



CHARLES
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Quality assurance of joint programmes
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QUALITY ASSURANCE OF JOINT PROGRAMMES

Presentation structure:

Joint programmes – from international policy to national practice. Intertwining of typology and accreditation of international study programmes in (not only) Czech Republic

- 1. Ambiguous terminology**
- 2. From theory to practice**



AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY

„A review of the literature, university web pages, survey reports and research articles shows a **plethora of terms** used to describe international collaborative programs, such as double and joint degrees. These terms include: **double, multiple, tri-national, joint, integrated, collaborative, international, consecutive, concurrent, co-tutelle, overlapping, conjoint, parallel, simultaneous**, and **common** degrees. They mean different things to different people within and across countries, thereby, causing **mass confusion** about the real meaning and use of these terms.“

(KNIGHT, Jane: *Doubts and Dilemmas with Double Degree Programs*. In: “Globalisation and Internationalisation of Higher Education” [online monograph]. Revista de Universidad y Sociedad del Conocimiento (RUSC). Vol. 8, No 2, pp. 297-312. UOC. 2011. ISSN 1698-580X)



EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes: (approved in May 2015)

- “**Joint programmes**” are understood as an **integrated curriculum** coordinated and **offered jointly** by different higher education institutions from EHEA countries, and leading to double/multiple degrees or a joint degree. *P. 1.*
- **Double/multiple degree** - Separate degrees awarded by higher education institutions offering the **joint programme attesting** the successful completion of **this programme**. (If two degrees are awarded by two institutions, this is a 'double degree'). *Ibid.*
- **Joint degree** - A single **document** awarded by higher education institutions offering the joint programme and nationally acknowledged as the recognised **award of the joint programme**. *Ibid.*



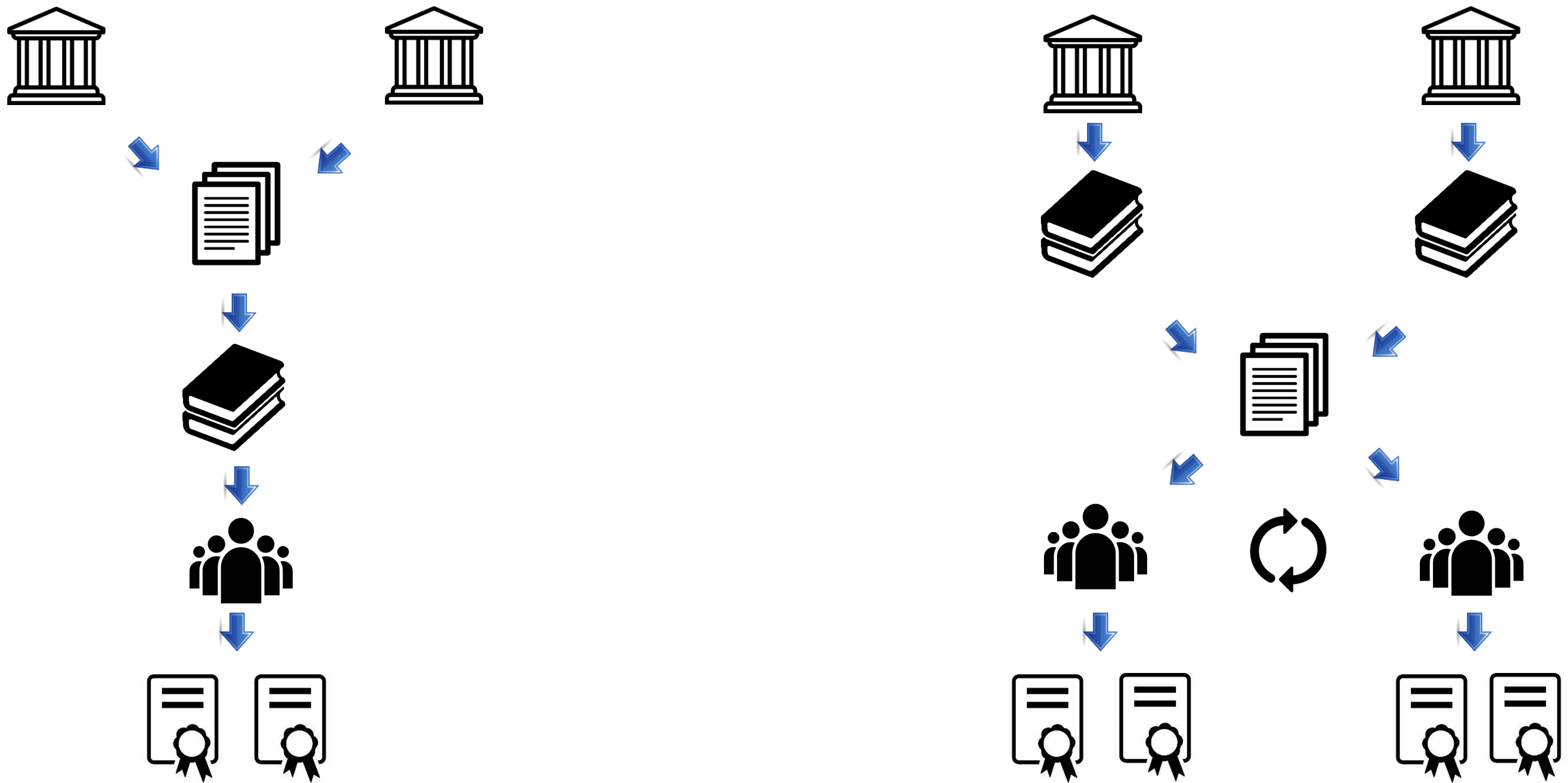
DOUBLE VS DUAL DEGREE

„A double degree is a type of multiple degree but here only **two documents** are awarded. Double degrees are often referred to in one breath with dual degrees. Where double degrees are awarded by joint programmes, dual degrees are not. Dual degrees are awarded for **two programmes separately**. These two programmes have some coordination and coordinated elements but, contrary to joint programmes, the curriculum is not integrated and **not jointly offered**. In case of a dual degree, each institution is primarily responsible for its own curriculum and its own degree.“

(EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Directorate-General for Education and Culture): *Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees. The story so far*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2016. ISBN 978-92-79-58160-1. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6f52e9bb-31f2-11e6-b497-01aa75ed71a1>. P. 37)



STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES



NATIONAL PRACTICE

Centralized Development Program

“Development and **quality assurance of joint degree study programmes realized in coordination** with foreign high education institutions”

- **19** public HEIs (from country's **26** public HEIs in total)
- **9/18** (excluding CU) of the HEIs involved in the project had experience with joint programmes (on the basis of running Erasmus Mundus in the past)
- **7** of these **9** HEIs that had experience with joint programme were at the same time also engaged in “double/dual degree” cooperation
- The remaining **9** HEIs from the project had only this form (double/dual degree without basis in accreditation) of experience with “joint programmes” or no experience at all



MOTIVATIONS

- Some of the programmes were **established long before** the international cooperation began and will very likely continue to function after it ceases.
- Should the HEIs involved not target Erasmus Mundus, Horizon 2020, or similar source of external funding that presupposes certain form of standardization, all the efforts required to form the joint programme bring **no additional benefit** to them (additional bureaucracy for little added value).
- It keeps the cooperation in the hands of Czech HEIs as those, who have not received institutional accreditation in respective field of study, **have to submit all accreditation proposals** to National Accreditation Bureau.
- It is attractive for students to receive **two diplomas/certificates** and saves the HEIs the **tedious work** connected to negotiating about the form of the joint diploma, cross references of their standard diplomas or similar features.



PROPOSITION

- **Accreditation of a new study programme**

Transformation of the proposed cooperation along with all its features specified by an agreement into a **brand new study programme** and submit a wholesome proposal for accreditation.

- **Implementation of international cooperation into an already existing accreditation relating to a specific domestic study programme**

- a) Specialization-like feature, which is identifiable and trackable and which should clearly identify, that the programme is engaged in a specific form of international cooperation under predefined set of conditions – also specified in an agreement and made **an amendment** to the original accreditation.
- b) The international cooperation **should in no way** “overrule” defining features of the study programme in question (e.g. when it comes to the profile of graduates it produces).





Thank you for your attention!

Department of Quality of Education and Accreditations