

Summary of the National Survey HUNGARY

Hungary joined the Bologna Process in 1999 by signing the Bologna Declaration with 28 other countries to establish the European Higher Education Area by 2010.

Hungarian higher education institutions are autonomous, state-recognised, state or non-state (church or private) institutions. There are two types of higher education institutions, *egyetem* (university) and *főiskola* (college). Both universities and colleges may offer courses in all three cycles. A university is a higher education institution that is eligible to provide Master courses in at least two fields of study, and to offer Doctorate course as well as to confer Doctoral degrees.

The consecutive training cycles of the higher education leading to a higher education degree are *alapképzés* (Bachelor course, 180-240 credits, 6-8 semesters), *mesterképzés* (Master course, 60-120 credits, 2-4 semesters) and *doktori képzés* (Doctorate course, 180 credits, 6 semesters). Bachelor and Master courses are taught in consecutive cycles, in the form of divided training, or in cases specified by law in the form of undivided, one-tier (long cycle) training (10-12 semesters, 300-360 credits, only in the field of veterinary medicine, architecture, dentistry, pharmaceuticals, law and medicine) resulting master degree.

In addition, higher education institutions may conduct higher-level vocational training and postgraduate specialist training, as well as can offer adult education within the framework of lifelong learning.

Higher education institutions apply a credit system based on the European Credit Transfer System. Accordingly, one credit stands for 30 hours of student workload.

Useful links

Ministry of Education and Culture: <http://www.okm.gov.hu/main.php?folderID=137>

Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (ENIC / NARIC Office):

<http://www.oh.gov.hu/main.php?folderID=3351>

Educational Authority www.oh.gov.hu

Hungarian Accreditation Committee: <http://www.mab.hu/english/index.html>

Act on Higher Education: http://www.okm.gov.hu/letolt/nemzet/naric/act_cxxxix_2005.pdf

The framework of establishing a joint programme is regulated by the Act CXXXIX of 2005 on Higher Education (the full text in English http://www.okm.gov.hu/letolt/nemzet/naric/act_cxxxix_2005.pdf). According to the Section 117 (4) of the HE Act, "Hungarian and foreign higher education institutions may provide joint programmes awarding joint degree if all the following criteria are met:

- a) the HEIs are entitled to provide such programmes,
- b) the HEIs concerned have agreed as to the organisation of the programme,
- c) the HEIs concerned have been granted state recognition in their state of residence,
- d) the degree issued is accepted as a degree awarded in higher education pursuant to the relevant national law of the countries concerned

e) the agreement expressly specifies the Hungarian undergraduate (bachelor), graduate (master) or doctoral or postgraduate specialist training course requirements to which the joint programmes conforms

The procedure of the accreditation of a joint programme

A) All the requirements mentioned above are fulfilled.

1) Prior to launching a programme, the HEI shall request an expert opinion from the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC).

B) All the requirements mentioned above are fulfilled except point e) (the joint programme does not conform to a specific Hungarian bachelor, master or doctoral or postgraduate specialist training course requirements)

1) Prior to the establishment of a programme framework, the HEI concerned shall request an expert opinion from the HAC.

2) With the supportive expert opinion of the HAC the establishment of a programme framework shall be initiated at the Ministry of Education and Culture to publish the programme completion and exit requirements of the new programme in a ministerial order. (Special regulations are in place regarding the introduction of bachelor programmes.)

Main sources of joint programmes in Hungary are

1) Erasmus Curriculum projects

Since 2007 eleven Hungarian HEIs participated in 16 CD projects in different fields of study.

2) CEEPUS projects

CEEPUS is a multilateral higher educational cooperation programme in Central Europe, 16 countries are involved in it. One of the programme's priorities is to enhance development of joint programmes. The programme established in 1994, so a lot of joint programmes were developed or are under development. 22 Hungarian HEIs are participating in 29 CEEPUS networks and even more joint programmes in different fields of study.

National situation in the participation in the Erasmus Mundus programme

- EMMC (2004-2008): situation in Action 1 and Action 3 – overview of accepted and rejected proposals

In the first phase of the Erasmus Mundus programme there were 57 applications in which included Hungarian HEIs. 10 were selected; the success rate was slightly below the European average.

Although the selected 10 Erasmus Mundus Master Courses make the Hungarian participation satisfactory but not sufficient due to the fact that only 4 Hungarian HEIs are involved in the EMMCs and only one of them is the co-ordinator of the project.

- EMMC and EMJD (last results 2009): overview of accepted and rejected applications

In the first call of Erasmus Mundus II much more applications (24) were submitted and more Hungarian HEIs were involved concerning the EMMCs (15) but not for the EMJDs (9). Only 5 EMMC were short listed and only one new EMMC were selected, the participating Hungarian HEI is one of the four HEIs who were already involved in the programme.

Most of the applications have the same reasons to be not selected. The experts' comments indicate that most of the projects are not clear enough or not detailed / focused enough or not presented well, however the basic idea is very good even unique. In most cases the educational level is high and the partnership is well established. Sometimes the organization of the consortium is very co-ordinator centered. These applications were advised to revise their project and reapply next year.

Other applications had common negative elements which are in close connection with the pre Bologna degree structure. The projects often had comments like 'The programme seems like a long cycle course', 'learning outcomes are sketchy' or 'not mentioned at all' mainly in the period of 2004-2006 before the Bologna reform took place in Hungary. Now there are only a few projects which were commented so.

- **THEMA (European Territories (Civilization, Nation, Region, City): Identity and Development)**
Consortium: Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (HU), École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales de Paris (France), Università degli Studi di Catania (Italy), Univerzita Karlova v Praze

The joint study programme of TEMA has been developed with the aid of a Socrates Erasmus Curriculum Development Grant provided by the European Commission, from 2005 to 2008, involving the consortium. The 2-year-long TEMA European Master Course European territories: identity and development proposes the analysis of political use and scientific representation of territorial units (civilization, nation, region, city) in an interdisciplinary, research-based curriculum. The consortium applied unsuccessfully for EM in 2009.

- **HAS – High assurance software**
Consortium: Babeş-Bolyai University (RO), Loránd Tudományegyetem (HU), University of Gothenburg (S), Radboud University (NL)

The joint programme has been developed in the framework of CEEPUS and Erasmus programme. The consortium was awarded the CEEPUS Ministerial Prize two times. The 2-year long HAS programme aims to train professionals capable of building high assurance software (a software which always perform certain key functions without failing).

Since 2006/2007 Bologna reforms were implemented in Hungary there are no legal obstacles to participate in the Erasmus Mundus programme. Although it is still not simple to start and successfully pass the accreditation procedure of a joint programme at least compared to national programmes. Nevertheless it is not unique in Europe.

Results indicate that the participation of Hungarian HEIs is satisfactory (in applying), however Hungarian HEIs are less represented in selected projects. Only four HEIs are involved in 11 EMMCs, and not only these universities are the most active internationally.

The analysis of rejected Erasmus Mundus proposals indicates that the only way to enhance HU representation is to offer an international training seminar to those universities which have already developed an excellent joint programme only the presentation of it or the focus of the proposal was not convincing to the experts. The consortia of THEMA and HAS can be the projects which could diversify the Hungarian participation in the Erasmus Mundus programme.

