



Erasmus+



We encourage Western Balkan!

Joint MA Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSiG)

PoSiG roadshow April-September 2017

Franz Kok

Erasmus Coordinator Political Science
Executive Director EuroPS Consortium
Rudolfskai 42, 5020 Salzburg, Austria
Tel. +43-662-8044-6613 DD
E-Mail: franz.kok@sbg.ac.at
www.euro-ps.org



Erasmus+ Programme
KA2 Capacity Building Project No. 561485-EPP- 1-2015—1- AT-EPPKA2- CBHE-JP
in Higher Education of the



Background

Political Science – PLUS:

- 4 Prof & 15 Doc/PostDoc
- 500 students at BA/MA/PhD level
- BA/MA/PhD Political Science
- MA European Union Studies (joint Degree with Olmuc & Rome)
- First Austrian Erasmus ICP participation&coordination in 1991
- 500 Exchanges in PS till 2011
- Member of www.erasmus-network.eu
- Active Bologna implementation

Erasmus Mundus (SIGMA, SIGMA Agile)

Capacity building - Austrian Development Agency projects in Kosovo

- BA Political Science (2011)
- MA European Integration & Public Administration (2014)

Erasmus+

- Credit Mobility with Georgia & Armenia
- EuroPS project since 2015 and EUintPA applied 2017





Results

- Development of a joint MA program in Political Science accredited at project partner via European Accreditation
- Development of a *multilateral* management of the MA program
 - Structure of boards (coordinators board, QM board, student board)
 - Regulations and plan for sustainable management

Outputs:

- Curriculum document (structure, content, study track, examination)
- Institutional agreement (degree giving, finance/ressources, governance of the program...)
- Side documents (Application procedures, QA tools, diploma supplement, degree document...)



Partner – www.euro-ps.org

University of Salzburg (PLUS - LP)
University of University of Pavia (UPAV)
University of Ljubljana (ULJU)

Cyril and Method University Skopje (UKIM)
European University of Tirana (UET)
University of Tirana (UTIR)
FAMA College (FAMA)
University of Bussiness and Technology (UBT)
University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)

>Following *national* Erasmus+ priorities for Capacity Building
>Serbia and Montenegro shall be integrated with a tender project



Joint preparation

- Kickoff Tirana 18-20 October 2015
- Coordinators Boards decided about
 - Structure of curriculum
 - Description of modules and courses – templates
 - Institutional agreement and usiness plan
- Teacher workshops in all subjects March-April 2016
- Quality Board developed
 - Joint teaching requiriement
 - QA tools
 - eLearning environment
- **European Accreditation based on the Yerevan Declaration of Bologna Ministers 2015 by AQ Austria in March 2017**
- Implementation of PoSiG 2017
 - Seminars of Excellenc Spring 2017
 - **First cohort starting in Salzburg 2017-18**



Joint curriculum

Module I:
Political Theory

Module II:
*Comparative
Politics*

Module III:
*Public
Administration*

Module IV:
*International
Relations*

Module V:
*European
Integration*

Obligatory Elective Modules (2 out of 5)

Specialisation I (18 ECTS)

Course Basic Texts
Course I
Course II

Specialisation II (18 ECTS)

Course Basic Texts
Course I
Course II

Obligatory Courses (24 ECTS)

Internship Course Methods I Course Methods II Master Thesis Seminar

Obligatory Elective Course (1 out of 2) (6 ECTS)

Course Advanced Methods Applied Politics Course

Additional Courses (24 ECTS)

Master's Thesis incl. Defence (30 ECTS)

Total: 120 ECTS

Joint Curriculum

Theory & methodology guided academic work

- on all dimensions of Politics
- provide qualifications on EQF level 7
- 1st year at WE and 2nd year at WB EuroPS universities
- Individual specialization of academic profiles

Students electing 2 out of 5 modules describing all dimensions of politics:

Political Theory – normative discourses on politics and theories

Comparative Politics – only to compare politics allows general conclusions

International Relations – shows the global dimensions of politics

Public Administration and Policy – implementation of policies & political capacities

European Integration – as *multilateral & multilevel* approach of modern democracy in a complex world.

Labour market relevance provided with

Internship support by stakeholder database

MA thesis with applicable results



Competences & professional fields

PoSiG Alumni

- With expertise about the conditions for social, economic and political processes on the Western Balkans.
- MA thesis research experience relevant for the social, economic and political development of the region.
- Competences to contribute to the political debate and process related to Europeanisation of the Western Balkan.

Professional fields

- at local and national level in public administration, parliaments and political parties, non-governmental organisations, interest groups and trade unions, the business sector, media and public relations.
- in international organisations, foreign services (careers in diplomacy), in institutions of the European Union and in international profit and non profit organizations, development agencies and NGOs.
- in civic and political education (foundations, academies, educational institutes, etc.).
- academic careers (teaching and research at universities and research institutions).



Multilateral & Student centered

Student centered

- With obligatory elective fields of specialization
- *Individual qualification tracks* at 2 or 4 EuroPS universities
- Students representation in the Student Board

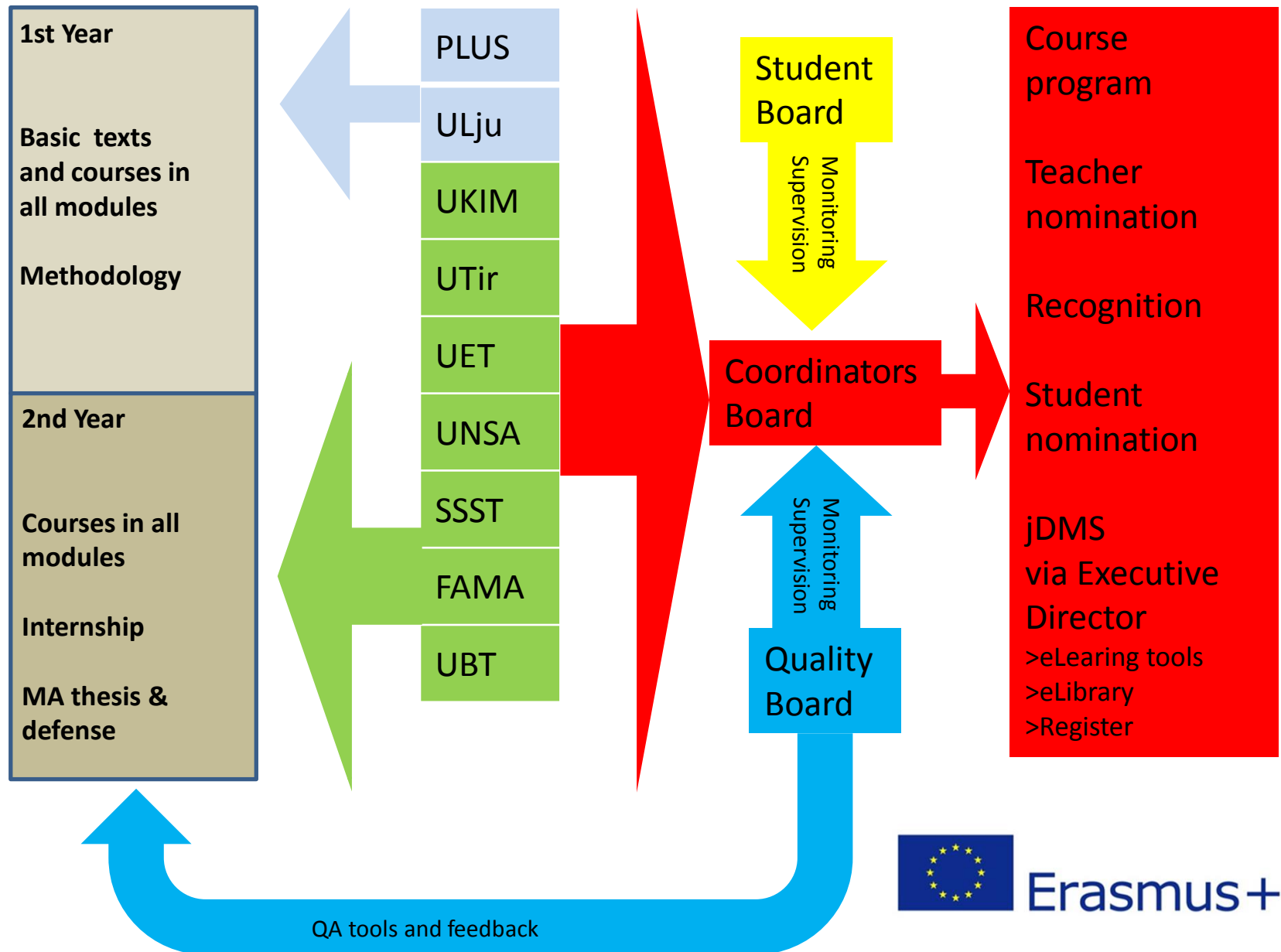
Joint *multilateral* Management and degree

- By 2-4 actively by a student attended partner universities
- With joint Diploma & Diploma Supplement
- Joint *multilateral* coordination in a Coordinators Board
- Joint QA with independent Quality Management and Quality Board
- Students representation in the Student Board

Participation costs: Individual approach

Each partner universities participation cost policy for active study terms.

>shared costs for degree giving management & joint eLearning infrastructure



Obligatory Elective Modules (2 modules out of 5):	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Political Theory				
Basic Text		Salzburg		
Course		Salzburg		
Course		Ljubljana	SSST	UET
Course			UTIR	FAMA
Course			UKIM	UNSA
Course				UBT
Comparative Politics				
Basic Text		Ljubljana		
Basic Text		Salzburg		
Course		Ljubljana		
Course		Salzburg		
Course			UKIM	UKIM
Course	Salzburg		UTir	UNSA
Course				FAMA
Public Administration & Policy				
Basic Text	Ljubljana			
Course	Ljubljana	Ljubljana	UTir	UET
Course			UKIM	UNSA
International Relations				
Basic Text	Salzburg			
Course	Salzburg			
Course		Ljubljana	SSST	UET
Course			UTir	
Course			UKIM	
European Integration				
Basic Text		Salzburg		
Course		Salzburg	UKIM	UNSA
Course		Ljubljana	SSST	FAMA

Obligatory Courses				
Methods I	Salzburg/ Ljubljana			
Methods II		Salzburg/ Ljubljana		
Thesis Seminar			SSST/ UKIM/ UTir	FAMA/ UET
Obligatory Elective Courses				
Methods advanced		Salzburg/ Ljubljana		
Applied Politics	Ljubljana		SSST/ UKIM	UET
Additional Courses				
Additional Courses	Salzburg/ Ljubljana	Salzburg/ Ljubljana	SSST/ UNSA/ UKIM/ UTir/ UET/ FAMA/ UBT	SSST/ UNSA/ UKIM/ UTir/ UET/ FAMA/ UBT
Master's Thesis				
Master's Thesis			SSST/ UNSA/ UKIM/ UTir/ UET/ FAMA/ UBT	SSST/ UNSA/ UKIM/ UTir/ UET/ FAMA/ UBT

Joint Degree



Univerza / Universitas
v Ljubljani / Labacensis



Rector of the
University of
Ljubljana

UNIVERSITÄT
SALZBURG

Dean of Faculty of Social and
Cultural Science

Universiteti
European i
Tiranës

Rector of European University of
Tirana



Dean of xxxx

with the official stamps and with their signatures confirm that

Franz Josef KOK

born 05 October 1962, Vransko (Slovenia)

based on the positive assessment of all exams and the master's thesis as set out in the curriculum for the

JOINT MASTER POLITICAL SCIENC – INTEGRATION & GOVERNMENT

on (date of graduation)

the student is awarded the degree corresponding to the following equivalent in the Joint Degree consortium:

University of Ljubljana	Universität Salzburg	European University of Tirana	Sarajevo School for Science and Technology
Magister xxx xxx	Master of Arts (MA)	Master of Arts (MA)	Master of Arts (MA)

Rector of the
University of Ljubljana
Prof. dr. Ivan
Svetlik

Dean of Faculty of Social and Cultural
Science
Ao.Univ.Prof.Mag.rer.soc.oec.Dr.phil.
Martin Weichbold

Rector of European
University of Tirana
Prof. Dr. Tonin Gjura

Dean of xxxx
Dr. Sabina Cehajic,
Clancy - Associate
Professor

No. / številka: XXX
Place, date of
issue



2017 activities...

„Bridges within Europe!“ conference 8-11 June 2017 in Sarajevo

- included partner from Serbia and Montenegro
- Together with Western European www.erasmus-network.eu and www.euro-ps.org

PoSiG - Quality Assurance of multilateral Joint Degrees

(QAmuJD Erasmus+ capacity building project)

- To ensure and develop quality standards in accreditation, teaching and management of multilateral joint degrees (jDMS+)
- To include new partner from Serbia and Montenegro in the EuroPS consortium
- To develop labour market alliances
- To establish a Jean Monnet Network on Western Balkan

Grants für PoSiG

- Erasmus grants – BA – MA - PhD
- KA 107 Erasmus+ Credit Mobility: Extension of partner & number of grants
- Stake holder grants for MA thesis projects

www.euro-ps.org



Agency for
Quality Assurance
and Accreditation
Austria

The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria
awards its quality seal



to the Joint Master's Programme

Political Science – Integration and Governance (PoSIG)

to be implemented at the following Universities:

European University of Tirana (UET), Albania
University of Tirana (UTIR), Albania
University of Salzburg (PLUS), Austria
University of Sarajevo (UNSA), Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST), Bosnia and Herzegovina
FAMA College (FAMA), Kosovo¹
University of Business and Technology (UBT), Kosovo²
**Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM), FYROM the Former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**
University of Ljubljana (ULJU), Slovenia

The study programme complies with the "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes (2015)", approved by European Higher Education Area ministers in May 2015 in Yerevan (adopted by the Board of AQ Austria in its 36th meeting on 20th September 2016)

The accreditation is subject to conditions and is valid until 14th March 2023.

Vienna, 15th March 2017

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anke Hanft
President of the Board of AQ Austria

Dr. Achim Hopbach
Managing Director of AQ Austria



European Approach Accreditation

Why?

- Support of EuroPS partner in the accreditation of PoSIG was part of our project.
- EA approach fits best to our *multilateral* consortium management approach.
- EACEA has approved to use EA procedures to support the partner.
- ECA as external expert gave support and Ministry of Science in Vienna encouraged us.
- We soon found out that is good to be multilateral ;-)

How?

- Not easy to make a self accrediting PLUS going to AQ!
- ECA and AQ expertise on EA built up *trust* to enter this new land.
- Contract between PLUS as leader of the EuroPS consortium and AQ including timeplan.
- Positive AQ board decision in March 2017 and September 2017.

Challenges I

- Self Evaluation Report was no new challenge since all issues listed there where part of the activities performed in the project.
- External Experts had concerns regarding the multilateral governance approach.
- Academic coordinators had different backgrounds about responsibilities in accreditation.
- National accreditation procedures follow given tracks and requirements for documentation.
- Legal frame for EA in all 7 countries had to be identified and compared.



European Approach Accreditation

Challenges II

- Confirmation of status of HEI's in the consortium: Internal discussion why to ask for this again.
- Confirmation of status of HEI's in the consortium: Ministries did not know why and for what.
- Unclear responsibilities at the big public Universities.
- EA was unknown at the ministries – whether they have signed Yerevan or not. (Exemption: Austria ;-)
- Ministries not able to act because of changing governments or ongoing legal reforms. Acting persons at administrative level did not want to be responsible for anything in this situation.
- Accreditation agencies mostly informed – only one had no idea what Yerevan means.
- Accreditation agencies cooperative or acting as veto player.
- Legal situation allows easy going implementation or repetition of the full process (including timeline)!
- Deadlines for national implementation of EA decision at all or most members of a consortium:
>Problem of different timelines and speed within the consortium.



European Approach Accreditation

Recommendations EA implementation

- Checklist for member states about legal implementation standards.
- Connect it to procedural national standards as they are used by the agencies. To be documented by the member states.
- Based on existing national lists of HEI's eligible to joint studies.
- Standards for the quality of the management of joint study programs as basis for evaluators.

Recommendations Bologna – Yerevan - ?

- Implementation standards for EA accreditation (↑).
- European Register of EA accreditation results.
- Implicit confirmation of EA accreditation results by the national agencies in a defined time after EA board decision. They can veto the listing of single members (from the respective country) of the consortium of joint study programs in the EA accreditation register.
- Capacitybuilding/structural support is necessary in Erasmus+ Programme & Partner Countries.
 - > Ministries about legal reforms and procedures
 - > HEI's about standards in joint study QM with set of tools/procedures
 - > jDMS for a *virtual universitiy*
- *Erasmus Mundus MA Grants* should be available for joint study programs based on EA accreditation and allow also the financing of HEI's from partner countries.



European Approach Accreditation

EA Accreditation as tool for innovative HE policy

- BIG/SMALL issue: Academic excellence is not connected to the size of Universities and countries. Big names = big outputs?
- BIG/SMALL conclusion: Joint Studies based on *complementarity* can be an opportunity to strengthen centers of excellence at Universities – also in smaller universities of small countries.
- Budget restrictions in the HE policies lead to increasing pressure for cooperation in teaching.
- *Declining student mobility* can be encouraged with joint study programs.
- *EA accreditation* of joint studies can be the tool to support high academic quality of international HEI networks and to use *joint study programs as incubators for the modernization and internationalization of HEI's*.
- Joint study consortia can be *sectoral bench mark developer* in Europe and flagships in the global competition. They therefore need to have a bigger sizes and geographic coverage .
- The bigger the consortia the higher the necessity to guarantee quality via management standards (transparency, reliability, responsibility).
- Joint study consortia can be an opportunity to develop *European standards in neighboring regions* and strengthen also *internal regional cooperation* (>Western Balkan >Black Sea Region).
- *Multilateral consortia stress the national regulations systems* to act along European standards – represented by the results of EA accreditation.



European Approach Accreditation

Perspective of Ministries and national agencies

- Intervention in a legally defined special relation to independent accreditation bodies.
>“Once we made a law we do not want to do anything else...”
- Signatures in Yerevan 2015 did not trickle down to administration – EA issues we always had to negotiate with the political management of ministries.
- Legal framework might be open to EA or make problems – HEI laws not easy to be changed in a few minutes
- The positive political impact of joint studies for small countries is not fully understood or welcome – needs cooperation beyond the own national *ownership*.
- Local support and lobbying is effective if HEI's in the consortium have lobbying capacity and political appropriate contact to the ministry.
- It is difficult to act in front of a multilateral HEI consortium.
- Need a Erasmus+ structural project. >EA could benefit from it as well?

EuroPS EA Docs:

- Self Evaluation Report (SER).
- Statement Evaluations.
- EuroPS statement to Evaluation experts.
- QA decision (+conditions, recommendations)
- Factsheet on legal Status of HEI's
- Documentation of Compliance of Conditions

Education & Integration:
Bridges for the Human Dimension
of European Integration



*From everything that man erects and builds in his urge for living
nothing is in my eyes better and more valuable than bridges.
They are more important than houses,
more sacred than shrines.
Belonging to everyone and being equal to everyone,
useful, always built with a sense,
On the spot where most human needs are crossing,
they are more durable than other buildings
and they do not serve for anything secret or bad.*

Ivo Andric

