

Diploma Supplement –Joint programmes

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Does a Joint Programme Degree require a Joint Diploma Supplement?



Joint Degree

A single Degree Certificate awarded jointly by two or more institutions, generally require a Joint Diploma Supplement (JDS).



Multiple Degree

Separate Degree Certificates awarded by each participating institution, each issuing its own Degree Certificate. Multiple Degrees can be accompanied either by separate individual DS or one joint Diploma Supplement.

To Consider - Joint programme (Multiple Degrees)



Joint Diploma Supplement

- Is it the “expectation” from a Joint Programme and/or in some cases a requirement?
- EMJM application points for Joint Diploma Supplement, however not a must!
- Issues with signatures? One option can be to agree on signature on behalf of the other PU.
- Require cooperation and mutually agreed content.



Separate Diploma Supplements

- Right now, probably easier to administrate for multiple degrees?
- Utilize already existing local technological infrastructure for the issuing of the degree.
- Each University are in charge of its own Diploma Supplement.

Challenges (JDS)

ENIC-NARIC: “Two main issues were identified. First, the format used is not based on the European template and, second, the issued Diploma Supplement is a national one and does not cover the totality of the joint programme.”

From ECAs [“Guidelines for Good Practice for Awarding Joint Degrees”](#)

Regulations and practices:

Differences in what a Diploma supplement should contain and how it should look like, even if PU involved follows the European template.

Information:

Individuals with no prior knowledge of the joint programme should be able *to fully comprehend the awarded Degree*.

For recognition purposes there is a need for *clear and transparent information* about the institutions involved in the joint programme, their role, the joint programme details and the awarded degree.

Technological Compatibility:

Differences in digital infrastructure for issuing JDS, what are your options -digital or paper?

(Ir)Regular mail for paper JDS:

For paper degrees or JDS, this can be a real hassle.



Recommendations for a Joint Diploma Supplement (JDS)

- **Early Involvement:** Engage all partner universities degree offices during agreement drafting stages, extremely important for a Joint Degree.
- **Terminology:** Definitions may vary, define the terminology within your joint programme.
- **Identify Red Lines:** The easiest way to identify any issues is to start the template work. Identify and negotiate around “non”-negotiables from national and local regulations. Ex Signatures, logos, physical or digital, type of papers, content etc.
- **Template and Sample Texts:** I recommend partners to agree on a finalized template before signing the cooperation agreement. The PU needs to have a clear understanding of how the finished Degree and JDS are going to look like to avoid problems later on in the process. Utilize already existing information about the consortium, the programme and for example expected learning outcomes in the programme syllabus and or handbook. Get inspiration from other JDS.
- **International Guidelines:** Adhere, when able, to UNESCOs, Council of Europe’s and European Commission template “[Revised template for the Diploma Supplement](#)” and ECAs “[Guidelines for Good Practice for Awarding Joint Degrees](#)” guidelines for structure and content.



Depending on involved PUs national and local regulations and type of degree the efforts and time needed to create a degree and or a JDS vary significantly!

Summary and Key Takeaways



Understand the Structures

What are the expectations, rules, regulations and challenges for you and your Joint Programme partners Diploma supplement?



Plan Collaboratively

Early involvement of degree offices to for a mutually agreed template prior to a signed agreement is essential.



Follow International Standards

Use templates and guidelines from UNESCO, Council of Europe and European Commission and ECA to ensure international recognition.

Thank you for your time!

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