



SPHERE

Support and Promotion
for Higher Education
Reform Experts

Definitions, core elements and reasons for joint programmes

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“Perspectives and methods of organising joint master’s programmes in cooperation with European universities on double-degree basis; procedures for the development and implementation of joint educational programme”

European Context: the Bologna Process

*The Bologna Process is a rather unique approach **to reform and internationalise higher education** systems and institutions and establish regional convergence. At its heart is the partnership between national governments. **It is not a European Union initiative**, but all EU Member States and the European Commission are involved in the Process. Bologna is a **voluntary** process: reforms are jointly agreed, but implementation is subject to national sovereignty”*

European University Association

<http://www.eua.be/policy-representation/higher-education-policies/the-european-higher-education-area-and-the-bologna-process>

European Context: the Bologna Process



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European Context: trends of internationalisation

- Increasing number of students -> **massification of Higher Education (HE)**
- Increasing level of statutory, financial and administrative **autonomy** of the universities from the central government
- Growth of private universities despite strong re-affirmation of the **University as a public good**
- Still important but declining % of public funding in the university budgets

European Context: trends of internationalisation

- Increasing public interests in **quality assurance** and evaluation models
- Increasing diversification of educational **needs** and programmes
- Emerging of a **global competitive HE market**
- Extraordinary success of the **Erasmus programme** among European universities

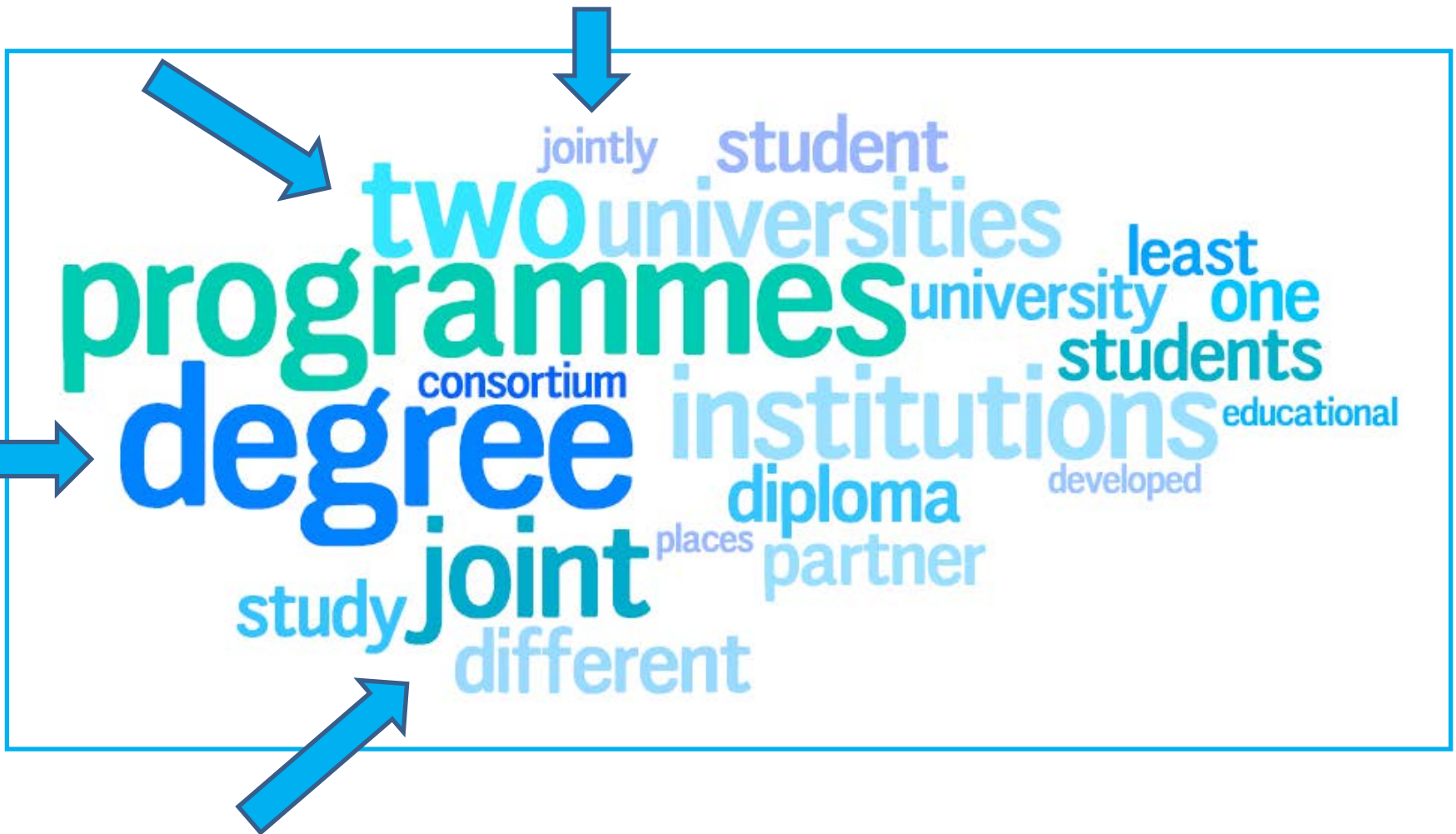
- But still high degree of **fragmentation** in European University systems

European Context: Erasmus Mundus

- Double degrees organised between EU universities since the nineties
- **Erasmus Mundus** Programme established in 2004 and running during
 - 2004 – 2008
 - 2009 – 2013
 - 2014 – 2020 (Under ERASMUS+)
- Double/degrees admitted but at least 3 partners
- Focus on **integration of study programmes**

**Catalyst for both international recruitment and harmonisation of
Higher Education Systems**

Definition Joint Programmes



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Definitions: Joint/Double/Multiple Degrees

Official reference document:

The **Erasmus Mundus Programme Guide (EMPG)** – EC

*“a single diploma issued by **at least two** higher education institutions offering an **integrated** programme and **recognized** officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located”;*

*“**two or more national diplomas** issued by two or more higher education institutions and **recognised** officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.”*

Definition: Joint Degree

Official reference documents:

The **Recommendation on the recognition of joint degrees (RJD)** - Committee of the LRC

*“a higher education qualification issued **jointly** by at least two or more higher education institutions..., on the basis of a **study programme** developed **and/or** provided **jointly** by the higher education institutions”*

“a joint degree may be issued as:

a joint diploma in addition to one or more national diplomas,

a joint diploma issued by the institutions offering the study programme in question without being accompanied by any national diploma,

one or more national diplomas issued officially as the only attestation of the joint qualification in question.”

Definition: Joint Programmes

*A study programme **developed and/or provided jointly** by two or more HEIs, possibly also in cooperation with other institutions, **leading to the award of a double, multiple or joint degree.***

(JOIMAN and TUNING Glossary)

**FOCUS ON THE “INTEGRATION” OF THE STUDY PROGRAMMES
AND THEIR ELEMENTS RATHER THAN ON THE KIND OF FINAL
DIPLOMA ISSUED**

Definition: Joint/double



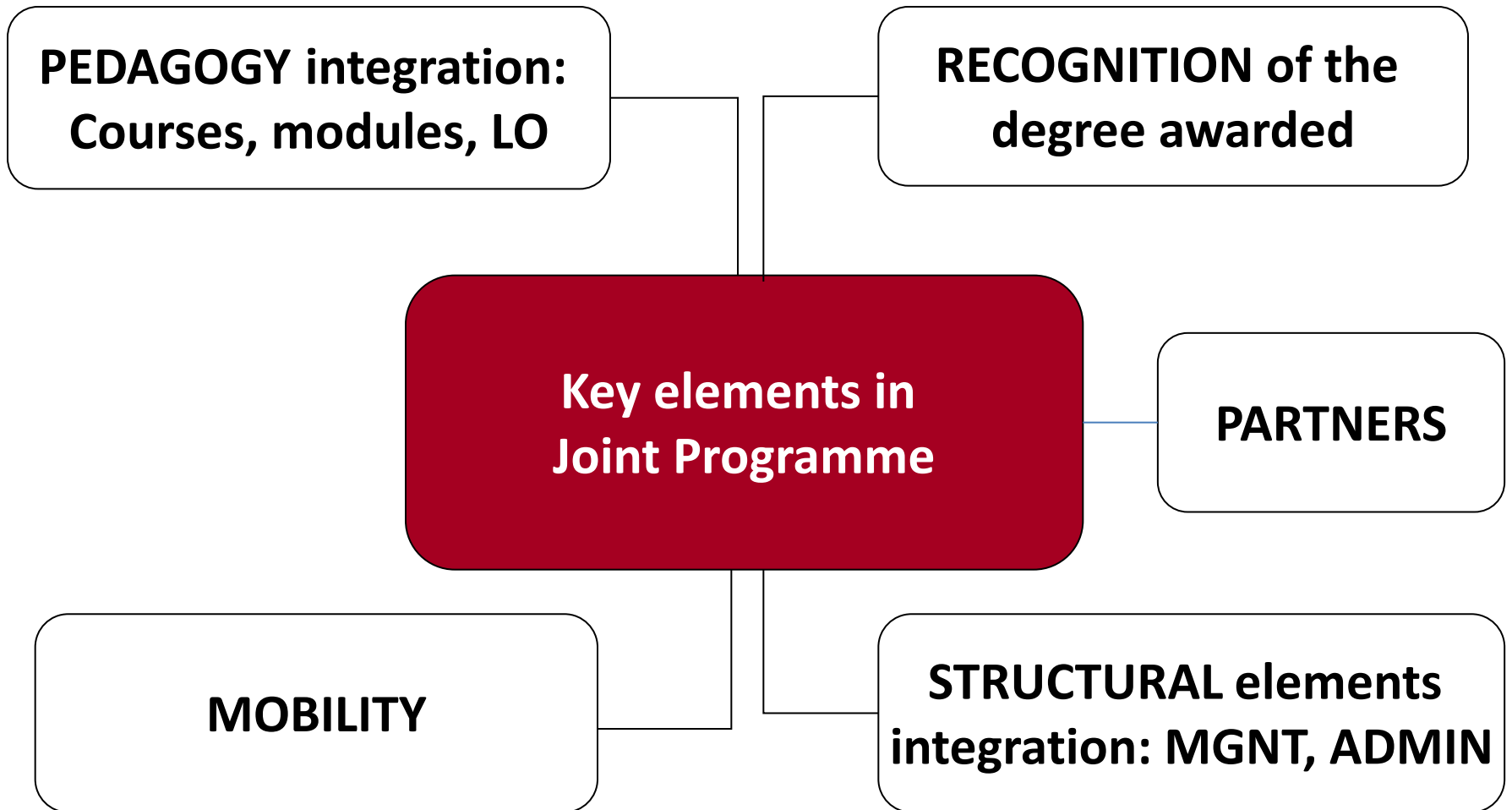
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Why JPs are “complex”?

- Different legal frameworks
- Misleading terminology
- Prescriptive funding schemes
- Variety of actors involved



Key elements of JPs



Level of integration

**Highest level of
Integration**

(EM Model)

Joint Administration of students and ad hoc services

Joint QA measures

Common budget and tuition fees

Jointly developed curriculum (new, learning outcomes based,)

Focus on international students

QA measures standards jointly agreed

Curriculum based on existing courses/ exploitation of excellences (Comparison of learning outcomes)

Jointly agreed students' services and standards

Based on own institution tuition policies

Focus on local students

Curriculum based on existing comparable courses (input based)

**Lowest level of
Integration**

**(Structured mobility
in Bilateral coop.)**

Why Joint Programmes?

- Sharing your **uniqueness** for **complementarity** and excellence
- Collect specific contents your institution **cannot offer**
- Institutionalise **international cooperation**
- Increase the overall **quality** of your educational offer
- Provide **intercultural** competences to students
- Facilitate further **cooperation in research**
- International prestige and **reputation**
- Reinforce **national bilateral or cross border cooperation**
- Increase student **recruitment** from a specific area



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