

REPORT D7.5: RUN-EU DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

1st Edition – Progress Report

31.07.2022

Partners Responsible:

Work Package-Lead: Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences

Inter University Recognition Team-Lead: NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences

Work Package Co-Leads: Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest Athlone Campus & Häme University of Applied Sciences

Work Package members: Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest Limerick Campuses, Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave, Polytechnic of Leiria, Széchenyi István University

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	5
1. Introduction.....	6
1.1 The aim of the Report	6
1.2 RUN-EU Work Package 7	6
1.2.1 Goals.....	6
1.2.2 Defining terms in context.....	6
1.2.3 The role of WP7 Work Group members.....	7
2. Progress status	8
2.1 Frameworks and internal screening for potentials.....	8
2.2 Development of support tools	10
2.3 Exploring opportunities within the network.....	10
2.3.1 Online meetings for Programme Directors (= Online Group Exploratory Missions) .	10
2.3.2 Organisation of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits	11
2.3.3 Organising and supporting Bilateral meetings.....	11
2.4 Inter University Recognition Team (IURT) collaboration progress	12
3. Group Exploratory Missions.....	13
3.1 The purpose of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits.....	13
3.1.1 Group Exploratory Mission: Engineering at FHV.....	15
3.1.2 Group Exploratory Mission: Tourism and Hospitality at NHL Stenden	17
3.1.3 Group Exploratory Mission: Business and Management at HAMK.....	18
3.1.4 Group Exploratory Mission: Arts and Design at TUS Midwest.....	19
3.1.5 Group Exploratory Mission: Agriculture, Sustainability, Law at SZE	20
3.1.6 Group Exploratory Mission: Social Sciences and Education at IPL.....	21
3.1.7 Group Exploratory Missions: Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport at TUS....	23
3.2 Evaluation of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits.....	27
4. Overview and outcomes of initiated negotiations.....	30
4.1 DDP discussions at advanced stage.....	31
4.2 Initiated DDP discussions	33

4.3 DDP discussions closed or postponed.....	35
5. Challenges and difficulties.....	37
5.1 Relationship building and Covid-19.....	37
5.2 Different prerequisites at the HEIs (e.g., ECTS descriptions, ...)	38
5.3 Implementation of Bologna tools	38
5.4 Accreditation challenges	40
6. Next steps and future perspectives	42
7. Appendices.....	44

Table of Figures

Figure 1 - Subject areas	8
Figure 2 - Group photo GEM Engineering	15
Figure 3 - Speed-dating session at GEM Engineering.....	16
Figure 4 - Group photo GEM Hospitality and Tourism.....	17
Figure 5 - Group photo GEM Business and Management.....	18
Figure 6 - Presentation at GEM Business and Management.....	19
Figure 7 - Group work at GEM Arts and Design	20
Figure 8 - Opening words from Professor Rui Pedrosa at GEM Agriculture and IV at SZE	21
Figure 9 - Group photo GEM Social Science and Education and IV at IPL.....	22
Figure 10 - Working session at GEM Social Science and Education	22
Figure 11 - Group photo GEMs Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport.....	25
Figure 12 - Working session at GEMs Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport	26
Figure 13 - Role of the participants	27
Figure 14 - Overall satisfaction.....	27
Figure 15 - Professional development staff	28
Figure 16 - Quality of the networking event	28
Figure 17 - Potential collaboration opportunities identified	29
Figure 18 - RUN-EU DDP development	30

Table of Tables

Table 1 - Abbreviations	5
Table 2 - GEMs and Institutional visits	13

Abbreviations

Table 1 - Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
DDP	Double Degree Programme developed by WP7
DS	Diploma Supplement
FHV	Fachhochschule Vorarlberg – Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences
GEM	Group Exploratory Mission
HAMK	Hämeen ammattikorkeakoulu – Häme University of Applied Sciences
IPCA	Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave
IPL	Polytechnic of Leiria
JD	Joint Degree
JP	Joint Programme
NHL Stenden	NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences
RUN-EU	Regional University Network – European University
SAP	Short Advanced Programmes developed by WP6
SZE	Széchenyi István University
ToR	Transcript of Records
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
UAS	Universities of Applied Sciences
WP	Work Package of the RUN-EU Project

1. Introduction

1.1 *The aim of the Report*

The aim of this report *RUN-EU Double Degree Programmes 1st Edition – Progress Report* (Deliverable 7.5) is to present the progress of the Deliverable D7.3 and the Project Milestone Nr. 17 – RUN-EU Double Degree Programmes (DDP) and provide a detailed overview until July 2022 (month 21 of the pilot phase of RUN-EU). The report also presents the outcomes of 8 subject specific Group Exploratory Missions (GEMs) which focussed on Collaborative Degree Programme development. The GEMs were hosted by RUN-EU member universities during spring 2022 and concurrently further bilateral meetings and negotiations regarding Collaborative Degree Programme development took place in person or online in the first 21 months of the pilot phase of RUN-EU (November 2020–July 2022).

1.2 *RUN-EU Work Package 7*

1.2.1 Goals

Within the RUN-EU Alliance, the member universities aim to develop and commence implementation of a total of 24 Double Degree Programmes (DDP) and 3 Joint Programmes (JP) during the RUN-EU pilot phase.

The Work Package 7 (WP7) Work Group is responsible for supporting and guiding the Degree Programme representatives from all RUN-EU member universities in initiating and engaging in negotiations regarding development of DDPs and JPs. This report is specifically focussed on DDP development.

1.2.2 Defining terms in context

Collaborative Degree Programme definition

The term (RUN-EU) Collaborative Degree Programmes is applied to both DDPs and JPs in this report.

Double Degree Programme definition clarification in the RUN-EU Alliance

Chapter 1.2 of the report [D7.2](#) outlines the rationale of the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) participating in RUN-EU Alliance decision to focus on the development of DDPs consisting of the criteria listed in the table below.

These DDPs will be based on bilateral agreements between the universities involved.

Double Degree Programmes in the context of the RUN-EU Alliance

- 2 separate developed and separate accredited curricula
- 2 separate examination regulations
- 2 separate degrees and degree certificates
- Mutual components and mutual recognition
- DDP agreement

1.2.3 The role of WP7 Work Group members

WP7 is led by Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) and co-led by Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) and Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) and consists of the representatives of all RUN-EU-universities. WP7 has an expansive remit, and this is recognised by the RUN-EU Management team as this Work Package has two Co-Leaders where all other Work Packages have one.

The WP7 members have the following responsibilities:

- Identifying the initial suitable matches of Degree Programmes within RUN-EU for collaboration
- Establishing connections and introductions between the relevant stakeholders of respective Degree Programmes
- Facilitating meetings and negotiations where necessary, providing advice to colleagues involved in the negotiations
- Developing and supplying the supporting tools for the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes
- Promoting and distributing the compiled materials for Collaborative Degree Programme development within RUN-EU member universities
- Being the contact persons for Collaborative Degree Programme negotiators in their own university

2. Progress status

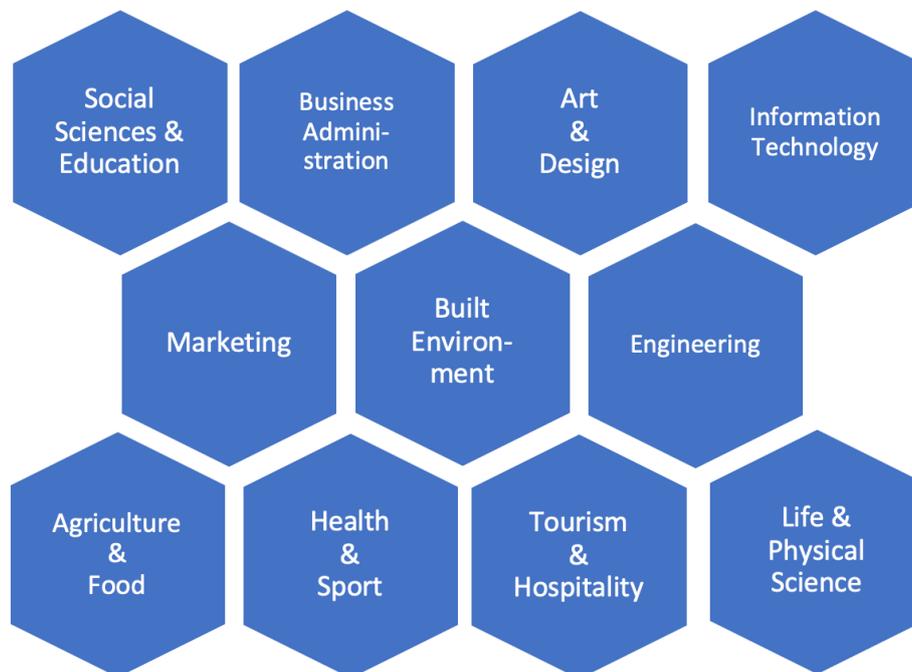
This chapter describes the activities undertaken by WP7 to facilitate the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes.

2.1 Frameworks and internal screening for potentials

The first focus of the WP members was to deliver the required report [D7.1 Guidelines Toolkit Double Degrees](#) and [Guidelines Toolkit Joint Programmes](#) and the report [D7.2 National and European Legislation and Regulation Quality Assurance and Academic Regulations Framework](#). These reports provide the necessary frameworks to enable the partners to 1.) gain an understanding of each other's contexts 2.) provide them with the knowledge about the necessary steps to be undertaken in order to develop a Collaborative Degree Programme and 3.) support commencement of negotiations for Collaborative Degree Programmes.

As part of the process a first inventory of [Potential Collaborative Degree Programmes](#) (more than 250 Degree Programmes) was conducted. The Degree Programmes were categorised into 11 subject areas:

Figure 1 - Subject areas



These categories were the basis for further planning of subject specific online meetings for Programme Directors and Group Exploratory Missions in the different subject areas.

The information collected within the inventory also served as a basis for creating fact sheets per subject area and per Degree Programme. The fact sheets provided the partners with the information on the Degree Programmes, which helped them to compare the Degree Programmes and to examine whether the respective Degree Programme was a potential match for the development of a Collaborative Degree Programme.

The development of Collaborative Degree Programmes has proven to be challenging and time consuming. A decision was made by the Rectors and Presidents Board during the General Assembly meeting held in Ireland in November 2021 that each partner would provide a shortlist with at least 3 high potential Degree Programmes to expedite the process of finding the right matches to start the negotiations. This process is ongoing. Listed below are the identified highest potentials for DDP development to date:

FHV

1. Bachelor's Degree Programme "Mechatronics"
2. Bachelor's Degree Programme "International Business Administration"
3. Bachelor's Degree Programme "InterMedia"
4. Master's Degree Programme "InterMedia"
5. Master's Degree Programme "Mechatronics"
6. Master's Degree Programme "International Management and Leadership"
7. Master's Degree Programme "Computer Science"

HAMK

8. Bachelor's Degree Programme "International Business"
9. Bachelor's Degree Programme "Smart and Sustainable Design"
10. Bachelor's Degree Programme "Computer Applications"
11. Bachelor's Degree Programme "Electrical and Automation Engineering"
12. Master's Degree Programme "Social and Health Care Development, Leadership and Management"

IPCA

13. Master's Degree Programme "Electronics and Computer Engineering – Specialization Automation and Robotic"
14. Master's Degree Programme "Management"

IPL

15. Master's Degree Programme "Sustainable Tourism Management"
16. Master's Degree Programme "Exercise Prescription and Health Promotion"

17. Master's Degree Programme "International Business"
18. Master's Degree Programme "Engineering for Direct Digital Manufacturing"
19. Master's Degree Programme "Automotive Engineering"
20. Master's Degree Programme "Product Design"
21. Master's Degree Programme "Fine Art"
22. Master's Degree Programme "Graphic Design"

NHL Stenden

23. Master's Degree Programme "Content & Media Strategy"
24. Master's Degree Programme "International Leisure, Tourism & Events Management"

SZE

25. Master's Degree Programme "Tourism Management and Destination Leadership"

TUS

26. Master's Degree Programme "Digital Marketing"
27. Master's Degree Programme "Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare"

2.2 Development of support tools

Throughout the duration of the pilot phase of RUN-EU, WP7 Work Group members continue to work on tools to support the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes. As indicated previously, the WP7 Work Group created the reports D7.1 and D7.2 which provide a solid foundation for the future development of Collaborative Degree Programmes.

To enable negotiations in the initial phase, WP7 Work Group members provided the respective stakeholders and decision makers (Deans of Faculties, Head of Departments, Programme Directors etc.) with the [Guide for bilateral meetings](#) which enables them to examine quickly if and to what extent there is potential for a DDP development.

2.3 Exploring opportunities within the network

2.3.1 Online meetings for Programme Directors (= Online Group Exploratory Missions)

Following on from the participation and evaluation of the survey which examined [Potential Collaborative Degree Programmes](#) and the development of the supporting documents the next step for the agenda of WP7 was to bring the decision makers and respective stakeholders from

all RUN-EU partner universities together. The goal was to facilitate input on Guidelines for development of Collaborative Degree Programmes, to ensure well-structured beginning of the discussions as well as clarity about the steps that are to be undertaken in order to develop a Collaborative Degree Programme.

The RUN-EU project proposal plan identified as an initial step commencing with the Exploratory Missions in month 9 of the pilot phase of RUN-EU. However, due to Covid-19 travel restrictions it was not possible in the first year of the pilot phase of RUN-EU to do this. The impact of the global pandemic compounded the delay in the execution of the goals of WP7.

An alternative solution to the Exploratory Missions were online meetings for Programme Directors. Effective virtual Group Exploratory Missions were organised to facilitate meetings between Programme Directors of the different domains, to explore initial potential collaboration opportunities.

4 subject specific online Group Exploratory Missions were conducted in the months 7 and 8 of the RUN-EU pilot phase (May – June 2021) which included around 150 stakeholders from the following subject areas:

1. Business & Management / Tourism & Hospitality
2. Engineering / Built Environment
3. Information Technology / Art & Design
4. Agriculture & Food / Health & Sport / Life & Physical Science / Social Science & Education

2.3.2 Organisation of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits

Commencing in March 2022, in person Group Exploratory Mission and Institutional Visits were organised. These in person meetings allowed relevant stakeholders to get to know colleagues from all RUN-EU member universities from the same domain in person and to explore the initial potential collaboration opportunities in more depth. By month 23 of the pilot phase of RUN-EU (September 2022), these GEMs will have taken place in all domains listed above with representation from the relevant partner universities.

Building Collaborative Degree Programmes or programme elements initially requires familiarisation with colleagues and each other's universities. For the upcoming academic year, 2022 – 2023, WP7 will support the organisation of the next phase of development of Collaborative Degree Programmes by means of bilateral Design Missions within the different domains to support the relevant stakeholders in strengthening the collaboration initiatives.

2.3.3 Organising and supporting Bilateral meetings

WP7 Work Group members support the negotiators in bilateral discussions by establishing contact between the relevant stakeholders of specific Degree Programmes and by facilitating

meetings and negotiations when needed. As mentioned above in [chapter 2.2](#) the [Guide for bilateral meetings](#) was created for this purposes.

2.4 Inter University Recognition Team (IURT) collaboration progress

In the report [D7.2 National and European Legislation and Regulation Quality Assurance and Academic Regulations Framework](#) it was identified that mutual recognition between RUN-EU partner universities is challenging due to the different legal contexts in which the partners operate. The Inter University Recognition Team (IURT) is an interdisciplinary expert group consisting of experts on Recognition, Accreditation, Quality Assurance and Mobility from all RUN universities. This group is responsible for developing procedures and forms to facilitate automatic recognition at all levels, from Short Advanced Programmes (SAPs) to JPs within the Alliance, which has proven to be challenging.

In the Netherlands, meetings with the Ministry of Education and Culture and HEIs are held to discuss obstacles and needs considering the recognition within European Universities Initiatives. Similar discussions are also held in Austria, Ireland and the other RUN-EU member countries.

3. Group Exploratory Missions

3.1 The purpose of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits

In order to circumvent the extensive limitations of travel due to the global pandemic, WP7 and the Management Committee decided to pursue an alternative efficient solution to progress Exploratory Missions. The solution resulted in a change of focus from bilateral Exploratory Missions to subject specific Group Exploratory Missions.

The original plan was to start with the Group Exploratory Missions in month 13 of the pilot phase of RUN-EU (November 2021), however, due to restrictions in the start of the GEMs, they had to be rescheduled.

The following GEMs were planned, based on the different domains within the partner universities:

Table 2 – GEMs and Institutional visits

<i>Subject area</i>	<i>Organizer</i>	<i>Time period*</i>	<i>Number of participants</i>
<i>Arts & Design</i>	TUS Midwest	26.04.2022 – 27.04.2022	52
<i>Built Environment</i>	TUS Midwest	20.09.2022 – 21.09.2022	
<i>Hospitality & Tourism</i>	NHL Stenden	22.03.2022 – 23.03.2022	24
<i>Business & Management</i>	HAMK	05.04.2022 – 07.04.2022	38
<i>Engineering</i>	FHV	08.03.2022 – 10.03.2022	30
<i>Health & Sport</i>	TUS Midlands	08.06.2022 – 09.06.2022	18
<i>Information Technology</i>	IPCA	13.09.2022 – 15.09.2022	
<i>Life & Physical Science</i>	TUS Midlands	08.06.2022 – 09.06.2022	21
<i>Social Sciences and Education</i>	IPL	10.05.2022 – 12.05.2022	18
<i>Agriculture & Food</i>	SZE	05.04.2022 – 07.04.2022	15

* Excluding travel days

The GEMs hosted by RUN-EU member universities during the spring / summer of 2022 have been critical for supporting and guiding the Degree Programme representatives from all RUN-EU member universities. These consultations have been significant in initiating and progressing negotiations regarding developing DDPs and JPs.

The GEMs allowed RUN-EU academics and staff members to identify initial suitable matches for their Degree Programmes within the RUN-EU Alliance. The GEMs further enabled them to make connections between the representatives of the specific Degree Programmes, provided them with the input of Collaborative Degree Programme development and facilitated the meetings and negotiations required to start with the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes. The summaries of the RUN-EU GEMs outline the developmental progress of discussions of DDPs, SAP development, student and staff exchange as well as research cooperation possibilities between partners across the ten discipline areas detailed above.

The GEMs were hosted across all RUN-EU participant universities with 216 academic, administrative, research and student participants from varying departments and faculties, also across the 3 central RUN-EU thematic areas of Future Industry and Sustainable Regional development, Bio-economy and Social Innovation.

Several DDPs (at least 16) and JPs are currently being discussed involving more than 100 bilateral and multilateral partner meetings. The GEMs also facilitated research and researcher exchanges as part of the programmes. The results of these exchanges are feeding into the RUN-EU Discovery Programme research cluster areas and development of multi-partner research projects particularly through the Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and Creative Europe funding programmes.

We are delighted to highlight that the first RUN-EU DDP was announced in April 2022 and the inspiring setup created by HAMK, the host of the GEM, provided the framework for this and further fruitful exchanges amongst the partners of the RUN-EU network: **The Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) and the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) have [agreed on the first RUN-EU DDP](#) for bachelor's students in International Business from both institutions. From fall semester 2023 onwards students of each university will be able to enrol in a DDP.**

After this announcement the commitment of Programme Directors to further 3 DDPs agreements followed. Accordingly, it is expected that the first 4 DDP agreements will be signed in September 2022.

3.1.1 Group Exploratory Mission: Engineering at FHV

The GEM for the fields of Engineering was held at Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences from 8 – 10 March 2022. In total 30 participants attended, representing Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal; Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal; Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland; Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Széchenyi István University, Hungary and NHL Stenden, The Netherlands.

The mission began with an ice breaker which was a speed dating exercise for the participants to get to know each other. This was followed by discussions of the participants' current market-places representing the programmes available within the participant' faculties. The second day began with a brief overview of the RUN-EU project and particular emphasis on DDP and JP, WP7 initiatives and deliverables. Following tours of the Engineering facilities at FHV, several bilateral and multilateral discussions ensued on the development of specific DDP and research activity exchanges.

The fields of discussion have led to proposals for potential DDPs, SAPs and student exchanges were Computer Science (5 Master's DDPs and 1 SAP), Mechanical Engineering (2 Bachelor's DDPs and 1 SAP), Mechatronics & Automation (1 Bachelor's and 1 Master's DDP), Electronics / Electrical Engineering (2 Bachelor's DDPs and 1 SAP) and Sustainability / Bioeconomy (1 SAP).

Figure 2 - Group photo GEM Engineering



Figure 3 - Speed-dating session at GEM Engineering



3.1.2 Group Exploratory Mission: Tourism and Hospitality at NHL Stenden

This GEM was hosted by the Hotel Management School in cooperation with the Academy of Leisure & Tourism at NHL Stenden and included 24 participants from Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal; Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal; Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland; Széchenyi István University, Hungary and NHL Stenden, The Netherlands.

During the GEM, all partners presented themselves and their respective programmes. Bilateral meetings were held by all participating partners.

Individual agreements between different partners were established. Amongst these was a possibility to work in a Joint Master in Tourism Management between IPCA, SZE and TUS, and an SAP on Ethics & Values in Hospitality and Tourism Management between TUS and NHL Stenden. The mentioned SAP is to be offered in the next academic year (2022 – 2023).

Figure 4 - Group photo GEM Hospitality and Tourism



3.1.3 Group Exploratory Mission: Business and Management at HAMK

The GEM in the subject areas of Business and Management was hosted by the School of Entrepreneurship and Business of Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) from 5 – 7 April 2022 in Hämeenlinna, Finland. HAMK welcomed 38 participants from Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal; NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands; Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal; Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland; Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria and the hosting university.

During the Business and Management GEM, the participants delivered 17 pitches introducing over 30 Degree Programmes in the marketplace session on the first day of GEM. During the second and the third day, the participants had 36 bilateral meetings. The meetings of partners discussed DDPs at Master’s and Bachelor’s levels, staff and Student Mobility exchange possibilities and joint workshops.

The discipline areas under discussion for these initiatives included Sports and Environmental Law, International Business and Management, Corporate Finance, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Business Administration and Accountancy and Taxation, Economics, Sustainability, and International Management Leadership.

The Degree Programmes of International Business from Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences and Häme University of Applied Sciences succeeded in finalising the first RUN-EU DDP negotiations during these days and the official announcement of the degree was at Hämeenlinna, on 21st April 2022. From fall semester 2023 onwards, up to 3 students of each university will be able to enrol in the mentioned DDP. Third-year students will gather the necessary ECTS credits at the hosting institution and perform the graduation requirements of both programmes to graduate within this DDP.

Figure 5 - Group photo GEM Business and Management



Figure 6 - Presentation at GEM Business and Management



3.1.4 Group Exploratory Mission: Arts and Design at TUS Midwest

The Arts and Design GEM was held at the Limerick School of Art and Design TUS Campus in Limerick city from 26 –27 April 2022. There were in total 52 participants representing Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal; Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal; Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland; SZE Hungary, Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria, NHL Stenden, The Netherlands and of course the hosting institution Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland.

The GEM began with a brief presentation of the RUN-EU project in general and specifically WP7 regarding DDP and JP initiatives and deliverables. This was followed by individual partner presentations of their undergraduate and postgraduate Degree Programmes and finally by initial scoping discussions establishing potential collaborators and collaboration opportunities for the agenda of the following day.

There were then a number of breakout sessions among the partners covering the areas of Communication & Media, Fashion and Textile, Design synergies in Ceramics, Glass and Textiles, Creative Practice post-graduate (PhD and research Masters) and developing a community of practice, working towards a forum for practice-based research to explore different models of the practice-based PhD (to include research Master's), and to research a more robust pan-European model for

a Master's Programme in Fine Art, Digital Arts & Media and the Living Lab. The concept proposed would represent a next generation teaching and learning space.

It is intended to develop this concept with colleagues in Interior Design and the Digital Art & Design on using virtual reality to co-create the design of the teaching, learning, and research space and exploring the possibilities of the adaption of existing spaces. Several discussions were centred on SAP design within the individual discipline areas with a view to future exploration of DDP and JP opportunities. The programme concluded with discussions of the potential for shared research opportunities through the Horizon Europe, Erasmus+ and Creative Europe Programmes.

Figure 7 - Group work at GEM Arts and Design



3.1.5 Group Exploratory Mission: Agriculture, Sustainability, Law at SZE

The Agriculture GEM was held at the Széchenyi Istvan University SZE Campus in Győr city and Mosonmagyaróvár from 5 – 7 May 2022. There were in total 15 participants representing the host university SZE, Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal; Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal; Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland; Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland and NHL Stenden, The Netherlands.

In addition, 19 students participated in the Student Round Table Programme. The mission began with an opening address from the President of RUN-EU Professor Rui Pedrosa President of IPL, tour of the campus and the Audi plant on site and presentations of European Innovation Hubs on Future and Advanced Industries, Social Innovation and Bioeconomy.

During the bilateral and multi-lateral meetings a number of possible SAP and DDPs were discussed. The Bachelor's and Master's Double Degree, SAP and Student Exchange included initiatives in subject areas Agricultural and Food Sciences, International Studies and Communication, Interna-

tional Studies (SZE) and European Studies and Regional and Environmental Economic. Further discussions involved partners interested in practical methods for logistics 4.0, Industry 4.0 in logistics and supply chain, Supply Chain Management, Law, Transport Infrastructure and Water Resources Engineering.

Figure 8 - Opening words from Professor Rui Pedrosa at GEM Agriculture and IV at SZE



3.1.6 Group Exploratory Mission: Social Sciences and Education at IPL

The Social Science GEM took place at IPL Leiria campus from 10–12 May 2022. There were 18 participants representing the host, Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland; Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Széchenyi Istvan University, SZE, Hungary and NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands.

The GEM began with a welcome session hosted by Professor Rui Pedrosa – President of Polytechnic of Leiria and Professor Nuno Rodrigues – Vice-President, including a brief presentation of the RUN-EU project by its president. Subsequently the School of Education and Social Sciences buildings and the Health and Social Innovation HUB were visited.

Within the marketplace GEM possibilities for the development of a DDP were explored. The participants gave presentations about their Degree Programmes followed by bilateral meetings to discuss the DDPs and the potential for research cooperations and researcher exchanges. Bilateral meetings also took place with colleagues from ESTM (School of Tourism and Maritime Technology, on the IPL campus in Peniche). On the last day of the GEM a longer session was dedicated to the WP7 initiatives. This was the starting point for a fruitful joint discussion on the several possibilities of having Collaborative Degree Programmes. The various areas of discussion were Health (*e.g.*, Health Engineering Joint PhD), Quality of life and Palliative care, on one hand, and Social Care, Social Education, and

Social Inclusion, on the other hand (e.g., Social Care Management DDP, Social Innovation Joint PhD, Master in Non-profit Management and Leadership). There were also discussions on several possibilities of creating SAPs, research projects and scientific events within these scientific areas.

Figure 9 - Group photo GEM Social Science and Education and IV at IPL



Figure 10 - Working session at GEM Social Science and Education



3.1.7 Group Exploratory Missions: Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport at TUS

The Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS) hosted 2 GEMs in the individual domains of Life and Physical Sciences and Health and Sport at the TUS Midlands campus in Athlone, Ireland from 8 – 9 June 2022. A total of 39 delegates attended the meeting over the 2 days, representing Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), Ireland; NHL Stenden, The Netherlands; Széchenyi Istvan University (SZE), Hungary and Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal respectively. The meeting programme comprised of a number of joint sessions involving delegates from both GEMs and a series of break-out sessions where delegates from each individual GEM participated in their own domain.

The GEMs commenced on day 1 with an Introductory welcome given by Dr. Liam Brown, Vice-President Research, Development and Innovation at TUS, to delegates, followed by Jane Burns, Director of RUN-EU at TUS, providing a general overview of the RUN-EU project and the importance of RUN-EU in the wider context of higher education across the European Union and its potential impact on interregional development. Dr. Don Faller, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health, TUS also introduced delegates to the Faculty of Science and Health at TUS and outlined the breadth of programmes the faculty delivers across its range of undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes.

On day 2 of the programme, Professor Vincent Cunnane, President of TUS welcomed in a joint session, delegates from both GEMs, outlined the strategic importance of the RUN-EU Project for all partner universities and the role that GEMs play in the future development of Collaborative Degree programmes. Marijana Milošević, Leader of WP7, facilitated a live webinar from Austria on the development of DDPs and JPs and outlined the milestones that WP7 aims to achieve within the wider project.

Over the 2 days, break-out sessions for each individual GEM consisted of an introductory Speed-Dating session, allowing delegates introduce and get to know each other, followed by a number of Marketplace Study Programme sessions, where delegates from each university introduced Programmes which they deemed as potential candidates for the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes. Delegates presented the curricular structure of each Programme, the academic calendar in operation at each university and provided suggestions for potential alignment in the context of the development of DDPs. Break-out sessions on potential research collaboration were also included as part of the programme. In the GEM on Life and Physical Sciences, Professor Neil Rowan, Director of the Bioscience Research Institute (BRI) at TUS and Dr. Declan Devine, Director of the Polymer, Recycling, Industrial, Sustainability and Manufacturing (PRISM) Research Institute at TUS gave an overview to delegates of the ongoing research occurring at both Centres and outlined some of the collaborative research opportunities that may emerge from within the RUN-EU Project. Delegates from NHL Stenden, whose area of expertise was largely centred in Chemistry and Polymers, were also given a tour of the undergraduate Science Laboratories and the research facilities available at both the BRI and PRISM Centres. In the Sport and Health GEM, delegates were given a tour of the Sports facilities at TUS and also attended a

session of the Sport and Health Research Symposium, which ran in parallel to the GEM during the visit.

The outcome of the discussions for the GEM in Life and Physical Sciences suggests that there is very strong potential for the development of DDPs between TUS and NHL Stenden in the broad domain of Pharmaceutical Sciences / Chemistry / Chemical Technology and also possibly in the domain of Biotechnology. The potential for students from TUS being able to attend NHL Stenden for internship / placement purposes within this DDPs architecture was deemed especially attractive within the strategic context of the RUN-EU project, from both a student mobility perspective and the potential for collaboration with the Pharmaceutical and Biopharmaceutical Industries in both regions of the Netherlands and the Midlands Midwest catchment area in Ireland. The current development of the Masters in Pharmaceutical and Chemical Analysis at TUS was also deemed of interest to the NHL Stenden delegates. It was agreed that follow-up discussions to pursue these potential collaborative developments of DDPs should be conducted as a matter of high priority in semester one of the new academic year, 2022 – 2023, and that negotiating teams from both universities should meet as early as possible to pursue the potential alignment of Programmes from both Institutions. The NHL Stenden delegates also stated that they would convey the outcome of the GEM to senior management at their own university to ascertain the possibility of pursuing these initiatives further. In addition, it was agreed that research opportunities between the PRISM Centre at TUS and the Polymer Research Group at NHL Stenden should be explored further in the Autumn.

The main outcome of the GEM in Health and Sport was that various Degree Programmes, especially at the Master's level should be explored further. There was a consensus that the initial step should be to develop SAPs to identify gaps and potential alignment. In the Health domain, 2 high priority areas were identified for research collaboration, namely Health Psychology and Medical Informatics.

Delegates from SZE identified their Bachelor's Programme in Recreation & Lifestyle Programme may be a platform for progression to other, more specific areas in the Sports and Health Management domains, but equally at the postgraduate level, their Master's Programme in Recreation and Lifestyle Management has the potential for DDP development and SAPs.

The NHL Stenden delegate identified potential within the Academy of Healthcare to develop a greater international footprint in terms of the possibility of staff and student mobility and research collaboration and their Master's in Healthcare Innovation within the Nursing domain is one potential Programme which should be explored further in this context.

IPCA recently developed a newly formed School of Sports under the umbrella of Sports, Wellbeing & Biomedical Sciences and stated that following this GEM IPCA would like to explore further the full range of potential opportunities comprising the development of DDPs and JPs, SAPs and research collaborations.

Delegates from TUS Midwest suggested that there is potential to explore further opportunities across a number of their Programmes, including their Bachelor's Programme in Applied Sports

Science, Bachelor's Programme in Honours Performance Nutrition, Master's in Leadership in Workplace (Health & Wellbeing), Bachelor's Business Studies with Sports Management, Bachelor's Business Studies with Sports Management and Bachelor's in Sports, Development and Performance. Delegates from TUS Midlands also suggested that there is a number of areas of potential research collaboration across the Sports and Health Sciences and possible SAPs that should be explored further. In the Nursing and Healthcare domain, Social Engagement was identified as one area targeted for development for SAPs. The development of a JP between HAMK and TUS in the domain of Nursing and Healthcare has already commenced and this will be explored further in Autumn 2022. The JP is based on the Master's in Social and Healthcare at HAMK and the Master's in Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare at TUS.

Figure 11 - Group photo GEMs Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport



Figure 12 - Working session at GEMs Life & Physical Sciences and Health & Sport

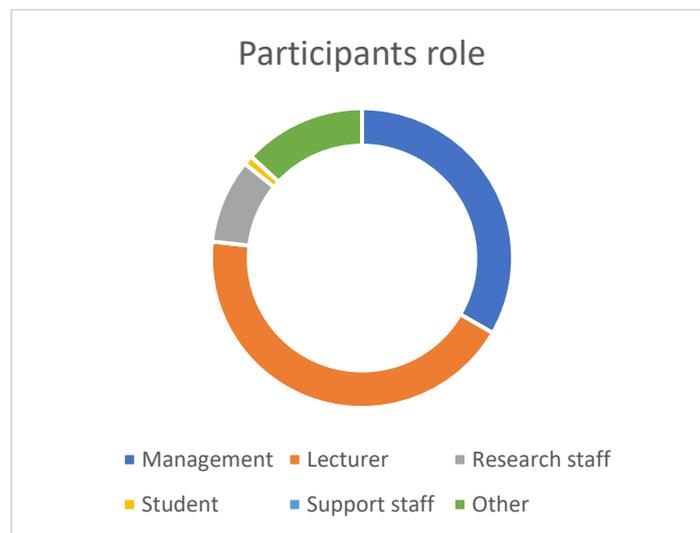


3.2 Evaluation of Group Exploratory Missions and Institutional Visits

This sub-chapter offers a short overview of the evaluation of GEMs and Institutional Visits.

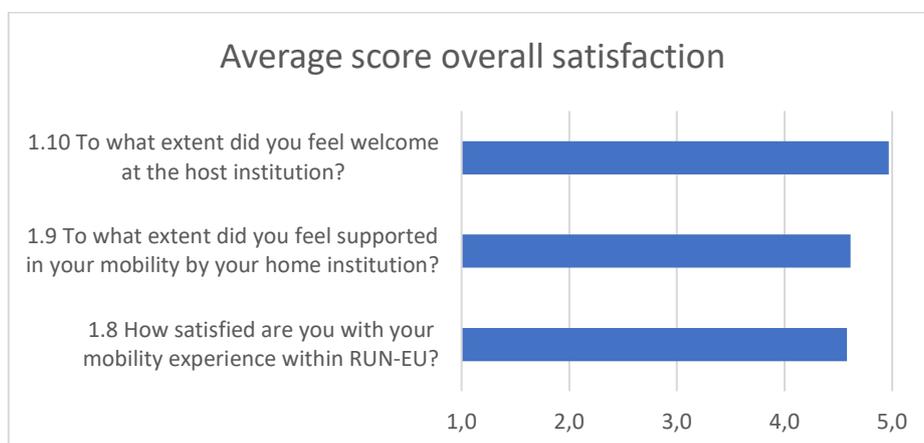
In total, 98 staff members of overall 216 GEM-participants filled out the evaluation tool. The majority of the participants belong to management or lecturer. In case the question regarding the role was skipped, these participants have been added to the category “other”. This means that e.g. Head of Faculty, Dean or School Director belong to the category “other” (figure 13).

Figure 13 - Role of the participants



The overall satisfaction with the GEMs was high. As shown in the figure 14 a Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very) was used.

Figure 14 - Overall satisfaction



Participants of the GEMs felt that attending the GEM supported their professional development. Again the scores are quite high, especially related to building cooperation with the partner institute and reinforcing or extending the professional network and building new contacts (figure 15). This is of major importance for the future sustainable cooperation within RUN-EU.

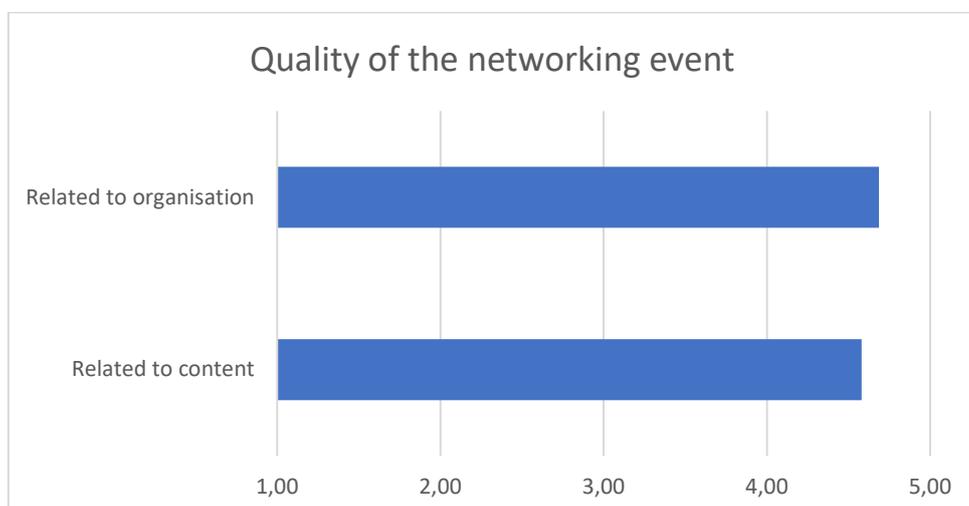
Figure 15 - Professional development staff



The participants were also happy with the organisation and content of the event (figure 16). Some comments for improvement were made. These related mainly to creating easier access to the information on programmes of the partners before the start of the GEM, as well as focussing on getting to know each other first. Here it was also suggested to share a 'who is who' with profile pictures of the participants and a short bio to be shared before the event. After the feedback from the first GEMs was analysed, the suggestions made by the participants were taken into account.

The results of the evaluation show that the satisfaction with the quality of the event both related to organisation and content was high.

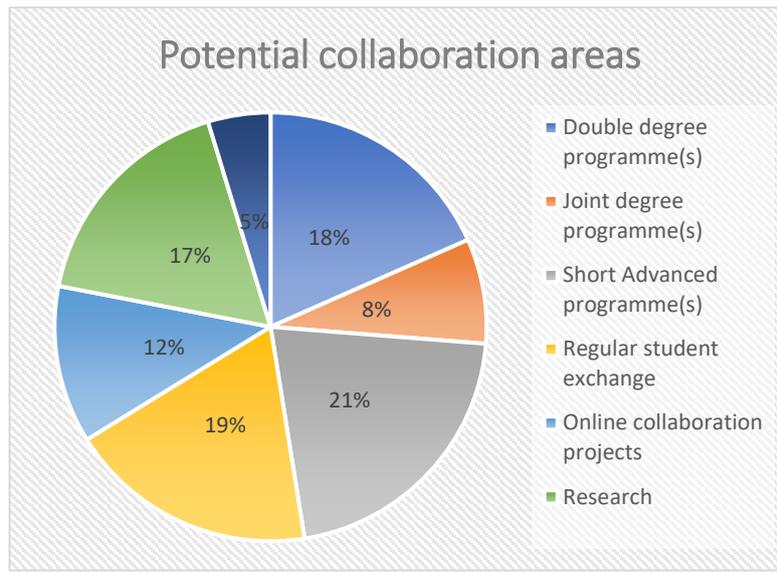
Figure 16 - Quality of the networking event



As outlined above the GEMs were not only beneficial for the goals of WP7 but also for the goals of other Work Packages and general ambitions of RUN-EU towards the creation of the European University. Many plans evolved out of the GEMs.

The GEM participants identified the following collaboration opportunities:

Figure 17 - Potential collaboration opportunities identified



In the category “other” which represents 5% of the responses, the following collaborative opportunities were identified:

- Level 10, PhD, doctoral Programme.
- Potential staff mobilities, academic exchange
- Design Factory collaboration and implementation
- Double supervision on Master Dissertations and Projects
- International week
- Calibration
- Online talk with staff and students

Based on the analysis of the survey we are convinced that the GEMs will be of crucial importance for sustainable cooperation within RUN-EU.

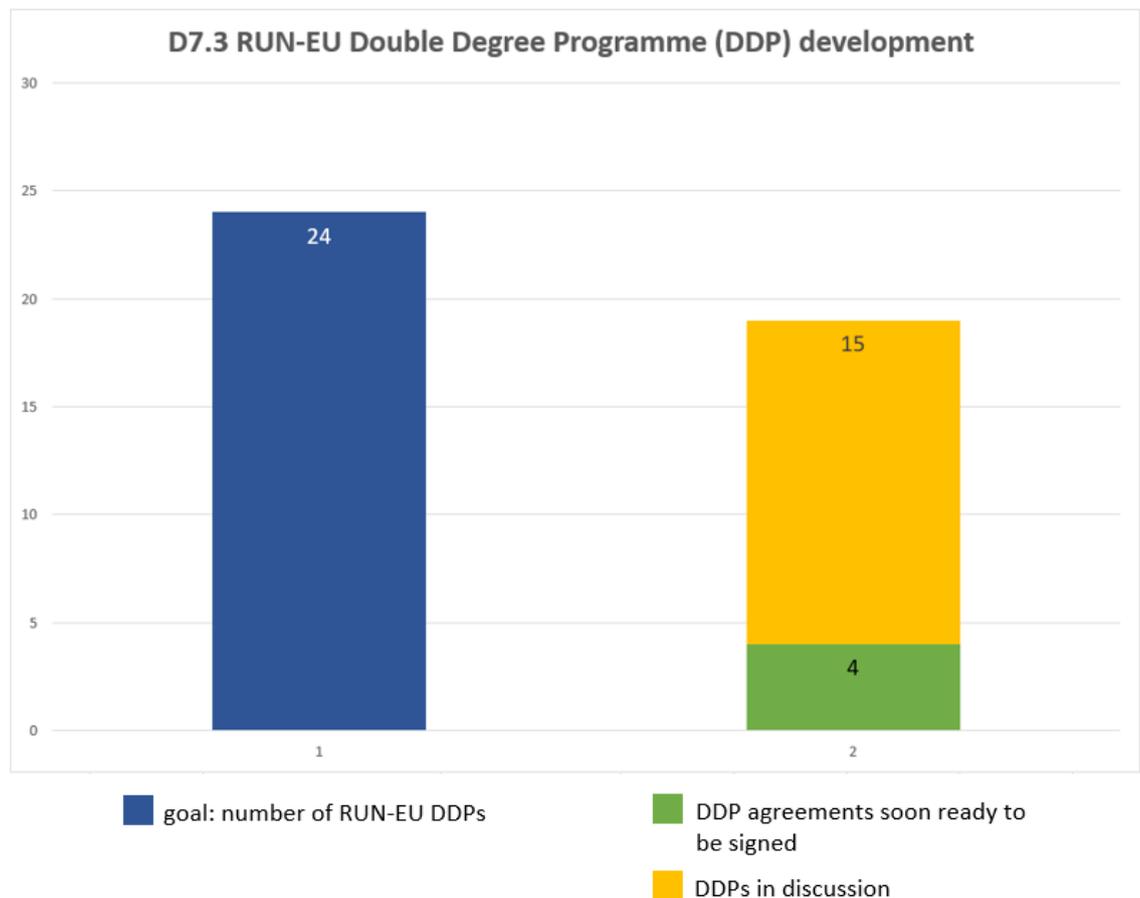
4. Overview and outcomes of initiated negotiations

Regarding the progress of the Deliverable D7.3 it can be stated that in July 2022, month 21 of the pilot phase of RUN-EU and after 8 of 10 GEMs have taken place RUN-EU is looking towards the final stage of 4 DDP agreements. It is expected that the first DDP agreements will be signed in September 2022. Accordingly, these 4 DDPs should be offered at the respective university as early as winter semester 2022. The first mobilitites within these DDPs are expected to take place during the winter semester 2023.

In addition to the first 4 DDPs, negotiations for 15 additional DDPs have commenced. Among these 15 negotiations, it is expected that another 3 DDP agreements will be signed by the end of 2022, since these negotiations are at an advanced stage.

As the matching phase continues, the work is ongoing, and the motivation of all RUN-EU member universities is high for more DDP negotiations to be opened in the second half of 2022.

Figure 18 - RUN-EU DDP development



4.1 DDP discussions at advanced stage

International Business (Administration) <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	International Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	December 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: Several online meetings have taken place so far and the negotiations were finalised during the GEM Business and Management. The universities are already working on the agreement. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed in September 2022.</p>		

Sustainable Tourism Management <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Tourism Management <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	SZE <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: First discussions were held, and negotiations proceeded during GEM Hospitality and Tourism in March 2022 where the next steps were agreed. The overview of the curriculum already took place. The visit of IPL and further, more in-depth negotiations will be carried out to analyse the cooperation points of a DDP. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed in September 2022.</p>		

Mechatronics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Electronics and Computer Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPCA <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	December 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: After the online discussions in December 2021 negotiations proceeded at GEM Engineering in March 2022. The visit of FHV Programme Director at IPCA mid-May 2022 included more in-depth negotiations. DDP learning paths are finalised and the work on agreement is ongoing. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed in September 2022.</p>		

Mechatronics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Electrical and Electronic Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	January 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: First online discussions in January 2022. Negotiations proceeded during GEM Engineering in March 2022. The visit of FHV Programme Director at IPL mid-May 2022 included more in-depth negotiations. DDP learning paths are finalised and the work on agreement is ongoing. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed in September 2022.</p>		

International Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	International Management and Leadership <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: The negotiations began over a year ago and several obstacles have arisen. Nevertheless, the degree coordinators have met face to face twice, comparing the curricula and have defined the learning paths. The agreement is also being outlined. The outcome of this negotiation is expected to appear by September 2022. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by the end of 2022.</p>		

Mechanical Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Mechatronics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: First discussions and further negotiations took place between Luís Coelho (IPL) and Reinhard Schneider (FHV). The learning path has been created and everything is set. We are now finalizing the agreement and waiting for superior evaluation. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by the end of 2022.</p>		

International Management and Leadership <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Management in Sustainable Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	May 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: Several online meetings have taken place so far. The Degree Programmes will start with an online student exchange (15 ECTS). In regard to the DDP at the moment the Programme Directors are finetuning courses to make them more complementary. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by the end of 2022.</p>		

InterMedia <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Smart and Sustainable Design <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: First online discussions in March 2022 dedicated to the comparison of the curricula. Potential and interest identified on both sides. Negotiations started during the GEM Arts and Design late April 2022 and were continued in May and June 2022. At the moment of the submission of this report the learning paths at both universities are being defined and discussed. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised by the March 2023.</p>		

Fine Art <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Fine Arts <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	Spring 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: Several discussions took place. The negotiations were consolidated during the GEM Art & Design following a previous visit to TUS Limerick School of Art & Design. A concrete timeline towards the development of DDP has been defined. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by March 2023.</p>		

Interdisciplinary Design <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Graphic Design <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	April 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: This negotiation was initiated during the GEM Arts & Design. A draft version of DDP learning paths has been conducted and shared between the parties involved. The next step planned for autumn 2022 will be the final definition of the learning paths. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by March 2023.</p>		

Mechanical Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Mechanical Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	June 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: Several discussions took place including the comparison of the curricula. An action line towards the definition of DDP learning paths at both universities was agreed early July. -> This agreement is expected to be finalised and signed by August 2023.</p>		

4.2 Initiated DDP discussions

Social and Health Care Development <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	Spring 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
<p>Status Quo: Discussions concerning DDP between TUS and HAMK in the beginning of year 2022. One meeting in mid-March about the agreement, yet some background work still needs to be done. -> The negotiations are ongoing, however, there still are some obstacles to overcome.</p>		

International Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Strategic Management and Marketing <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
IPL <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	April 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Business and proceeded at a more advanced level in late June 2022.		

Informatics Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Software Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
IPCA <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering and will continue during GEM Computer Science in September 2022.		

Computer Science <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Software Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering and will continue during GEM Computer Science in September 2022.		

Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Software Design with Cybersecurity <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering and will continue during GEM Computer Science in September 2022.		

Computer Science <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Applied Artificial Intelligence <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPCA <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering and will continue during GEM Computer Science in September 2022.		

Mechanical Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Mechatronics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering.		

Automation & Robotics <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Electrical & Automation Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: This discussion started during GEM Engineering.		

4.3 DDP discussions closed or postponed

Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	International Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
NHL Stenden <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	October 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: The partners are comparing the curricula. The partners will initiate mobility and education cooperation and the aim is also to reach a DDP in the coming years. -> The partners would like to experience working together before committing to a DDP.		

Digital Marketing <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Creative Business <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	NHL Stenden <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	February 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: The Heads of the Degree Programmes have decided to start cooperating in an ambitious SAP, to be offered in the spring of 2023. The idea is to offer 3x5 ECTS SAPs which can be followed as stand-alone modules and as connecting building-blocks leading to a 15 ECTS Programme. The partners have decided to use this SAP as an initial collaborative project to identify whether to intensify the relationship and build a DDP in the future. -> The partners would like to experience working together before committing to a DDP.		

Electrical and Automation Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Electrical and Computer Engineering <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Bachelor <i>Programme Level</i>
HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	IPCA <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	April 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: Discussions between Jussi Horelli (HAMK) and José Henrique de Araújo Silveira de Briton (IPCA) about DDP and student mobility. In the future the focus will be put on student exchange.		
Obstacles / reasons for not further pursuing the negotiations: DDP plans are difficult due to different extents of degrees.		

Computer Science <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	New Degree Programme Computer Science <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
FHV <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	HAMK <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	December 2021 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: The negotiations were initiated in December 2021, and they were closed after several meetings.		
Obstacles / reasons for not further pursuing the negotiations: It was decided that the negotiations regarding DDP development will not be proceeded due to fully online delivery of the Degree Programme at HAMK. On the side of FHV it is desired to integrate physical mobility into the DDP.		

Tourism Management and Destination Leadership <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Tourism Management <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
TUS <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	SZE <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: First discussions were held during GEM Hospitality and Tourism in March 2022 and the comparison of the curricula took place.		
Obstacles / reasons for not further pursuing the negotiations: The Programme offered by TUS is fully online, whereas the Programme offered by SZE is not.		

Tourism Management <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Tourism Management <i>Name of Degree Programme</i>	Master <i>Programme Level</i>
IPCA <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 1</i>	SZE <i>Name of RUN-EU Institution 2</i>	March 2022 <i>Date of initiation</i>
Status Quo: First discussions were held during GEM Hospitality and Tourism in March 2022, but due to the different language as a medium of instruction, no further negotiations are foreseen. However, in connection with the Bachelor Programme, it was agreed that the possibility of Erasmus student and lecturer exchange would be explored in the future.		
Obstacles / reasons for not further pursuing the negotiations: The medium of instruction of the Programme offered by IPCA is Portuguese.		

5. Challenges and difficulties

5.1 Relationship building and Covid-19

The impact of Covid-19 on aspects of academic environments have been far reaching and chaotic. Obvious impediments such as lack of mobility – which is a key driver of internationalisation in a multiple regional, multi university membership programme - were profound. Less obvious impacts were the re-prioritisation of priorities to immediate crisis mode in education delivery, from the traditional in person delivery to online only, resulting in a reallocation of resources and energy for all partners.

At the start of the RUN-EU project, only a few cases of cooperation between RUN-EU member universities had taken place, *e.g.*, in regular student exchange, had taken place between the partner institutions. For collaboration to take place, relationship building is essential. This was even more challenging due to the pandemic, forcing all interaction to take place online from the very beginning of the project.

Personal meetings were only possible a year after the project kick-off, at the General Assembly meeting in November 2021, in Ireland. Despite these challenges, collaboration has been developing.

The WP7 Work Group has been looking for a solution to bring the decision makers together online, as mutual trust is crucial for the work on the goals of WP7.

The first offers were online meetings for Programme Directors where over 150 stakeholders were brought together in the frame of 4 topic specific meetings. Although the online meetings for Programme Directors were a good start, it was clear that the offering to meet in person is needed.

The first opportunity for offline, face-to-face relationship building was the Group Exploratory Missions (GEMs) organised by the partner institutions within the context of WP7, which gave relationship building a boost, even in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first GEM in the field of Engineering was supposed to take place in Austria, in November 2021, but it had to be postponed to March 2022 due to the pandemic. This GEM gathered Deans, Programme Directors, and all interested Professors and Experts from partner institutions and made relationship building, especially regarding Collaborative Degree Programmes, possible. Unfortunately, still due to the pandemic, not all the partner institutions could be represented, which posed a challenge in regard to relationship building. As a result of this, online platforms via Microsoft Teams were created so that the interested representatives of partner institutions could get to know and keep in touch with each other, facilitating relationship building this way.

After the first GEM in Austria a set of further GEMs (*e.g.*, in the field of Hospitality and Tourism at NHL Stenden, in the Netherlands, in the field of Business and Management at HAMK, in Finland) as well as two Institutional Visits (at SZE, in Hungary and at IP Leiria, in Portugal) took place in a presential format between March and June 2022, which inevitably gave a boost to relation-

ship building as well as the deepening of the already established and existing relations. Consequently, further GEMs in various fields are about to take place in September 2022 to facilitate relationship building among those representatives of the partner institutions who have not had the opportunity to meet so far.

WP7 is convinced that relationship building was successful and fruitful in spite of the challenges that had to be tackled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, following a one-year-long online collaboration, personal meetings could finally take place, which have made the building and strengthening of relationships possible.

5.2 Different prerequisites at the HEIs (e.g., ECTS descriptions, ...)

Even though WP7 members have jointly delivered the report on national, legal and institutional frameworks, it is still challenging to understand each other's higher education contexts.

The differences between the several national educational systems and consequently the different prerequisites at each HEI are definitely a challenge to the creation of Collaborative Degree Programmes, namely the differences of ECTS descriptions, of grade criteria or of study periods. There are different descriptions of ECTS and workload calculations may constitute a challenge. Although the ECTS User's Guide of 2015 stipulates 25 hours of workload per ECTS (including the total student experience), the workload is calculated in different ways across Europe, depending on the level of qualification or of practical experience requirement. Same level Degree Programmes may have different ECTS in different countries (for instance, a Master's Degree may have 90 ECTS or 120 ECTS).

Grading criteria and grade distribution can also vary and the comparison of grades from different grading systems can be a problem as well. The grades should preferably be issued according to the European Scale of Comparability of Classifications.

The study periods may also be different in the HEI. While in FHV, IPCA and IPL a study period corresponds to a semester with the duration of 15 weeks consisting of 30 ECTS, different solutions are presented by SZE (academic year consists of 10 months, a study period is one semester, which is worth 30 credit points), NHL Stenden (a study period can be a period of 10 weeks consisting of 15 ECTS or a period of 20 weeks – a semester – of 30 ECTS) and HAMK (modules of 15 ECTS are compact and coherent entities of 8 weeks and modules consist of courses).

Some countries have very strict requirements regarding the accreditation of JPs, for other countries this is more flexible.

5.3 Implementation of Bologna tools

There are significant differences with regards to the level of implementation of the Bologna tools, as identified in report [D7.2](#). WP7 conducted an analysis to identify a status quo while

gaining a better mutual understanding of the systems. The results of the survey and the overview regarding the implementation of the Bologna Tools in the RUN-EU member countries, more information can be found [in the Appendix to this report](#).

There are some challenges as a result from the different status regarding the implementation of the Bologna tools in the RUN-EU member countries. Some of the identified challenges are listed below:

- Different duration and differing ECTS loads of Degree Programmes
- Different modes of Degree Programmes (full-time vs. part-time)
- Differences in the systems (*e.g.*, Master's degree in Ireland organised quite differently)
- Too little flexibility in curricula, too few optional courses / tracs, no room to include elective semesters etc.
- Transfer of Transcript of Records (ToR) between universities after the completed studies in the host university; the process is often slow and manually carried out. There is a need for taking on a digital service where the students can themselves transfer the ToR information between universities.

As mentioned in the [D7.2 report](#), because of the differences in the structure of the Universities within the Alliance, the recognition of credentials is a severe challenge. For that reason, the WP7 has set up a sub-group called the Inter-University Recognition Team (IURT) (group constellation of IURT is described in [chapter 2.4](#)). Within the subgroup there are members who are recognition experts, working on a daily basis with the Credentials processes. The subgroup and its members are therefore vital for achieving the main goal, which is obstacle-free mobility and ways of learning / working between the RUN-EU partner Universities.

From a lecturer / researcher perspective, implementation of the Bologna Tools also differs between universities. Recognition of international work, teaching and research should exist everywhere. With a well-defined and corresponding evaluation framework within the RUN-EU HEIs, teachers and researchers would be more motivated to work abroad and to participate in the project in the long term. For some partners, engaging staff and teaching mobilities is a massive struggle. Since their work is crucial for the project, this is also a main obstacle that must be overcome.

The complex and varied national requirements imposed on international student / credit mobility is also a threat and, as a consequence, limited room for innovation is also an issue.

Furthermore, the differing allocation of staff resources among the partner Institutions also raised concern. Since the level of commitment of the universities continues to be high, the partners are making a high effort to allocate more human resources to achieve the challenging RUN-EU goals.

After the restrictions made by the pandemic, the workload within the Alliance started to accelerate, which in response required more and more representatives and experts from each University.

Although the commitment of all universities exists, it is difficult to balance the ambitious objectives we are aiming to achieve with the limited resources available.

5.4 Accreditation challenges

As pointed out on [D7.2](#), on Relevant National and European Legislation and Regulation impacting RUN-EU Collaborative Degree Programmes and Recommendations for Quality Assurance and Academic Regulation Framework, there are different models of self-assessment and external accreditation, as well as different conditions outlined by the national frameworks of each partner and by the several national authorities regarding the accreditation / recognition of a Degree Programme.

In Austria there are different accreditation procedures for the diverse types of HEIs.

In Finland, the HEIs are autonomous actors that are responsible for the content of their education and research as well as the development of their own activities. Therefore, the Universities of Applied Sciences, such as HAMK, have the primary responsibility for Quality Assurance of education they organise.

In Hungary, accreditation has 2 formats (for Degree Programmes): Programme evaluation and Programme establishment. In any case, the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) is involved, issues the expert opinion and may accredit the Degree Programme for a specific period of time.

In Ireland, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) publishes guidelines which set out the requirements for providers of higher education Programmes offered where collaborative provision is a feature and HEIs are obliged to respect these guidelines. HEIs that are awarding bodies are free to engage in their own collaborative arrangements.

In the Netherlands, HEIs and Programmes are accredited under the responsibility of a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (NVAO).

In Portugal, the HEIs and Programmes are accredited by the Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES). The A3ES Quality Assurance approach is based on an “external Quality Assurance” model, a combination of internal Quality Assurance system, self-assessment, and external evaluation, in which the HEI’s internal monitoring and evaluation processes are analysed and used in the external quality audit and accreditation process. The national legal framework foresees the concept of “degree in association” applicable to all levels. The legislation does not explicitly use the terminology Joint / Double / Multiple degrees but provides for degrees in association awarded by all institutions together, by only one of the institutions or by each institution. A Diploma Supplement (DS) must be issued to provide further information.

As highlighted in [D7.2](#), the DDP construction, due to the national framework restrictions, must be based on the validation of the respective Programmes, by means of a Programme comparison and articulation agreement.

In the Netherlands, the Dutch Programme also must have control over the final or graduation level (final examination). Besides, there are also some institutional restrictions.

In Austria, several Bachelor's Degree Programmes at FH Vorarlberg include an internship period in the curriculum, therefore the internship is a compulsory part of the DDP.

In Finland, at HAMK, the Bachelor's Degree Programmes include an internship period in the curriculum. At HAMK the internship is excluded from the DDP's 60 ECTS, which are studied at the DDP host university.

In Portugal, there are various scenarios. In some Degree Programmes, the internship is mandatory, in others it does not exist, or it is optional. Also in Portugal, in Bachelor's Programmes of 180 ECTS there must be a minimum mobility of 60 ECTS and in Master's Programmes of 120 ECTS there must be a minimum mobility of 30 ECTS.

A prerequisite for the award of an academic title from FH Vorarlberg is, in addition to the positive completion of all defined courses, a positive evaluation of a thesis as well as a passed final examination. This rule also applies to incoming DDP students, even if their home university should not request a thesis / final examination.

In the Netherlands, there are limitations to the amount of ECTS-credits students can attain outside the location where their Degree Programme is registered. Additionally, in the Netherlands the macro-efficiency of the proposed DDP should be assessed by a government agency and an accreditation may also be required. There is some degree of ambiguity about whether the development of an existing Degree Programme into a DDP should be considered as a 'new' Programme, which would then require additional accreditation.

The different prerequisites, procedures and regulations in RUN-EU countries as described above show how complex and challenging accreditation is and at the same time underline the fact that the European Commission must strive for a more uniform system to be implemented in order for the European Universities to come to life. The development of the European Approach is a good step forward, but full implementation in all member states is quite challenging.

6. Next steps and future perspectives

Even though we have been facing major challenges in the first 21 months, RUN-EU acknowledges that critical to the success of our RUN-EU European University Alliance, both from the European Educational and Research Areas perspectives, is the development of Collaborative Degree Programmes at Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level. It is planned that these Programmes will be based upon a co-envisioned long-term strategy focused on sustainability, excellence, and European values. These ambitions were moulded into WP7.

Significant work has already been undertaken to progress the WP7 targets. There is still a long way to go in order to reach the ambitious goals of WP7.

Among our greatest achievements in the first 21 months (November 2020 – July 2022) of the pilot phase of RUN-EU are the Group Exploratory Missions, which are of high relevance not only for the WP7 but are critical to sustainable collaboration within RUN-EU Alliance.

We are pleased to announce that as outlined in [chapter 4](#) the first 4 DDP agreements in the fields of Engineering and Business will be signed in September 2022 and thus these DDPs will be offered within RUN-EU starting with the fall semester of 2022.

Additional 3 DDP negotiations are already at the advanced stages, and it is expected that the respective agreements will be signed by the end of 2022.

The signing of the first DDP agreements will be an especially important moment and encouraging signal for our Alliance, since this will be an important milestone, we achieved despite the many difficulties and legal challenges we have been facing during the first 21 months of the pilot phase of RUN-EU as outlined in [chapter 5](#).

In order to support the ongoing plans created and defined during the GEMs, WP7 members will be following up internally the GEMs and supporting intensively the concrete plans evolved out of them. Accordingly, the WP7 Work Group will do its best to ensure that the continuation of the agreed plans will take place.

As a next step after the GEMs and the internal follow-ups the WP7 Work Group will be encouraging the negotiators to proceed with the cooperation schemes and engage in a bilateral Design Mission, the aim of which is the actual development of the Collaborative Degree Programme, the design of the curriculum etc.

Although the Rectors and Presidents, Deans, Programme Directors, and Lecturers of all RUN-EU member universities are highly committed to the goals of WP7 from the very beginning of our Alliance, we recognize that face to face meetings were necessary to realise the identified goals.

WP7 is a very ambitious Work Package and has high strategical relevance to the RUN-EU Alliance. In WP7 the commitment to RUN-EU goals and vision is tested. However, the motivation of all RUN-EU member universities is high for more DDP negotiations to be opened in the second half of 2022.

However, we would like to highlight that support is needed on the one hand from the European Commission and, on the other, from the RUN-EU member country in order to overcome the long

list of obstacles we are facing. Many European University Alliances share the same challenges, and these were brought to the attention of the European Commission in the document [“Challenges to unlocking the full potential of European Universities”](#) back in May 2021.

We acknowledge that further time for discussions and face-to-face meeting is necessary, but we will continue investing our efforts in the future as well and the WP7 Work Group will be pushing for further work regarding Collaborative Degree Programme development.

7. Appendices

Content: Click on the links to access the documents.

- [D7.1 Guidelines – Toolkit for the development of RUN-EU Double Degree Programmes](#)
- [D7.2 Relevant National and European Legislation and Regulation impacting RUN-EU Collaborative Degree Programmes and Recommendations for Quality Assurance and Academic Regulation Framework](#)
- [DDP-Development Guide for bilateral meetings](#)
- [Survey Potential Collaborative Degree Programmes](#)
- [Survey Implementation of Bologna Tools](#)
- [List of challenges to unlocking the full potential of European Universities](#)



The content of this publication represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.
Grant Agreement Number: 101004068.