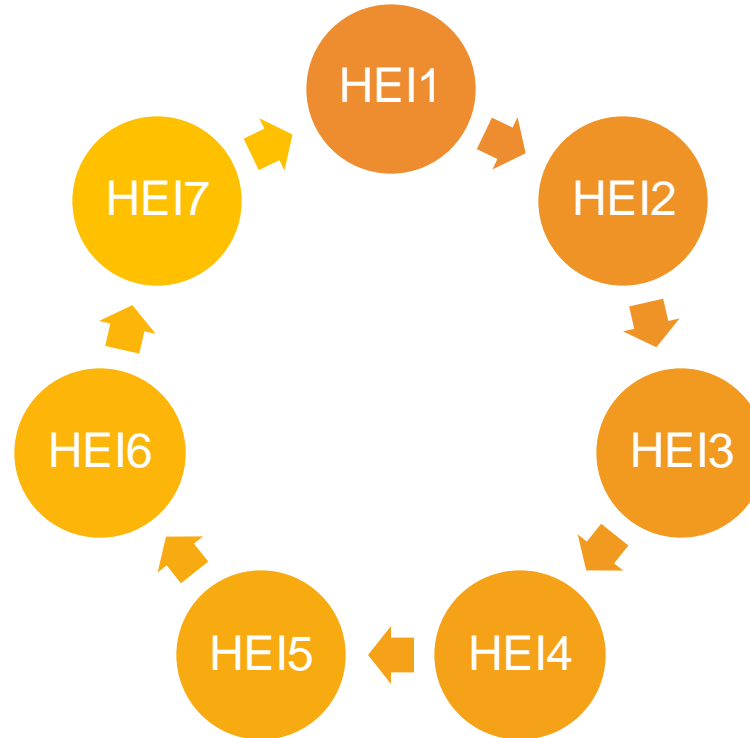
Lack of incentives and recognition in careers of academic staff for transnational cooperation in education

Towards intensified transnational cooperation



Today

Persistent challenges to implement joint degrees between a limited number of HEIs



Near future

Need to act to implement joint degrees between a larger number of HEIs

Update on the state of play



Hybrid Workshop on Future Models for European Degrees

Unlocking the potential of the European Degree label



All pilots are working at full speed. Many key deliverables have been published.

More than 1000 joint programmes mapped and analysed by the pilot projects

Many events and dissemination activities with Ministries, QA agencies and stakeholders. Dialogue is helping a lot to identify key challenges and possible solutions.

Regular follow-up and exchange meetings with DG EAC and EACEA.

Great collaborative spirit between projects and wide agreement on a common vision.

Key features of a joint European degree



- ❑ **specifically designed for joint degree programmes** delivered jointly by HEIs from different countries
- ❑ based on **common European criteria** tested and agreed with **Member States and HEIs**
- ❑ **awarded by competent authorities** at national, regional or institutional level
- ❑ In accordance to **National Qualification Framework structure**
- ❑ On a **fully voluntary basis**, available for **all types of HEI alliances, including European Universities alliances**

The label path:

Differences in use of ECTS, restrictions on language use

Requirements for diploma templates

Admission policies, mobility rules

Accreditation requirements

Possibility to have traineeships embedded in curricula



The joint European degree label would reward those that manage to overcome the challenges but the road would remain challenging.

The degree path: a highway for joint degree programmes

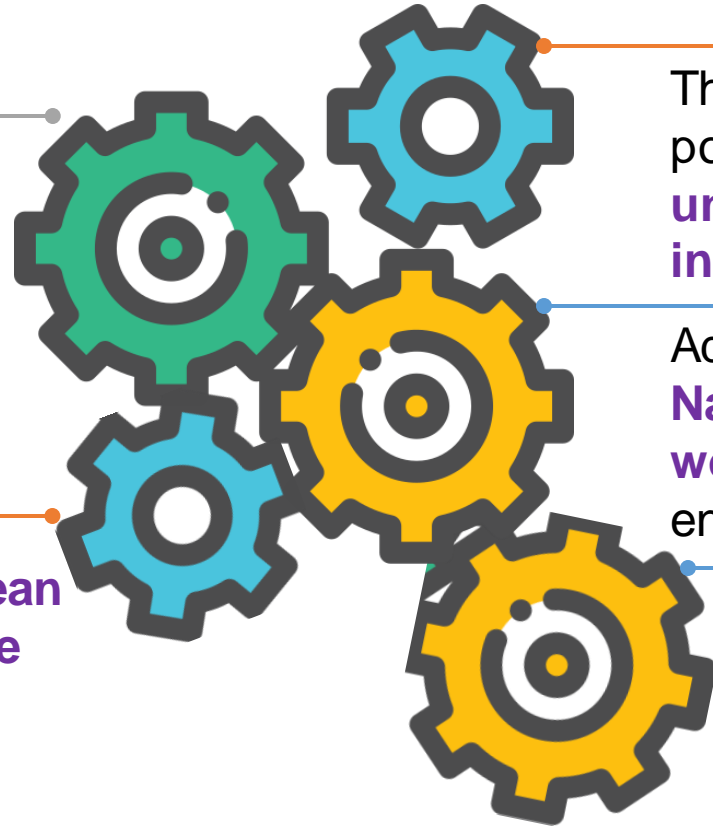


- A joint European degree embedded in national legislation (such as NQFs) would drastically remove regulatory barriers.
- Coherence between National/regional systems towards joint programmes, without affecting national degrees.

Preliminary outcomes

A joint European degree can be an **agile solution to overcome existing challenges** and provide a **useful reference framework** for the creation of more joint programmes

The **proposed co-created European criteria seem to be fit for purpose** with further adaptations to be suggested by Erasmus+ policy experimentation projects



The joint European degree could be a powerful tool to **demonstrate the value of unique European transnational interdisciplinary learning experience**

Adding the joint European degree to **National Qualifications Frameworks would bring the most added value** to ensure sustainability

Fit for purpose quality assurance arrangements and attractive academic careers are key to ensure proper framework conditions and automatic recognition

Upcoming higher education package

Contribute to the open call for evidence!



https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14077-Joint-European-degree_en