



Nationalagentur Erasmus+ Bildung
OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst)-GmbH

Márton BEKE



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Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees. A Short Introduction

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OUTLINE

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD)
General overview

How to participate as an Organisation / Individual
Funding possibilities – EMJMD call for proposals 2017

EMJMD – Information sources

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

...in brief:

- ✓ Highly integrated Master study programmes delivered by international HEI consortium
- ✓ No restriction in disciplines
- ✓ 3 consecutive student intakes
- ✓ Full scholarships for students - 75% for students from Partner Countries
- ✓ Award of a joint or multiple Master degree

EMJMD - structure



Integrated international Master programmes of excellent quality to attract the very best students worldwide

Developed and delivered by a consortium of HEIs from Programme Countries & Partner Countries (if relevant)

Duration 12 – 18 – 24 months (60 – 90 – 120 ECTS credits), optional preparatory year + 3 intakes (5 years maximum) – covered by one Grant Agreement

Mandatory study period in at least 2 different Programme Countries (no virtual mobility)

Fully recognised and accredited joint / multiple Master degrees



EMJMD - main aims



- ✓ **Quality improvements, innovation, excellence, internationalisation of HEIs**
- ✓ **Increase quality and attractiveness of the EHEA (e.g. Yerevan communiqué) – supporting EU External Action in the HE field, by offering full degree scholarships to the best Master students worldwide**
- ✓ **Improve competences, skills, employability of Master graduates**
- ✓ **Improve relevance for the labour market through an increased involvement of employers**

EMJMD - main characteristics (1)

- **Attractiveness and Excellence:** very high selectivity of EMJMDs, only excellent joint master programmes selected and funded
- **"Jointness"** - Integration of the course design and structure, recognition/accreditation of degrees
- Although not mandatory **Joint Degrees are strongly encouraged** (double/multiple degrees still eligible)
- Bridging **academic and job-market needs** (trans-disciplinary approach), **employability** of graduates

EMJMD - main characteristics (2)

- **Full scholarships** for the best master students worldwide, **priority** on Partner country students (**minimum of 75 %**)
- **Invited scholars/guest lecturers** contribute to the teaching/training/research activities
- Worldwide **visibility**
- **Sustainability** after EU funding
- **Centrally managed** in Brussels by EACEA in coordination with European Commission / DG EAC

New elements 2017 and expectations 2018

- ❖ Assessment of proposals in **one step evaluation procedure**
- ❖ **Simplified assessment of additional award criterion** (Heading 4 and EDF scholarships)
- ❖ **Increased and guaranteed number of EMJMD scholarships** (maximum 20 scholarships per intake)

2018

- ❖ **Extending the number of student intakes per EMJMD from 3 to 4**

Taking part as an Organisation (1)



- **EMJMDs are open to public or private organisations in Programme or Partner Countries**
 - HEIs
 - Non-academic partners (enterprises, non-profit organisations, NGOs, foundations, etc.)
- **Applicant must be HEI established in Programme Country. The HEI applies on behalf of the EMJMD consortium.**
- **Minimum EMJMD consortium composition: 3 HEIs as partners (including the coordinator) from at least 3 different Programme Countries**

Taking part as an Organisation (2)



- **HEIs established in a Programme Country:**

Accreditation at national level of each degree-awarding Master programme on the basis of which the EMJMD programme is composed – required at application stage



- **Cooperation with HEIs widespread across EHEA & HEIs and other eligible organisations from Partner Countries**
Benefits: specific expertise, visibility to students and employers, promotion, etc.
- **Associated partners (optional): specific tasks/activities, e.g. dissemination, knowledge and skills transfer, internships, etc.**

EMJMD Award Criteria (1)

to be discussed during the workshop



❖ Relevance of the project (max 40 points)

- ✓ *"jointness"/integration, design and structure*
- ✓ *integration in the partners' degree catalogues*
- ✓ *identification of needs in the academic field*
- ✓ *academic programme and learning outcomes*
- ✓ *HEI internationalisation: benefits of student and staff mobility*

❖ Quality of the project design and implementation (max 20 points)

- ✓ *academic programme and learning outcomes, excellent academic content*
- ✓ *evaluation methods to monitor, upgrade and improve quality*
- ✓ *student mobility and involvement of scholars/guest lecturers*
- ✓ *services to students and academic staff*
- ✓ *course rules, student rights and obligations (academic, administrative, financial)*
- ✓ *integration/networking of students within socio-cultural and professional environment*
- ✓ *Interaction with non-educational actors*

EMJMD Award Criteria (2)

to be discussed during the workshop



❖ Quality of the project team & the cooperation arrangements (max 20 points)

- ✓ *expertise of the involved partners/staff*
- ✓ *institutional commitment of partners; governing bodies and management tools*
- ✓ *joint criteria for student application, selection and admission requirements, examination and performance evaluation*
- ✓ *financial outline of the EMJMD, including complementary funding*

❖ Impact and dissemination (max 20 points)

- ✓ *development and sustainability strategy, mobilisation of other funding sources for scholarships and self-funded students*
- ✓ *institutional impact and internationalisation strategy*
- ✓ *entrepreneurship, involvement of employers and employability of graduates*
- ✓ *promotion, dissemination and awareness raising strategy, excellent students*
- ✓ *promotion of course materials and media through open licences (if relevant)*

EMJMD Evaluation procedure

- Peer review by independent external experts – 3 experts assess each proposal in a one-step evaluation procedure

- 2 thresholds:
 - 75% (30 points) of the maximum allocated points for "*Relevance*"
 - Proposals must score at least 70 points overall

- In case of *ex aequo*, priority will be given to projects scoring highest under the criterion "*Relevance*"

EMJMD funding rules



The EU grant for an EMJMD will be indicatively ~ **4 million €**

HEIs: Contribution to the consortium management costs (incl. costs for invited scholars and guest lecturers)

- 50.000 € per student intake (= 150.000 € in total) + 20.000 € for optional preparatory year

Students: max 25.000 € per academic year and per scholarship

Actual amount varies according to:

- * EMJMD's length of studies (60, 90 or 120 ECTS credits)
- * Student's country of residence
- * EMJMD level of participation costs

EMJMD students scholarships grants



	Students from Partner Countries	Students from Programme Countries
Contribution to participation costs	up to <u>9.000 € per year</u>	up to <u>4.500 € per year</u>
Contribution to travel costs*	<u>2.000 € per year</u> if residence is less than 4.000 km from EMJMD coordinator <u>3.000 € per year</u> if residence is 4.000 km or more from EMJMD coordinator	<u>1.000 € per year</u>
Contribution to installation costs*	<u>1.000 €</u>	-
Living allowance (max 24 months)	<u>1.000 € per month</u> (<u>not</u> when in country of residence, and max 3 months in any Partner Country)	<u>1.000 € per month</u> (<u>not</u> when in country of residence)

* Scholarship amounts for travel/installation depend on the place of residence at the time of scholarship application



How to apply Erasmus+ EMJMD call for proposals 2018

- **Publication of Call: ~ October 2017***
- **Deadline: Mid February 2018 Budget: ~120 M€ + ~28 M€ for "targeted regions" ***
- **Nr. of projects: ≈ 45 EMJMDs**

*** to be confirmed**



Information sources (1)



✓ Information on Erasmus+ and EMJMD (Programme Guide, call for proposals 2017, application procedure, etc.)

- http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm
- http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

✓ Practical details on "*How to prepare a competitive EMJMD proposal*"

- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/2017_emjmd_how_to_prepare_a_competitive_proposal-final.pdf

✓ EMJMD consortia selected in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/selection_results_en_25112014.pdf
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/e_2015_emjmd_selected_for_funding_2015.07.28_atc.pdf
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/2016_emjmd-selection_results_27.xlsx.pdf
- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/2017_emjmd38-selection_results.pdf



Information sources (2)



- ✓ **Policy paper: "EMJMDs - The story so far"**
 - https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/2_policy_paper_on_joint_degrees.pdf
- ✓ **Reference guide for practitioners: "Joint Degrees from A to Z (JDAZ)"**
 - <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/expertise/jdaz>
- ✓ **Best practices of Erasmus Mundus joint programmes**
 - http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/tools/good_practices_en.php
- ✓ **Sustainability of Erasmus Mundus Master Courses - Best practice guide based on survey results and analysis**
 - <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/sustainabilitysurvey2017.pdf>
- ✓ **Erasmus+ e-tutorial on how to prepare a competitive proposal**
 - https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/introduction-international-dimension-erasmus-plus_en



Information sources (3)

✓ Mastering Joint Excellence under Erasmus Mundus: Conclusions of the conference (2016)

- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/masteringjointexcellenceundererasmusmundus_web.pdf

✓ Erasmus+ Building on experience: Testimonials of Erasmus Mundus promotion projects

- https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/erasmus_building_on_experience.pdf



ECCE-MUNDUS

Enhancing Cross-regional Cooperation with Erasmus Mundus

KEY INFORMATION

Coordinator
Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary

Institutions/Countries involved
Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, Austria
Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation, Slovakia

Geographical focus
Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Central Asia

Year of activity 2011 - 2014

Total budget € 174,070

Grant received € 156,663

Website www.eccemundus.eu

Naturally, the number of participants in the Erasmus Mundus programme is not exactly equal per country or region. For example, a few years ago higher education institutions from Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Central Asia as well as the three Central European countries (Austria, Hungary, Slovakia) seemed to be underrepresented. This encouraged the ECCE Mundus team to help increase the number of programme participants by creating an [on-line database](#) collecting information on Erasmus Mundus scholarship opportunities. In addition, they held a series of training seminars (in Vienna, Bratislava, Almaty and twice in Budapest). Thanks to all those activities, representatives of various Higher Education Institutions from the regions concerned got access to practical information (with proper briefings for every institution before and after every seminar) and valuable contacts with potential EU partners. Next to universities, the project tried also to reach Master and PhD students and employers.



**Márton
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"ALMOST THREE QUARTERS OF SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS DEVELOPED THEIR IDEAS INTO ACTUAL PROJECT PROPOSALS"

What is your best project memory?

The ECCE Mundus project was the best project-related experience in our professional career. The project idea was built on a very clear needs analysis, taking into account Erasmus Mundus participation of all three countries and targeted partner countries involved. The workshop consisted of a series of activities that had already proven to be useful in other projects before, however they had never been combined in one place. So this might be the main success factor of the ECCE Mundus project – a clear needs analysis, clearly identified target groups and activities that fit well the purpose.

But there is more to that. Collaborating closely with colleagues in other countries within a small project team was very encouraging and motivating not only as far as project activities were concerned but it also improved the everyday work of our Erasmus Mundus National Structure and later on of the Erasmus+ National Agency. Getting out of the office and meeting the colleagues in person, producing concrete project outputs together, maintaining intensive communication throughout the year, these are sources of many pleasant memories. Moreover, members of the project team have gathered a number of new skills, useful knowledge and professional experience. And it does not matter whether the backdrop of the scene was one of the capitals in Central Europe, Bratislava, Budapest or Vienna or a distant Almaty in Central Asia! The success of each event and its networking dimension was well supported by good food, like typical Wiener schnitzel in Vienna, goulash in Budapest, various sausages in Bratislava and tasty horse meat dishes in Almaty.

What was the most important thing you learnt during the implementation of the project?

For us the most important thing we've learnt was the discovery that when you are part of a small project team there is no chance to be a "sleeping partner". You must communicate and anything you do (or don't do) has a strong impact on the project, both in a positive as well as in a negative way. But in return you get an amazing feeling of owning the project and extremely close cooperation that you can hardly ever experience in big networks. This is the phenomenon which makes people say "this project is my baby".



**Martina
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Education and
Research

And what do you like about your project?

We are really glad that we have reached a certain level of sustainability in this project. The ECCE Mundus project was meant to increase the participation of higher education institutions in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia and countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Western Balkans in the EU programmes of Erasmus Mundus and Tempus. In the light of the launch of the Erasmus+ programme and its new possibilities for funding, the ECCE Mundus project was more than welcome by the target groups. For many of them it was the first source of information and guidance on the new programme. It also promoted internationalisation of higher education in all its forms. As the final ECCE Mundus impact survey showed, virtually all participants were motivated to continue contacts and cooperation ideas initiated during the seminars, and almost three quarters of ECCE Mundus seminar participants continued to develop their project ideas with new partners into actual project proposals. Moreover, those who experienced the ECCE Mundus project still tend to contact the ex-ECCE Mundus team for information on the Erasmus+ programme. They visit the project website and download the compendia of project ideas as well as search the database of Erasmus Mundus courses offered in AT, HU and SK. This is what we like about the project very much.

What was the most difficult moment and how did you cope with it?

The ECCE Mundus application was submitted in a period when there was minimum information about the next generation of EU programmes in the field of education and training. The original work-plan was based on the Erasmus Mundus and Tempus reality. With the launch of Erasmus+ many elements of the project had to be revised and solutions had to be found in order to keep the project relevant for the target groups. But thanks to a well-working partnership we agreed quickly on a plan B and in the end we implemented the project successfully. During project implementation we also had some difficulties and major issues which had indirect effects on our agenda and thus, the project started with some delay. Nevertheless, we not only managed to realise the three planned contact seminars but due to efficient use of funds we also organised two additional events.

Looking from today's perspective, what would you have improved in the project implementation?

If you organise an event in an EU country and



**Katarina
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Coordinator
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Cooperation

participants from outside the EU, you should take into account that more effort and time will be needed, especially due to visa requirements or simply greater travel distances. The same applies to the workload, which can become surprisingly heavy, if you offer reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs to seminar participants after the event. Given all that, we would probably foresee more time for event organisation.

Has the EM Action 3 initiative encouraged you to continue the work initiated during the project?

Yes, it did. The three partner countries still collaborate with each other and created fruitful synergies. Moreover, we are in touch with a group of alumni of the Mundus courses covered by ECCE: we inform them about our activities and invite them to our events. It is always a great pleasure to meet our past participants during various events like conferences or info days. It happened several times that a person who started as a participant trained by the consortium proved later on to be a successful project manager and became one of our resource persons.

How and by whom the outcomes of your project will be used in the future? Will students have a particular benefit from the outcome?

ECCE Mundus seminar will serve as an example and inspiration for future Erasmus+ National Agencies activities, both in terms of content as well as structure. Results and experiences gained during the implementation of the project will be used in the promotion of the centralised actions of Erasmus+. In-depth knowledge on the joint and double degrees will be disseminated in conferences and training seminars.

The end-users (i.e. representatives of academia) may have permanent access to project outcomes published on the project's website (as compendia of projects). Students interested in joint study programmes can get a quick overview of Erasmus+ Erasmus Mundus joint programmes offered by higher education institutions in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia in an attractive promotion brochure and an online course database.



Thank you for your attention!

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