



Erasmus+



PoSiG



UNIVERSITÄT
SALZBURG

We encourage Western Balkan!

Joint MA Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSiG)

ImpEA conference – Brussels 1 March 2018

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
- 800 Exchanges in PolSc
- Coordinating 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+

- KA 107 Credit Mobility with Black Sea & Western Balkan
- EuroPS project since 2015 and JoJoS ;-) 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 Business and Technology (UBT)
University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)



JoJoS ;-)



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

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)

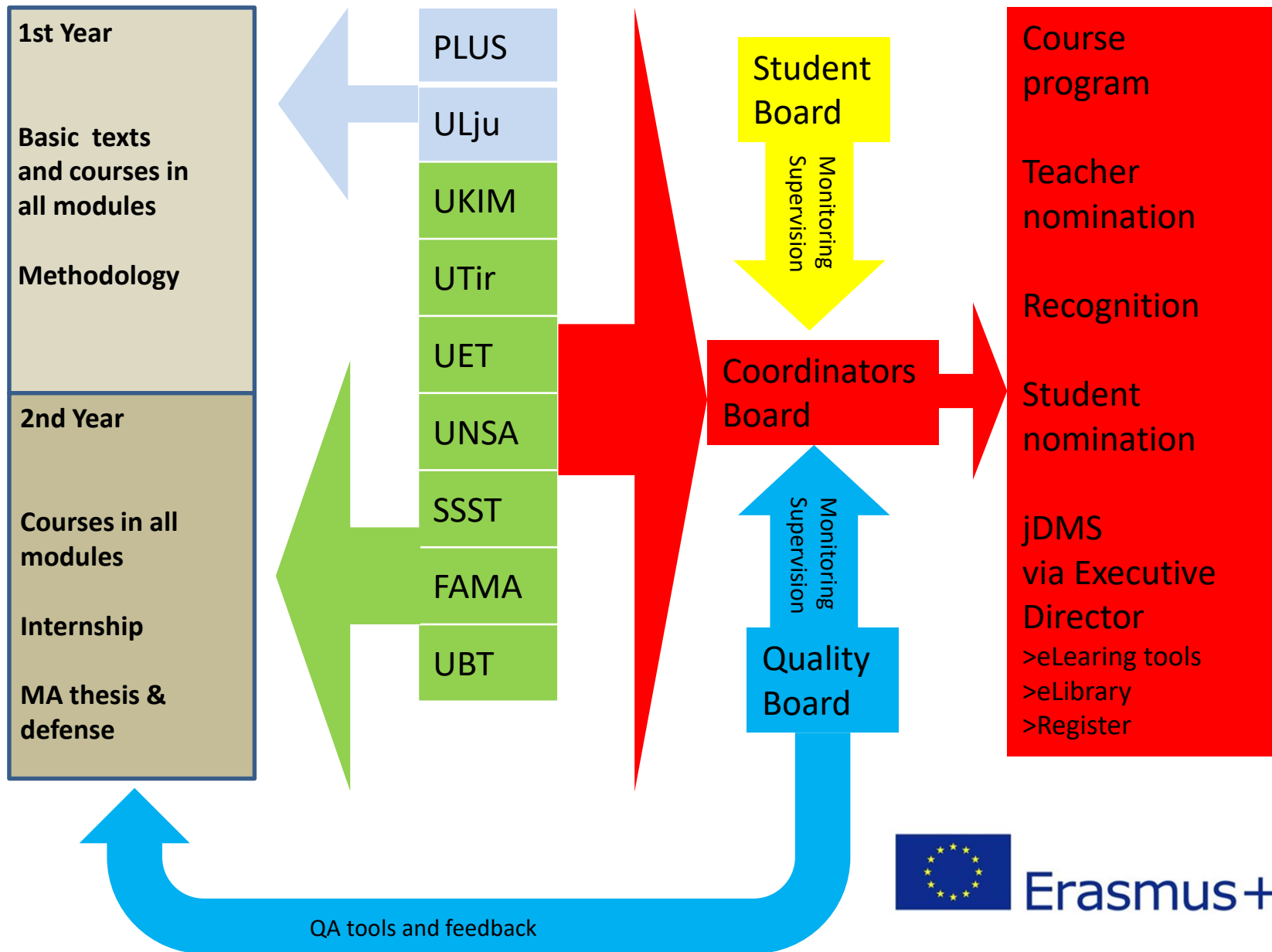
Course Advanced Methods

Applied Politics Course

Additional Courses (24 ECTS)

Master's Thesis incl. Defence (30 ECTS)

Total: 120 ECTS



Joint 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



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)

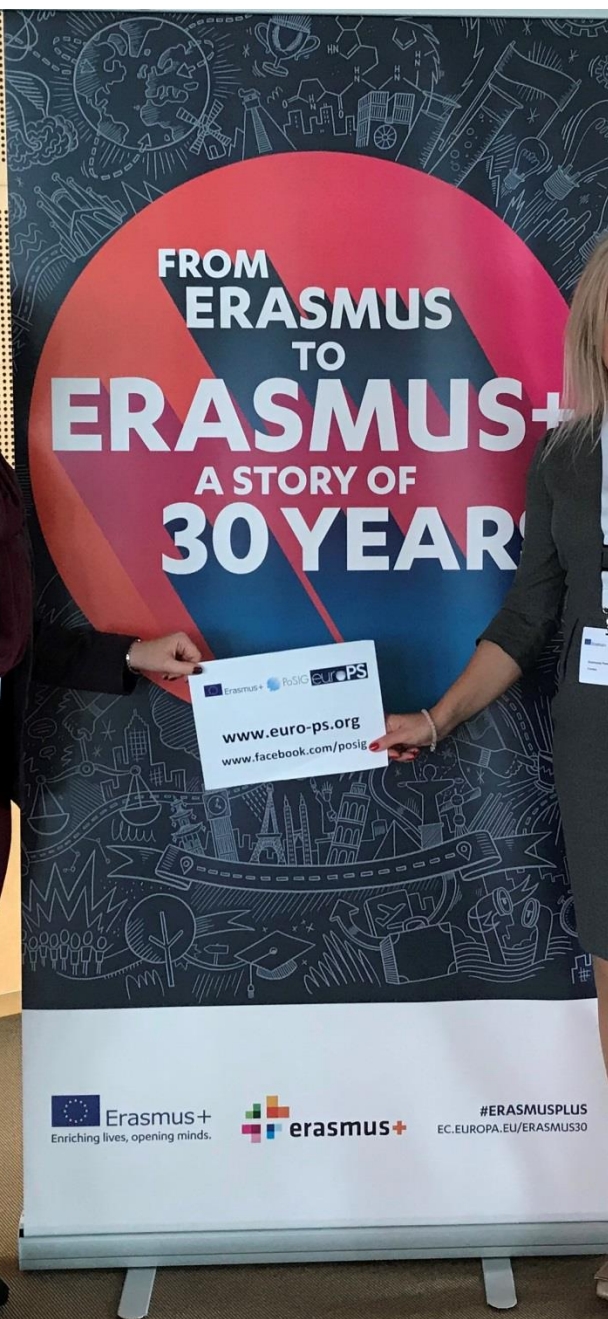
The accreditation is subject to conditions and is valid until 14th March 2023.

Vienna, 15th March 2017

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

Dr. Achim Hopbach
Managing Director of AQ Austria







PoSiG





Our reasons for opting for the European Approach

- Support of EuroPS partner in the accreditation of PoSIG was part of our project.
- EAA 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* ;-)
- Joint 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.
Conditions to be completed in June 2018.



The challenges that you faced in the process (internal resistance, practicalities, whatever may have been a bit more complicated)

INTERNAL challenges in the consortium and AQ procedures:

- SER based on ESG was no new challenge since all issues listed there were part of the activities performed in the project but they were different from known six national routines.
- External Experts had concerns regarding the *multilateral governance* approach.
- *Academic coordinators* had different backgrounds about responsibilities in accreditation.
- *Legal frame* for EA in all 7 countries had to be identified and compared.
- **Confirmation of status of HEI's** in the consortium: Internal discussion why to ask for this again.
- Unclear responsibilities at the big public Universities about this “new thing”.
- Not easy to make a *self accrediting* PLUS going to AQ!



The challenges that you faced in the process (internal resistance, practicalities, whatever may have been a bit more complicated)

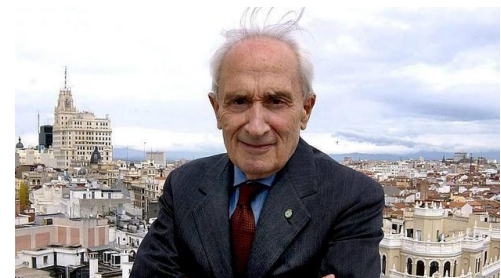
EXTERNAL challenges

- **Confirmation of status of HEI's** in the consortium: Ministries did not know why and for what.
- EA *was* unknown at the ministries – having signed Yerevan or not. (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 EA is.
 - >Accreditation agencies cooperative (Kosovo, Albania) or acting as veto player (Slovenia!).
- *Legal situation* allows easy going implementation or repetition of the full process (including timeline) and *translation* of all documents!
- *Deadlines* for national implementation of EA decision at all or most members of a consortium: >Problem of *different timelines* and speed within the consortium.

Conclusion: National implementation is the weak point

- EAA is a 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 contacts to the ministry.
- It is not easy to act in front of a multilateral HEI consortium but a learning field about EU and PublicAdmin

> We need Erasmus+ structural projects.



The main expected benefits and real benefits you got from using this approach

Benefits/Effects	Expected	Real
Coming faster to joint results.	Y	N Y=good example PLUS and Kosovo
One procedure based on ESG	Y	Y=AQ procedure N=national implementation
Encouragement of HE for internal support for JoS	Y	Y=Public Universities Y/N=Private Universities
Deliver show case that EU works	Y	Y=AQ procedure Y/N=national implementation
Easier job for JoS coordinator	Y	N But: becoming pioneer ;-)



What you think would need to be improved to make the European Approach easier and better to use/more used.

Recommendations national EA implementation

- (2017: Connect EA procedures to national standards as they are used by the agencies. To be documented by the member states.)
- Define a „EA-Option“ as exception to bypass national procedures.
 - Signals internationalisation incentive for HEI's
 - Competitive element within national accreditation policies
 - Can encourage EU bench marks and EU competitiveness
- Register of eligible HEI's eligible to joint studies based on existing national accreditations.



What you think would need to be improved to make the European Approach easier and better to use/more used.

Recommendations BFUG – Paris?

- Standards for national implementation of EAA (⬆).
- Checklist for signatory states about legal implementation standards.
- „EA-Option“ (⬆) or „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.
- European **Register** of EA accreditation results.
- **Quality standards for the management of *multilateral* JoS programs.**

What you think would need to be improved to make the European Approach easier and better to use/more used.

Recommendations EU/EACEA

- Capacitybuilding/structural support is necessary in Erasmus+ Programme & Partner Countries.
 - > *Ministries* about legal reforms and procedures
 - > *HEI's* about standards in JoS development, tools/procedures
 - > *eGovernance* for JoS as *virtual universitiy*
- Erasmus Mundus MA Grants:
 - Should be available for JoS based on EAA and allow also the financing of HEI's from *partner* countries.
 - Deconnection of JoS development support (CBHE) from individual support (KA 103/107)
 - JoS development support with EAA bonus.

