

European policy experimentation in higher education:  
piloting a joint European degree label  
ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-EUdegree

# EDLab



Co-funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN DEGREE LABEL  
Institutional Laboratory

Piloting a joint  
European degree  
label

## European policy experimentation in higher education

- **4 Alliances represented:** Arqus, ENLIGHT, EUTOPIA, SEA-EU
- **13 Full partners** from 5 countries
- **Diverse associate partners:** national ministries and quality assurance agencies, European and global university networks, student and alumni associations, along with other partner universities from our four alliances.



## General considerations

### Added value

- Solutions to longstanding challenges in EHEA
- **Marker of excellence in European jointness** (distinctive, easily recognisable, reputational value, incentive for transformation at all levels)
- Criteria restrictive, guaranteeing excellence, while **recognising diversity**
- Intermediate step towards full ED

### Scope

- All HE EQF levels (including EQF<sub>5</sub> where appropriate)
- Microcredentials and similar

## *Criteria*



- All criteria **mandatory**
- **Clear and transparent**, avoiding modality and examples
- **Glossary and detailed guidelines**
- Clear correspondence with headings
- All aspects of programmes- organization and management, learning experience, student and staff support, European core values
- **Conceptual organization of criteria**
- Role of staff
- Mindful of institutional contexts (not all at programme level)

*Reference to  
existing EHEA tools  
& policies*

- Explicit link to ESG, EA... ensuring synergies
- Alignment and coherence with EU policies in general (Treaty, EEA, ERA, ESU, language policy, cohesion policy, environmental sustainability...)

*Evaluation of  
compliance*

- Incorporation into EA procedures (EQAR-registered agencies)
- Period to redress shortcomings

*Award and  
certification of  
label*

- Award to programme, use of logo, registered in DEQAR
- Additional certificates for students, traceable and verifiable

*Funding*

- For preparation of JPs
- For students participating



**Cooperation** throughout the process – within and between pilots, with the associates (unis, NAs, QAAs, networks, students, graduates, employers...)



**Broad agreement**, although not unanimity



**Consensus-seeking**



**Enthusiasm**

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Quality Assurance and Recognition System in Higher Education

## Annex II

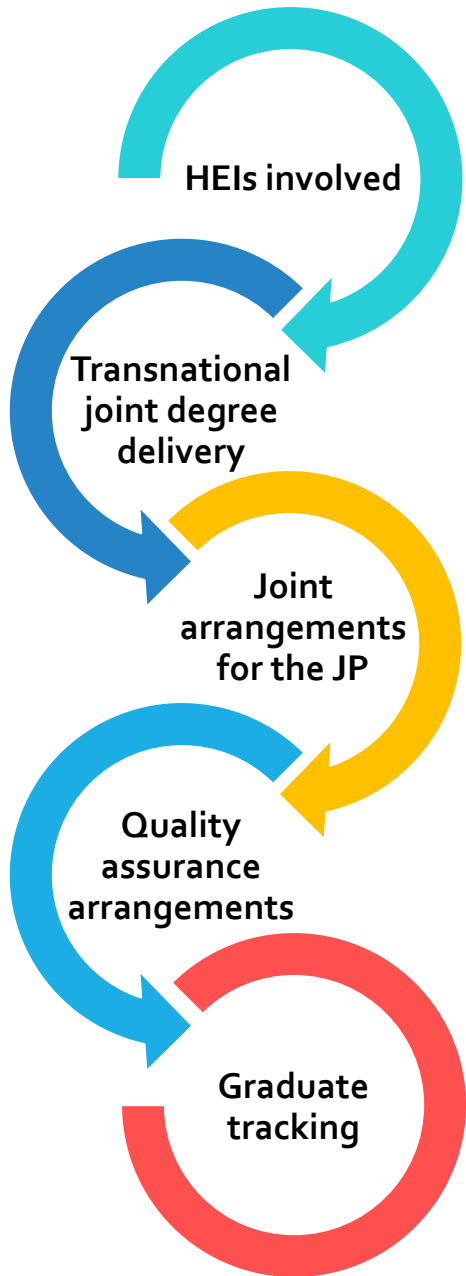
### European Criteria for a European Degree (Label)

The European criteria set out the key features of the European degree and the European label.

They **guarantee the respect of the highest standards** to offer transnational programmes and transnational degrees and explains why it is **different from degrees awarded in other parts of the world.**

HEIs would be able to award the European degree based on an assessment by **existing national structures** (for example, national quality assurance agencies) of whether the joint programme fulfils all these European criteria.

The proposed European criteria that are presented below are the result of a huge collaborative work and testing that involved more than **140 higher education institutions across all Member States, 17 ministries and 20 national QA agencies, students' organisations and economic and social partners.**



## European criteria for a European degree (label)

	EQF Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The JP is offered by at least <b>2 HEI</b> from at least <b>2 different Member States</b>.</li> </ul>	6,7,8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The JP is <b>jointly designed and jointly delivered</b> by all the HEI involved</li> <li>The JP leads to the award of a <b>joint degree</b>.</li> <li>A <b>joint Diploma Supplement</b> is issued to students.</li> <li>The JP describes the learning outcomes and credits in line with the <b>ECTS User Guide</b>.</li> </ul>	6,7,8 6,7,8 6,7 6,7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The JP has <b>joint policies, procedures and/or arrangements</b> defining curriculum planning and delivery, as well as all organisational and administrative matters. <b>Students' representatives are part of the decision-making process</b> to define the joint policies and procedures and/or arrangements.</li> </ul>	6,7,8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal and external QA is conducted in accordance with the <b>Standards and Guidelines for QA in the EHEA (ESG)</b>. The HEI, the study field or the programme are evaluated by an <b>EQAR registered agency</b>.</li> <li>The JP is evaluated using the standards of the <b>European approach for QA of JP (EA)</b>.</li> </ul>	6.7.8 6,7,8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The JP monitors graduates through a <b>graduate tracking system</b></li> </ul>	6,7,8



# European criteria for a European degree (label)

EQF  
Levels

6,7,8

- The JP is designed and continuously enhanced and delivered in a way that encourages **students to take an active role in the learning process**. Assessment of students reflects this approach

6,7,8

- The JP programme includes embedded **interdisciplinarity components**

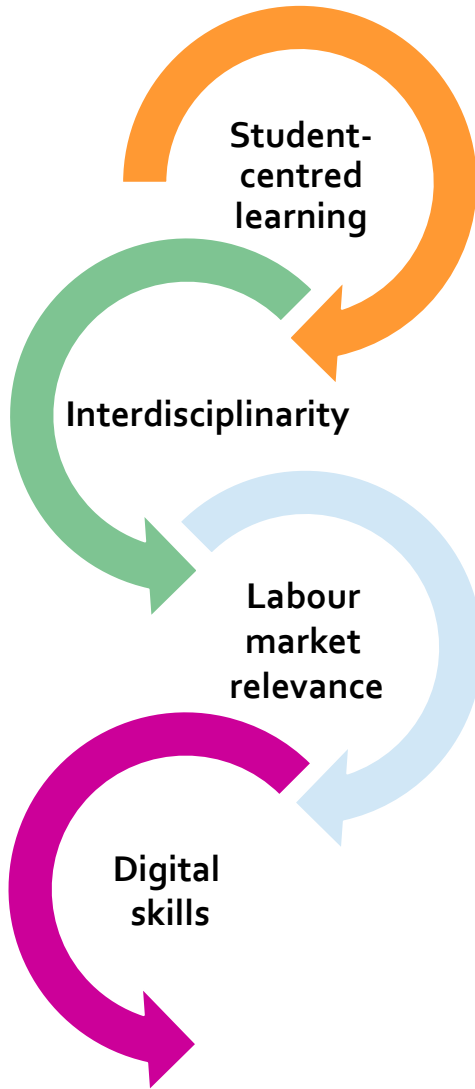
6,7,8

- The JP aligns with labour market requirements by incorporating **intersectoral components or activities** and the development of **transversal skills**

6,7,8

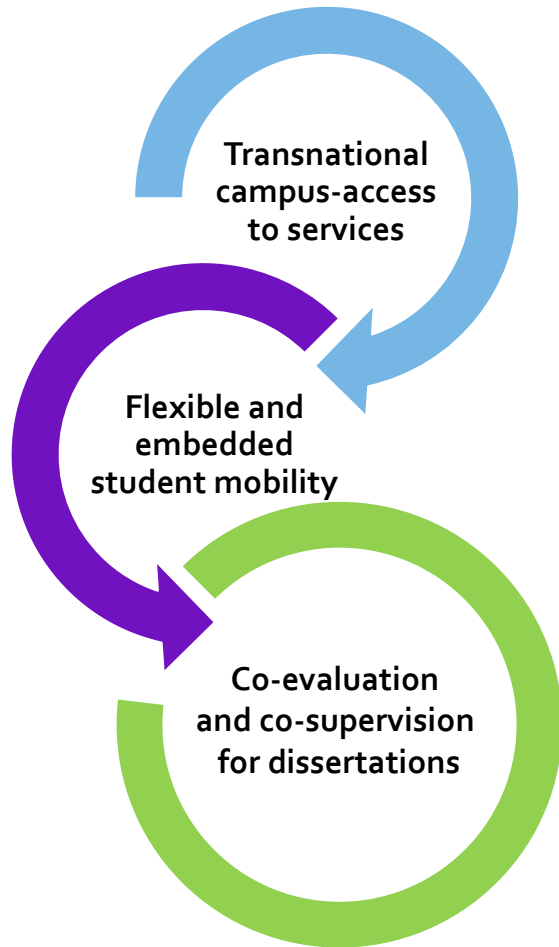
- The JP includes components and actions related to the development of **advanced digital skills** of students, tailored to the capacities and circumstances of the JP, ensuring alignment with its scope and scholarly focus.

Learning experience



# European criteria for a European degree (label)

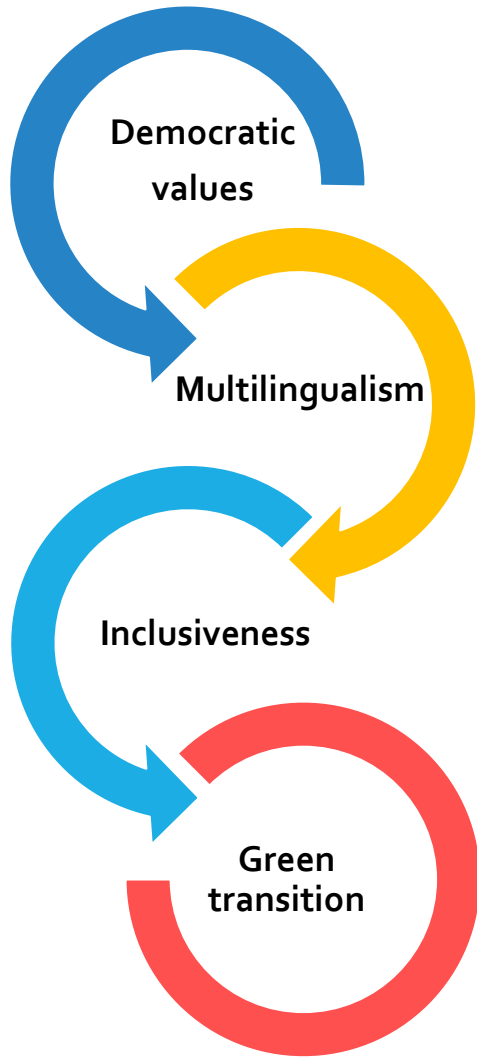
## Learning experience



	EQF Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Programme has joint policies for students and staff to have <b>access to relevant services in all participating higher educational institutions</b> under equivalent conditions as all enrolled students and local staff</li> </ul>	6,7,8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The JP offers <b>deep intercultural experience</b>, including a minimum of <b>1 period of student physical mobility</b> (that can be split) at 1 or more partner institution(s) representing overall at least <b>60 ECTS at EQF 6 level and 30 ECTS or EQF 7 level</b>. The JP has a policy offering <b>alternatives for students who are unable to travel</b>.</li> <li>■ The JP offers deep intercultural experience, including a total of at least <b>6 months of physical mobility at one or more partner(s) institutions</b>. The JP has a policy offering alternatives for students who are unable to travel.</li> </ul>	6,7 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dissertations are supervised by at least 2 supervisors and co-evaluated by co-supervisors or a committee with members from <b>at least 2 different institutions located in 2 different countries</b>.</li> </ul>	8

# European criteria for a European degree (label)

## European values



■ The JP's joint policies promote and adhere to democratic values.

EQF  
Levels

6,7,8

■ During the JP, each student is exposed to at least 2 different EU languages.

6,7,8

■ The JP commits to wide participation by fostering diversity, equality, and inclusion and by adopting tailored measures to support students and staff with fewer opportunities.  
■ The JP commits to respect the principles of the European Charter for Research.

6.7.8

8

■ The JP has policies and actions related to environmental sustainability and implements measures to minimise the environmental footprint of its activities.

6,7,8

# Thank you!

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