



Erwin Malfroy
NARIC-Vlaanderen

Joint degrees in Flanders



Seminar Joint Degrees
6-7 May 2004 in Stockholm

legal frameworks



📄 Lisbon Recognition Convention

- °1997 CoE & UNESCO
- qualifications belonging to a single national education system
- recommendations
 - International Access Qualifications 1999
 - transnational education 2001
 - Joint degrees 2004

📄 Flanders (Belgium)

- Higher Education Act 4 April, 2003

background documents



Bologna Process (Prague)

- European Higher Education Area 2010
- Prague Communiqué, 2001
 - *In order to further strengthen the important European dimensions of higher education and graduate employability Ministers called upon the higher education sector to increase the development of modules, courses and curricula at all levels with "European" content, orientation or organisation. This concerns particularly modules, courses and degree curricula offered in partnership by institutions from different countries and leading to a recognised joint degree.*

European Commission

- Survey on Master Degrees and Joint Degrees in Europe by the EUA in September 2002

definition



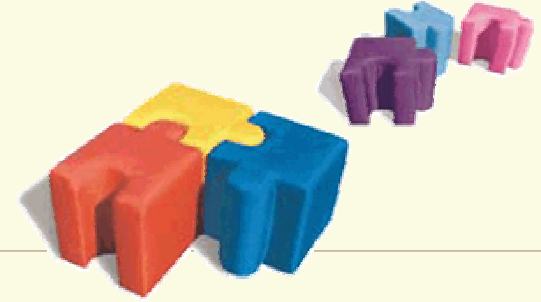
no common definition in use

- characteristics
- Stockholm Seminar 2002, EUA Survey 2002, Mantova Seminar 2003 and LRC Recommendation 2004

characteristics

- programmes are developed and approved jointly by several institutions
 - in two or more countries
 - written agreement
 - learning outcomes & competencies
 - workload in ECTS

characteristics



- students from each participating HEI **physically** take part in the study programme at other HEIs
 - not necessarily study at *all* co-operating institutions
 - stay should constitute a substantial part of the programme
- periods of study & examinations at the partner HEIs are recognized fully and automatically
 - jointly developed programme
 - cooperate on admission and examinations
 - staff & teacher mobility

joint *degree*



📄 national degree of each participating institution

- double degree

📄 one single qualification awarded jointly

- nowadays often an unofficial qualification
- on top of national degree
- in accordance with all national regulations ?

📄 Flanders

- transnationale Universiteit Limburg
- joint programme
- double degrees
- joint degrees
- joint & double doctoral degrees

Diploma Supplement & ECTS

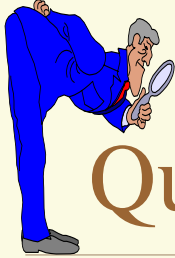
 facilitate recognition

 Diploma Supplement

- degree in relation to the education systems
- Flanders
 - components of degree at which HEI
 - all names of degrees
 - agreement
 - information on partner HEIs

 ECTS

- Flemish credit point system (°1991) = ECTS
- workload in light of joint programme development



Quality Assurance & Accreditation

discussion

- *whether* QA was needed as general standard
- *what kind* of QA is needed

close link between QA and recognition

- part of the study not been subject of QA may be a valid reason not to recognize the degree
- all the « Joint »-members are **recognized** HEIs

Flanders

– Nederlands Vlaams Accreditatie Orgaan

“transnationale Universiteit Limburg”



- *article 28 of the Higher Education Act April 4, 2003*

international Agreement between Flanders and the Netherlands

- signed in Maastricht on January 18, 2001
- ratified by the Flemish decree July 13, 2001

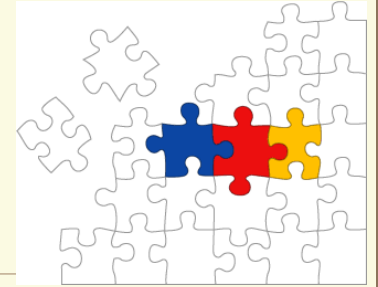
entitled to award Bachelor and Master

- in listed study fields
- automatically recognised in Flanders and the Netherlands

 <http://www.tul.edu>

joint programme

-article 94, §1 of the Higher Education Act April 4, 2003



☞ Flemish HEIs may allow their students to follow education at another HEI *as being part* of their Bachelor or Master programme

☞ “another” HEI may be

- a Flemish higher education institution
- a Belgian higher education institution
- the Royal Military Academy in Brussel
- a foreign higher education institution
 - if the study period followed at this institution is part of 3-year programme

double degrees

- article 94, §2 of the Higher Education Act April 4, 2003



☞ Flemish HEIs may award a Flemish degree together with a state recognised degree from a (or several) partner HEI(s)

☞ possible partners are

- a (or several) HEI(s) of the French Community of B
- a (or several) foreign HEI(s)

☞ conditions to be met

double degrees

- *conditions to be met*



- ☞ agreement confirming the educational goals and content of the programme
 - providing details of the educational organisation at all the HEIs involved
- ☞ students will spend at least 1/3 of the programme in the partner HEI(s)
- ☞ students are registered in the Flemish HEI in the final year
- ☞ avoid a double (or even more) subsidy for the same student
- ☞ the two (or more) names of the degrees are to be mentioned on the same document
 - unless the national law of the partners do not allow it

joint degree

- article 94, §3 of the Higher Education Act April 4, 2003



📄 Flemish HEIs may award a joint degree with one or more foreign HEIs


- in case this joint degree is not a Ba or Ma, the Flemish degree Ba or Ma on top of it

📄 students have to follow a joint *curriculum*

- an international education programme
- a European education (exchange) programme
- agreement between the HEIs involved

Joint & double **doctoral** degrees

- *article 94, §4 of the Higher Education Act April 4, 2003*

 Flemish universities may award a joint or double doctoral degree with

- one or more Flemish universities
- one or more universities French Community
- one or more foreign HEIs

 doctoral student has to

- successfully defend her/his doctoral thesis
 - jury with professors from all the HEIs involved
- spend at least 6 months at the partner HEIs doing scientific research in the light of her/his doctoral thesis

questions & answers



erwin.malfroy@ond.vlaanderen.be