

# Lesson learned: institutional perspectives in the implementation of the European Approach



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# KU Leuven: a comprehensive university



FACULTIES

15



BACHELOR DEGREES

49

(DUTCH)

6

(ENGLISH)



MASTER DEGREES

137

(DUTCH)

73

(ENGLISH)

1

(FRENCH)



ADVANCED MASTERS

19

(DUTCH)

24

(ENGLISH)

1

(SPANISH)

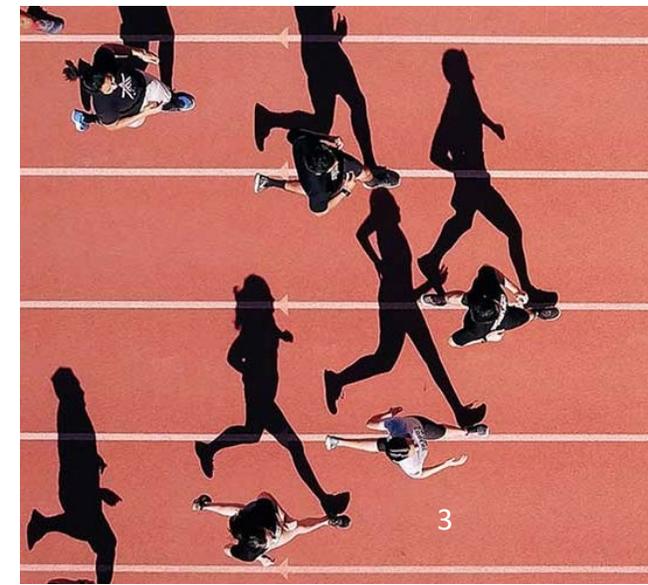
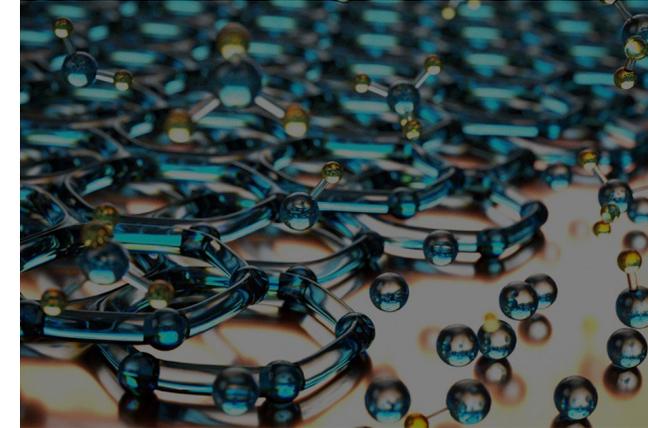
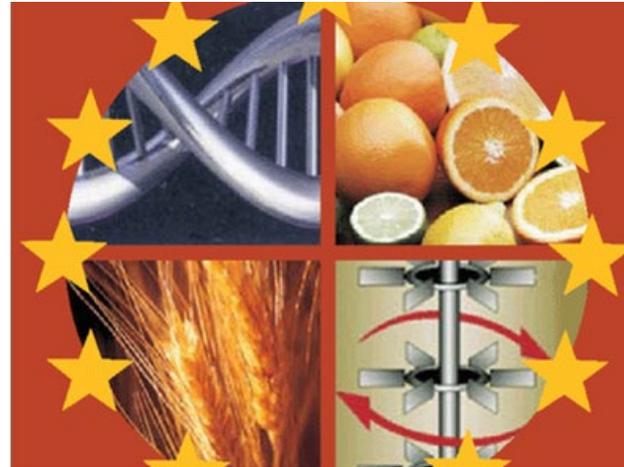
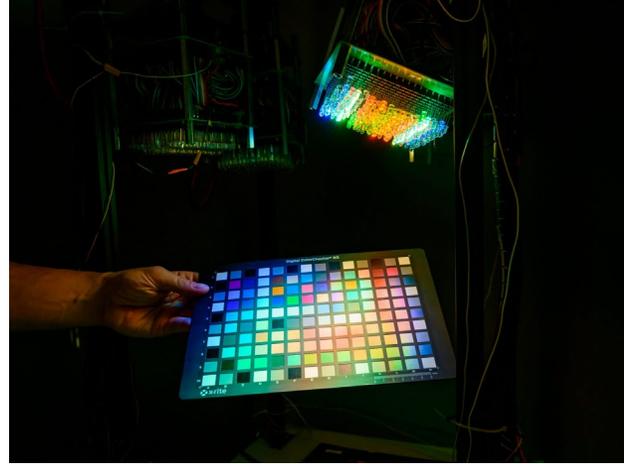
*\*Last updated: July 2022*

# Joint programmes at KU Leuven

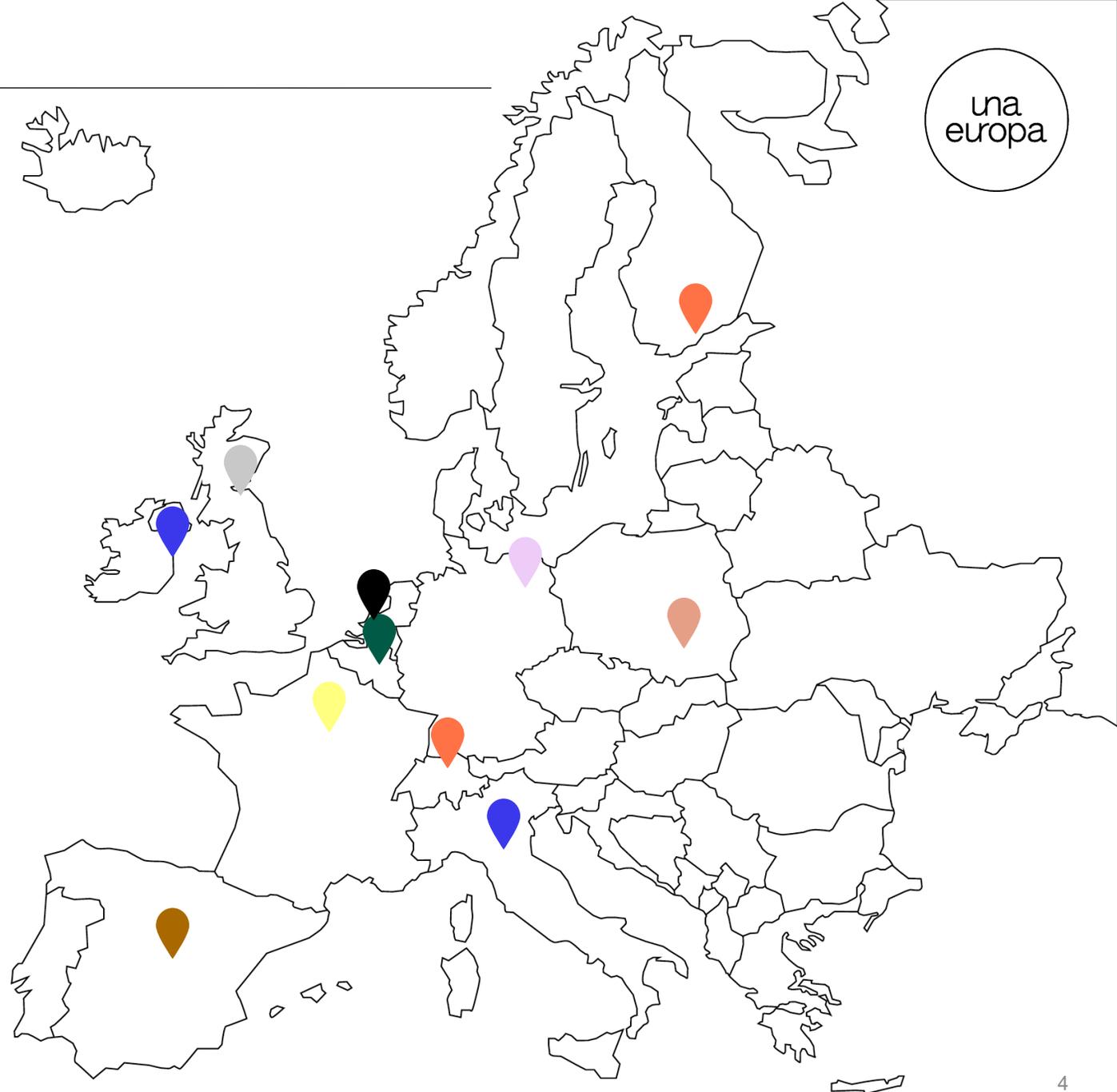
KU Leuven has a long history of international joint programmes.

Academic year 2022-2023:

- 8 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programmes
- 2 EIT-KIC Joint Master Programmes
- 1 UNA Europa Joint Bachelor
- Joint PhDs



- + Freie Universität Berlin
- + Università di Bologna
- + University College Dublin
- + University of Edinburgh
- + Helsingin Yliopisto
- + Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie
- + Universiteit Leiden
- + KU Leuven
- + Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- + Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- + Universität Zürich



# Bachelor of European Studies (BAES)

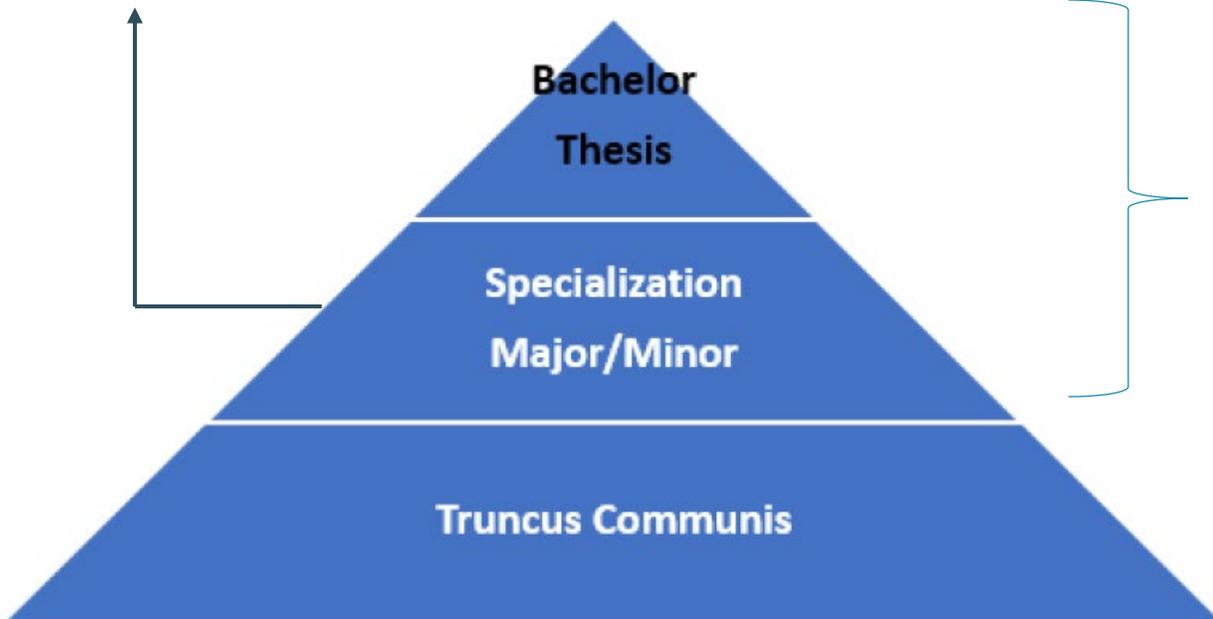
- First truly joint Bachelor's degree on the European market
- First student cohort started in 2022-2023
- At the moment: 8 participating universities, of which 4 degree-awarding partners and 4 mobility partners



# General structure of the BAES programme



Law  
Politics and International Relations  
Sociology, Communication and Education  
Business and Economics  
Philosophy  
History  
Languages and Culture



# Joint Quality Assurance

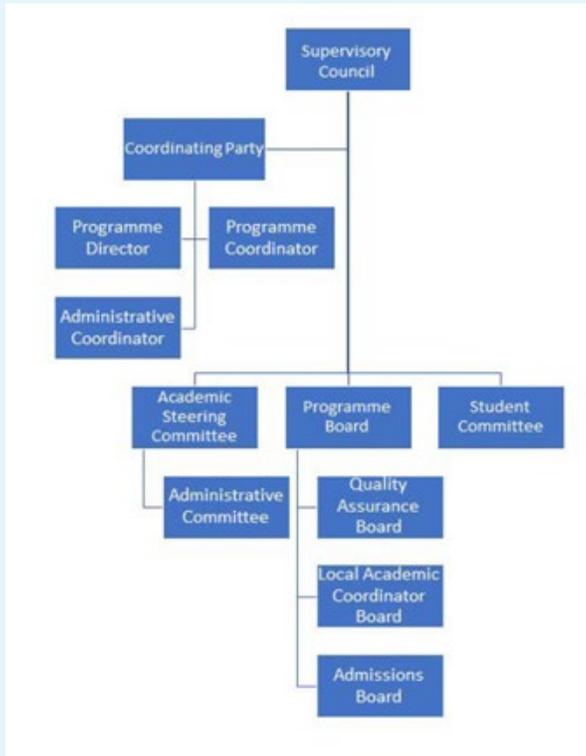


UNA Europa Joint Bachelor of European Studies

- Jointly developed
- Jointly organized
- Joint curriculum
- Joint degree
- **Joint Quality Assurance**



**Internal Quality Assurance**  
**External Quality Assurance**



# External QA



Before the start of the programme

But also in the future, while the programme is running

External QA for the initial accreditation and recognition of the bachelor programme:

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (2021) via **NVAO** + national procedures

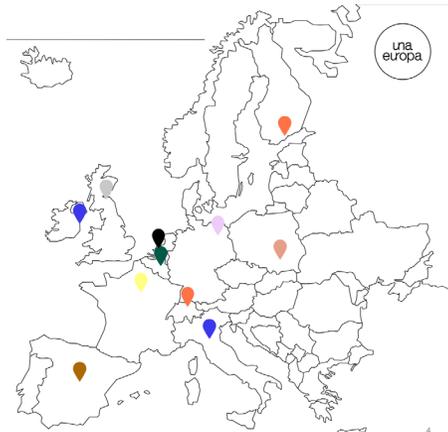


# European Approach



## Flanders

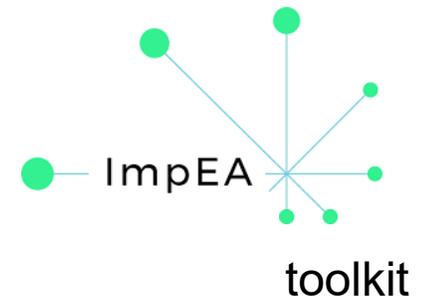
- NVAO recognises the European Approach
- Institutional accreditation but programme accreditation needed for new programmes
- The European Approach is mandatory for all joint programmes (legislation)



## Partner Universities

- Some partners institutional accreditation, some programme accreditation needed
- Some countries: no recognition of European Approach; national procedures required
- All partners acknowledged the added value of the European Approach and were motivated to use it as a first step in the quality assurance of the new programme

## Guide and inspiration



# Challenges

Restrictive national legislation regarding

- **the implementation of the European approach and mutual recognition (national accreditation procedures that do not recognise the European Approach decision).**
- the possibility to create an interdisciplinary programme/degree, or degrees in specific fields
- curriculum aspects (minimum or maximum ECTS credits per course; minimum ECTS credits for truncus communis; determining a maximum number of evaluations for a programme, etc.)
- tuition fees (high fees/low fees/free)
- the possibility of selection of students (on capacity of students and/or quantitative restrictions) in a bachelor and/or master



# Challenges

Restrictive national legislation regarding

- the use of foreign languages in a degree Programme (bachelor or master)
- study length of the Programme of a bachelor or master
- the possibility to create an interdisciplinary degree, or degrees in specific fields
- mobility options (or lack of legislation to facilitate this, except for Erasmus programmes)
- the form of the degree

## Opportunities

As a joint framework, the European Approach is a great tool for going through a joint external quality assessment together with partner universities of countries where the Approach is recognized.

