

QUACE - QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN CROSS-BORDER EDUCATION

The final conference of the EU Socrates project "Quace" conducted by the universities of Luxembourg, Saarland and Liège



On the 29 and 30 May, academics and administrators from Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Germany met at the University of Saarland, to explore the opportunities, challenges and prospects of double and joint degree programmes in cross-border regions. This was the final conference of the EU Socrates project "QUACE" conducted over the last 18 months by the universities of Luxembourg, Saarland, and Liège. The core aim of the project is to identify best practices and set down recommendations for creating excellence in higher education across borders.

Markus Molz from the LCMI Research Unit presented the main results of a panel of in-depth interviews with more than 30 directors and coordinators of joint and double degree programmes. This study, supported by Philippe Blanca and supervised by Prof. Charles Max, is unique in higher education research and development to date. Half of the existing cross-border programmes on BA, MA and Ph.D. level in the Greater Region came under detailed scrutiny. In short, the benefits generated by these programmes are, among others, their specific potential to:

- attract highly motivated students, and more students from other regions / countries;
- raise the percentage of female students in technology and engineering programmes;
- contribute to a reduced drop-out rate an

host student groups with greater social cohesion;

- foster international experience and learn more about different approaches in the field of study;
- train and retain young researchers who might otherwise leave for more prominent research universities.

On the other hand, typical challenges to be overcome in order to develop cross-border programmes, are to:

- build sufficient commitment between the institutional partners;
- receive institutional recognition and support;
- get sufficient funding;
- bridge the differences between the national systems;
- manage the additional workload.

Cross-border programmes can be considered a micro-cosmos of the possible synergies and challenges of the European Higher Education Area. The results of the QUACE project will be further disseminated through a set of recommendations for quality assurance, a workshop at our university later this year, a publication, and the website www.quace.eu

Joint and double Degree programmes offered with the contribution of the UL:

- BA Physique - Cursus intégré Saar-Lor-Lux
- BA Europäisches Baumanagement
- MA Philosophie
- Master Mundus Philosophies Allemande et Française dans l'Espace Européen
- MA Communication et Coopération Transfrontalières