

**HRK** German Rectors' Conference  
The Voice of the Universities

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German Academic Exchange Service

# **Official Bologna Seminar "Joint degrees- A Hallmark of the European Higher Education Area?"**

Results of questionnaire sent to Bologna Follow-Up Group members

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## Summary of Results

A questionnaire on the institutionalisation of Joint Degrees in the Bologna member states has been prepared to supply the conference with additional empirical insights.

Furthermore, we wanted to get an overview on the progress achieved since the last Bologna Seminar on Joint Degrees in Sweden in 2002. The questionnaire was sent to the members of the Bologna Follow-Up Group by the German representative Dr. Birger Hendriks.

14 countries responded positively to it. The majority has already taken considerable measures to facilitate the awarding of joint degrees. Additionally, they legally accept both double and joint degrees. As a result, a number of legal changes were introduced after the last seminar in 2002 as can be seen in table 5, summarizing the legal provisions passed in the individual responding Bologna states. However, concerns are also voiced regarding the award of a joint degree without issuing a national degree at the same time to accompany it. Especially, the question of how to exercise effectively state authority causes some worries.

Concerning recognition issues, they do not seem to be a major problem to the award of joint degrees, neither for employment in the public sector (table 7) nor for academic recognition (table 9).

The same picture evolves regarding quality assurance issues (table 11), though here more concerns have been voiced (table 13). But in the majority of cases, QA mechanisms are comparable to those employed in national degrees. Unanswered questions and issues remain the assessment of the study period abroad (here are also differences between partner countries from EU and non EU countries in this respect).

For the majority of responding countries the award of joint degrees is part of their national Higher Education strategy (table 17), even though there are still very few special funding mechanisms foreseen (table 18)

When asked about their view on the three major concerns regarding the issue of joint degrees, answers range from a general awareness about challenges among the HEIs in countries and problems in funding, specifically in terms of quality assurance mechanisms and some recognition issues. In general, there still seems to be a need to increasing the legal compatibility in the Bologna countries to facilitate the award, quality assurance provisions and recognition procedures of joint degrees (table 21).

Finally, it is not overstating to note that at least some (in few cases even considerable) progress has been achieved since 2002. But a number of problems and challenges continue to press. The seminar's organising team hopes that our discussions in Berlin will move these issues forward and that the data compiled in this short questionnaire will give some useful background information thus causing some thought-provoking statements.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to all those taking the time to answer the questionnaire and wish all participants a successful seminar and a nice stay in Berlin.

# Answers

## Question

How many joint degree programmes exist in your country:

Table 1

Country	Answer
Poland	no answer
Cyprus	1
Norway	4 part of Erasmus Mundus, 2 accredited by our National Quality Assurance Agency. There are more but the Ministry does not have the number.
Sweden	no answer
Czech Republic	approx. 30 including double degree program
Italy	310 (survey completed in 2004)
Lithuania	no answer
Austria	30+
Netherlands	7 Erasmus Mundus, Several at transnational and cross border.
France	No overall statistical data are currently available for all the FR HEI. 296 Joint masters, 254 double Masters (Data based an answer rate 50%)
Spain	very few
UK	no answer
Germany	No answer
Lichtenstein	Zero

## Question I: Legal situation

I.1 Has your country taken explicit legal measures to facilitate joint degrees?

Table 2

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	11	78,6
No	2	14,3
No Answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

I.2 Is it legally permitted in your country to award

a. Double or multiple Degrees (i.e. students receive two or more degrees for one programme, which is run by an institution in your country and another institution in another country)

Table 3

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	13	92,9
No	0	0
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

b. Joint degrees (i.e. students receive **one single** degree for a programme which is run by an institution in your country in co-operation with at least one other institution in another country)

Table 4

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	10	71,4
No	2	14,3
No answer	2	14,3
Total	14	100

Please outline briefly the legal provisions for the awarding of joint degrees:

Table 5

Country	Answer
Poland	Base is Prawo o szkolnictwie wyższym (Law on Higher Education) – art 167 ust 3 pkt 3 and Decree of Minister for higher education (now in the preparation).
Cyprus	The awarding of joint degrees is not, at the time, regulated by national law. At the University of Cyprus. However, the rules and regulations governing the operation of the University, provide for the awarding of joint degrees. Main points include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An integrated or a joint programme of study is expected to attest additional value than the same programme conducted under normal circumstances at the University of Cyprus</li> <li>- Mobility is a compulsory element in the implementation of such programmes unless infrastructure and other means are provided for distance learning</li> <li>- For the implementation of a coherent integrated or joint programme of study the signing of a consortium agreement between the two parties is required.</li> </ul>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act relating to Universities and University Colleges of 1 April 2005, chapter 3, section 3-2 (1) "The Ministry may issue regulations concerning the institutions' right to award degrees and professional training qualifications in cooperation with other institutions."</li> <li>• Regulation No. 1040 of 8 September 2005 relating to Accreditation, Evaluation and Recognition under the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, chapter 4.</li> </ul>
Sweden	In answering these questions we have understood that you by "joint degree" mean one single degree for a programme which is run by an institution in your

Country	Answer
	<p>country in co-operation with at least one other institution in another country, <b>without being accompanied by any national diploma</b> (Council of Europe definition). Sweden has been aiming for the possibility to award joint degrees according to this definition for several years but we have run into problems concerning the legal person of our higher education institutions. Our institutions are state authorities and to award a degree is an exercise of state authority. It is probably not possible for two authorities to exercise joint authority in relation to an individual. All officially recognised Swedish degrees are also included in the Degree Ordinance, decided by Government. In order for a degree to be officially recognised it needs to be included in the Swedish Degree Ordinance or be an officially recognised degree in another state that has ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention.</p> <p>There is no problem, however, for the institutions to arrange joint programmes or courses with other institutions nationally or internationally and to award a double degree <u>or</u> one officially recognised degree from one of the participating countries based on mutual recognition of the programme.</p> <p>Parliament and Government have decided to implement a new structure for higher education starting July 1 2007. The new structure will be divided into three cycles along the lines of the Bologna Process. This will facilitate the cooperation with other countries concerning joint programmes and courses. When presenting the reform the Government also said that it will investigate the issue of joint degrees further, and that – in the meantime – the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education should formulate the Diploma Supplement so as to describe more clearly national degrees awarded following joint programmes between two or more institutions. Diploma Supplement is issued for all degrees automatically, in English and free of charge for the student.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>The awarding of joint degrees is regulated by Act no. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on the Amendment and Supplement to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), particularly by section 47a:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Section 47a</p> <p>(1) Studies in Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral programmes may also be carried out in cooperation with foreign higher education institutions that offer degree programmes with related contents.</p> <p>(2) The conditions for cooperation are specified in an agreement between the higher education institutions involved, pursuant to subsection 47a (1) and pursuant to the provisions of the Act.</p> <p>1) Graduates of studies in degree programmes offered in cooperation with foreign higher education institutions are awarded academic titles pursuant to subsections 45 (4), 46 (4) and 47 (5) and in addition, according to the circumstances, academic titles of the foreign higher education institutions pursuant to current legislation in the relevant country. The diploma includes the name of the foreign higher education institution with which the cooperation was carried out and may include the information that the foreign academic title is a joint title also awarded simultaneously at the foreign higher education institution.”</p>
Italy	<p>a) „Further to agreements in this regard, Italian universities may award first and second degrees (as well as all of the other qualifications envisaged by the new rules) also in conjunction with other Italian or foreign universities“(Art. 3, paragraph 9 of Ministerial Decree-MD 509/1999, and Art. 3, paragraph 10 of Ministerial Decree 270/2004).</p> <p>b) The rules governing the „procedures for the award of joint qualifications “are delegated to the general academic regulations of individual universities (Art. 11,</p>

Country	Answer
	<p>paragraph 7, letter h) of DM 509/1999, and Art. 11, paragraph 7, letter o) of DM 270/2004].</p> <p>c) In the case of joint degrees with foreign universities, the procedures for the award of the qualifications concerned should be expressly regulated in the respective inter-university agreements, given the differences in the national rules among the various countries.</p> <p>d) The same legal provisions have been adopted also by H.Ed. institutions (HEIs) of the non-university sector ranking at university-level (institutions of the AFAM System (system of higher education in the arts, dance, and music) [Art. 3, paragraph 8 of Presidential Decree 212/2005).</p>
Lithuania	<p>General requirements for joint study programmes are outlined in the Minister's of Education and Science Order No. ISAK-85 (January 17, 2006). The main provisions are connected with general provisions, requirements for preparation, implementation and awarding of joint studies programmes and final provisions.</p>
Austria	<p>Universities Act, definitions:</p> <p>"Joint diploma programmes" mean degree programmes which are jointly conducted under agreements between one or more Austrian universities and one or more recognised post-secondary educational institutions abroad. Such agreements must specify the work to be performed by the students concerned at the institutions which are parties to them."</p> <p>Analogously in the Fachhochschule Studies Act and the Act on Schools of Teacher Training.</p>
Netherlands	<p>The new legislation sent to Parliament in June explicitly mentions the possibility of joint degrees. Up to the present the concept of joint degrees is not mentioned in the law. Some legal advisors in the institutions interpret that it is forbidden, which it is not.</p>
France	<p>Specific legal provisions were made by the 11<sup>th</sup> May decree published in 2005 just before Bergen. Indeed, in the French system where the State guarantees the quality of degrees by entitling French institutions to award them after a cyclical national evaluation every 4 or 6 years, the notion of joint degrees between a French institution and a foreign institution didn't exist.</p> <p>The new legal provisions which make the award of genuine joint degrees possible can be summed up as follows :</p> <p>The principle is simple ; when a French institution is recognized by the French system as competent to award a State-guaranteed degree at a given level and in a given field, from now on, it can make an agreement with a foreign institution which in its own country can also award a degree at the same level and in the same field, in order to organize the training courses together and to award a genuine joint degree (ie : a single degree). But HEI could still stick to the double-degree formula if they wish so. The quality of the partnership will be assessed during the next cyclical national evaluation.</p> <p>This approach is based on trust in arrangements for the quality assurance organization in the different countries without having to make these arrangements uniform. Conclusions from this new policy will be of course drawn by the Ministry of national education, higher education and research.</p> <p>The 2005 May 11<sup>th</sup> decree sets this new overall framework. It is completed by a specific decree for the doctorate (that is, the co-supervision of thesis &gt; 2005 January 6<sup>th</sup> decree).</p>
Spain	<p>In terms of "university diplomas", Institutions are free to enter into arrangements with other Institutions with a view to issuing a joint diploma in a single documents. However, regarding "official degrees" until the approval of Royal Decree 56/2005 in January 2005, it was not legally possible to award a joint degree. Article 7 of this rule opens, for the first time, this possibility. Nonetheless this will require complementary legislation regulating all necessary details before joint degrees can become a full reality. This legislation which will likely take the form of a Ministerial Order is presently being prepared and is expected to be approved before the end of 2006.</p>

<b>Country</b>	<b>Answer</b>
UK	The ability to award a joint degree depends on each institution's degree awarding powers and the provisions made in its Charter, or other founding document. UK institutions that have a royal charter have no in principle difficulty in collaborating with other institutions with similar powers to jointly award a degree, but there is a view that even so the power might need to be expressly written into their charter. Universities established under the 1988 and 1992 statutes are subject to ultra vires. Whilst the FHE Act 1992 does provide for the award of a joint degree between two institutions it is not clear whether this extends to awards made jointly with two or more institutions, and to awards made jointly with one or more overseas institutions. The legal issues are not entirely resolved.
Germany	Legal provisions differ from land to land in the federal system of Germany. The students have to spend a substantial time at one university in each country (one year or 60 ECTS for the Bachelor, only 30 for the Master). The whole study program has to be accredited in advance.
Lichtenstein	Die Verleihung solcher Grade ist in Lichtenstein gesetzlich nicht geregelt, aber dadurch nicht ausgeschlossen, sofern die liechtensteinischen Bedingungen erfüllt sind, die für die entsprechenden Grade per Gesetz bestehen.

## Question II: Recognition

II.1 Are transnational joint degrees recognised by your government (in case your country is not involved in the JD) as equivalent to national degrees?

Table 6

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	13	92,9
No	0	0
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

Are they recognised for employment in the public sector?

Table 7

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	13	92,9
No	0	0
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

Are they recognised for employment in a state regulated profession?

Table 8

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	13	86,7
No	1	6,7
No answer	1	6,7
Total	15 <sup>1</sup>	100

Are they recognised for academic purposes (further studies)?

Table 9

Answer	Score	In %
Yes	13	92,9
No	0	0
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

please outline briefly the major issues concerning the recognition of joint degrees:

Table 10

Country	Answer
Poland	There are no formal obstacles to recognise joint degrees. It is, however difficult to say how they will be recognise in the labour market.

<sup>1</sup> One country has given yes and no as an answer as the situation is different for different state regulated professions.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Cyprus	The issue of quality is of paramount importance as regards to the recognition of joint degrees. The establishment of quality assurance mechanisms in all participating countries is, for that reason, imperative.
Norway	The joint degrees must be in accordance with the national regulations, and in state regulated professions, they must follow the regulations set by the national authorisation agency for the specific profession. At present, there are not many joint degrees in state regulated professions.
Sweden	The answer to all the questions above is that it all depends on whether the degree is officially recognised by the authorities in the countries concerned (the countries that the issuing institutions belong to). If it doesn't concern a state regulated profession it is up to the employer to judge the qualification. When it comes to academic recognition it is both a questions about the recognition of the degree in the countries concerned and the level and content of the degree. This is to be decided by the individual institution evaluating the degree.
Czech Republic	It is necessary for academic purposes to have certificate of equivalence, it is possible to ask for it at particular higher education institution in the Czech Republic. This certificate is not obligatory for employment (neither for public sector nor state regulated professions). The certificate can be issued by the Czech institution participating in the respective joint degree or if there is no Czech participation by a HEI providing a similar degree programme.
Italy	a) When a joint degree is awarded by an Italian HEI in the respect of the legislation mentioned above under point I, letter a), no recognition problem should arise: the attached certification should mention the specific corresponding degree (e.g. Laurea, or Laurea Specialistica, etc.) of the Italian H.Ed. system. b) When no Italian HEIs is involved in the awarding of a joint degree, its recognition takes place by applying the Lisbon Convention, which since July 2002 has been the common rule for the evaluation and/or recognition of all foreign academic qualifications.
Lithuania	No answer
Austria	A recognition of joint degrees in the meaning of foreign degrees is not necessary, because the concept is that joint degrees are Austrian ones or, resp., have an Austrian component. In case that the Austrian degree involved is sufficient for any legal purpose (e.g. admission to regulated professions), the character of the programme as a joint degree programme does not in any way disturb this right.
Netherlands	No answer
France	2 main issues should be addressed from this point of view : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ how to assess a joint degree involving a country from UE and another out of UE ?</li> <li>✓ the duration of a valid accreditation necessary for the automatic recognition of a joint degree by all the partner countries involved.</li> </ul>
Spain	Since they are in legal terms foreign degree, they need to go through the system of recognition of foreign degree following the same conditions as other degree issued by foreign institutions. Once recognises they will have same validity as national degree as determined by our legislation.
UK	No answer
Germany	No answer
Lichtenstein	Solche Grade sin dim Rahmen der bestehenden Zulassungsbedingungen anerkannt.

### Question III: Quality Assurance

III.1 Are there any legal measures/provisions for the quality assurance of joint degrees?

Table 11

Answer	score	in %
Yes	9	64,3
No	4	28,6
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

If yes, please outline them briefly:

Table 12

Country	Answer
Poland	The same as in the case of regular degrees
Spain	Once become a reality will have to follow regular evaluation procedures in the same way as other national degrees. Evaluation guidelines may require small adaptations in order to take into account their specific nature.
Norway	Regulation No. 1040 of 8 September 2005 relating to Accreditation, Evaluation and Recognition under the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, chapter 4.
Czech Republic	If the Czech HEI participates directly in the joint degree it has to have the study programme accredited. Up to now there were no special provisions for JDs. At present there are special measures concerning joint degree study programmes discussed.
Netherlands	It is in the task of NVAO to attune internationally.
Austria	The universities are obliged to introduce a quality assurance system for each programme of studies.
Lithuania	Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education evaluates foreign qualifications giving access to higher education in Lithuania as well as all types of higher education qualifications acquired abroad.
Germany	Same as for national degrees
Italy	Joint degrees awarded by Italian universities have to go through the same accreditation process as all other Italian degrees of the same cycle and typology (bachelor-level, master-level, etc.), under the control of the CNVSU (Italian NQA).

If no, please outline the major concerns:

Table 13

Country	Answer
Cyprus	Outline the main concerns: At the time being only the educational evaluation-accreditation of programmes of study offered by private institutions, constitutes a means of quality assurance. The Ministry of Education and Culture, however, has taken significant steps for the establishment of a National Quality Assurance Agency which is going to be dealing with both institutional and programme evaluation (for public and private institutions of higher education). Within this framework, mechanisms concerning quality assurance of joint degrees are going to be discussed and examined.
Sweden	No such measures have been taken since the Swedish institutions are not allowed to issue "real" joint degrees. The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (the quality assurance agency) has, however, led an EUA project concerning methods for the quality assurance of joint degrees.
France	Our main concern currently is how and who should evaluate the educational part which is provided abroad, for example with Erasmus Mundus ? Indeed Erasmus Mundus is built on the mutual trust which is given for granted from the start, as long as with double or multiple degrees, the degree eventually awarded in a country 'X' is recognized by this country 'X'. In other words, each country can guarantee the quality of the learning path provided at home for its own degree but nobody actually can tell about - the genuine quality of the same courses provided in a foreign language for an Erasmus Mundus student ; - and the whole learning path an Erasmus Mundus student actually goes through in 2 or more European higher education institutions.

III.2 Are there special domestic procedures for quality assurance of joint degrees in your country?

Table 14

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	2	14,3
No	9	64,3
No answer	3	21,4
Total	14	100

III.3 In case there are special domestic procedures for quality assurance, do they take the transnational aspects (i.e. the part of the programme that is studied in another country) into account?

Table 15

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	3	21,4
No	4	28,2
No answer	7	50,0
Total	14	100

Please outline briefly how the responsible accreditation/quality assurance bodies handle the accreditation/quality assurance of joint degrees:

Table 16

<b>Country</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Poland	Accreditation/ quality assurance bodies handle joint degrees similarly as regular degrees
Cyprus	No answer
Norway	In Norway, an institution can have modules in a joint degree accredited by the National Assurance Agency. These modules are accredited in accordance with our national regulations for degrees
Sweden	No answer
Czech Republic	Czech Accreditation Commission has to accredit all study programmes.
Italy	Since 1999 the Ministry of University and Research has promoted the internationalisation of the Italian H.Ed. system by cofinancing suitable international projects submitted by Italian HEIs; one of the activities eligible for funding is the design and establishment of integrated study programmes resulting in multiple or joint degrees. Here are two of the indispensable conditions for the allocation of ministerial funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the integrated curriculum and joint/multiple degree must have been approved by the evaluation unit of the Italian HEI concerned;</li> <li>- the whole project must envisage an external evaluation, both in progress and final.</li> </ul>
Lithuania	Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education evaluates qualifications connected with higher education, other qualifications and partial studies; fulfils functions of the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) – gives information, consultations and recommendations for research and higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania, and other juridical and natural persons, when it is necessary to estimate, how diplomas of higher education, certificates or study programmes and their parts in foreign countries meet the higher education system and requirements of higher education of the Republic of Lithuania; collects and analyses information, which is necessary to evaluate and recognize qualifications acquired abroad; Providing international information exchange within the Network of European National Information Centres for Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC) gives information for analogous institutions abroad, fulfils functions, which are necessary that qualifications acquired in Lithuania could be evaluated and recognized abroad.
Austria	No answer
Netherlands	Programmes upon request by the institutions.
France	Currently the CNE ("Conseil national d'évaluation") and the CTI ("Commission des titres d'ingénieurs") are working with peer reviews involving international experts.
Spain	All new official degrees will have to follow quality assurance evaluation guidelines within a certain period of time. However, it is not possible to say anything concrete since it is something which has not been done up to the present time, as new degrees have only very recently been established.
UK	The Quality Assurance Agency for higher education has produced a Code of Practice for the assurance of academic quality and standards in higher education. Section 2 of this code deals with Collaborative provision, and Precept 13 of this Section says: "An awarding institution that engages with another authorised awarding body jointly to provide a programme of study leading to a dual or joint

Country	Answer
	academic award should be able to satisfy itself that it has the legal capacity to do so, and that the academic standard of the award, references to the FHEQ (the SCQF in Scotland) meets its own expectations, irrespective of the expectations of the partner awarding body."
Germany	No special procedures available.
Lichtenstein	No answer

## Question IV Promotion of JD

IV.1 Does the national strategy for higher education involve a promotion and an increase of the number of joint degrees?

Table 17

Answer	Score	In %
Yes	9	64,3
No	4	28,6
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

IV.2 Do you have special government funding schemes for the development and implementation of joint degrees?

Table 18

Answer	Score	In %
Yes	5	35,7
no	8	57,1
no answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

IV.3. Do you have public-private partnerships in the financing of joint degrees?

Table 19

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	2	14,3
No	9	64,3
No answer	3	21,4
Total	14	100

#### IV.4 Are the national student grants or loans in your country portable for mobility purposes?

Table 20

Answer	Score	in %
Yes	11	78,6
No	2	14,3
No answer	1	7,1
Total	14	100

Please, outline from your view the three major concerns in the field of joint degrees as well as realistic scenarios to overcome them:

Table 21

Country	Answer
Poland	<p>GENERAL COMMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idea of joint degrees is still not wide spread in Poland.</li> <li>New law on higher education and other regulations as well as promotion of joint degree study programmes should substantially increase the number of students involved in this type of education;</li> <li>It is difficult to say how joint degrees will be recognised on the labour market;</li> <li>There are financial obstacles which made difficult for students to participate in joint degree study programmes. In the moment is difficult to expect special state funds promoting joint degree.</li> <li>Many higher education institutions are interested in development on joint degree study programmes which gives a hope that this form of education becomes popular in Poland in near future.</li> </ol>
Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Quality Assurance</u>: Establishment of mechanisms and transparent procedures for quality assurance and enhancement of access to information regarding the quality of institutions and programmes in participating countries are crucial for quality assurance</li> <li><u>Curricula</u>: participants in joint degree programmes need to establish mechanisms for better managing any curriculum inconsistencies, safeguarding, thus, the unity and coherence of the joint degree programme as a whole.</li> <li><u>Adapting to the new culture</u>: Host institutions need to provide assistance to students for easy adaptation to the new culture, avoiding thus, culture shock (i.e. special programmes, mentoring etc.)</li> </ul>
Norway	In Norway, there are no legal hindrances for joint degrees, but there are in many other countries.
Sweden	There are no national strategies for the promotion of "real" joint degrees, but in a Government Bill from June 2005 the Government has encouraged the development of joint <u>programmes</u> and <u>courses</u> both nationally and internationally. The major concern for Sweden is the question regarding the issuing of joint degrees in relation to the exercise of state authority as outlined in question I.
Czech Republic	Increase of the number of joint degree programs is one of the priorities of "The Long-Term Plan for Educational, Scientific, Research, Development, Artistic and Other Creative Activities of Higher Education Institutions for 2006 – 2010" issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. And the same priority was also often included into long-term plans of particular HEIs. Ministry set up Development Programs, from which HEIs can gain money for preparing joint degree programs, mobility of students and other developing activities as well.

Country	Answer
	Czech HEIs are also involved in many joint degree programs created within EU programs (Socrates – Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, EU programs for cooperation with non-EU countries etc.).
Italy	<p>a) The 1<sup>st</sup> experimental phase has been characterised by the fully autonomous initiative of university institutions. There is now a need for some standard typologies defined on the basis of a few general guidelines.</p> <p>b) Quality assurance in the provisions of integrated curricula may be a matter of concern. The experiences carried out within the Erasmus Mundus Programme are especially significant and may help elaborate adequate criteria for quality evaluation and assurance.</p> <p>c) No doubts about the advantages that European H.Ed. institutions have received from their efforts to design and set up joint curricula (universities have progressed considerably in the definition of "European" curricula), but not sufficient data are available on the effectiveness of double/joint degrees from the point of view of their actual spendibility in the labour market, either national or European.</p>
Lithuania	No answer
Austria	<p>Problem of the title and its legal effects → One of the titles concerned should in any case be a national one so that the legal effects can be dependant on it</p> <p>Organizational problems to execute the curriculum → Have to be solved at institutional level.</p> <p>Financial problems for the students → Have to be solved the context of study loans.</p>
Netherlands	No answer
France	<p>✓All Bologna countries should make their own legal framework compatible with joint degrees ;</p> <p>✓In order to facilitate a mutual understanding about joint degrees, a minimum set of common references for the accreditation/evaluation of joint degrees) should be found out in Europe.</p> <p>✓The renewal of joint degrees' accreditation is also an issue to be addressed with a necessary degree of flexibility, meaning that in this case of renewal, each higher education institution needs to alert its partners well in advance and gives the right legal information before the next academic year before students get registered.</p>
Spain	No answer
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying the legal basis for such awards</li> <li>• The need for clarity between the responsibilities of the various partners</li> <li>• The need for compatibility between institutional and national systems</li> </ul>
Germany	Very important is a sufficient quality assurance comprising both the home university and the foreign university involved in a study program.
Lichtenstein	No answer