

DECISION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAMME REVIEW COMMISSION OF THE CATALAN UNIVERSITY QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY ON THE JOINT EUROPEAN DEGREE LABEL

Based on the report of the expert panel and following the deliberations of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission at its meeting on 13 July 2026, the Commission hereby resolves to **award the Joint European Degree Label** to:

MASTER IN GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY (EQAF level 7) jointly offered by University of Barcelona (Spain) Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), Utrecht University (Netherlands), University of Eötvös Loránd Budapest (Hungary) and University of Montpellier (France).

The study programme complies with the criteria established for the Joint European Degree Label in their current version.

The label is awarded with validity until **17 December 2026**.

The following improvements areas and recommendations are identified in order to further enhance the quality of the programme:

The study programme is expected to conduct a follow-up on the following **ENHANCEMENT AREAS¹**:

Joint degree

- Although the evidence supports compliance with this criterion, the programme must clarify, either on the joint diploma/parchment or in the accompanying degree-awarding documentation, which institution issues the joint diploma/parchment on behalf of the consortium and how the national legal mentions or recognised qualification titles, including Ireland, are reflected in relation to the single joint diploma/parchment.

Joint Diploma Supplement

- The programme must strengthen the transparency of the joint Diploma Supplement by explicitly listing the student's mobility periods, in addition to the current information on module locations and the Blended Intensive Programme.

Flexible and embedded student mobility

- The programme must clarify how alternatives or exceptions to the standard mobility

¹ Enhancement areas: Shortcomings detected that must be resolved within a maximum period of three years. While significant, they are not serious enough to result in a non-compliant judgement.

pathway are communicated to students and documented in practice, particularly in cases approved on inclusivity grounds. This could include clarifying how the term “inclusivity grounds” is understood and applied in practice, while preserving the necessary flexibility for case-by-case decisions by the Board of Examiners.

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS²** are provided to support the further improvement of the programme:

Joint degree

- It is recommended that the programme ensures the consistent use of the official name of the programme and qualification across all official documentation, including the Consortium Agreement, the Addendum, the joint diploma/parchment and the Joint Diploma Supplement. In particular, this refers to harmonising references to “Master in Global Challenges for Sustainability”, “Master’s in Global Challenges for Sustainability” and “European Joint Master’s Programme in Global Challenges for Sustainability” in order to avoid ambiguity regarding the official title of the programme and the qualification awarded.

Joint arrangements for the joint programme

- It is recommended that the programme provides evidence of the active participation of student representatives in the Programme Board and clarify the rules and procedures for their election or appointment. It is also recommended that the evidence base on staff participation in programme governance is strengthened, for example by documenting staff representation, consultation or participation in relevant programme bodies in a clearer and more systematic way. This would reinforce transparency regarding both student and staff involvement in programme decision-making.

Graduate tracking

- The programme could strengthen the evidence base by showing more clearly how alumni survey results and graduate tracking reports are considered within the quality assurance system and contribute to the continuous enhancement of the programme.

Transnational campus – access to services

- The programme could further clarify the arrangements for academic staff access to relevant physical, support and institutional services across the partner universities, complementing the evidence already provided on student services and shared digital infrastructure.

Values

- The programme could further strengthen the evidence for this criterion by adopting or submitting a formal declaration on adherence to the fundamental values of the European

² Recommendations: Suggestions aimed at promoting the enhancement of the joint programme. Implementation of recommendations is not mandatory.



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Higher Education Area (academic freedom, academic integrity, institutional autonomy, student and staff participation in higher education governance, public responsibility for higher education, and public responsibility of higher education) and include the programme's commitment to promote common European values and democratic citizenship in line with the Operational Guide for the Joint European Degree Label.

Inclusiveness: Diversity, equality, inclusion

- Given the transnational and highly mobile nature of the programme, the consortium could make more explicit how accessibility and reasonable accommodation are coordinated across all partner institutions for students with disabilities or functional diversity, including students who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind or visually impaired.

The chair of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission,

María Mercedes Gisbert Cervera