



Ministry of Higher Education
and Science

Danish Agency for Higher Education

**International conference
„SINGLE ACCREDITATION OF JOINT PROGRAMMES –
TURNING A BOLOGNA GUIDELINE INTO REALITY“
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Developments in recognition of joint programmes

Allan Bruun Pedersen – Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education and Vice-president of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee

Legal setting of recognition of joint programmes

- Legal setting of recognition of joint degrees
- The Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) – Council of Europe and UNESCO
- Subsidiary text: Recommendation of the recognition of joint degrees (2004) – revised and adopted in 2016
- National legislation on joint programmes



Principles of recognition of joint programmes – subsidiary text on recognition of joint degrees

- Joint programmes must be legally established – reference in subsidiary text to implement possibility of offering JP's
- Recognise JD's along the same lines as any other recognised foreign degree.



Principles of recognition of joint programmes – subsidiary text on recognition of joint degrees

- Recognise unless the recognition authority can prove substantial differences between the foreign programme/joint programme and similar national programme
- Substanttial differences evaluated in terms of 5 elements of a qualification:
 - Level, workload, quality, learning outcomes and profile



Recognition, Quality Assurance and joint degrees

- Old recommendation of recognition of joint degrees:
 - Competent recognition authorities may make the recognition of joint degrees conditional on all parts of the study programme leading to the degree and/or institutions providing the programme being subject to QA
 - All parts and all institutions must be accredited/recognised according to legislation in all participating countries.
 - In absence of European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes/single cross-border accreditation – a demand of accreditation/QA of JP in all participating countries before recognition



Recognition, Quality Assurance and joint degrees

- Revised recommendation of JD's:
 - Countries should allow single cross-border QA in their legislation
 - Countries should consider recognising joint degree, which are quality assured in a single cross-border process and by one quality assurance agency, provided that the outcomes (of the QA) are officially recognised in the countries to which the providing institutions belong
 - Possible because of agreed standards and guidelines on quality assurance



Recognition and European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

- The European approach has triggered revision of the subsidiary text on recognition of joint degrees
- Has emphasised the need to allow single cross-border QA
- A token of mutual trust of QA in EHEA
- Facilitating smoother recognition procedures



Recognition of JD's – still some potential problems

- A consortium offering a legally established joint programme with 3 fully accredited institutions and one legitimate but not-accredited provider – Full recognition or partial recognition?
- A master level programme offered jointly by an HEI offering research based master programmes and a professionally oriented HEI offering professionally oriented master programmes not giving access to Ph.D.-programmes – Can this be recognised for admission to Ph.D.programmes in other countries?
- Transparency of JPs is vital: Indicate all degree granting institutions in the Diploma Supplement and also in which institutions the graduate has studied this is only some of the members of the consortium

