

Summary of the National Survey POLAND

System of higher education in Poland is regulated by Act *Law on Higher Education* (27 July 2005) which provides basis for introduction of almost all Bologna “tools”: three-stage system, ECTS as credit point system, recognised mobility, obligatory issue of Diploma Supplement, quality assurance, etc. In order to complete implementation of all Bologna action-lines there is a need for changes in the institutional frameworks. This process is well advanced.

In 2008 and 2009 intensive work has been implemented on preparation of basis for complex modernisation of the higher education sector in Poland. The Ministry responsible for higher education and science (research) commissioned to two independent teams of experts preparation of guidelines for strategic developments of HE in Poland to 2020. It is expected that law on HE will be adjusted accordingly to the developed strategy. No doubts that joint study programmes at any level will be one of new developments in Polish HE.

According to the existing Law (2005) joint study programmes with foreign higher education institutions can be conducted on the basis of an agreement concluded between consortium partners. Although Polish university can participate in a consortium implementing joint study programmes, the PL university can award to successful graduates only national diploma, which is fully recognized by the system – according to the Erasmus Mundus terminology, only double or multiply diploma are recognized.

The quality of projects submitted by Polish universities in the first phase of Erasmus Mundus was not sufficiently good as non of PL HEIs coordinate any EMMC. But they were quite successful as project partners with 15 joint EMMC selected in the period 2004-2008.

The PL HEIs success rate of first selection round (2009) in second phase of Erasmus Mundus is 28 % in EMMC and only 7% in EMJD. The most frequently identified weak points are related to the management and promotion strategy of joint programmes and the strengths are identified mostly in the area of integration of the joint programmes and its quality.

Polish legislation does not provide clear guidance related to joint study programme leaving decisions to the higher education institutions willing to introduce them. Lack of possibility to issue joint diploma compatible with the definition established by the Erasmus Mundus programme is not an obstacle to develop joint study programmes.

Most important obstacles to develop and introduce joint programmes are:

- lack of detailed executory provisions how to prepare joint study programme;
- ignorance of existing rules by some of academic teachers which make it difficult to use existing possibilities and autonomy to prepare and implement joint study programmes;
- too many central regulations making developments of joint study programmes difficult;
- lack of consensus on accreditation of joint study programmes.

Expected changes in existing law should change substantially situation related to joint study programmes in the HE sector in Poland in the future.