



Training in the Frame of the Erasmus+ CBHE Project

Role of Universities in the Regional Development (RURD)
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Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions

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A world map with various university names labeled across different continents. A circle highlights the European continent, and a vertical dotted line runs through the Atlantic Ocean. The text 'The best education can be achieved by a person while travelling.' is overlaid in blue, italicized font.

The best education can be achieved by a person while travelling.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)



„An adequate internationalisation strategy at HEI is a must in times of growing globalisation and increasing competition in the acquisition of international students, researchers, fundings and cooperations“.

European Association for International Education, www.handbookinternationalisation.com

Training Agenda



**University Strategy – Goals and Priorities –
Instruments of Internationalization**

Double Degrees and Joint Degrees

Challenges and Opportunities in the Georgian
context – *Workshop*

University Strategy

In a competitive environment of global higher education, universities have to position themselves.

Each university needs a distinctive profile in teaching and research.

Partnerships and intensive collaboration may contribute to the competitive advantage of universities.

Goals and Priorities: **WHY** to internationalize

In Teaching:

- Increasing the attractiveness of study programs
- Increasing the employability of students and graduates
- Developing innovative teaching methods

In Research:

- Building research networks
- Enhancing the quality of research

Human Resources:

- Employer Branding of universities – improving the attractiveness as a work place
- Creating opportunities of human resource development

Instruments of internationalization:

HOW to internationalize

- a) Partnership Agreements with distinguished universities for:
 - Faculty and staff mobility
 - Student mobility
 - Joint Research activities
 - Internship opportunities
 - b) Membership in university networks
 - c) Internationalization @ home
 - Incoming guest professors and visiting faculty
 - Innovative teaching methods, such as virtual classrooms, e-learning, MOOCs and other blended learning formats
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Joint or double degree programs: Their purpose and structure

Enabling students to obtain diplomas from two (or more) universities within one study cycle (e.g. within one master programme).

Usually, students spend 1-2 semesters at a partner university as incoming exchange students. They study under special conditions provided in Double Degree Agreements.

Students benefit since they get a diploma from two universities („Joint Degree“) or two diplomas („Double Degree“) from different countries.

Joint and Double Degree Programs: Definitions I

University of Applied Sciences degree programmes may also be offered as joint/double diploma programmes. Joint/Double diploma programmes are studies which are offered jointly on the basis of agreements between one or several Austrian providers of Universities of Applied Sciences degree programmes and one or several foreign recognised post-secondary educational institutions, with these agreements specifying the [...] students' deliverables/performance targets of each of the involved HEI.

(Art. 3 para. 2 subpara. 10, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy: Programmes, Implementation)

Joint and Double Degree Programs: Definitions II

Joint/Double diploma programmes mean degree programmes which are offered jointly on the basis of agreements between one or several university colleges of teacher education, Austrian universities, maintainers of university of applied sciences degree programmes or private universities and foreign recognized post-secondary educational institutions in the kind of a joint, double or multiple degree program, with these agreements specifying the performance the respective students shall be committed to in the participating institutions.

(Art. 35 subpara. 4, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy: Joint Programmes, Implementation)

Joint and Double Degree Programs: Definitions III

- If a student successfully completes a joint/double diploma programme comprising up to 120 ECTS credits of which at least 30 were obtained under the auspices of a foreign partner institution, or more than 120 ECTS credits of which at least 60 were obtained under the auspices of a foreign partner institution, the award of the degree may be evidenced by a document jointly issued in conjunction with the latter. (Art. 65 para. 5, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy: Joint Programmes, Implementation)
 - The completion of a joint programme should lead to the award either of a jointly awarded academic degree or of double/multiple academic degrees that let the holder profit by all legal effects in both countries concerned, above all with regard to access to the relevant professions, without a recognition procedure being required. Therefore, the academic degree shall be anchored in the national legal system of both countries involved.
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Double Degree Agreements: Contents

1. Scope of the DD agreement

1. Goal and purpose of the agreement
2. Participating universities
3. Duration of the agreement

2. Student selection and requirements to be fulfilled by the student

1. Number of students per university per year
2. Selection criteria and selection process
3. Credits and courses to be completed by each student under the DD agreement

3. Framework conditions

1. Legal and financial aspects and procedures (e.g. fees, social security, visa
 2. Quality assurance and accreditation
-

Double Degree Agreements: Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities:

- Mutual learning
- Added value for students and faculty
- Competitive edge for HEI

Challenges:

- Accreditation in two countries according to national standards
- Quality Assurance according to the standards of two separate universities
- Compatibility of academic course offer in the partner institutions

Double Degree Agreements: Challenges

2007:

„Joint programmes could be subject to accreditation procedures by different accreditation organisations in each of the states where the joint programme is offered. These **distinct** accreditation **jurisdictions** imply the potential involvement of **several** accreditation **organisations** and therefore the execution of **different** accreditation **procedures**.“

European Consortium for Accreditation: „Principles for Accreditation Procedures Regarding Joint Programmes“, 2007

2012:

- Only 19% of surveyed agencies report to be „effective & successful in carrying out procedures“ for QA in transnational programs
- 2 out of 28 agencies „reported relevant practice on validation or assessment of collaborative and/or transnational degree programs“

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Quality Procedures in the European Higher Education Area and Beyond – Visions for the Future, Third ENQUA Survey, 2012

Institutional Motivation

Top reasons given by respondents for creating collaborative degree programs

	Rating
Broadening educational offerings	2,24
Strengthening research collaboration	2,21
Advancing internationalization	2,15
Raising international visibility/prestige	2,15
Increasing foreign students enrollment	2,11
Responding to increased competition	1,91
Responding to student demand	1,88
Responding to particular market demand	1,86
Offering courses from partner university	1,85
Increasing revenue	1,61

Source: Joint and Double Degree Programs in the Global Context, IIE & FUB, September 2011

Challenge: Sustainability

Rank	Challenge
1	Ensuring sustainability
2	Securing adequate funding
3	Curriculum design
4	Legal issues
5	Recruiting students
6	Securing support from gov.
7	Accreditation
8	Academic calendar difference
9	Institutional support
10	Credit transfer

Levels of Internationalisation

Model by [Minna Söderquist](#)*:

- Level 0: Internationalisation is a random activity. Activities are not coordinated, occur on a singular basis and are not systematically promoted
- Level 1: Creation of an International Office and establishment of student mobility
- Level 2: Internationalisation of curricula (DD) and research activities
- Level 3: Internationalisation becomes an integral part of all relevant organisational and academic areas (R&D, student and teacher mobility...)
- Level 4: Results are used for commercial purposes. Internationalisation is part of the marketing strategy with the aim of acquiring full time students

* The internationalisation and strategic planning of higher-education institutions: an analysis of Finnish EPS strategies. Minna Söderquist. Helsinki: School of Economics and Business Administration, 2001.

Key Factors for Internationalisation

- Internationalisation is a transversal activity and must comprise all relevant areas of the HEI
- Internationalisation activities must be actively supported by the entire institution and its structures from management to faculties
- Implementation of mobility for all target groups (students, staff, professors)
- „Internationalisation at home“
- An institutional culture that welcomes international guests
- Cooperation with strategic partners
- Research & Development on international level

“Mobility of staff, students and graduates is one of the core elements of the Bologna Process, creating opportunities for personal growth, developing international cooperation between individuals and institutions, enhancing the quality of higher education and research, and giving substance to the European dimension.”



Ministers responsible for Higher Education in the countries participating in the Bologna Process, London Communiqué, May 2007

Partner Universities

FH JOANNEUM currently has around 400 inter-institutional agreements for mobility and other cooperation activities, such as research.

FH JOANNEUM Graz, Institute of International Management:

Caucasus University, Tbilisi

Tbilisi State Academy of Arts

Karl-Franzens University Graz:

Shota Rustaveli State University

Iwane-Dschawachischwili-Universität Tiflis

Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

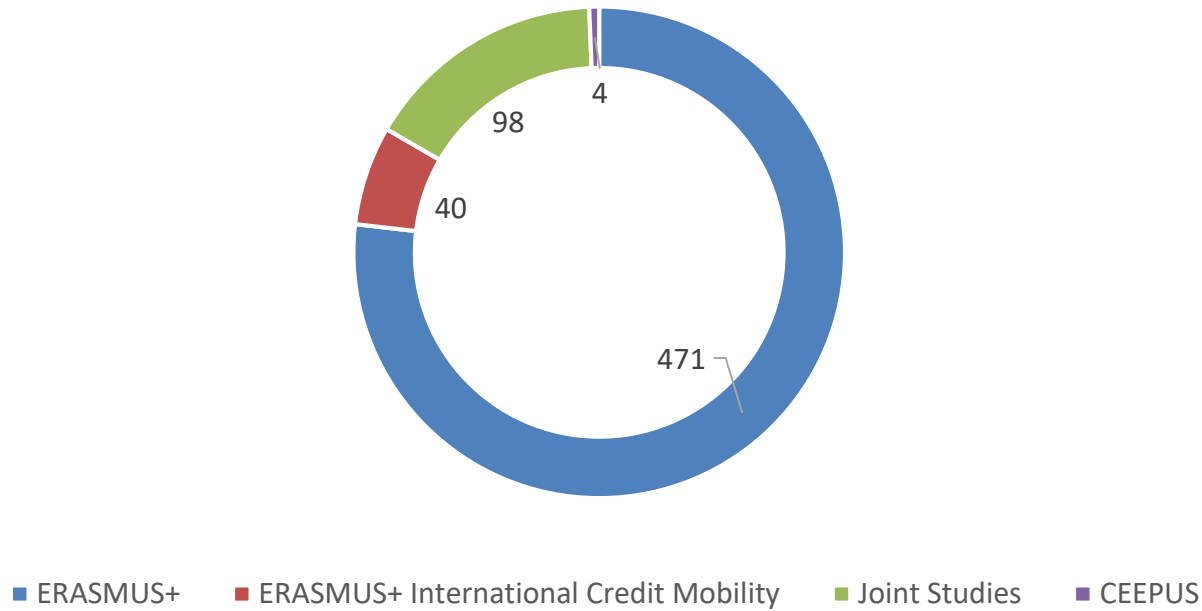
Student and Staff Mobility

FH JOANNEUM

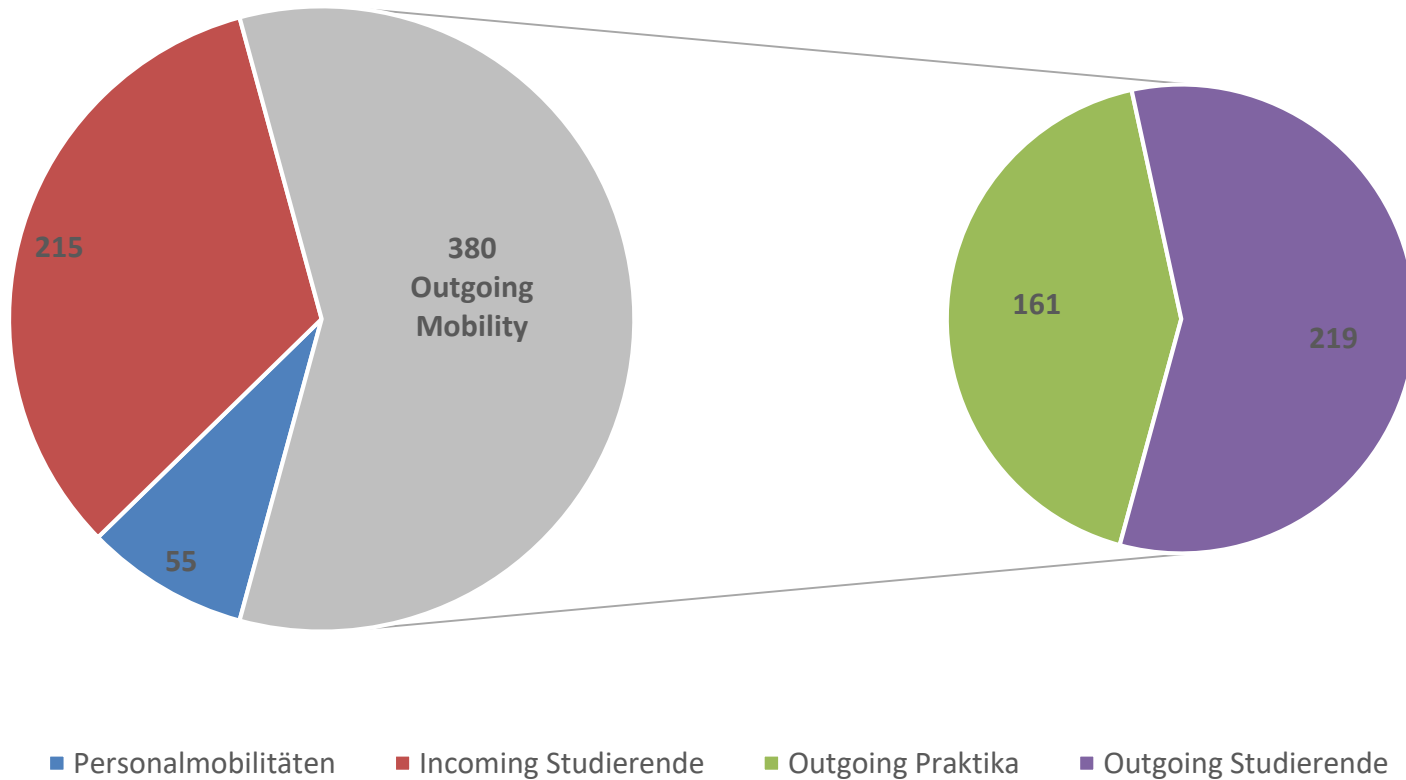


Student and Staff Mobility FH JOANNEUM 2017/18

Mobility Programmes



Student and Staff Mobility FH JOANNEUM 2017/18



Programme with Georgia

APPEAR Call

<https://oead.at/en/news/article/2021/03/appear-iii-first-call-opened/>

APPEAR – How to apply

<https://appear.at/en/application/>

Search for cooperation partners in AT:

<https://oead.at/en/projects/development-research/database/>

Workshop



Strategy

- What is the internationalisation strategy of your university?
- Are you acquainted with internationalisation strategies in your professional area?

Double & Joint Degree

- Do double / joint degrees play a role in your strategy?
- If yes, why?
- If not, why not?

Challenges / Opportunities

- What challenges and opportunities do you face in and out of your university when it comes to internationalisation (e.g. Funding, accreditation, acceptance, awareness...)?



Thank you very much and all the best!