

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:

JOINT MASTER PROGRAMME IN MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY (EQAF level 7) jointly offered by Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir (Spain), Université de La Rochelle (France), Agricultural University of Athens (Greece), Universitatea Tehnica de Constructii Bucuresti ¹ (Romania), Klaipėdos Universitetas (Lithuania), Sveučilište u Zadru (Croatia)

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 **22 July 2027**.

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 AREAS²**:

Higher education institutions involved

- Clarify and document the role of Universitatea Tehnica de Constructii Bucuresti (UTCB) as a non-degree-awarding consortium partner. In line with the Operational Guide, non-degree-awarding higher education institutions may contribute to the delivery of a joint programme, for example through teaching, mobility placements, research facilities or other programme activities, however they may not award additional national degrees in addition to the joint degree. Therefore, the evidence must clearly specify UTCB's functions within the joint programme consortium.

The consortium must therefore clarify how UTCB contributes to programme delivery, mobility, teaching, supervision, research facilities, student services, governance and quality assurance, as applicable. It should also explain how activities carried out at or through UTCB

¹ Full EU CONEXUS partner but is a non-degree-awarding body.

² 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.

are covered by the joint programme arrangements and how the experience of students undertaking mobility, research or other programme activities at UTCB is integrated into the joint programme.

Finally, the consortium must clarify how UTCB's non-degree-awarding role is communicated to students, given that UTCB does not co-award the joint degree and would therefore not be listed as a degree-awarding institution in the joint diploma or Diploma Supplement, nor in the Joint European Degree Label certificate.

Transnational joint degree delivery: Joint degree

- Revise the wording in the Student Toolkit to clearly state that graduates receive a joint Master's degree / joint diploma in Marine Biotechnology. The list of national degree titles should be presented as the national legal titles reflected in or associated with the joint degree, not as separate degrees awarded independently by each consortium university.

The following **RECOMMENDATIONS**³ are provided to support the further improvement of the programme:

Graduate tracking

- Systematise the implementation and use of the graduate tracking system by ensuring regular survey implementation, monitoring response rates, preparing graduate tracking reports for each cohort, and explicitly documenting how graduate tracking results inform curriculum development, employability-related improvements and strategic decisions of the Academic Council. As part of this, the consortium should provide an example of a graduate tracking report for the first cohort and clarify how data collected two years after graduation are integrated into the improvement of the running programme.

Transnational campus – access to services

- The programme could further clarify and make more visible the information on academic staff access to relevant services across the transnational campus, while taking into account the institutional rules and mobility arrangements of each partner university.
- Clarify in joint programme documentation which IT services and digital facilities are available to students and staff across the consortium for the whole duration of the programme, including access conditions when students or staff are not physically present at a given partner institution.

Flexible and embedded student mobility: 30 ECTS physical mobility

- Formally approve the programme-level policy or procedure on mobility alternatives through the Programme Board or another relevant programme governance body.

³ Recommendations: Suggestions aimed at promoting the enhancement of the joint programme. Implementation of recommendations is not mandatory.

Interdisciplinarity and research-based learning

- The programme could further enhance the visibility of the interdisciplinary dimension of student research projects by making clearer, where appropriate, how different disciplinary perspectives, methods or sectoral perspectives are integrated into project-based learning activities.
- Clarify the meaning of “Collaborated in...” in the Compendia of Innovations, including whether it refers to collaboration with external project partners, academic supervisors, partner institutions or other contributors.

Opportunities for learning beyond academia and employability

- The programme could continue to document the range of external stakeholders involved in curriculum-embedded learning activities to further demonstrate the contribution of these activities to employability and learning beyond academia.

Values

- Consider referencing the EU-CONEXUS Declaration on adherence to EHEA Fundamental Values, Common European Values and Democratic Citizenship in relevant JMPMB programme governance documents, where appropriate, in order to further strengthen transparency and visibility.
- Publish the declaration on the EU-CONEXUS Documents & Policies webpage: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/documents-policies/> and in the JMPMB Documentation section: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/marine-biotechnology/#Documentation>, in order to ensure transparency and visibility at both Alliance and programme level.
- Strengthen the evidence base on staff participation in programme governance, for example by documenting staff representation, consultation or participation in relevant programme bodies in a clearer and more systematic way, comparable to the evidence provided for student participation.

Inclusiveness: Diversity, equality, inclusion

- Consider developing a consolidated programme- or Alliance-level inclusion strategy/action plan that brings together existing partner-level inclusion measures, defines common objectives, actions, responsibilities and monitoring indicators, and enables the programme to assess the implementation, uptake and impact of inclusion measures.
- Include measures for initial and continuing professional development of academic and administrative staff in the programme- or Alliance-level inclusion strategy/action plan, to support staff in working professionally and equitably with a diverse student body and staff across the transnational campus.
- Given the complexity of a highly mobile joint programme, further clarify the cross-institutional procedures and contact points for students with disabilities or special needs, ensuring that reasonable accommodations are consistently coordinated across all mobility locations.

Environmental sustainability



- Continue to monitor and review the environmental impact of compulsory mobility and joint programme activities, and identify opportunities to reduce this impact over time, while preserving the academic value, accessibility and inclusiveness of mobility.

The chair of the Institutional and Programme Review Commission,

María Mercedes Gisbert Cervera