THE EUROPEAN APPROACH:
THE EMLE CASE

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The European Master in Law & Economics (EMLE) as a case study

- A one-year master programme (60 ECTS)
- A Joint International Programme (JIP)
- An EMJMD

- 70 – max. 105 participants each year
- Topic: the economic analysis of law
- Directorate & EM Coordinator = Rotterdam (RILE at ESL, EUR)
- Partners: from EU and non-EU countries
The EMLE Experience (short overview)

1990/1991 – 1st COHORT
- 4 partners; 15 students

2003 – selection EUA ‘Top Joint Master’ (Conference Cluj-Napoca)

2004 – 1st Accreditation (NL)
Re-accreditations: 2009 (NL), 2013 (JOQAR), 2019 (European Approach) & several times in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland

2004 – 1st ERASMUS MUNDUS RECOGNITION
EM-re-recognition: 2009, 2015, 2018

2019/2020 – 30th COHORT
- 10 partners; 46 associated partners; over 500 applicants per year; around 70-85 students per year; more than 1800 alumni
Accreditation

For Accreditation:

- Several options

- Only one procedure is constructed especially for JIPs:

  the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (or ‘the European Approach’, or EAQAJP, or even shorter EA)

Approved by the EHEA Ministers in Yerevan in May 2015
Advantages of the EA above various national accreditations

The European Approach implies:
- **One** central person/partner in the Consortium who organizes the accreditation procedure (others involved, of course)
- **One** single Self-Evaluation Report (SER) to be produced
- **One** review panel to be composed
- **One** single site visit to be organized
- **One** moment and accreditation valid for 6 years

Various national accreditations imply:
- At all relevant partner universities there should be someone to organize the national accreditation
- For each national procedure, at different moments: a SER, a review panel, a site visit (with all partners and stakeholders being present!); and the start date and the duration of the accreditation will differ from the others
Obstacles / missing in the EA procedure (1)

- A clear and structured guideline – for all involved, but at least for the Consortia – is still missing: how to start; how to continue; and even how to finish; whom to address?

- Moreover, what about the steps to be taken after the final decision by the QA Agency, regarding the recognition per country:
  - What to do then, in all the relevant individual countries?
  - Whom to address, per country?
  - To be initiated and controlled by whom: the QA Agency, the Consortium, or its national partners?

- Hopefully EQAR, the ImpEA pilot project and some PLA projects will provide in clear guidelines in the near future
Obstacles / missing in the EA procedure (2)

- The long timeline: from the start to the final decision, and followed by the recognition decisions per country, takes roughly 1.5 to 2 years.

More in general:

- The awareness of the EA is still limited / too low, both within the HEIs and in the outside world

- The additional ‘problems’ per country during the procedure of implementing the EA, despite the fact that all EHEA Ministers signed the EA-document in Yerevan in 2015
Recommendations for EMJMD Coordinators (1)

- Read carefully the text of the European Approach (October 2014, approved May 2015 in Yerevan)

- Check in EA, Section A, whether the EA **should** or **may** be applied:
  • If (one or) some of the cooperating HEIs require external QA at **programme** level, EA **should** be applied
  • If all of the cooperating HEIs require external QA at **institutional** level and have self-accreditation status, EA **may** be used
  - But even if not obliged, please consider using the EA

- Visit the ECA-website: http://ecahe.eu/home/about/projects
  And then: ImpEA (2017-2020)

- Visit the ImpEA-website: http://impea.online
Recommendations for EMJMD Coordinators (2)

The most helpful for EMLE was:
- the EQAR-website: https://www.eqar.eu – Knowledge Base

You will find:
- specific information on the EA, but country specific information as well, for all EHEA Countries
- and (since June 2019) even an overview of those JIPs / Consortia that already were successful in the EA procedure

What to do?

At that EQAR-website:
- select and visit the countries of your Consortium, one-by-one
- read carefully all information per country

Bring together all your Consortium partners in some tables, including information per partner / country on the next questions…..
Using the country specific information from the EQAR-website: Bring together all your Consortium partners in some tables, including information per partner / country on the next questions:

*Is EA allowed? Under which conditions?

*External QA: needed at programme or at institutional level?

*Which are the relevant EQAR-registered External QA Agencies?

*Actual accreditation of all the Consortium partners: what is it, and until when is it valid?

*What is the degree and qualification per partner?
Recommendations for EMJMD Coordinators (4)

- Based on this basic information, check the eligibility of the Consortium and its partners (EA, Section B1.1)
  - Legal status of the partners and programme
  - Joint design / JIP definition
  - Cooperation (or: Consortium) Agreement

- Eligibility:
  * If YES, continue…..
  * If NO, please ‘repair’ (for instance: change partners), or stop this procedure…..

- Select jointly a suitable EQAR-registered QA Agency (EA, Section C0)

- Start thinking about the planning of the single site visit for the review panel: where, when, whom to attend? (EA, Section C3)
Recommendations for EMJMD Coordinators (5)

- Start working at the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) (EA, Section C1)

- For the SER: make use of the ImpEA template (http://impea.online/contact/)

- Start in time collecting all relevant information to be included in the SER, either in the main report or in the annexes

- Be honest and transparent in all aspects of the information to be provided, both in the SER and in the site visit interviews
Conclusions

For a EMJMD Consortium, to ‘run’ the European Approach:

- Various obstacles exist

- Missing information, for instance: How to start? How to finish? And in fact missing information on all steps in between….

- Despite the EA being approved by the EHEA ministers (Yerevan, May 2015), the EA is not yet allowed or not implemented fully in all EHEA countries, or allowed only ‘under conditions’

- The full implementation of EA, by all EHEA countries, is needed – unfortunately, this will take time…

- The challenge is to solve all obstacles: step by step!
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