



European Label for Joint Programmes. CIVIS proposal on the provisional common European Conditionalities & Criteria

We identified, based on the Communication from the Commission on a European strategy for universities, a specific number of potential conditionalities that can stand at the input level for analysing a common approach for labelling European joint programmes:

1. Delivered at national level
2. Attest learning outcomes
3. Common set of criteria
4. Issued as a complementary certificate to the qualification
5. Graduating from joint programmes
6. Transnational cooperation
7. Within European Universities Alliances

Even though such conditionalities can provide a common framework for issuing an European label for joint programmes, as a piloting phase for building up the European Degree by 2024, some of them can be understood in a sense of redundancy when approaching a common set of criteria, considering that some of them need to be understood mainly as *sine qua non* conditions for adding a European label, such as conditionality no. 3 and 5, whereas conditionality 7 may be regarded as a narrowing institutional approach for detailing the transnational cooperation shapes. Nevertheless, considering the experiences and testing conducted by the European Universities Alliances in developing joint educational components, we still believe that, at least for the initial phase, they would be the most suited piloting arenas at a European level.

Following a thorough analysis on the possible criteria for issuing an European label for joint programmes, linked with the criteria mentioned in the EC presentation, based also on the input offered during the discussions of the FOR EU 1 European Degree subgroup, we would consider that the following set of criteria should be considered for the piloting phase of the European label:

- Format of transnational cooperation (alliance, consortia, degree, programme, campus etc.)
- Innovative pedagogical approaches
- Transdisciplinarity (what levels / fields of study?)
- Micro-credentials
- Modularisation of learning





- Flexible curricular design
- Learning stackability
- Assessable learning outcomes
- Transferable skills for a European labour market
- Student-centred approaches
- European lifestyle model
- ECTS credit points
- Student workload
- Diploma Supplement
- Embedded mobility
- Erasmus Without Paper
- Multiple mobility formats (physical / blended / digitally enhanced – virtual)
- Multiple mobility beneficiaries (students / staff / researchers)
- Innovative pedagogies (in terms of teaching & learning practices)
- Awarding a Joint Diploma
- European Universities Alliance
- European Student Card
- Digital credentials
- Europass Digital Credentials Infrastructure (EDCI)
- Portability of certification
- Internal Quality Assurance procedures, based on the ESGs
- European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities (EUniQ)
- Multilingual enhancements (English as language for the piloting phase?)
- Challenge-based approaches
- Science-based education (science driven education / education design based on scientific evidence / education leading to scientific data & research)
- Societal challenges
- Civic engagement
- Democratic values
- European citizenship
- Green & Digital Transformations
- Flexibility for inclusiveness of all learners (special needs students, working students etc.)
- Access for non-traditional students
- Opportunities for lifelong learning

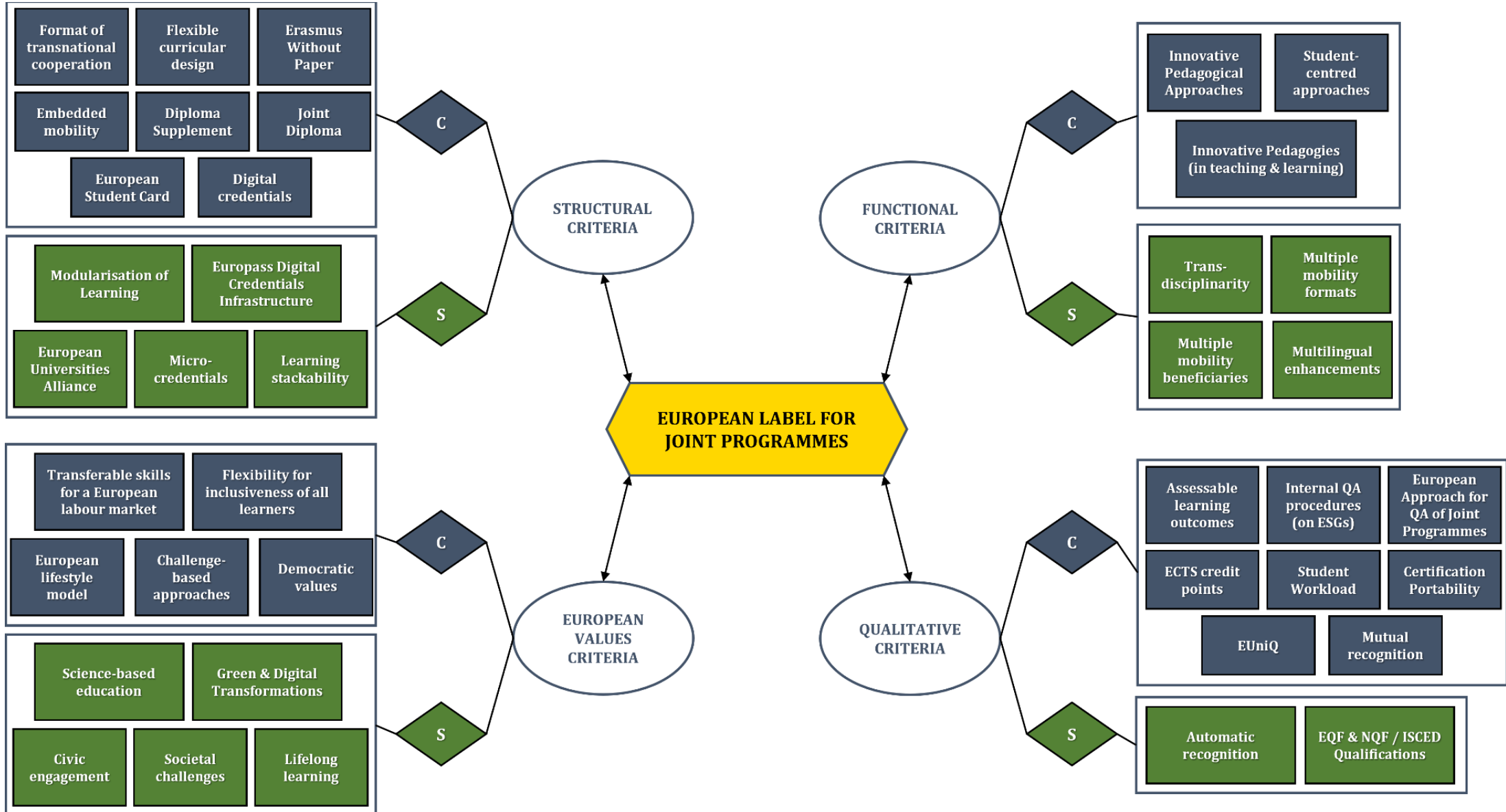




- Mutual recognition inside the partnership running the joint programme
- Automatic recognition inside the alliance / partnership as a whole
- Linked with EQF & NQF / ISCED qualifications

In our opinion, offering an extensive set of criteria does not provide enough support for developing a structural framework for issuing an European label, but they need to be placed in a more operational matrix, both by clustering criteria on specific levels, but also by identifying a number of indicators for each of them, creating a input - output process with clear and transparent descriptors. In this aspect, we are proposing a possible way for this matter, starting with a 4-level clusterization (structural, functional, qualitative, and European values), in a matriceal format, also proposing a two-categories rule for each of the criteria: compulsory (mandatory) criteria (marked with “C”), and supplementary (excellence) criteria (marked with “S”) – non-compulsory –, as can be seen below.





Criteria in practice: example of joint programme evaluation for European label

Joint programme evaluation form for European Label

Title of the joint programme	<i>Title</i>
Delivering partnership	<i>Name of delivering institution / consortia / etc.</i>
Partner institutions (name, country)	<i>Name of HE institutions delivering the joint programme</i>
Type of transnational partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Universities Alliances • Consortia of universities from Europe • Association of HE institutions / agencies • Other types (please provide details)
Level of study	<i>BA / MA / Ph.D.</i>
Field of study	<i>Name of field of study</i>
Number of students	<i>Expected / maximum number of students</i>
Delivery format	<i>Physical / Blended / Virtual / Mixt</i>
Language(s) of instruction	<i>Language(s) used in the programme and the minimum proficiency level for each of them</i>
ECTS credit points	<i>Number of ECTS credit points awarded to the students upon graduation</i>
Student workload	<i>Student workload expressed in number of hours, in two categories:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frontal learning activities hours</i> • <i>Individual study hours</i>
Learning outcomes	<i>Descriptions of learning outcomes, methods of evaluation, competencies descriptors</i>
Level of recognition	<i>Mutual recognition inside the partner institutions / Automatic recognition at alliance level</i>
Prerequisites	<i>Details regarding requirements for students applying for the joint programme, in terms of competencies, previous certifications etc.</i>

Programme description	<p><i>Broad description of the programme, considering the following aspects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Purpose</i> • <i>Objectives</i> • <i>Curricular units / modules / components</i> • <i>Contents / topics / themes</i> • <i>Pedagogical approaches / practices</i> • <i>Teaching methodology</i> • <i>Assessment / Evaluation</i> • <i>Certification / Graduation</i> • <i>Resources</i> • <i>Bibliography</i> • <i>Tools / Platforms</i> • <i>Access requirements</i> • <i>Inclusive adaptations</i> • <i>Mobility</i> • <i>Any other information deemed relevant</i>
Programme professors	<i>List of academics involved in the programme (name, affiliation, short bio)</i>
Programme coordinator(s)	<i>Name and contact details of the programme's coordinator(s)</i>
Additional information	<i>Links / documents / references for additional information related to the programme</i>

European label criteria evaluation

I. Structural criteria

A. Compulsory structural criteria

- Format of transnational cooperation (alliance, consortia, degree, programme, campus etc.)
- Flexible curricular design
- Diploma Supplement
- Embedded mobility
- Erasmus Without Paper
- Awarding a Joint Diploma
- European Student Card
- Digital credentials

B. Complementary (excellence) structural criteria

- Micro-credentials
- Modularisation of learning
- Learning stackability
- European Universities Alliance
- Europass Digital Credentials Infrastructure (EDCI)

II. Functional criteria

A. Compulsory functional criteria

- Innovative pedagogical approaches
- Student-centred approaches
- Innovative pedagogies (in terms of teaching & learning practices)

B. Complementary (excellence) functional criteria

- Transdisciplinarity
- Multiple mobility formats (physical / blended / digitally enhanced – virtual)
- Multiple mobility beneficiaries (students / staff / researchers)
- Multilingual enhancements

III. Qualitative criteria

A. Compulsory qualitative criteria

- Assessable learning outcomes
- ECTS credit points
- Student workload
- Portability of certification
- Internal Quality Assurance procedures, based on the ESGs
- European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities (EUniQ)
- Mutual recognition inside the partnership running the joint programme



B. Complementary (excellence) qualitative criteria

- Automatic recognition inside the alliance / partnership as a whole
- Linked with EQF & NQF / ISCED qualification

IV. European values criteria

A. Compulsory European values criteria

- Transferable skills for a European labour market
- European lifestyle model
- Challenge-based approaches
- Democratic values
- Flexibility for inclusiveness of all learners (special needs students, working students etc.)

B. Complementary (excellence) European values criteria

- Science-based education (science driven education / education design based on scientific evidence / education leading to scientific data & research)
- Societal challenges
- Civic engagement
- Green & Digital Transformations
- Access for non-traditional students
- Opportunities for lifelong learning

This work can be cited:

CIVIS, a European Civic University. (2022). *European Label for Joint Programmes. CIVIS proposal on the provisional common European Conditionalities & Criteria*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6325497>

