

**Partnership Agreement on the organisation of the
Joint European Studies Programme**

***MA Economics of International Trade and
European Integration***

Between

- Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)
- Università degli studi di Bari (Italy)
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
- Universidad de Cantabria (Spain)
- Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille (Lille I) (France)
- Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze (Czech Republic)
- Staffordshire University (UK)

(hereafter called 'the Partners').

- Considering that, as a result of fundamental changes in the international trading environment associated with European integration and economic renewal in Central and Eastern Europe, the universities participating in this programme acknowledge the need for their economic and management faculties to develop European joint educational initiatives;
- considering that there is an increasing need for specialised university training in the field of the economics of European integration in which, besides a further study in economic theory, applied economic, social, legal and political topics on European integration are dealt with;
- considering that the above partners feel that this type of study prospers in an environment where students and teachers from different countries meet;
- considering the long tradition of student mobility programmes between all the partners;
- considering that the present MA programme has been running since 1994 in the context of the TEMPUS and ERASMUS-SOCRATES programmes of the European Union,

the following is agreed.

TITLE I: PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 1

The purpose of this agreement is to consolidate a European consortium (hereafter called 'the Consortium') whose partners jointly award the Masters degree MA *Economics of International Trade and European Integration*, hereafter called 'the Programme'. The present agreement renews and updates the existing agreement on the same subject, signed in 1994.

TITLE II: ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

Article 2: Legal Structure

The consortium has no legal entity. It does not have any separate administrative or financial autonomy.

Article 3: Board of Studies

The Board of Studies (BS) has responsibility and overall authority for the operation of the Programme and co-ordinates the actions laid down in this Agreement. It is constituted by the representatives of the partner universities. Each partner will delegate a member of teaching staff as its representative on the BS. The BS decides and formulates advice to the Partners by consensus. The BS will meet at least twice each year.

Article 4: Competence of the Board of Studies

The competence of the BS concerns, among other things, the following points:

- the organisation of the recruitment;
- advising the Partners on the definition of admission criteria (see section 3 of Annex 1 to the Agreement);
- the evaluation of the activities of the past and current academic year, specifically also taking account of the yearly student evaluations organised by the BS;
- monitoring the implementation of quality assurance procedures;
- the planning of the activities of the following academic year, specifically with respect to:
 - the formulation of advice to the Partners concerning the definition and distribution of teaching assignments;
 - the timing of the terms of the Programme;
 - the timing and organisation of the examinations;
- the issuing of common brochures and leaflets for the Programme;
- the updating of the web-site of the Programme;
- advising the Partners on changes in the content of the Programme;
- monitoring the implementation of any health, safety, disability and other EU legislative requirements covering students, and
- in general, updating the contents of Annexes 1 and 2 to the Agreement according to prior decisions taken by the BS itself, or by the Partners on advice of the BS, as appropriate.

The members of the BS that belong to the teaching staff of their university also jointly act as the Examination Board deciding on arrangements for graduation, grades and re-sits. In doing so, the Examination Board is guided by the official Examination Regulations of the Programme (see Annex 2 to this Agreement). Each year the Examination Board, by consensus, appoints one of its members as chairperson.

Article 5: Financing

Since the consortium is not a legal entity, its activities are funded from contributions (financial or in-kind) by each partner separately. Each partner decides on the amount of its contribution and remains in full control of its use. The BS may however advise the partners on their use of the funds. An EU contribution in the framework of the SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme is possible; the BS advises also on the use of these funds.

Each partner is responsible for financing its participation in the Programme (meetings of the BS, mobility of staff, etc.). Each partner may use the resources provided by the EU SOCRATES Programme to finance its activities.

Article 6: Quality Assurance

Each member of the Consortium is subject to, and will follow, its own normal institutional quality assurance procedures to ensure that the Programme maintains its high academic quality. In addition to the normal institutional arrangements, the Programme will also have its own specific quality assurance mechanisms in place. These include: formal and informal feedback from students, feedback from teaching staff and local co-ordinators to the BS, Staffordshire University external examiners' reports and examination results.

The use of universities names and logos in publicity for the programme will be subject to the approval systems of individual universities. Furthermore, no partner shall make representation to third parties on behalf of one or more of the other partners.

TITLE III: THE MA DEGREE

Article 7: Programme Content

The content of the Programme is laid down in Section 1 of Annex 1 to this Agreement. Changes can only be made by unanimous decision of the Partners on advice of the BS.

Article 8: Delivery

The MA degree is jointly awarded by the partners of the Consortium to all the students that have successfully passed the examinations. As in the preceding 1994-2000 period in the TEMPUS context, the diplomas are jointly signed by the Rectors, Presidents or Vice-Chancellors respectively, of the universities of the Consortium.

TITLE IV: ABOUT THE DURATION, THE ENFORCEMENT AND THE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 9: Duration of the Agreement

The present Agreement becomes valid from the academic year 2001-2002. Each partner receives one official copy of the Agreement.

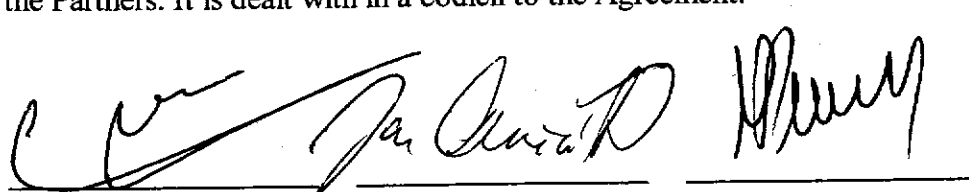
The Agreement remains valid for a period of five years at which point the Agreement will be subject to review and ratification by all partners.

Article 10: Enforcement of the Agreement

An opting-out procedure cannot become effective before the end of the academic year in which its notification has been given and an advance notice of at least six months should be observed. The partner who is opting out is committed to fulfilling all obligations to current students on the award and to the signing of the diplomas of the student cohorts that were taught by teachers affiliated with that partner in their official capacity.

Article 11: Extension of the Agreement to other institutions

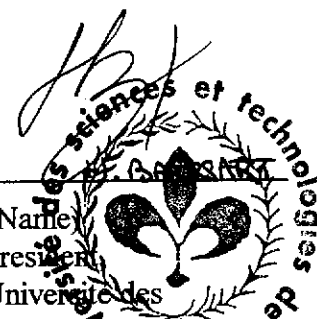
The extension of this convention to other institutions can be proposed by consensus by the BS to the Partners. It is dealt with in a codicil to the Agreement.





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