



Joint European degree label: state of play and next steps



What?



“ A quality label granted to joint programmes delivered through transnational cooperation between higher education institutions from different countries, including at least two EU Member States, to act as a branding tool, promoting compliance with European standards and providing visibility and prestige to the labelled joint programmes. **”**



The Scope

Joint Bachelor's (EQF 6), joint Master's (EQF 7) and Doctoral (EQF 8) degrees.



The Scale

Joint programme offer by at least 2 higher education institutions from 2 different EU countries (+Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)



The Ambition

Represents the first phase towards a possible real European Degree in the future

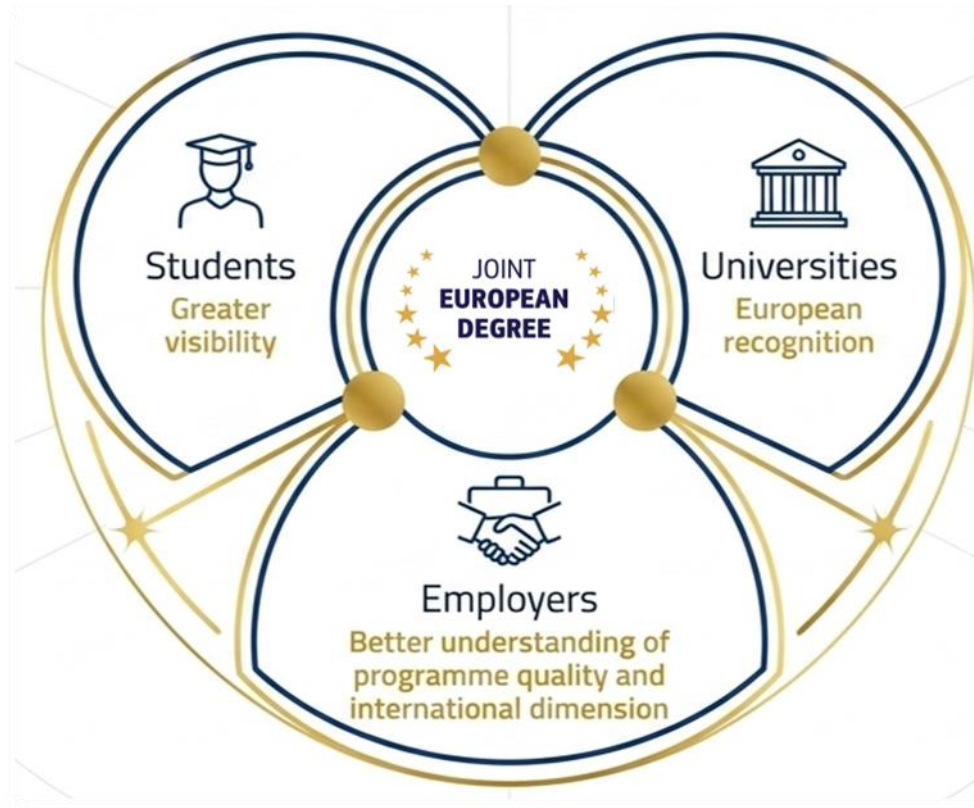
Why?

*The challenges Europe faces require diverse forms of education, talent and innovation.
Joint programmes are part of the answer.*



What to expect from it?

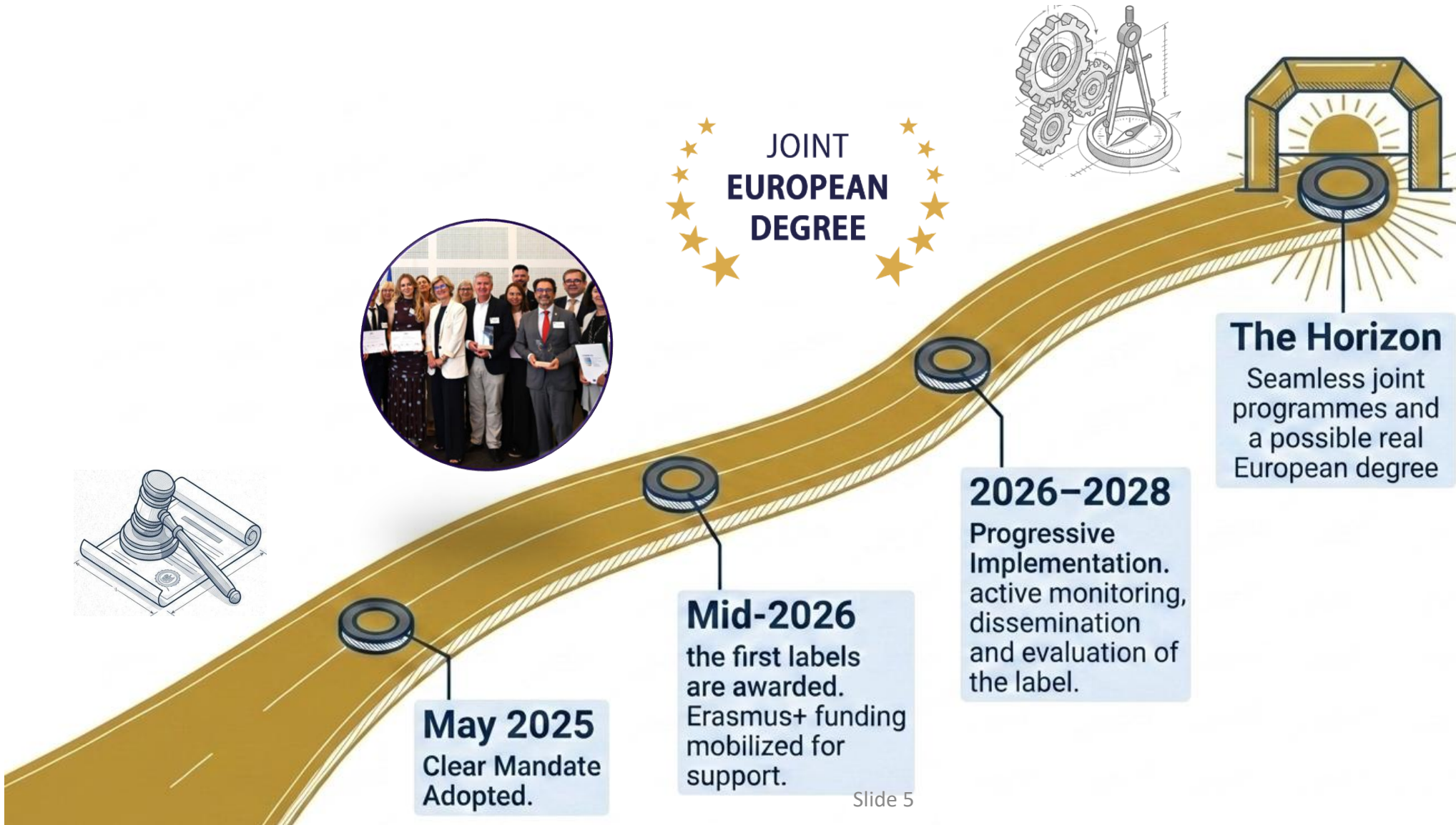
Direct benefits



Indirect benefits

-  Alignment with Bologna tools
-  Simplifications for joint programmes
-  Increase number of joint programmes
-  Economies of scale

Where do we stand ?



Work carried out in the Policy Lab



The process was supported by PPMI/ICF and a team of 7 practitioners with recognized expertise in joint programmes.

Full transparency: All participants had access to all contributions, all meetings were prepared with information sessions and followed by detailed summary notes sent to all participants.

Who awards the label?

Quality assurance agency that is:

- Registered in EQAR
- Based in EU or EEA EFTA country

When:

- Degree-awarding higher education institutions are subject to external programme-level accreditation
- Consortium is mixed
- Consortium consists of self-accrediting higher education institutions (optional)

OR

Self-accrediting higher education institution that is:

- Ex-ante validated by an eligible quality assurance agency
- Based in EU or EEA EFTA country

When:

- Consortium exclusively consists of self-accrediting higher education institutions

Joint European Degree Label criteria

TWO DIMENSIONS



A1) Higher education institutions involved

A2) Transnational joint degree delivery

A3) Joint arrangements for the joint programme

A4) Quality assurance arrangements

A5) Graduate tracking

A6) Student-centred learning

A7) Transnational campus – access to services

A8) Flexible and embedded student mobility

A9) Co-evaluation and co-supervision for dissertations

Dimension A

Programme organisation

Focuses on how the joint programme is *structured, governed, quality-assured, and delivered*.

Purpose: programme functions as a **single, jointly designed and jointly delivered** transnational programme meeting ESG and European Approach requirements.

Joint European Degree Label criteria

TWO DIMENSIONS



B1) Interdisciplinarity and research-based learning

B2) Opportunities for learning beyond academia and employability

B3) Digitalisation

B4) Values

B5) Multilingualism

B6) Inclusiveness

B7) Environmental sustainability

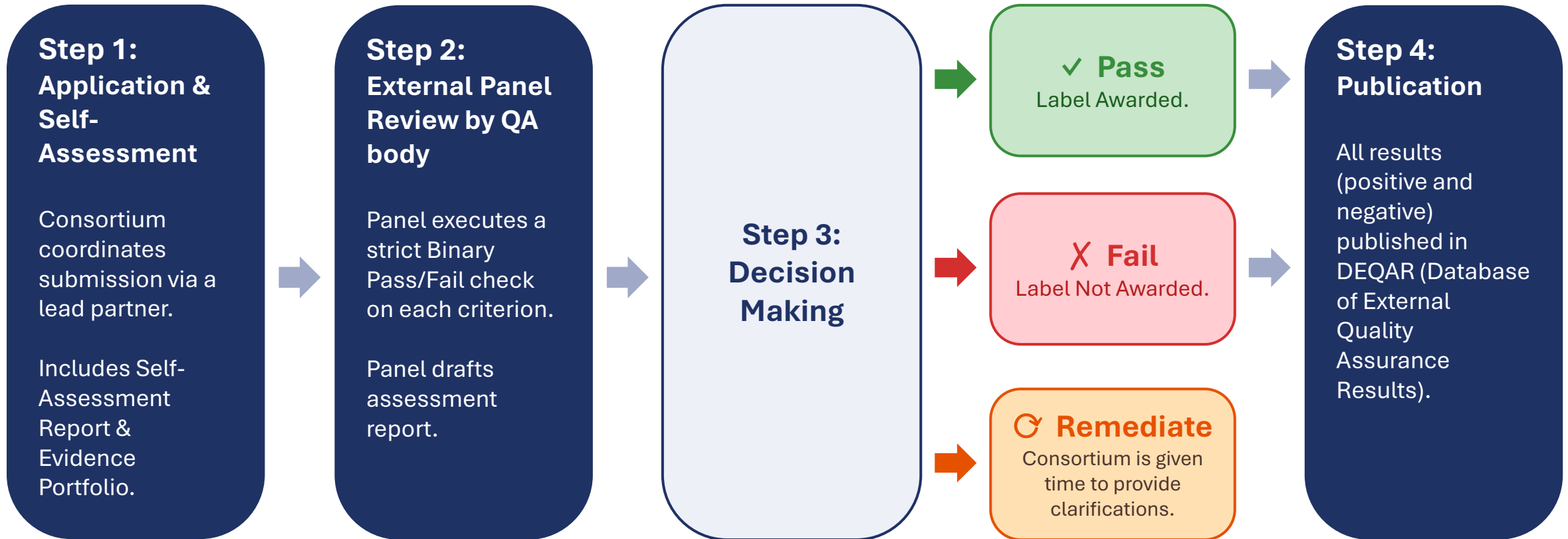
Dimension B

European dimension

Focuses on how the programme embodies **European priorities and values**.

Purpose: promote interdisciplinarity, employability, digitalisation, multilingualism, inclusion, sustainability, and European values.

How is the label awarded?



The process can be fully integrated in **existing** quality assurance procedures

Where to find more information?



Outlines everything you need to know to apply for the Joint European Degree Label including:

- Assessment framework and methodology
- Descriptions of criteria and indicators

A set of annexes provides supporting materials.

Available on:



More information about the Joint European Degree Label

Webpage:



Live Webinar
24/09:

'Applying for the Joint European Degree Label'



Some results & future opportunities



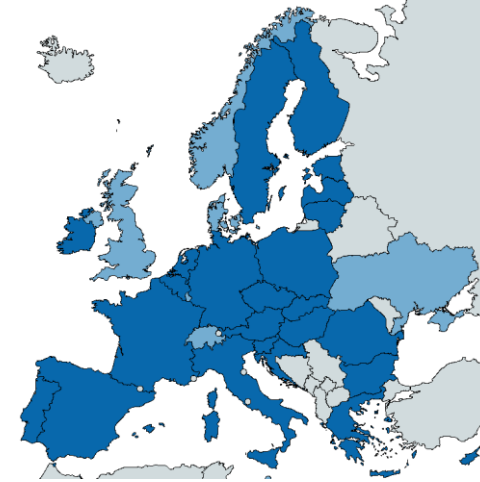
European Degree Pathway projects (Dec. 2025)

9 projects involving
22 quality assurance bodies,
14 national authorities
45 higher education institutions
to

Make the Joint European Degree **available**

Make joint programmes **easier** to setup

Explore a true Joint European Degree



European Degree Exploratory action (Dec. 2025)

14 projects selected,

118 joint programmes to be supported to receive the label
(including 48 to be created from scratch) in engineering,
sustainability, humanities, law, computer science, artificial
intelligence, economics, chemistry...

Upcoming:

European Degree Exploratory Action (Nov. 2026)

14 million euros. Lower entry bar for smaller projects.

Next steps and way forward



2026



Financial incentives under Erasmus+ with new call for proposals «European Degree Exploratory Action»



Continuous rollout of the joint European degree label

Until the **end of 2028**



Continuous work on facilitating the creation of joint programmes with national authorities



An evaluation of the label and a feasibility study on a joint European degree as a type of qualification

Thank you



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