

Network of **Uni**versities from the **Ca**pitals of Europe

The UNICA Bologna Laboratory

### UNICA Manual on Joint Degrees 1.0

David Baldinger Maren Ebert Brigitte Römmer-Nossek

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#### Why a joint degree manual?

History: idea and stages of development



"crucial role of joint degrees as a catalyst for a set of components integral to the overall aims of the Bologna process..."

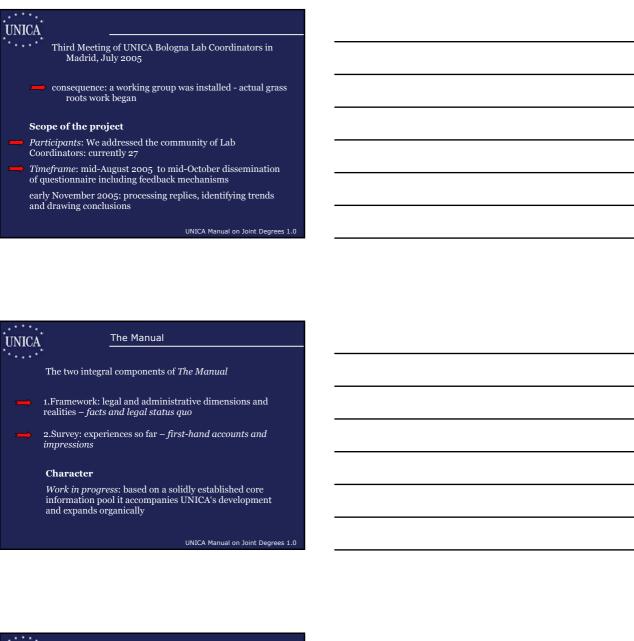
The idea of the UNICA Bologna Lab Manual was first formulated at the 2nd Meeting of the UNICA Bologna Lab Coordinators in Vienna in December 2004

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#### Aims of the Joint Degree Manual

- a process-oriented online manual incorporating academic and administrative issues
- a dynamic instrument specifically designed for the benefit of UNICA members interested in the creation of Joint Degrees
- aim: the main corpus of the manual will consist of a set of precise questions and guidelines



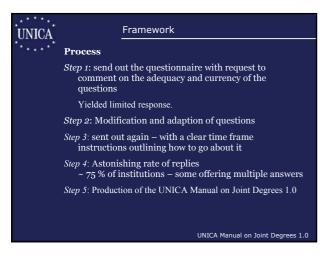
## UNICA

#### Framework

#### Approach

A catalogue of questions specifically tailored to previously identified key areas

- Type of degree that can be awarded
- Admission criteria
- Tuition fees
- Responsibility of decision/approval of curricula

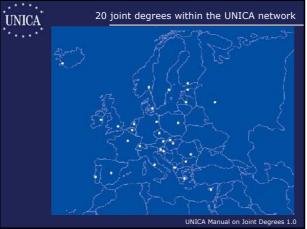


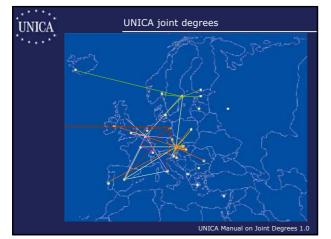
# UNICA Legal and administrative framework Findings in a nutshell Implications of Lisbon conventions remain disputed feeling that legislation still not in place most institutions do not face any legal recognition obstacles The Diploma Supplement only partially implemented The institutions charging tuition fees only marginally outweigh those who do not – JD students more often than not pay full fees Organisational workflows remain unclear in many universities No specific procedures for Joint Degrees are currently being planned

## Survey Bologna Lab Coordinators as information brokers approached their institution's Joint Degree people Represents and distils the experience of 20 Joint Degree Programmes within the UNICA network 4 areas of information Disciplines and partners Organisation of the consortium Institutional support DOS and DONTS











#### Survey \ Organisation of Consortia

Joint degree consortia are usually based on existing relations.

Stable - tend to grow rather than shrink

#### Rationale/ideas

Rather homogeneous, some cases heterogeneous; mutual respect and trust as indispensable core values

#### Concept

Tendency: by one or two partner/s. Basis for joint effort.

#### Commitment

No general trend – some consortia commitment distributed equally committed, others unevenly spread

 $\boldsymbol{Leadership} \ (one \ leader/subgroup/even \ distribution)$ 

All variations exist, slight preference for dynamic core group

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#### Survey \ Institutional support

#### Support\*

- Rectorate 8,4
- Faculties 7,5
- Departments 8,8

#### Information\*

- Erasmus 8.2
- Mobility 8,0
- ECTS 7,8
- Bologna 7,1
- Accreditation 6,6
- Diploma Supplemet 6,2
- Staff cost 5,4
- Cost calculation curriculum 4,8
- Infrastructure cost 4,1
- Cost for shared lectures 4

\*scale 1 (not at all) - 10 (very much)



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#### Survey \ Dos

#### Communication & project organisation

- time for social events and getting to know each other
- · face to face meetings
- vital that the group agrees on a clearly defined goal of the program
- the role of the key players is often underlined: Reduce complexity by naming one contact person per partner
- establish a communication structure: when and how do you communicate – regularity is pivotal!
- communication and information policy effective, transparent and easily accessible information and publication strategy
- specify the partners' **responsibilities and involvement** (or level of involvement) from the outset UNICA Manual on Joint Degrees 1.0



#### Survey \ Dos

#### Local anchoring

- take legal prerequisites into account: take care of the varying legal situations in the partner countries
- take local prerequisites into account (what are the procedures to modify a curriculum, etc)
- make sure you can count on the thorough support from and commitment of the universities involved

#### **Quality**

- define and agree upon quality standards and means and procedures of quality assessment
- vital: feedback of students as a continuous quality and reality check

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#### Survey \ Don'ts

- Do not underestimate the momentum (or lack of it ...) given by your own students to the project and its realization.
- Do not neglect publicity and the necessity of widely spreading the word of your program – make sure you address potential students!
- Do not forget that the students (and not the professors or the institutions) should be the main beneficiaries of the project

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#### Round up

Need to closely link Joint Degree Programmes to local Bologna process

- -> drive integration
- ->Joint degrees drive innovation

Institutional support sometimes insufficient

- > Need for improved information and communication structures; otherwise JD might remain lip service
- -> new ideas established in changing orgas

Joint Degrees can be envisioned as a Bologna microcosm: ideas can unfold, they encapsulate Bologna essence

Full potential will be played out when Bologna is fully implemented




for further information:

## www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab

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