



SPHERE

Support and Promotion
for Higher Education
Reform Experts

Models, curriculum development, some examples

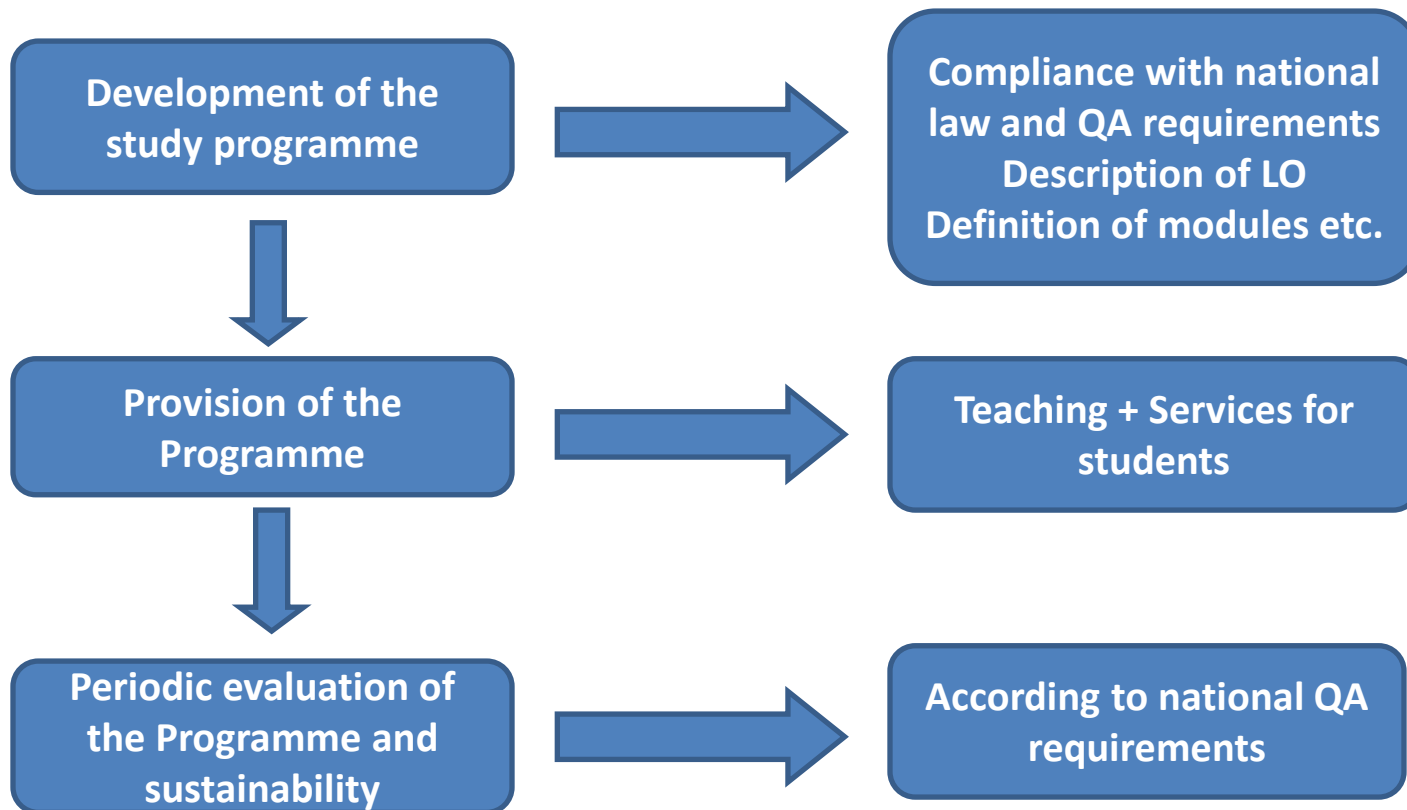
Tashkent, 23-24 April 2019

Francesco Girotti – University of Bologna (IT)

“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”

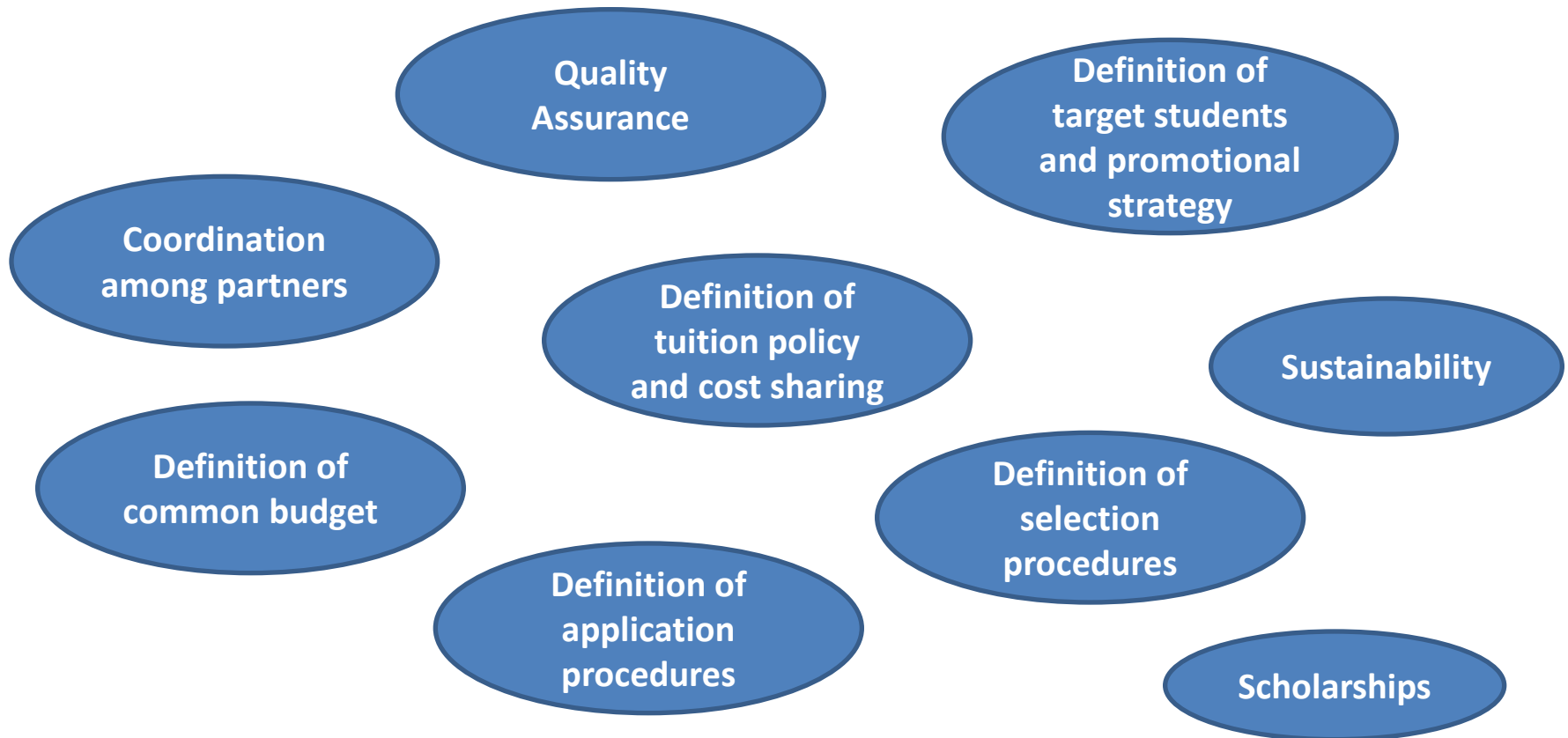
Why Management is an issue?

Reforms of HE systems are making the process of education provision more complex, but being a core business of HEIs, institutions are forced to be equipped



Internationalisation is not mandatory...

...And 2 is not always equal to 1+1 (bilateral cooperation)



...And 3 (+) is exponentially more complex

"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"

A matter of choice and planning

Positioning your joint programme in the appropriate level of integration has a deep impact on the management of the joint programme itself.

- I.E: Large integrated consortium: increase the critical mass, share of resources and expertise, increase the quality of the mobility offer BUT more coordination efforts and costs (meetings, staff mobility etc) more harmonization problems (procedures, legislations, cultures)
- I.E: targeting international students: more chances to attract best students, creation of a real international environment BUT more efforts in marketing the programme, more efforts in the ICT infrastructures, more efforts in services for students

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

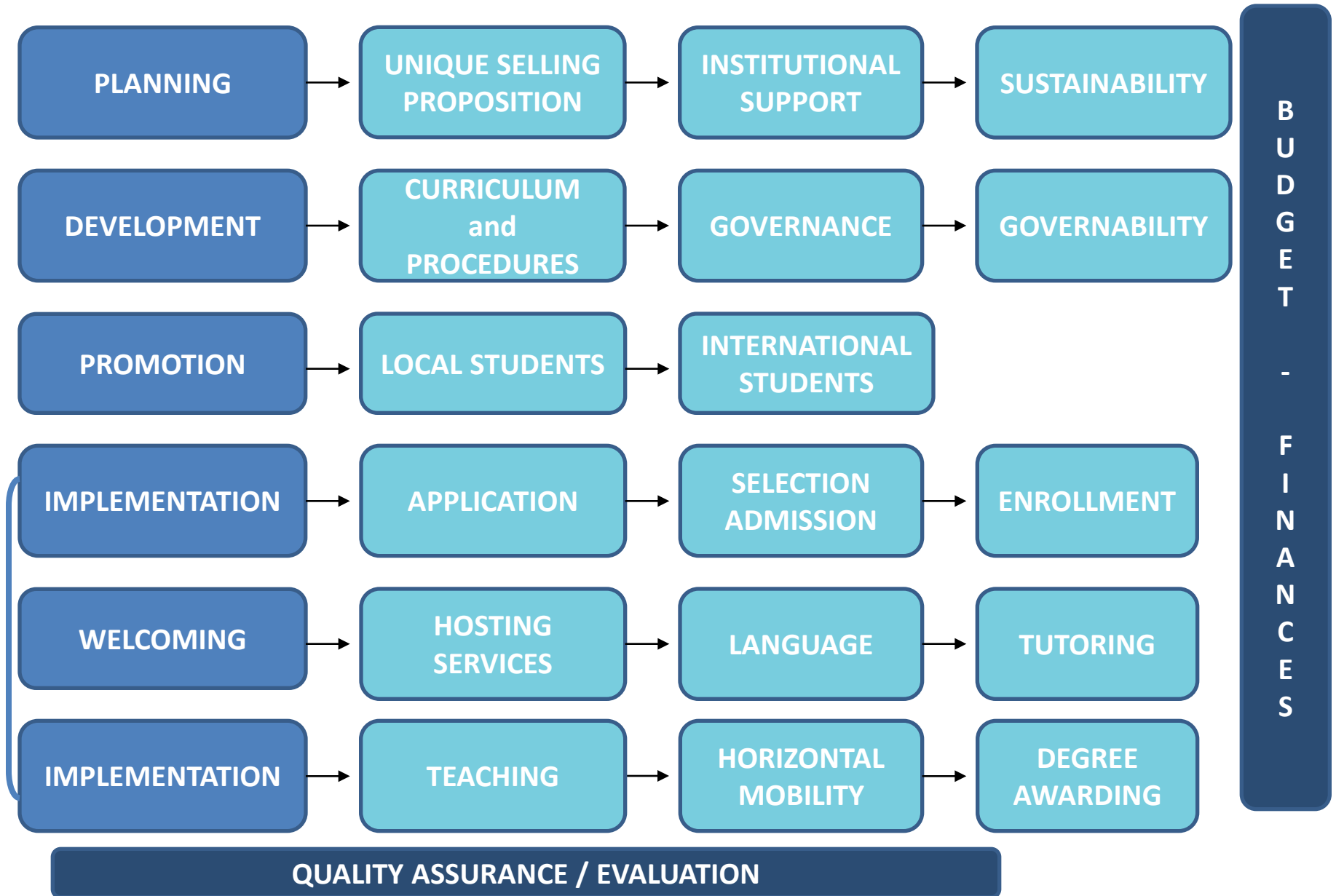
Focus on local students

Curriculum based on existing comparable courses (input based)

**Lowest level of
Integration**

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

The Management GRID



The Admission Process – Actors involved

APPLICATION – SELECTION – ADMISSION

- Who is involved in the application phase?
- Who is involved in the selection phase?
- Who is involved in the admission phase?

Aspects to be taken into consideration

1. Targeted students (local vs international) and integration level (joint vs «local» application procedure)
 2. When application is fully integrated, online application is advisable
- ...Easy to describe into the EM application form, more difficult to realise

Challenges

1. How to integrate consortium application systems with institutional ones
2. Timing for application procedures
3. Different application procedures within the same study programmes
4. Online repository: ownership of data and data protection

Aspects to be taken into consideration

1. Targeted students (local vs international) and integration level (joint vs «local» selection procedure)
2. Selection criteria
3. Roles in the selection procedures (selection committee, pre-screening etc)
4. Documents required for admission
5. Means in support of selection (on-line interviews, skype etc)

Challenges

1. Compatibility between consortium procedures and institutional procedures: best VS feasible
2. International students evaluation: third countries qualifications
3. Documents required: the role of embassies and consulates and national requirements
4. Costs of joint selection committees

The Admission Process - Recommendations

- Clarifying if the implementation of an application procedure managed at consortium level could substitute the regular application procedures applied to each partner's institution.
- When addressing international students from all over the world, it is important to use an online application. The consortium should discuss how to implement and financially/technically support this.
- Involvement of registrar offices since the development phase of the programme is important, especially if the institution has no great experience in joint programmes, in order to avoid students being rejected for formal requirements after having been selected by the consortium or by the first enrolment institution.

The Admission Process - Recommendations

- Discussing and harmonising the formal requirements for enrolment ensuring that students can obtain access to services and to certification at each institution.
- Discussing in detail the documentation required by each institution for enrolment (certificate of previous studies, declarations from the consulates, official translations).
- Mutual trust for enrolment: do not require additional documents at the second enrolment or registration.

Hosting international students – Challenges

Aspects to be taken into consideration

1. Integration into the local environment is an important success factor for the learning process of the students
2. Local language and culture is an important factor for integration
3. Tutoring students through the academic rules right at the beginning facilitates their learning process

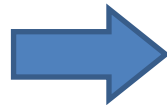
...Easy to describe into the EM application form, more difficult to realise.

- Costs of ad hoc services

Mobility within the Programme

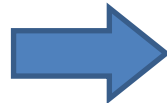
According to the number of institutions involved and to the mobility scheme of the developed joint curriculum, the management of mobility may vary in its complexity

DD PROGRAMME



Mobility from and to 1 partner

Multiple/Joint Degree



Mobility from and to various institutions

Key administrative element (in addition to cultural integration, language, tutoring) is the «certification» (ToR, institutional and national requirements for degree awarding)

Reaching and issuing Diploma

Challenges

1. National or internal regulations on dissertation/thesis
2. National or internal regulation on examination jury
3. National legislation on the degree awarding
4. Timing for validating student career (transfer of credits, marks conversion)
5. Award of Diploma Supplement

Reaching and issuing Diploma

- Alignment of learning outcomes, teaching and assessment
- Examination
 - Normally follow the procedures at each host institution
 - A common understanding of the different examination policies/procedures
- Grade conversion
- Appeals processes, progress, failing students
- Master's thesis:
 - Amount of credits, examiners, grading, technical regulations
 - Common guide for grading a master's thesis?

Degree Certificate and Diploma Supplement (DS)

- **Diploma:** a formal document (certificate) that acknowledges that an individual has graduated from a programme and institution or that an individual has received a degree. (ECA Glossary)
- **DS:** explains the contents and form of the qualifications delivered by higher education institutions. (ECA Glossary)

Possible models

- Joint certificate signed by all partners + separate/joint DS + separate/joint ToR
- Joint certificate signed by partners where the student has attended + separate/joint DS + separate/joint ToR
- Joint certificate + one or more national certificates + separate/joint DS + separate/joint ToR
- Single certificate from each institution the student has attended + separate DS + separate ToR

One Programme – One Joint Certificate

- Students have one of your qualifications for life!
 ➔ the institutions may be asked to produce supporting documents or further information for many years to come.
- Why joint degree?
 - A single programme ends with a single qualification/ diploma/degree certificate
 - Less confusion for the holder as well as stakeholders that have to evaluate the qualifications
- It takes a long time to design a joint degree certificate and DS – start early!
- Be aware of the issuers technical and practical limitations.

The Joint Degree Certificate – elements to include

- Name of the degree
- Name of the holder and personal details
- Official name and seal/logo of the awarding institutions
- Dates: graduation date, issuing date, academic year
- Indication of the accreditation status of the institution/programme and/or reference to national legislation that grant the power to issue the qualification
- Signatures of the legal representative(s)



EUROPEAN JOINT DIPLOMA

Has been awarded the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN QUALITY IN ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES

European Credits awarded: 90 ECTS

Having followed an approved Master programme
over a duration of 18 months

By the Universidade do Algarve and the Universitetet i Bergen

23 February 2010



Erasmus Mundus





Network Educational Certificate

It is hereby certified that



Born on 19/05/1990 in STAROKOSTIANTYNIV, Ukraine, has successfully completed the Erasmus Mundus Master Course requirements to be awarded, on 8/7/2013, the degree of

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Master of Science in “Advanced Spectroscopy in Chemistry”



jointly operated by the following institutions:

University Lille1, France
University Leipzig, Germany
Complutense University of Madrid, Spain
Alma Mater University of Bologna, Italy

University of Bergen, Norway
Jagiellonian University of Krakow, Poland
University of Helsinki, Finland

*Two separate degree certificates have been issued by University Leipzig (DE)
and by University Lille1 (FR) to testify the same award.*

ASC Network Coordinator's signature:
Professor Sylvain Cristol



DS – sections to pay attention to

It is recommended to issue a joint DS if possible (both in cases of joint and double/multiple diplomas)

1.4 Student identification number or code

- may need to enter several number

2.1 Name of qualification

- Joint diploma: ONE name for the qualification
- Double/Multiple diplomas: Must list all official names

2.3 Name and status of awarding institution

- Must include all the awarding institutions (include accreditation)

2.4 Name and status of institution administering studies

- Can include the whole consortium

DS – sections to pay attention to

4.1 Mode of study

- Can specify that it is joint programme

4.2 Programme requirements

- Should specify that it is a joint programme
- Should mention the mobility scheme

4.3 Programme details

- List of modules and grades or a ToR (joint?)
- Important to indicate what part has been earned at which HEIs

4.4 Grading scheme

- Information on all schemes should be included

DS – sections to pay attention to

5.1 Access to further study

- Either a generic indication
- Or indicate which access the degree gives within each national system

6.1 Additional information

- More detailed information about the joint programme, the consortium, mobility scheme etc.
- It should be stated that it is a joint or double/multiple degree

6.2 Further information sources

- The consortium website
- The national accreditation agencies
- Institutional websites

DS – sections to pay attention to

7 Certification of the supplement

- Recommended to authorize one institution to sign on behalf of the other

8 Information on national higher education systems

- There should be standardized national texts
- Include all (or if many partners, provide links to the texts)

For more information: see Bridge Handbook

Awarding of Degree - Advice

- Start thinking about it as early as possible in the development phase
- Be aware of every partners requirements and limitations
- State in the cooperation agreement how the degree will be awarded
- If awarding a joint diploma, start designing it as early as possible
- If awarding double/multiple diplomas, consider including a statement that verifies that these diplomas are awarded together for one degree.
- Consider developing joint Diploma Supplements and joint Transcripts of Record

The cooperation/partnership agreement

- Legal document necessary to regulate partners' roles, duties, responsibilities, rights. It should include:
 - Legal framework and kind of degree awarded
 - Study programme
 - Governance structure
 - Financial aspects (fees, budget etc)
 - Legal provisions (insurance, «divorce», etc.)

The cooperation/partnership agreement

- When starting negotiating the partnership agreement?
- Who should be the negotiator?
- Using existing models?

The cooperation/partnership agreement

A good partnership agreement is the results of the time and energies put into the process by many different actors and it is the basis for a good and long lasting cooperation

Examples: www.joiman.eu



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ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Francesco Girotti

International Relations Division

www.unibo.it

“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”