Joint European Degree Label

Întâlnirea anuală cu reprezentanții instituțiilor de învățământ superior responsabili cu evaluarea și asigurarea calității

15-16 octombrie 2026

Hotel Ramada, Sibiu

Methodological framework

- Council Recommendation of 12 May 2025 on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education
  - The European criteria in Annex II set out the key features of the joint European degree label and guarantee the respect of the highest standards to offer transnational programmes and showcase the specific European nature of such a label. These criteria are neither mandatory nor legally binding, but to ensure mutual trust, the joint European degree label is only awarded when all these criteria are met.

Methodological framework

- Assessment **framework** and **methodology**
- Descriptions of **criteria** and **indicators**
- A set of **annexes** provides supporting materials:
  - *Glossary*
  - *Recommended template for the self-assessment report*
  - *Evidence portfolio*
  - *Mapping of indicators*



Expected benefits from the joint European degree label

Direct benefits



Source: EC training

Indirect benefits

- Alignment with Bologna tools
- Simplifications for joint programmes
- Increase number of joint programmes
- Economies of scale

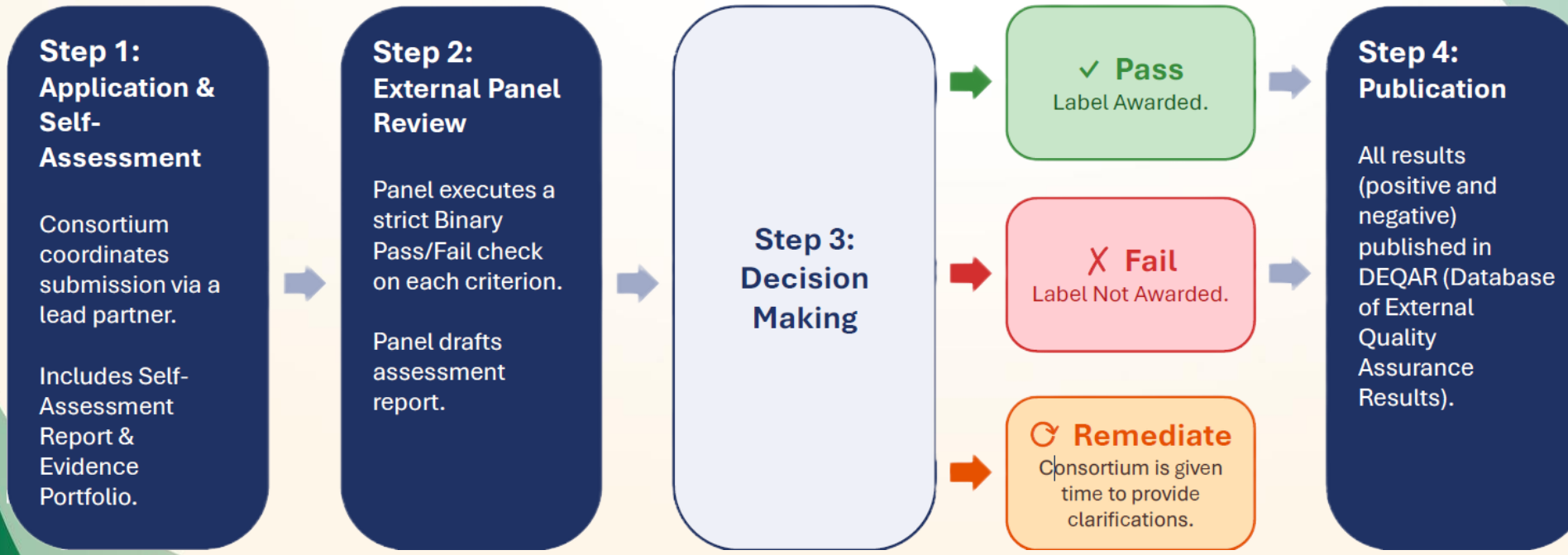
The label is awarded to:

Joint programmes that:

- ✓ Have been **positively evaluated** in an external quality assurance procedure:
- ❑ Before the label assessment
- ❑ Simultaneously with the label assessment (initial or reaccreditation)

- ✓ Lead to the award of a **joint degree**
- ✓ Are at **EQF levels 6, 7 or 8**
- ✓ Are offered by consortia including **at least 2 higher education institutions** from EU or EEA EFTA states

Award process



Assessment approach

- Compliance with **all criteria** required (binary pass/fail system)
- Maximise the **use of existing evidence** to minimise administrative burden
- Process fully **integrated in existing QA procedures**, (European Approach evaluation)
- **Proportionate** to the state of implementation of the programme and respectful of diversity and levels

Synergies with the European Approach

Dimension A Programme organisation criteria		
A.1. Higher education institutions involved		◐
A.2. Transnational joint degree delivery	A.2.1. Joint design and delivery	●
	A.2.2. Joint degree	◐
	A.2.3. Joint diploma supplement (EQF 6 & 7)	◐
	A.2.4. Use of ECTS Users' Guide (EQF 6 & 7)	●
A.3. Joint arrangements for the joint programme		◐
A.4. Quality assurance arrangements	A.4.1. Internal and external quality assurance	●
	A.4.2. European Approach	●
A.5. Graduate tracking		○
A.6. Student-centred learning		●
A.7. Transnational campus – access to services		◐
A.8. Flexible and embedded student mobility	A.8.1. 30 ECTS physical mobility (EQF 6 & 7)	◐
	A.8.2. Six Months physical mobility (EQF 8)	◐
A9. Co-Evaluation and Co-Supervision for Dissertations (EQF 8)		○

Dimension B European dimension criteria		
B.1. Interdisciplinarity and research-based learning		○
B.2. Learning opportunities beyond academia and employability		◐
B.3. Digitalisation		○
B.4. Values		○
B.5. Multilingualism		○
B.6. Inclusiveness	B.6.1. Diversity, equality, and inclusion	○
	B.6.2. European Charter for Researchers (EQF 8)	○
B.7. Environmental sustainability		○

- ● Criteria fully addressed by an EA evaluation, no additional assessment is needed under the JEDL;
- ◐ Criteria partially addressed, the EA evaluation report provides a basis to expand on with additional evidence;
- ○ Criteria not addressed by the EA, a full compliance check is required.

Criteria

(1) Criterion

with applicable EQF level(s)

(2) Objective

explaining the purpose of the criterion

(3) Description

Detailed description and interpretation

(4) Compliance assessment

Indicator(s) for compliance: N/A

(5) Synergies with the EA

Addressed by a European Approach evaluation, no additional assessment is needed

A.2: Transnational joint degree delivery

A.2.1: Joint design and delivery ●

The joint programme is jointly designed and jointly delivered by all the HEIs involved.

EQF 6, 7 & 8

Objective: Ensure that the joint programme is founded on academic collaboration, with all participating degree-awarding HEIs sharing academic responsibility for the design and delivery of the programme, including on behalf of any non-degree awarding partner, to provide an integrated, high-quality learning experience.

Description: Consortium partners jointly design the curriculum, define learning outcomes, and deliver teaching and learning activities, each contributing academic expertise and resources to create a coherent, integrated programme. All degree-awarding partner HEIs must contribute to the programme offer.

☑ **The criterion is met if:**

● The joint programme has already undergone, or is simultaneously undergoing, a quality assurance procedure using the European Approach. This criterion is covered by that evaluation (Standard 1.2) and therefore does not need to be re-assessed.

See Annex 5 for indicators for this criterion in other cases.

European Degree Label criteria
Dimension A: Programme organization

- A1) Higher education institutions involved
- A2) Transnational joint degree delivery
- A3) Joint arrangements for the joint programme
- A4) Quality assurance arrangements
- A5) Graduate tracking
- A6) Student-centred learning
- A7) Transnational campus – access to services
- A8) Flexible and embedded student mobility
- A9) Co-evaluation and co-supervision for dissertations

Focuses on how the joint programme is structured, governed, quality-assured, and delivered.

Purpose: programme functions as a single, jointly designed and jointly delivered transnational programme meeting ESG and European Approach requirements.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.1: Higher education institutions involved ◐

The joint programme is offered by at least two higher education institutions from at least two different Member States.

EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

At least two HEIs from two EU Member States or EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) offer the joint programme in a degree-awarding role.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.2: Transnational joint degree delivery
A.2.2: Joint degree ◐
The joint programme leads to the award of a joint degree.
EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:
Each graduate of the joint programme receives a joint degree.

A.2: Transnational joint degree delivery
A.2.3: Joint Diploma Supplement ◐
A joint Diploma Supplement is issued to students.
EQF 6, 7

☑ The criterion is met if:
A joint Diploma Supplement is issued to each graduate.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.3: Joint arrangements for the joint programme ◐

The joint programme has joint policies, procedures and/or arrangements defining curriculum planning and delivery, as well as all organisational and administrative matters. Students' representatives are part of the decision-making process to define the joint policies and procedures and/or arrangements.

EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

- The joint programme has joint policies, procedures and/or arrangements covering curriculum planning and delivery, as well as organisational and administrative matters.
- Students' representatives are included in the decision-making process.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.5: Graduate tracking ○

The joint programme monitors graduates through a graduate tracking system or using data collected by the European Higher Education Sector Observatory.

EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

The joint programme has (or plans for) a mechanism for regular graduate tracking which is used/to be used to inform the continuous enhancement of the programme.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.7: Transnational campus – access to services ◐

The programme has joint policies for students and staff to have access to relevant services in all participating higher education institutions under conditions equivalent to those for all enrolled students and local staff. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for all of the following indicators:

- Students and staff of the joint programme have equitable access to relevant physical infrastructure and facilities during their mobility periods.
- Students and staff of the joint programme have equitable access to relevant support services during their mobility periods.
- Students and staff of the joint programme have equitable access to relevant IT services for the whole duration of the programme.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.8: Flexible and embedded student mobility

A.8.1: 30 ECTS physical mobility ◐

The joint programme offers student physical mobility of at least 30 ECTS (that can be split over several stays) at one or more partner institution(s). The joint programme has a policy offering alternatives for students who are unable to travel, such as virtual exchanges and/or blended mobility. EQF 6, 7

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for both of the following indicators:

- The joint programme offers an embedded physical mobility component of at least 30 ECTS.
- Joint arrangements are in place at the programme-level setting out alternatives for students unable to travel.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.8: Flexible and embedded student mobility

A.8.2: Six months physical mobility ◐

The joint programme offers at least six months of physical mobility at one or more partner institution(s). The joint programme has a policy offering alternatives for students who are unable to travel. EQF 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for both of the following indicators:

- The joint programme offers mobility opportunities among consortium partners with a total duration of at least six months.
- Alternative arrangements are set out in a policy for doctoral candidates unable to travel.

Dimension A: Programme organization

A.9: Co-evaluation and co-supervision for dissertations ○
Dissertations are supervised by at least 2 supervisors and co-evaluated by co-supervisors or a committee with members from at least 2 different institutions located in 2 different countries. EQF 8

☑ The criterion is met if:
There is evidence for both of the following indicators:

- Each doctoral candidate is supervised by at least two supervisors from two different degree-awarding institutions located in different countries.
- The evaluation committee, nominated by two different consortium partners, includes members from at least two different institutions in two different countries.

European Degree Label criteria
Dimension B: European dimension

- B1) Interdisciplinarity and research-based learning
- B2) Opportunities for learning beyond academia and employability
- B3) Digitalisation
- B4) Values
- B5) Multilingualism
- B6) Inclusiveness
- B7) Environmental sustainability

Focuses on how the programme embodies European priorities and values.

Purpose: promote interdisciplinarity, employability, digitalisation, multilingualism, inclusion, sustainability, and European values.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.1: Interdisciplinarity and research-based learning○

The joint programme's arrangements include embedded interdisciplinarity and/or research-based learning components, tailored to the nature and circumstances of the joint programme. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There are documented interdisciplinary components and/or research-based learning activities described in the joint programme documentation

Dimension B: European dimension

B.2: Opportunities for learning beyond academia and employability ◐
The joint programme's arrangements foresee opportunities to broaden the learning experience of students beyond the academic context, tailored to the nature and circumstances of the joint programme, including labour market requirements incorporating inter-sectoral components or activities and development of transversal skills. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:
There is evidence for at least one of the following indicators:

- Work experience, internships, volunteering, research collaborations, projects with industry partners, or other engagement with relevant external stakeholders are embedded in the curriculum of the joint programme.
- Relevant professionals are involved in recurring educational roles within the joint programme.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.3: Digitalisation ○

The joint programme's arrangements include opportunities for students to develop adequate digital skills and competence, tailored to the nature and circumstances of the joint programme. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for at least one of the following indicators:

- Development of relevant digital skills is integrated into the joint programme's curriculum.
- Consortium partners provide students with opportunities to enhance their digital skills outside of the joint programme's curriculum.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.4: Values ○

The joint programme's arrangements adhere to the values of the EHEA (academic freedom, academic integrity, institutional autonomy, student and staff participation in higher education governance, public responsibility for higher education, and public responsibility of higher education) and include a commitment to promote common European values and democratic citizenship. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

The joint programme is covered by a declaration that reflects its commitment to the core values of the EHEA and to promoting common European values and democratic citizenship.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.5: Multilingualism ○

The joint programme's arrangements offer opportunities to equip each student with language skills through exposure to at least 2 different EU languages during learning activities or mobility. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for at least one of the following indicators:

- At least two EU languages are used in curricular components and/or extracurricular activities of the joint programme.
- Structured opportunities for language learning are defined and offered by the consortium partners, including courses and/or mobility opportunities to countries where a different EU language is spoken.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.6: Inclusiveness

B.6.1: Diversity, equality, inclusion ○

The joint programme's arrangements include a commitment to wide participation by fostering diversity, equality, and inclusion and by adopting tailored measures to support students and staff with fewer opportunities. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

- The joint programme has a documented inclusion policy.

AND there is evidence supporting at least one of the following indicators:

- Specific interventions or support programmes designed for students with fewer opportunities are in place at programme-level, institutional level or cross-institutional level and are applicable to the joint programme.
- Mechanisms to monitor and assess the inclusiveness of the joint programme are in place at programme-level, institutional level or cross-institutional level and are applicable to the joint programme.
- Funding mechanisms and procedures are assigned specifically to inclusion measures.

Dimension B: European dimension

B.6: Inclusiveness
B.6.2: European Charter for Researchers ○
The joint programme's arrangements include a commitment to respect the principles of the European Charter for Researchers. EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

- Consortium partners demonstrate documented commitment to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers

Dimension B: European dimension

B.7: Environmental sustainability ○

The joint programme's arrangements include policies and actions related to environmental sustainability and implement measures to minimise the environmental footprint of its activities and foresee opportunities for students to develop adequate green skills and competences, tailored to the nature and circumstances of the joint programme.

EQF 6, 7 & 8

☑ The criterion is met if:

There is evidence for both of the following indicators:

- Arrangements on sustainability and reducing environmental impact are in place at programme level, institutional level or cross-institutional level and are applicable to the joint programme.
- Students of the joint programme are provided with curricular or transversal opportunities to develop skills and expertise regarding environmental sustainability, ecological preservation, and neutral resource management.

Annex 2: Self-assessment template

Joint programme descriptor	Description
Official programme name	
EQF level:	☐ EQF 6 (Bachelor) ☐ EQF 7 (Master) ☐ EQF 8 (Doctorate)
Degree type	*(e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, etc.)*
Programme discipline(s):	
Language(s) of instruction	
Year of establishment:	
Current accreditation status:	
European Approach evaluation:	☐ Yes (attach report) ☐ No ☐ Pending
Lead institution:	
Consortium partners involved:	

A.1 ◐ Higher Education Institutions Involved	Compliance: No | Yes
Justification: (Max. 350 words)	
Source of evidence:	
A.2- Transnational Joint Degree Delivery **A.2.1 ● Joint design and delivery**	Compliance: No | Yes
Justification: (Max. 350 words)	
Source of evidence:	
A.2- Transnational Joint Degree Delivery **A.2.2 ◐ Joint degree**	Compliance: No | Yes
Justification: (Max. 350 words)	
Source of evidence:	

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