

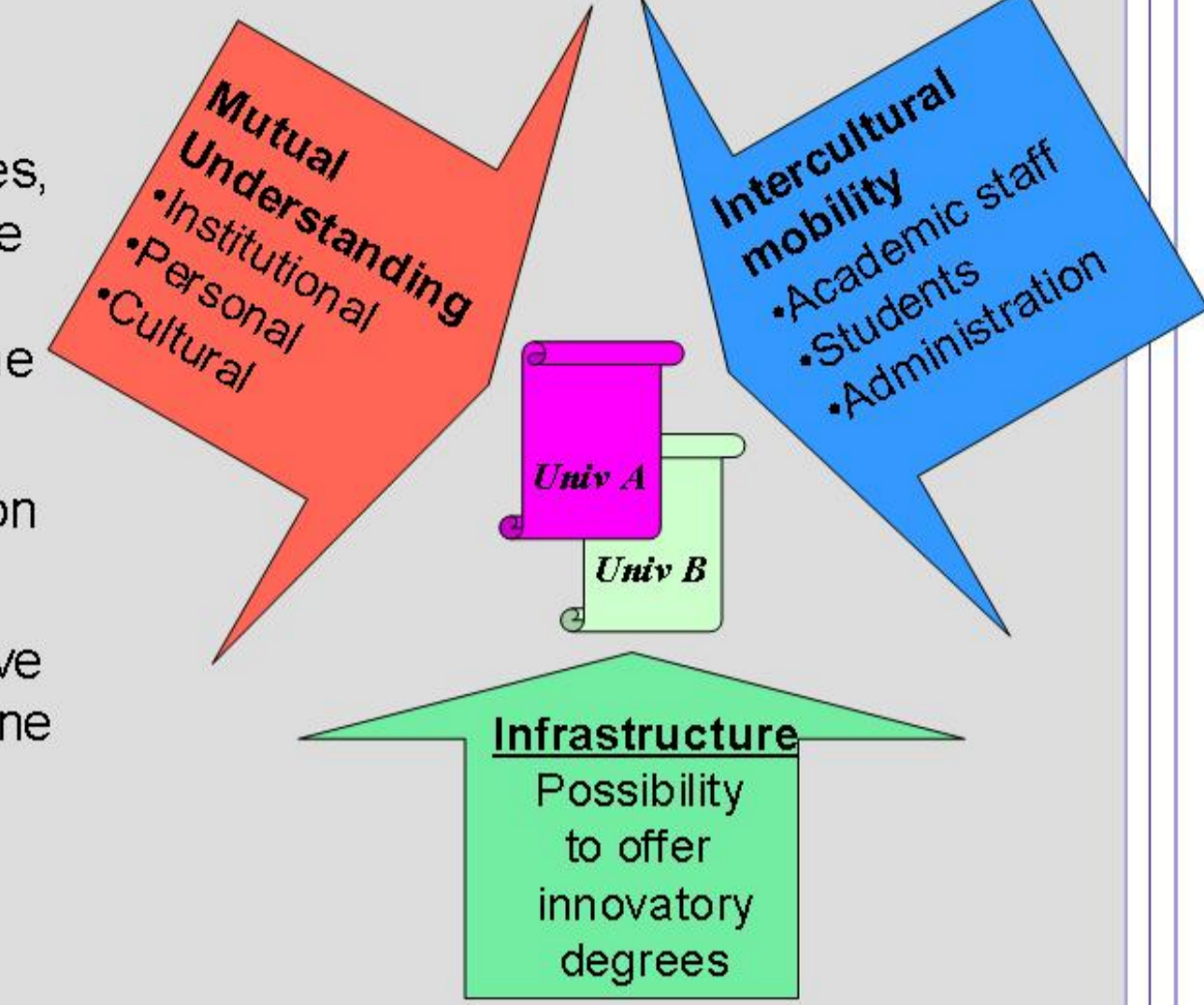
Overview

There is an increasing concern on the role that high education has to play in promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Nowadays it is very usual that students choose academic institutions outside their borders for their studies, and this is influencing both the internal organisation and academic degrees of high education institutions. This implies the need to offer our students innovative and attractive study fields and to train them on specific competencies if we want to call their attention. Multiculturalism is obviously one of such attractive aspects, understood both at cultural level and at the level of learning the traditions of other countries in the training of a concrete degree.

As a result, there is a clear interest on high education institutions when planning their medium and long-term strategies on creating alliances and links with others in order to be able to offer attractive and up-to-date degrees to their students.

One of the modalities of cooperation among institutions is international student mobility, allowing students not only to have access to new study subjects but also to promote mutual understanding with other cultures by living abroad. However, one of the most useful cooperation trends to create attractive degrees for international students is the organisation of dual degrees (inter-institutional degrees) in which different high education institutions constitute a consortium to implement a degree (either at graduate or postgraduate level).

BENEFICES OF DUAL INTERNATIONAL DEGREES



Steps to carry out to build a successful dual international degree:



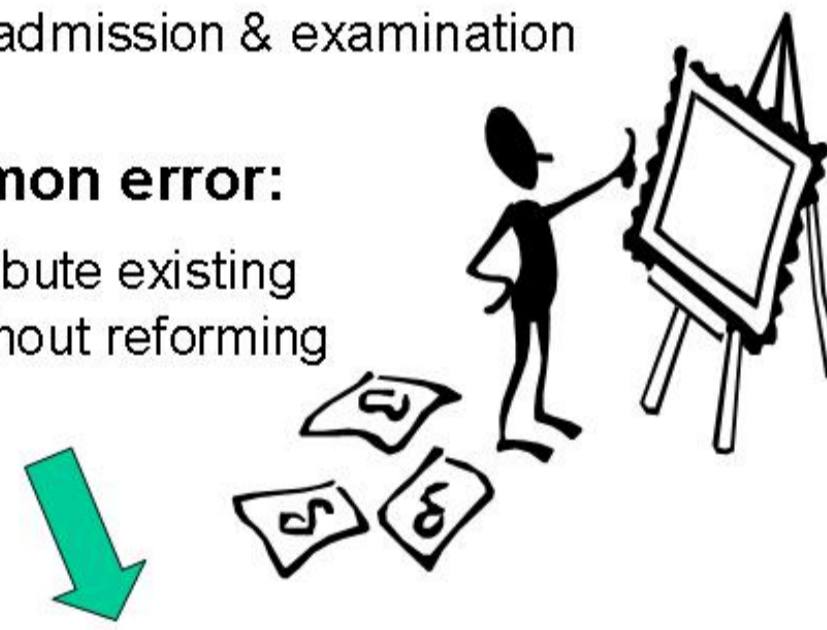
1.- Types of dual degrees

- **Joint:**
 - Unique Curriculum, evaluation, and degree diploma
 - Student and/or teacher mobility
 - But... potential legal drawbacks
- **Double or multiple:**
 - Similar, but each institution awards a different diploma
 - Or with more variety in the core of the cursus
- **Degree Families:**
 - Common legal professional competencies, different implementations



2.- Academic Integration

- **Integrated study program:**
 - The curriculum must be developed jointly by the consortium
 - Academic coordination between consortium members
 - Common admission & examination criteria
- **Most common error:**
 - To redistribute existing subjects without reforming anything



3.- Administrative Integration

- **Building the consortium:**
 - Concept of consortium
 - Adequate for tuition fee arrangements
- **Other key aspects to negotiate:**
 - Definition of student admission requisites
 - Definition of compulsory contents of degrees: coherence!
 - Duration of studies and distribution of credits (ECTS?) among partners
 - Type of degrees to award
 - Pre-selection on "home university" or centralised
 - Policy to distribute students among partners, for registration, and for management of academic records
 - Establish a payment method and the financial organisation of the consortium
- **Considerations:**
 - National legislation and University regulations regarding tuition fee policies
 - Procedure for payment, distribution of fees among partners, canon/quotas ...



4.- Institutional services

- **Support infrastructure in each university:**
 - Accommodation services, visa support, social integration activities, language courses, medical insurance support...
- **Support infrastructure in each Faculty/School/Department:**
 - Staff to support students and academics for registration matters, documentation of courses, mentoring program with local students...
 - Need to designate a responsible coordinator for tutoring students in mobility
 - Transparency: definition of standard transcript of records



Studies with no clear structure

1. Repeated contents
2. Competencies to acquire not defined
3. Very few main contents and disproportionate elective subjects, leading to a lack of framework

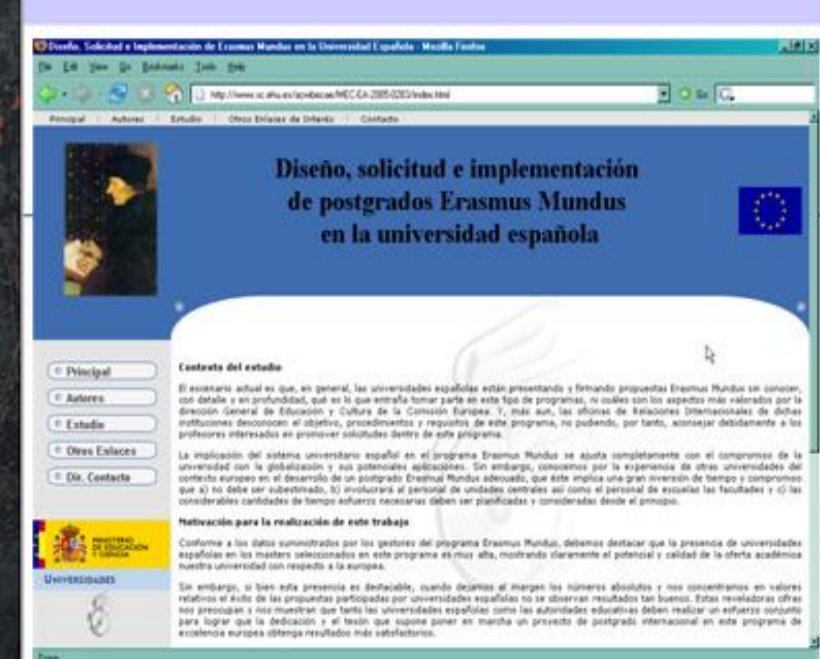
Result: "Educative Dr Frankenstein"



5.- Memorandum of understanding

- **Consortium agreement:**
 - All the aspects revised so far must be addressed in a cooperation agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

References



For further information:

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