

The «JOI» Network

Francesco Girotti, University of Bologna

The need for a common language

Erasmus Mundus Programme (2004-2008 and 2009-2013) and its impact on EU and non EU institution

The need for an international forum where to discuss on similarities and differences, to find a common terminology, to analyse practices and to extract recommendations:

JOIMAN (2008-2010): Joint Degree Management and Administration Network

- **Surveys to JP coordinators (Master, Doctorate, EU&NonEU), study visits, international conferences, papers, networks**
- **The good practice report (200 pages...)**

The need to use the common language learnt

JOI.CON: Joint Degree Management: Conference and Training

- Training to administrators and academics
- Practical approach based on the use of the JOIMAN findings exploited within the JOI.CON simulation
- 56 trainees, 4 teams (2 Masters and 2 Phd) working together vis à vis and at distance in the creation of a joint consortium

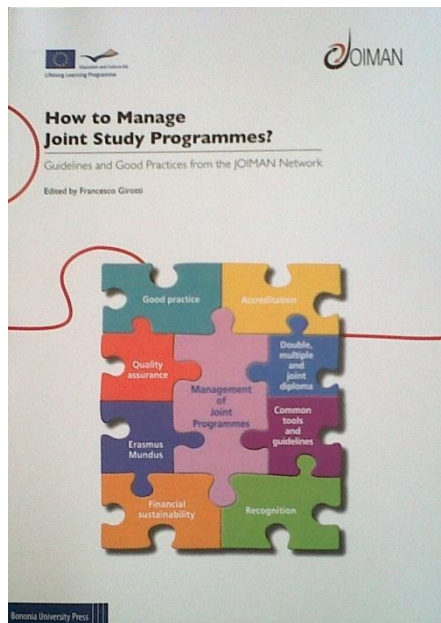
**Updating
JOIMAN tools**

**Creating new tools
for collaboration**

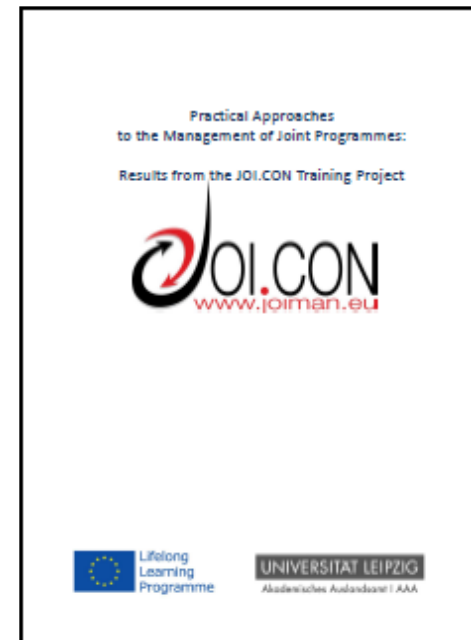
JOIMAN-JOI.CON Outputs

Good practice report on the management of JP including Report on Joint Doctoral Programmes (observations, trends, recommendations, good practices examples)

JOI.CON Training and Publication



JOI web site: www.joiman.eu



The Erasmus Mundus “revolution”

- Erasmus Mundus “philosophy”: concepts of “consortia” and “integration”
- To be applied to curriculum development as well as to the administration and management of a Joint Programme
- Erasmus Mundus II focused also on the third cycle and allows the full participation of Third Countries HEIs

Increase of interests of EU and non EU institutions in the development of Joint Programmes

Erasmus Mundus Model: core elements

- **Consortia**
- **Mobility**
- **Integration of education and research**
- **Integration of the administration and management**
- **Sustainability**
- **Involvement of industrial partners**
- **Candidate (early stage researcher) vs Student (employment contract vs scholarship, participation costs vs tuition fees)**

Joint Programmes, WHY?

Developing a joint multilateral programme is a long and difficult path requiring extra efforts, costs and institutional commitment. It requires the involvement of different actors at institutional level.

**Why should I bother and launch a joint programme?
What is the additional benefit compared to local
programmes?**

Fundamental research in pure and applied sciences is a driving force for innovation and it encourages curiosity. [...] No country can excel in fundamental research on its own - it requires collaboration between universities and research centres in the north and in the south, and in almost all cases fundamental research is undertaken by teams of international scientists and engineers.*

* Innovation and society (a report by Goolam Mohamedbhai), G8-UNESCO World Forum on Education, Research and Innovation: New Partnership for Sustainable Development (Trieste, Italy, 10-12 May 2007).

Some answers from the JOIMAN survey

- Increase the level of internationalisation
- Increase attractiveness of international students
- Increase the knowledge on HEI systems and the transparency among them
- Foster geographical cooperation
- Foster cooperation in research
- Increase the international reputation
- Foster the professional growth of the staff involved

Specific reasons for joint doctorates

INSTITUTIONAL SIDE

- Create specialised thematic programmes: get critical mass
- Support interdisciplinary programmes (complementary input)
- Develop programmes targeted to the new global and regional needs
- Foster vertical integration of study programmes
- Strengthen relations with international stakeholders

CANDIDATE SIDE

- Guarantee formalisation and recognition of candidates' research period in partners institutions
- Provide candidates with innovative learning methodologies
- Provide candidates with generic and transversal skills
- Strengthen the international research networks of the candidate (including LM)

JOIMAN observations on Joint Doctorates

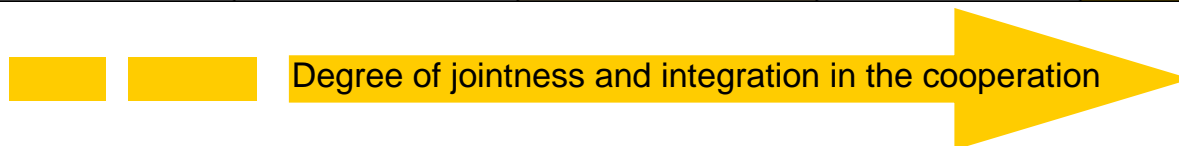
- Different models and level of integration
- Partnerships
- Training and research period
- Main obstacles
- Needs and recommendations (starting point: identification of differences and similarities)

Level of integration – PhD programmes

- **International Collaboration:** Structural aspects are very light or absent; cooperation in the research fields; students mobility
- **Individual doctoral Programmes:** e.g. Co-tutele, cooperation agreement is formalized for each individual candidates
- **Joint Doctoral Programme:** PhD Programmes jointly developed and implemented by 2 or more institutions; award of a double, multiple degrees, in some cases there are also co-tutele agreement
- **Joint Doctoral degree:** PhD Programmes jointly developed and implemented by 2 or more institutions; award of a joint degree. All the different education elements are jointly organised.

Level of integration – PhD programmes

		International collaboration	Individual programmes Cotutelle	Joint doctoral programme	Joint doctoral degree and programme
Research		■	■	■	■
Courses				■	■
Structure of cooperation		■	■	■	■
Selection/admission			■	■	■
Supervision			■	■	■
Defence			■	■	■
Monitoring/reporting			■	■	■
Employability				■	■
Funding/fees				■	■
Double or multiple degrees		■	■	■	
Joint degree			■		■



To be considered:

- **Compatible (or complementary) scientific interest (added value!)**
- **Committed staff (administrative and academic)**
- **Financial aspects/situation**
- **Clear roles, responsibilities – future organisational structure**
- **Continuous communication, frequent meetings**
- **Inclusion associated partners (industry, business – where appropriate)**

Research/formal training

- **Some characteristics:**
 - partial autonomy or more joint
 - joint activities -> around research only or + training
 - depending on the scientific field, national legal issues, different traditions and funding
- **Research projects: predefined or individual**
- **Training/lectures (and/or summer schools, conferences etc.)**
 - additional benefits in terms of better employability
 - bringing the candidates together
 - define early to include or not, if obligatory, which partners will offer them credits or not?

Main Obstacles encountered

- **Legal framework (institutional or national)**
 - Institutional regulations (co-tutele, minimum mobility etc)
 - Different national laws (accreditation, funding)
 - Certificates (joint vs double)
 - Employment of doctoral candidates, visa requirements etc.
- **ECTS**
- **Funding**
- **Institutional commitment**
 - Involvement of administration
 - Internationalisation strategy

First and crucial recommendation: identify since the beginning the main difference in the legal framework, rules and tradition

The JOI.CON experience

- **Fictive environment with real roles played by trainees**
- **Assignment of tasks to international teams**
 - Coordination of the project
 - Tasks assignment to partners
 - Organising meetings and discussions
- **Result: creation of a cooperation agreement describing the functioning of a joint doctorate, based on real institutional and national constraints**
- **Tools: JOIMAN tools and new tools developed by the teams**

Comparison Table

Starting point: Development of a comparison table containing all the information related to the PhD programmes run by the partner institutions

Purpose: find out differences and similarities

Content: duration of programmes, legal status of candidates, tuition fees, ECTS, supervision, compulsory activities, language requirements, thesis, awarding of degrees, IPR

Topics discussed

- **Level of integration (which level is the best one?)**
- **Selection**
- **Mobility**
- **Governance**
- **Defense and degree awarding**
- **ECTS (to which activities? Only for training or for research period as well?)**
- **Fees and funding**
- **status of the doctoral candidates**

Consortium Agreement

Art. 1 PhD programme structure

Art. 2 Application and selection procedure

2.1 Application

2.2 Admission requirements

2.3 Selection procedures

Art. 3 Learning methods

3.1 Training and research

3.2 Summer Schools

3.3 Courses and Lectures

Art. 4 Governing bodies and tasks

Art. 5 Admission and fees

Art. 6 Learning outcomes

Art. 7 Mobility scheme and working plan

Art. 8 Financial commitment

Art. 9 Final exam and language of the thesis

Art. 10 Awarding of joint degree

Art. 11 Intellectual Property Rights

Art. 12 Confidentiality

Art. 13 Liability

Art. 14 Settlement of disputes

Art. 15 Duration and amendments

ANNEXES

- 1) Application form**
- 2) Doctoral Candidate Agreement**
- 3) Career Development Plan**
- 4) Diploma Supplement template**
- 5) Joint degree template**
- 6) Quality Assurance scheme + questionnaire**

- **Clear definition of the purpose (affecting the model and the management structure)**
- **Importance to know the processes to anticipate problems**
- **Tackling crucial issues in the development phase**
- **Institutional commitment and internationalisation policy**
- **Staff development**
- **Cooperation between administration and academics**

Thank you for your attention!

Francesco Girotti
University of Bologna

francesco.girotti@unibo.it