European degree package

Communication on a blueprint for a European Degree

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The situation today:

Differences in use of ECTS

Requirements for diploma templates

Admission policies, mobility rules

Accreditation requirements, restrictions on language use

Possibility to have traineeships embedded in curricula

The road for creating a joint degree programme is extremely complex as every partner must fulfill different and often incompatible national requirements

European degree: horizontal principles

MS / Region / Institution deliver =>
Subsidiarity √
Institutional autonomy √
Academic freedom √

Universities award jointly - **on a voluntary basis**

Open to:
all types of HEIs
all disciplines
Bachelor, Master, PhD

Based on **common European criteria** tested & agreed with **Member States, stakeholders and HEIs**.

Built on existing **EU / Bologna process tools**

Cutting red tape to establish joint degrees => **less administrative burden**

The road towards a European degree: illustration of possible next steps

Blueprint for a European degree March 2024

Autumn 2024
- Erasmus+ pilot projects final report published
- Discussion in EP CULT Committee
- Discussions at national level

By 1st semester of 2025
- Council discussions in EDUC Committee
- Adoption of the European degree criteria[1]
- Setting up the European degree policy lab[2]

2025-2027
- Member States can implement the European label[4]
- And review their national systems

End of 2025 and end of 2026
1st and 2nd European Degree Forum

Mid-2025
Launch of Erasmus+ call to support European degree pathway projects and European degree exploratory action[3]

End of 2027
Commission tables a proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European degree

Mid-2028
Adoption of Council Recommendation on a European degree

2028 - 2030
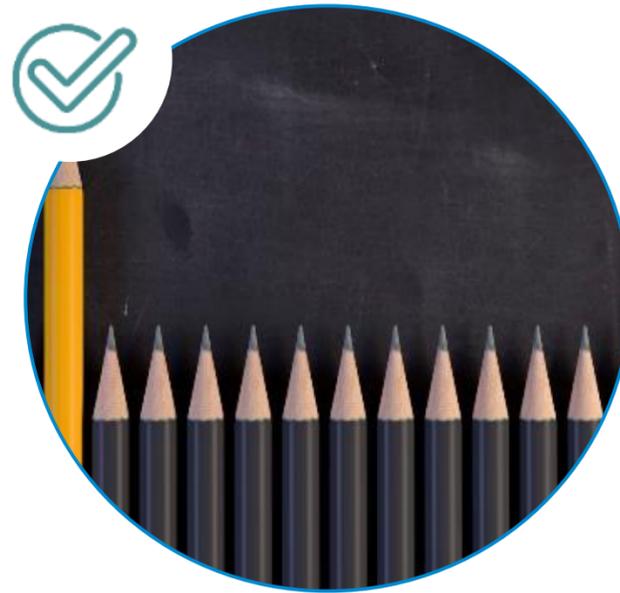Mainstreaming of the European degree across all Member States

European degree mainstreamed all over Europe

European Commission

Council recommendation on European quality assurance & recognition system in higher education
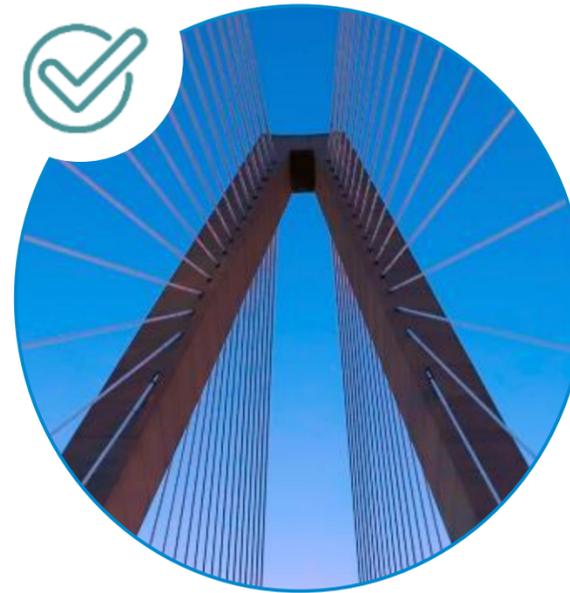
Recommendations: 4 pillars

Transversal recommendations for all quality assurance systems

System-specific recommendations for more agile transnational cooperation

Laying the foundations towards a European degree

Implementing automatic recognition

European Commission

Recommendations: 1st pillar

Transversal recommendations for all quality assurance systems

Develop the enhancement dimension to foster continuous improvement and transnational trust

Improving all quality assurance systems

Promote the organisation of mutual learning activities

Respond to key societal and economic developments

Ensure that institutional internal quality assurance systems **cover the whole range of educational provision (programmes, micro-credentials, etc)**

Reduce the workload, bureaucracy, and cost for higher education institutions

Transparent and objective decisions on accreditation

Encourage publication of quality assurance reviews

Recommendations: 2nd pillar

System-specific recommendations for more agile transnational cooperation

**Developing a cross-institutional quality assurance approach
for alliances of higher education institutions _for their joint activities_**

Once only principle

Make programme/combined approaches to external quality assurance more agile by:

Encouraging a **robust internal quality assurance process**

Moving towards institutional approach for quality assurance

Strengthening an **evidence-based approach** to quality assurance

Supporting peer learning

Allow and encourage the use of the European Approach by:

Removing any unjustified barrier to its use

Creating an **enabling** environment

Ensuring **no financial disadvantage** to its use in comparison to procedures carried out at national level

European Commission

Recommendations: 3rd pillar
Laying the foundations towards a European degree

Adopt the European criteria of the European degree (label) Annex II
Reflect results of the E+ pilots

Allow
- QA agencies registered in EQAR
- HEIs
- alliances of HEIs
the ability to award the European label, **in full respect** of existing **national quality assurance procedures**

<u>NO</u> additional procedure.

Work with relevant stakeholders to **develop methods to review the criteria with no additional burden for agencies'** evaluation and **create a repository of programmes that have met the European criteria**

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Recommendations: 4th pillar

Implementing automatic recognition

Encourage and support the **evaluation of the implementation of automatic recognition**

Support close cooperation between staff working in recognition and quality assurance

Provide **clear guidance to HEIs on how to distinguish between automatic recognition and HEIs' right to make decisions on admission**

Encourage and **support the capacity building and networking of staff** in ENIC-NARIC centres and HEIs

Support HEIs in **taking a learning outcomes approach** with regard to admission procedures

Work with HEIs and national recognition bodies to **monitor recognition decisions**, enhancing **data collection** and evidence-based approaches

Support HEIs in issuing all degrees and micro-credentials in a **format compatible with the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC) standards**
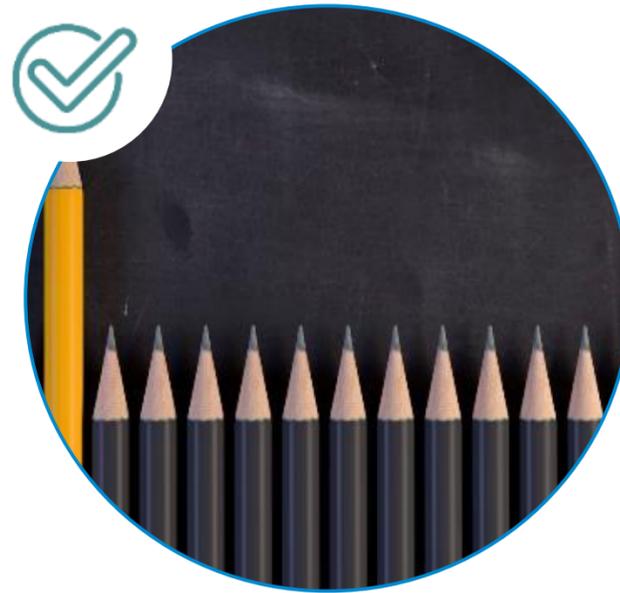
Proposal for a Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education
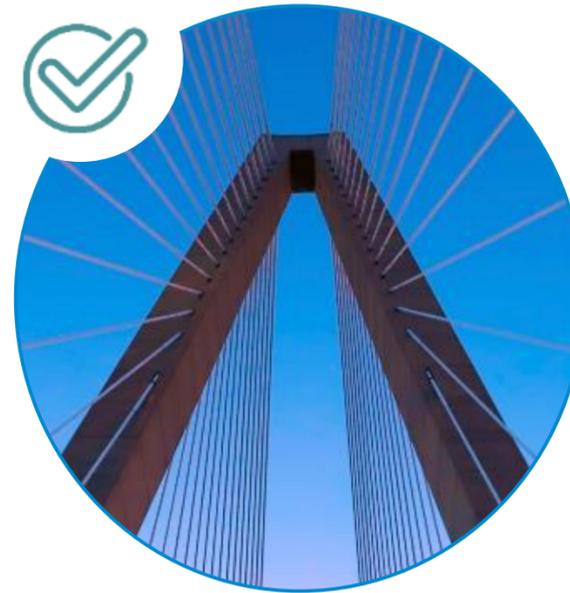
Target group

Staff teaching or researching in institutions offering programmes at EQF levels 5 to 8

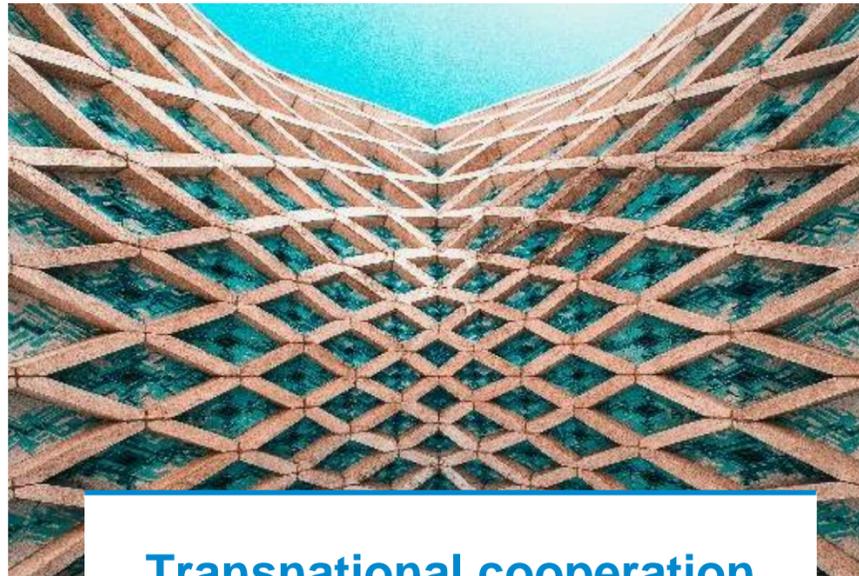Staff working at higher education institutions who do both teaching and research

Staff who do teaching only or mostly

Professional services staff

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Recommendations: 3 pillars

Transnational cooperation

Promote, recognise & value mobility & deep transnational cooperation

Teaching & learning

Promote, recognise & value diverse academic roles

Equality, diversity & wellbeing

Promote attractive working conditions, academic freedom, diversity & gender equality

European Commission

Thank you