



GLOSSARY FOR ACTIVITY 3.5

Innovating in Joint Programme Development

The objective of this glossary is to establish and define main terms used in the context of Arqus Alliance activities related to the development of any kind of joint programmes. It should be understood as a common ground for joint and flexible curricula initiatives that aim at fostering student-centred and research-based learning. The glossary will thus help Arqus to innovate in joint programme development in a wide variety of academic disciplines and interdisciplinary areas building in a step-by-step fashion on existing academic cooperation and mobility of students and staff.

academic mobility – form of mobility whereby students and academic staff in higher education move to another institution inside or outside the country of their home institution to study, teach or carry out research for a limited time. Mobility can be broadly divided into structured (where institutions agree on activities during the mobility) and free initiative/self-initiated (when mobile participants go on mobility on their own initiative). There are several types of mobility and some of them, depending on the situation, might be attributed to both structured and self-initiated. Examples are included in the following inventory:

- vertical mobility
- bilateral agreement exchange
- free choice summer school
- joint programme mobility
- mobility windows
- joint summer/winter schools;
- joint course/ unit
- bilateral agreement internship
- minor/semester abroad
- group trips (e.g. Twinning activities, etc.)
- virtual mobility
- virtual exchange
- blended mobility
- community and service learning abroad
- international contests
- group projects abroad
- international collaborative projects

Arqus joint programme (AJP) - joint and flexible curricula initiative that aims at fostering student-centred and research-based learning in a wide variety of academic disciplines or interdisciplinary areas, e.g. at unit, module or programme level. Arqus joint programmes provide an innovative, quick and easy way to set up or foster academic cooperation within the Alliance. These programmes are typically based on existing academic cooperation and mobility of students and staff. Also, they are developed in a step-by-step fashion leaving open entry points for other partners to join in at any time. Note that AJPs are a specific and distinctive type of the general concept of “joint programme”, therefore definitions are not considered identical.



Arqus Twinning – form of mobility applied in Arqus university alliance whereby a teacher moves with a group of students (e.g. up to 5 students) to counterparts in another partner university. Twinning activities include short time mobility (e.g. 3-5 days) and might comprise virtual exchange, giving rise to blended mobility.

diploma – certificate awarded by a higher education institution after successful completion of a study programme.

double diploma – two certificates awarded by higher education institutions after successful completion of a joint programme, i.e. the higher education institutions involved in the joint programme award their own national diploma individually and do not provide a joint diploma. Ideally, the separate national diplomas should indicate the framework of the joint programme and the involved partnership.

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)¹ – integrated, international study programme jointly offered by three or more participating higher education institutions. EMJMDs are co-financed by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Programme.

exchange – form of mobility that includes student, academic or administrative staff between separate institutions. It is based on academic cooperation and might be short term (e.g. summer, intensive or cultural exchange programmes) or long term (more than 3 months). Student exchange is carried out under an exchange programme or other agreement, usually established bilaterally. Types of exchange include physical, remote (e.g. virtual) and blended mobility. Students who move to the host institution are treated according to the conditions established by the respective programme or the corresponding agreement. Staff exchange includes teaching and/or training activities. The costs related to this kind of initiatives are determined by the exchange program or the institutions involved.

joint diploma – a single certificate awarded by at least two higher education institutions involved in a joint programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised award of the joint programme. The main characteristics of a joint diploma are:

- awarded after successful completion of a joint programme;
- awarded jointly by higher education institutions that offer the programme;
- Institutions involved in the joint diploma do not award any other (national) diploma indicating that the awarded joint diploma is acknowledged nationally as the recognised award of the joint programme.

joint programme² – jointly planned and developed programme including a strong integration of both curriculum and organisation at the participating partner institutions. [Joint programmes lead to single national, multiple or joint diplomas](#). They typically are offered jointly by two or more participating

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https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/students/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees_en

² <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/international-partnerships/jdaz-guide>

Bologna Process, the 2012 Implementation Report (p.185)

higher education institutions located in different countries. Joint programmes usually have all or at least some of the following characteristics:

- the curriculum is jointly developed and approved by the corresponding institutions;
- students from each participating institution study parts of the programme in at least one of the other participating institutions;
- students' stays in the different participating institutions are usually of comparable length;
- periods of study and exams passed at the partner institution(s) are fully and automatically recognised;
- academics of the participating institutions jointly work out the curriculum, form joint admission and examination commissions, and participate in joint teaching activities;
- after completion of the full programme, the student either obtains the national diploma of each participating institution, a double diploma, a multiple diploma, or a joint diploma offered by at least two of the participating higher education institutions.

mobility hub - a dedicated space to enable students and staff interested in undertaking international activities to network, and discuss and research various mobility opportunities across the world.

mobility window - period of time (usually more than 3 months) reserved for international student mobility that is embedded into the curriculum of a study programme. These phases can be either compulsory or optional. They can take different forms, from three months abroad integrated and recognised in the curriculum of the home institution up to parts of joint programmes. Types of mobility windows comprise:

- optional windows with loosely-prescribed content (Op-Lop) – the most flexible type of mobility windows;
- mandatory windows with loosely-prescribed content (Ma-Lop) – more rigid in terms of the mobility experience and more flexible in terms of content;
- optional windows with highly-prescribed content (Op-Hip) – more flexible in terms of the mobility experience and more rigid in terms of content.
- mandatory mobility windows with highly- prescribed content (Ma-Hip) – the most structured type of mobility windows;

module³ - a course unit in a system where each course unit carries the same number of credits or a multiple of it.

multiple diploma – several certificates awarded by participating institutions after successful completion of a joint programme. One of these might be a joint diploma. In this case, a multiple diploma is a combination of a joint diploma and (a) national diploma(s). Each diploma is acknowledged nationally and separately as the recognised award of the joint programme.

programme⁴ - a set of educational components – based on learning outcomes – that are recognised for the award of a qualification.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/education/ects/users-guide/glossary_en.htm#ectsTop

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/education/ects/users-guide/glossary_en.htm#ectsTop