



European
Commission

BLUEPRINT FOR A EUROPEAN DEGREE

#EuropeanDegree #EuropeanEducationArea | 27 March 2024

WHAT A EUROPEAN DEGREE IS:

- A new type of degree awarded after transnational Bachelor, Master, or Doctoral programmes delivered at national, regional, or institutional level
- Automatically recognised everywhere in the EU
- Awarded jointly and on a voluntary basis by a group of universities across Europe
- Based on a common set of criteria agreed at European level

WHY DO WE NEED A EUROPEAN DEGREE?

For students

- More opportunities to study across multiple universities in Europe
- Innovative and transdisciplinary learning opportunities across campuses
- Future-proof skills that Europe needs
- Simplified job applications with a degree that is recognised across the EU

For higher education institutions

- Simpler to create joint degree programmes with several universities across Europe
- Wider and better opportunities offered to students and staff
- Increased competitiveness and attractiveness of EU universities by offering a truly European experience of learning

For employers

- Certified highly-skilled graduates and easier understanding of qualifications
- Enhanced attractiveness of Europe as a place to study and work for talented students
- Increased possibilities to work with universities at European scale

For the European Union and Member States

- Reinforced sense of European identity and belonging
- Closing a gap to achieving the European Education Area
- Balanced student and talent mobility within the EU
- Attract talent globally
- Strengthening EU open strategic autonomy

HOW TO GET THERE: STEPS TOWARDS A EUROPEAN DEGREE

1

27 March 2024 The Commission proposes **European criteria** co-developed with the higher education sector **as a basis for the European degree, for adoption by the Council of the EU**

2

Development of **implementation guidelines** towards a European degree by a **European degree Policy Lab**

3

Member States to choose their entry level into the pathway towards a European degree and work towards integrating the European degree in their national or regional legislation as a new type of qualification



A **preparatory European label certificate** is given to students of joint degree programmes meeting the European criteria, together with their national or regional degree



The **European degree** is awarded to students as a qualification following a transnational education experience either jointly by a group of universities across Europe or by a possible European legal entity established by several universities from different countries

HOW MEMBER STATES AND THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR WILL BE SUPPORTED:

- A **European degree Policy Lab** to develop detailed guidelines and action plans to guide the implementation of a European degree with experts from Member States, higher education institutions, quality assurance/accreditation agencies, students, and economic and social partners.
- A **new annual European degree Forum** to monitor progress and provide guidance, gathering high-level representatives from Member States, key organisations in quality assurance and recognition, education social partners and representatives from economic and social partners
- **New Erasmus+ support:** for **European degree Pathway Projects** enabling Member States, together with their accreditation and quality assurance agencies, universities, students, economic and social partners, to navigate the pathway towards a European degree; and for **European degree Design Measures** to enable higher education institutions to adapt existing joint programmes or to create new ones leading to a European degree



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