

# Joint Degree Legislation and Implementation in Albanian Higher Education System

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# Presentation Structure:

1. Joint degrees as a future of Albania's higher education system
2. Joint Degrees in Albanian legislation (opening and accreditation)
3. The situation in Albania with the joint degrees
4. The way forward – conclusions and recommendations

# I. Joint Degrees - Future of HEA

## 1. Why do we need it?

### a. Student's Perspective:

- Improve the standard of teaching for Albanian students
- Better job prospects (incl. link with the market)
- Better mobility

### b. University Perspective:

- Improve standard of teaching (through collaboration)
- Improve research collaboration
- Create premises for improving research quality

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

## 2. How were Joint Degrees conceptualised in the Higher Education Reform (White Paper)?

- a. Included in the Law on HE – the need to legalise
  - But “just” (not too much “red tape”)
- b. Flexible system characterised of:
  - Simple procedure for opening the joint degree
  - Simple procedure for accreditation
  - Higher standards of accreditation

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

White Paper:

7.5.16.

*Higher Education Institutions should be encouraged to establish joint programs (joint degrees) and double (double degrees) with European Union countries and beyond, in the context of the internationalization of higher education.*

Chapter 4. Organisation of Higher education at 4.3.2.

*The recommendations for the new structure of managing the system of higher education, in order to increase its efficiency and accountability, are based on the following elements:*

- *.....The elimination of bureaucracy and the increase of effective functioning;*
- *.....The guaranteeing of the HEIs' autonomy.*

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

Law 80/2015 on Higher Education and Scientific Research...

Article 3 -Autonomy of the institutions of higher education

2. Academic freedom is guaranteed through the right to:

- a. organize teaching, scientific research, innovative and creative activities;
- b. *draft and develop study programs and determine the fields of scientific research;*
- c. ....

4. The organizational and staff selection autonomy is guaranteed through the right to:

- c. enter in agreements with natural and legal persons, public and private, local or foreign, in order to develop activities of teaching, scientific research, training, innovation and other lawful activities;

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

Law 80/2015 on Higher Education and Scientific Research...

## Article 6 - Definitions

For purposes of this law, the following terms shall mean:

1. *“Joint degree”, a degree issued jointly upon agreement from at least two institutions of higher education that certifies the successful completion of a joint study program.*
2. *“Double or multiple degree”, degree issued separately upon agreement by two or more institutions of higher education, that proves successful completion of a joint program of study.*

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

Law 80/2015 on Higher Education and Scientific Research...

Article 80 - Joint study programs

1. *The joint study programs are implemented by an institution of higher education or one of its main units, in collaboration with one or several other institutions of higher education, public or non-public, within and outside the country.*
2. *The process of the achievement of joint study programs may take place in one or the participating institutions, pursuant to the collaboration agreement.*
3. *The studies are finalized with the conferring of a joint degree, double or multiple degree by the participating institutions.*
4. *Under the circumstances of implementing joint study programs with foreign institutions of higher education, different standards from the state ones may be applied.*



# III. Joint Degrees – the current situation

Government Guidance,  
Order 31, dated 29.12.2017

- 23 pages
- 9 Chapter
- Hundred of articles
- For Joint Degrees, it requires 8 extra requests, apart from the ones requested for any degree.
- A clear difference to the LAW – showing **CENTRALISATION**

# II. Joint Degrees – Legislation/accreditation

## Order 31, dated 29.12.2017

- k) Në rast bashkëpunimi me një institucion tjetër vendas ose të huaj të arsimit të lartë për hapjen e programeve të përbashkëta të studimit, së bashku me dokumentacionin e mësipërm, kërkohet depozitimi edhe i:
- i. Aktit të themelimit/licencimit të institucionit në vendin e origjinës.
  - ii. Aktit të akreditimit të institucionit partner ose të programit të studimit.
  - iii. Dokumentit zyrtar bashkëpunimi (*marrëveshje kuadër*) ku parashikohet ofrimi i programeve të përbashkëta të studimit.
  - iv. Marrëveshjes specifike për programin konkret të studimit ku të parashikohen modalitetet e ofrimit të tij, si autorësia dhe pronësia e syllabuseve të depozituara, gjuha dhe metoda e mësimit dhe provimeve, shkëmbimi i stafit pedagogjik, etj. Kjo marrëveshje mund të jetë dhe në formën e Rregullores së përbashkët mësimore.
  - v. Llojit të diplomës (*e dyfishtë, e shumëfishtë, e përbashkët*) dhe modelin e diplomës të miratuar nga të dy palët.
  - vi. Deklaratë për plotësimin e standardeve akademik edhe akteve të tjera ligjore e nënligjore në fuqi (deklarata e nënshkruar nga titullari dhe me vulë të institucionit), sipas shtojcës 1, bashkëlidhur dhe pjesë përbërëse e këtij udhëzimi.

# III. Joint Degrees – the current situation

- Not too many Joint degrees
- A trend mainly in the Non-Public Institutions – those who already have affiliations
- The procedure of opening is difficult
- Should be incentivised in non-public ones

# III. Joint Degrees – the current situation

UNIVERSITETI EPOKA			
	Cikli	EMERTIMI I PROGRAMIT	NE BASHKEPUNIM ME:
1	Doktoraturë	Arkitekturë	Universitetin e Stambollit dhe Universitetin PAMUKALE, Turqi
2	Doktoraturë	Inxhinieri Kompjuterike	Universitetin e Stambollit dhe Universitetin PAMUKALE, Turqi
UNIVERSITETI ZONJA E KESHILLIT TE MIRE			
	Cikli	EMERTIMI I PROGRAMIT	NE BASHKEPUNIM ME:
1	Master i shkencave(PI)	Arkitekturë	Universitetin e Firences.
2	Master i shkencave(PI)	Farmacit	Universitetin Aldo Moro, Bari.
3	Bachelor	Fizioterapi	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome.
4	Bachelor	Infermieristikë	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome.
5	Master i shkencave	Shkenca Infermieristike dhe Obstetrike	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome Itali.
6	Master i shkencave	Shkenca Rehabilituese të Profesioneve Shëndetësore	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome.
7	Master i shkencave(PI)	Mjekësi	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome, Itali.
8	Master i shkencave(PI)	Odontoiatri dhe Proteza Dentare	Universitetit Tor Vergata, Rome.
9	Bachelor	Ekonomi Ndërmarrjeje	Universitetit Aldo Moro, Bari Itali
10	Doktoraturë	Shëndet Publik , Diagnozë Molekulare e Sëmundje Infektive dhe Farmakovigjilancë	Universitetit Aldo Moro, Bari Itali

Source: ASCAL, latest date Sept. 2020

Note: The tables includes only the degrees which are accredited

# IV. Joint Degrees – The way forward

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Law on HE allows and creates conditions for the creation of joint degrees
- The Government acts and guidance make it difficult the process of creating double degrees – a centralisation and a move away from the autonomy
- The number of joint degrees is very low in the country
- Most joint degrees coming from the non-public sector
- There are very little incentives to create a joint degree in Albania

# IV. Joint Degrees – The way forward

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- Joint degree should be seen as a strategic development of Higher education in the country – a fast and guaranteed improvements of standards
- It should be part of initiatives in the region
- The legislation should be more flexible for the creation of joint degrees
- The Government should reduce the “red tape” and improve the process of opening joint degrees (e.g. pass this right to Accreditation Agency)
- There should be financial incentives from the Government for institutions that would like to create joint degrees
- There should be a need to involve business in financial support for joint degrees – it will create a better link to the labour market
- A need for role models – sharing the “good” experiences.

**Joint Degree Legislation and  
Implementation in Albanian Higher  
Education System**

**THANK YOU**