

4eu+

Joint programmes and European Degree Label

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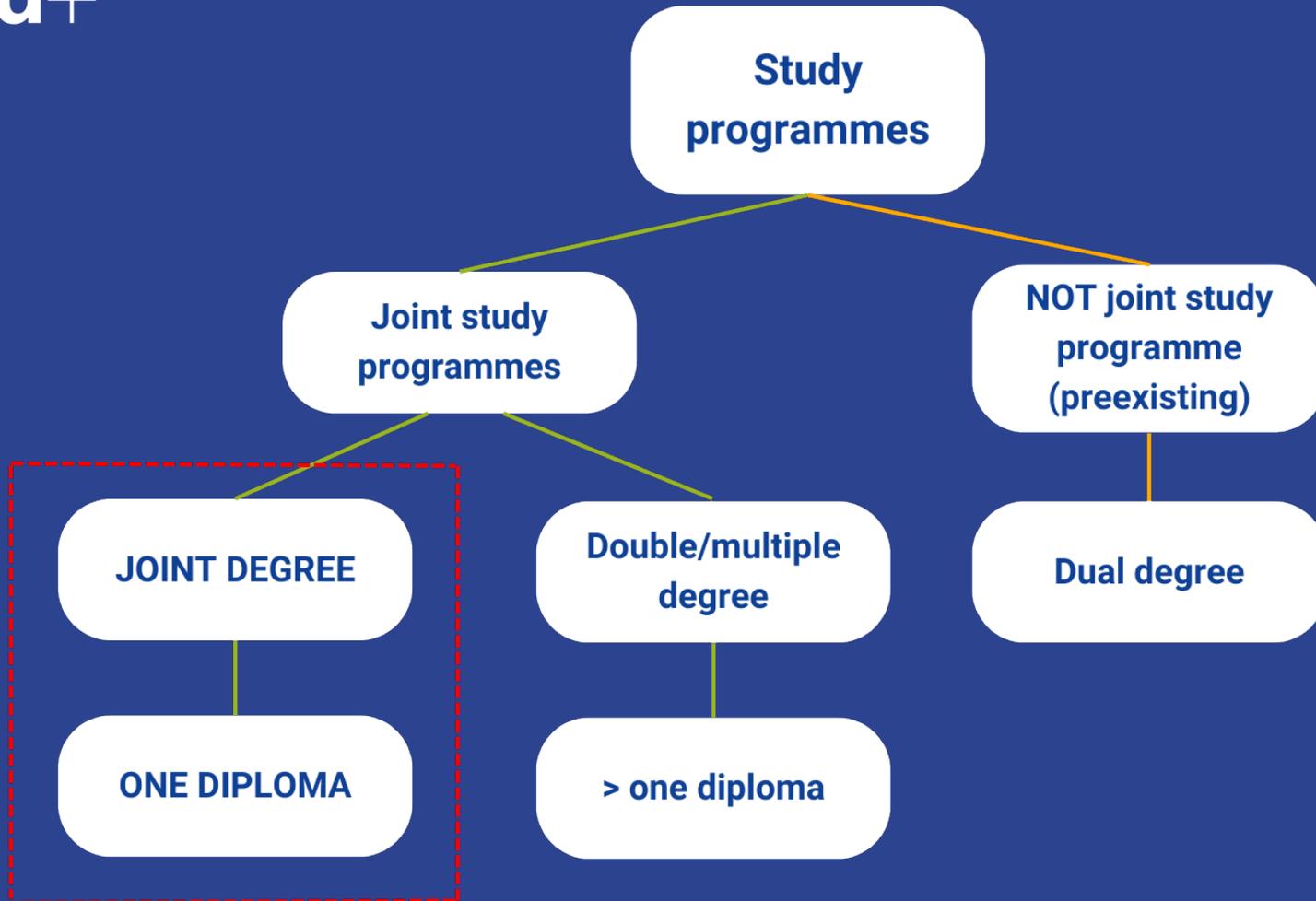
Joint programmes in EHEA

- Date back to 1970s in EU
- Hallmark of the European Higher Education Area
- High degree of jointness/integration
- Goal: seamless and ambitious transnational cooperation
- To enhance the mobility of students and staff
- To facilitate mutual learning and cooperation opportunities
- To create programmes of excellence - content and methodology wise
- To support that goal: EMJM and EMDM, MSCA (EQF 8)
- Legal obstacles - consortia leading the way towards legislative change
- Terminology - several definitions regarding joint programmes and joint degrees in use at national, EU and international level
- The concept of a European Degree that could provide a framework to facilitate the delivery of joint degrees



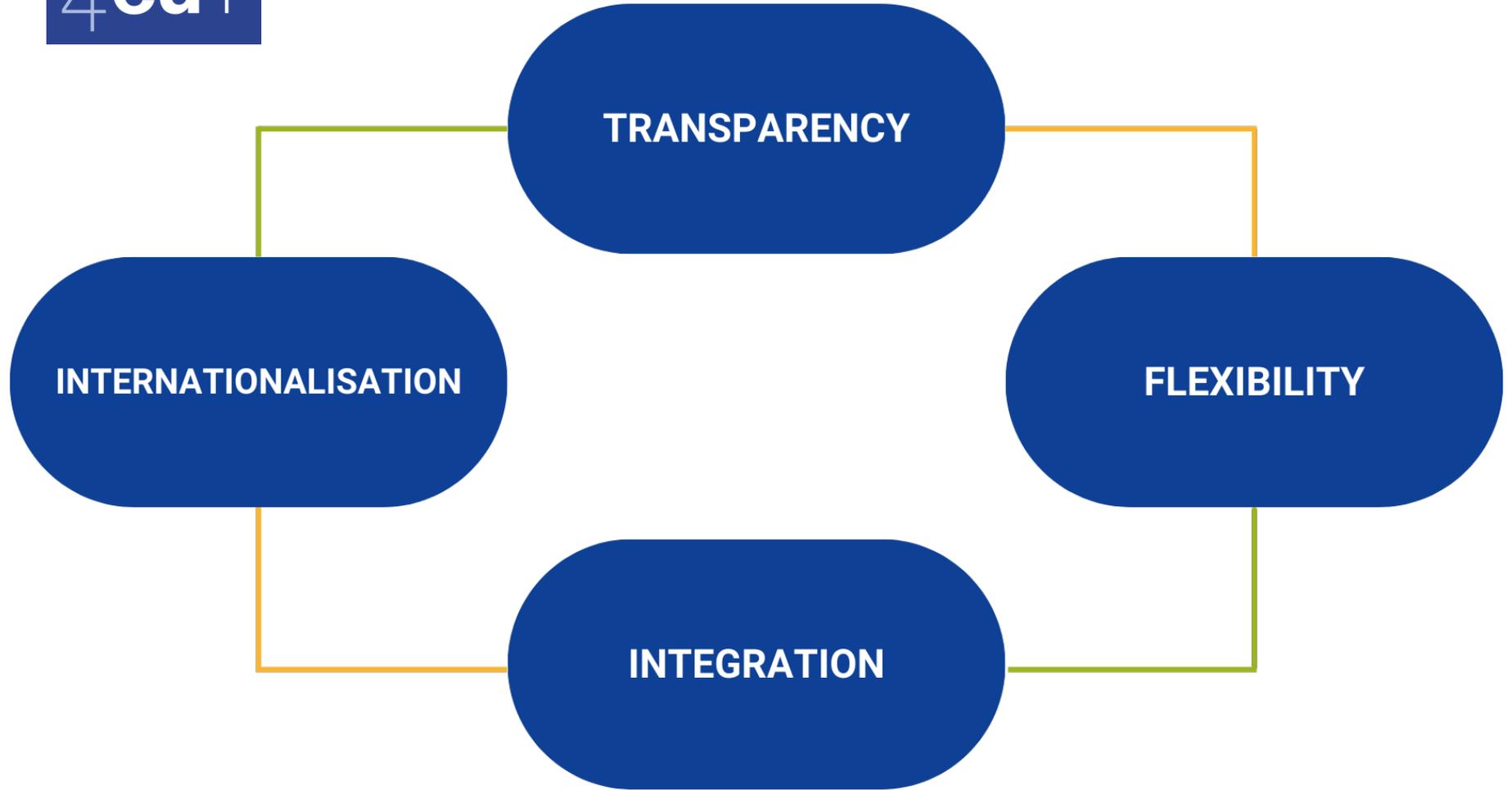
Joint (study) programme: integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by a transnational consortium of HEIs, leading to double/multiple degrees or a joint degree

- A joint degree is a type of document in which the graduation is attested by only single document (diploma). This document needs to be legally recognized in all countries of the HEIs that issue it
- The double/multiple degree is also a type of document certifying completion of studies. However, unlike with the joint degree, two or more documents are issued to graduates. These documents are valid only when presented together, as they attest the completion of the joint study programme
- Report from 2020 study on EMJM shows that 30% of the consortia provides one single, jointly awarded degree to their graduates, whereas more than 40% deliver multiple/double degrees. The remaining ones (23%) award a combination of degrees



Already existing policies

- **Lisbon Recognition Convention** established 1997 and expanded by *Recommendation on the recognition on the joint degrees* in 2004 (The Committee of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region: *Recommendation on the recognition on the joint degrees*. Adopted on 9 June 2004 www.enic-naric.net/fileusers/recommendation-joint-degrees-2004.en.pdf)
- **European Area of Recognition Project** builds upon the grounds provided by the LRB and is composed by several members of ENIC-NARIC, produced a *European Area of Recognition Manual* in 2012. ([European Area of Recognition - EAR Manual \(enic-naric.net\)](http://www.enic-naric.net/european-area-of-recognition-ear-manual)).
- **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes** from October 2014 was approved by EHEA ministers in May 2015 ([European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes \(eqar.eu\)](http://www.ehea.europa.eu/quality-assurance/european-approach-for-quality-assurance-of-joint-programmes)). It sets basic standards, definitions, admission and recognition policies, procedures for evaluation and accreditation etc.
- **Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)** were adopted by the Ministers responsible for higher education in 2005. The revised ESG 2015 were adopted by the Ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area in May 2015 (www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf)



Zoom in: the European Degree

The European Degree is an initiative endorsed by the Commission to facilitate issuing joint diploma/degrees/certificates across EHEA, overcoming existing barriers in transnational cooperation, and to propagate universal criteria connected to corresponding joint programmes

Higher Education Package (January 2022): 4 flagships

Joint European Degree

Legal Statute

European Student Card

European Universities



ED-AFFICHE Project

European Degree: Advancing, Facilitating and Fostering International Collaboration in Higher Education





Project Consortium: six complementary European University Alliances, bringing 51 diverse HEIs in 22 European countries from across Europe



Joint Vision: Joint position paper on the European Degree, constitutes the basis for the collaboration and acts as the guiding thread of the proposal



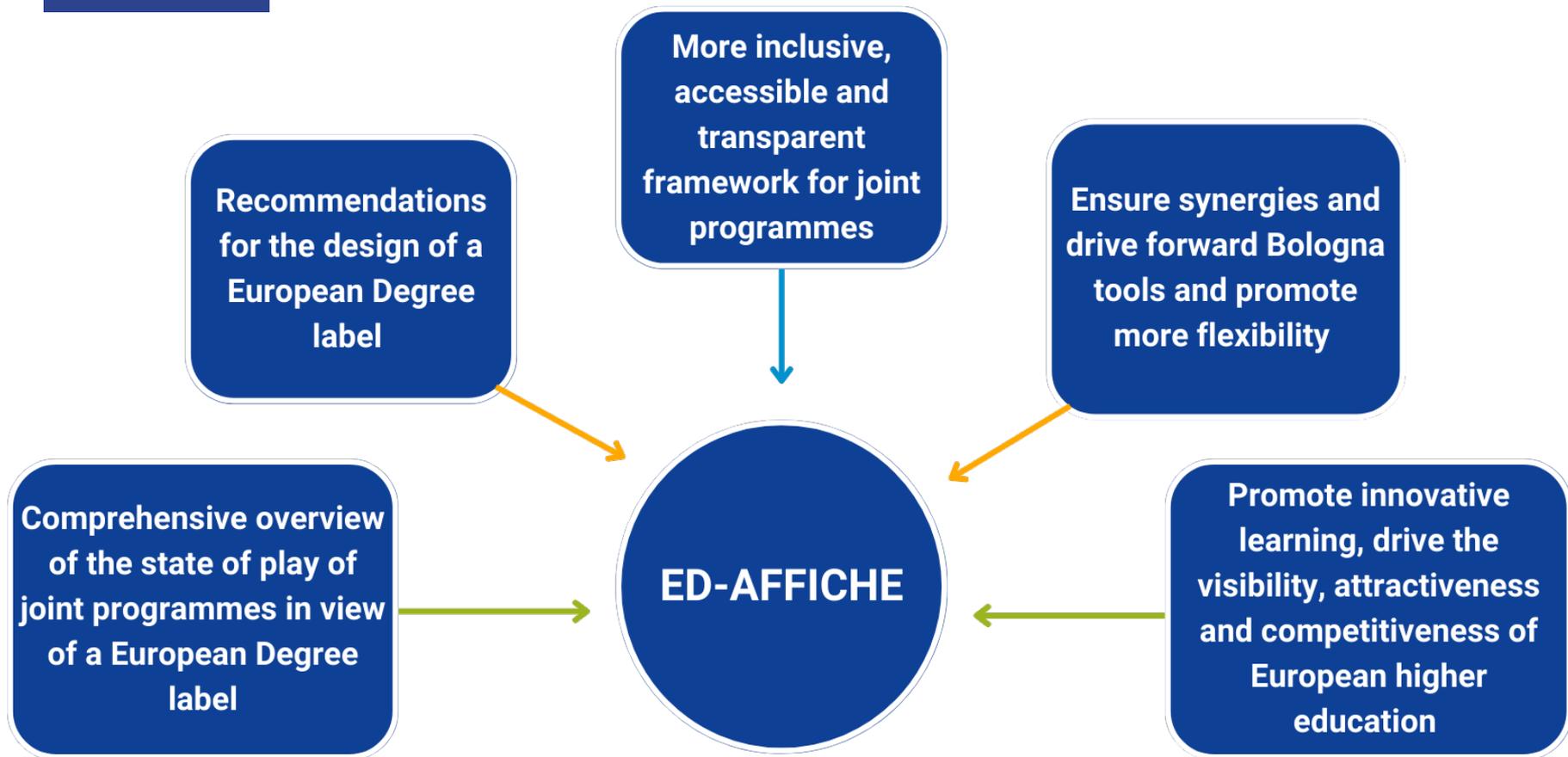
Diverse portfolio of high-quality joint programmes, covering all levels of higher education (EQF levels 6, 7 and 8), a range of academic disciplines and fields. This includes extensive experience of EU funding programmes



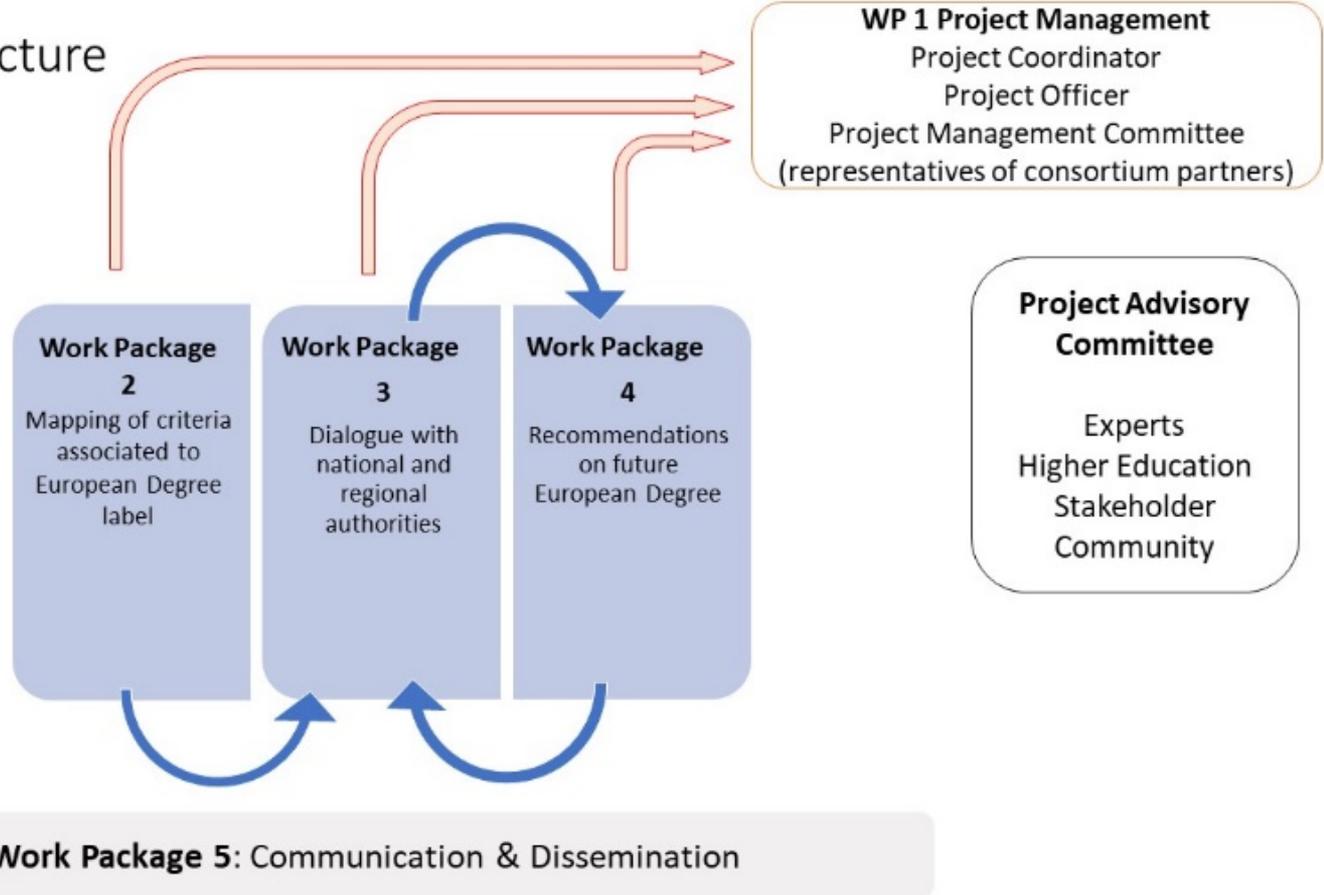
Support of Member States and QA agencies: Together, the consortium gained the support of 18 national/regional authorities and 16 QA agencies



In-depth knowledge on existing legal hurdles at national/regional level. HEIs have taken first steps in exploring possible solutions with MS and QA agencies. This combined expertise will form the backbone of this project.



Project Structure



Work Package 1 and 5: project management and communication

- WP1: Project Coordination
- WP Lead: KU Leuven (Una Europa)
- Objectives:
 - To facilitate lean and efficient project management structures, including active involvement of all project partners
 - To ensure smooth running of the project and fulfilment of reporting and monitoring requirements
 - To follow-up and coordinate all other work packages, including timely delivery of high-quality project outputs
- WP1: Communication and Dissemination
- WP Lead: University of Barcelona (CHARM-EU)
- Objectives:
 - Communicating and disseminating the project's activities via a multi-level dissemination strategy, raising the visibility of the project partners
 - Supporting work packages with the dissemination of project outputs and activities
 - Creating awareness for the European Degree label and its potential benefits to students, employers and the higher education sector at large to multiply and spread the results of the project more widely

Work Package 2: Mapping of criteria associated to European Degree label

- Duration: M1 – M11
- WP Leads: KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Unite!) and University of Pavia (EC2U)
- Objectives:
 - Establish a clear overview of joint programmes among the consortium partners, as a basis for the selection of programmes for the mapping exercise
 - Conduct mapping exercises on the criteria associated to the European Degree label, based on dual methodology of large-scale survey and targeted in-depth interviews
 - Produce an analysis and consolidated report on outcomes of mapping exercises
- Deliverables
 - D2.1 Creation of a database of joint programmes across the consortium (M6)
 - D2.2 Consolidated report on outcomes of European Degree criteria mapping exercise (M11)

List of the minimum 11 criteria for the joint transnational programmes to test a joint European degree label - survey in WP2

- Higher education institutions involved (at least 2 from 2 different Member States)
- **Transnational joint degree delivery** (the award of a joint degree)
- Transparency of the learning outcomes (ECTS, joint Diploma Supplement)
- Quality assurance arrangements – internal and external QA is conducted in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
- Joint policies for the joint programme (for admission, selection, supervision, monitoring, assessment and recognition)
- Transnational campus – seamless and free access to the participating HEI's services
- Flexible and embedded student mobility arrangements – at least 1 period of student physical mobility at another partner institution of at least 30 ECTS
- Multilingualism (at least 2 different EU official languages, excluding language of the courses)
- Innovative learning approaches (interdisciplinary, student-centered, challenged-based)
- Graduate outcomes (system to monitor)
- Inclusiveness and sustainability

Work Package 3: Dialogue with national / regional authorities

- Duration: M1 – M12
- WP Leads: **Charles University (4EU+)** and KU Leuven (Una Europa)
- Objectives:
 - Establish a comprehensive overview of legal obstacles and relevant legislation in the participating countries
 - Encourage open dialogue and exchange of best practices between participating HEIs and their national/ regional authorities
 - Facilitate joint investigation of possible solutions to overcome obstacles at European level, building on existing resources and mappings
- Deliverables
 - D3.1 Overview grid on national/ regional obstacles (M6)
 - D3.2 Policy report on best practices and recommendations on the future development & implementation of joint programmes in Europe (M12)

List of the obstacles/challenges identified by the EC - survey in WP3

- Accreditation of new joint programmes (criteria, procedure, timeframe, high costs, final exams, different grading scales, workload per ECTS, restrictive legislation regarding opening new joint programme and new accreditation procedure, joint diploma and legislation regarding the necessary components)
- Quality Assurance of new joint programmes (possibility to use European Approach, diversity in appropriation of Bologna Process tools, restrictive legislation regarding QA of a joint programme)
- Flexible learning pathways (recognition of online/blended learning, mobility tracks and mobility financing, difference in academic calendars, different duration of studies)
- Curriculum (ECTS allocation, structure of the programme, restrictions regarding courses)
- Governance structure
- Enrollment (tuition fees, recognition of previous education, language proficiency validation, selection of students, restrictive rules for enrollment and admission)

Work Package 4: Recommendations for future European Degree label

- Duration: M4 – M12
- WP Leads: Catholic University of Valencia (EU-CONEXUS) and **Charles University (4EU+)**
- Objectives:
 - Propose possible improvements of criteria associated to European Degree label in close collaboration with national accreditation agencies, students and employers
 - Make recommendations on the design and delivery of a future European Degree label
- Deliverables
 - D4.1 Overview grid on the improvement of criteria associated to European Degree label and the process behind it (M8)
 - D4.2 Policy recommendations on the future of European Degree label (M11)



Increase visibility and prestige of European Higher Education in a global context



Attractiveness to students – offer of transnational and innovative programmes with recognised European quality label and attractive mobility schemes



For HEIs and alliances – a chance to increase their visibility and competitiveness in the HEA and attractiveness for students



A way to start minimalising/removing legal and administrative obstacles standing in the way of awarding joint qualification



A way to harmonize and facilitate the development of joint study programmes and joint degrees in the future

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Thank you!



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