

In order to start working, we must start collecting some basic factual information about national practice. I propose to each node to start collecting reliable information about the national practice. Very soon a data basis will be created in Rennes that you will access on line in order to fill the relevant data. But it is important that you start collecting information about the following facts. Do you see any other factual general information that should also be addressed?

Please feel free to amend and propose new things. This document is just a working document to initiate the process. I think that nodal meetings to be efficient must start only after we have started collecting basic information on the issues addressed below.

1 What is a master degree?

Definition of master degree differs through Europe. According to Bologna resolution of 19 June 1999, master is a 2 years curriculum of 120 ECTS after the basic 3 years bachelor degree of 180 ECTS.

- What is the current practice at your country?
- Is the Bologna resolution incorporated to your national legislation?
- Are we discussing for a one (fifth) or for a two (fourth and fifth) years curriculum?
- Is the ECTS implemented at your university?
- ...

2 University calendar

The academic year organisation varies from country to country. For a common curriculum, some minimal coordination is necessary. Bologna resolution proposes a semestrial organisation of the academic year.

- Is the semestrialisation implemented at your university?
- What are the teaching periods, the university vacations, the periods of exams at your insitution.
- Is the academic calendar flexible (department defined) or rigid (university or ministry defined)?
- What type of calendar do you propose for the intended curriculum?
- ...

3 Official recognition

- Is there an official body that authorises your university to deliver the degrees it delivers?
- If yes, how long takes the official recognition procedure?
- Is your university keen to develop international curricula, simultaneously recognised by different countries?
- Who is responsible for asking the recognition of new curricula?
- ...

4 Students registration

- What are the normal registration fees the students pay for a one year registration at master level?
- Is the registration annual or semestrial?
- Do student pay fees for the whole curriculum or on a pay-per-attended-module basis? If per module, what is the tarif?
- Are fees fixed by the university or by the ministry?
- ...

5 Language issues

- Is it legally possible to provide lectures in foreign language at your university?
- Does it seem feasible to propose (at least partly) an English speaking curriculum at your university?
- Is English currently spoken by students?
- Is English currently spoken by teaching staff at your university?
- ...

6 Foreseen exchanges for the proposed curriculum

Not all nodes can organise all modules. The interest of our Erasmus programme is precisely the collaboration among participant institution to share development efforts. But persons and/or information has to be exchanged among nodes to create the common curriculum. I give below some examples of possible exchange. We must *very seriously* discuss to see what we wish and what is feasible.

- Lecture notes exchanged?
- Professors exchanged during short periods?
- Students exchanged during semesters or other periods?
- Lectures exchanged by use of real time teleconferencing?
- National organisation of main curriculum but summer school commonly organised and attended?
- National organisation of main curriculum but students exchanged for a practical personal work for given periods?
- ...

7 Assessment of knowledge acquisition by students

- written exams?
- oral exams?
- personal work?
- mixture of the above?
- ...

8 Curriculum and module description

We all have ideas about which courses must be included in the curriculum and what every course must precisely contain. A normalised module form must be established that contains the basic information about every module.

I think that a good starting basis for the definition of the curriculum is the list of courses we proposed in our Marie Curie RTN project. This list must be certainly amended and the courses precisely defined but it provides a good starting point.