



**Joint Degrees – “via regis”  
to increase  
transnational student mobility?**

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## .....joint degrees to increase mobility – «via regis» or wrong track?

- Franco-German University
- Joint Degree - an “unidentified educational object”?
- Quality- Standards and Assurance
- Experience
- Problems
- Conclusions

## .....Franco-German University

- Bi-national institution, international statute
- established 1997 (intergovernmental agreement)
- network of Higher Education Institutions (HEI)
- 140 member and partner universities
- nearly all types of HEI
- present budget around 9.6 M€/ year

## .....Franco-German University – main tasks

- initiate, coordinate, promote and support of
  - integrated Franco-German degree programs
  - common research and development activities (e.g. Co-Tutelle)
- mobility increase
- cooperation with third country partners

## .....joint degree – still a kind of “Alien” in the EHEA?

a joint degree may be issued as

- (1) a single joint diploma without being accompanied by any national diploma
- (2) one or more national diplomas issued as the only attestation of the joint qualification
- (3) a joint diploma (certificate) in addition to one or more national diplomas

## .....an example of a joint diploma



Cursus intégré en Physique / Integrierter Studiengang in Physik

Les universités soussignées certifient que      Die unten bezeichneten Hochschulen bestätigen, dass

**M./Herr Marc MUSTERMANN**  
né le      geboren am  
31.10.1979  
à      in  
Sarrebruck

a obtenu les diplômes ci-après sanctionnant le cursus intégré en Physique, dans le cadre du partenariat associant les deux établissements d'enseignement supérieur au sein de l'Université franco-allemande.      die folgenden Abschlüsse des integrierten Studiengangs im Fach Physik, im Rahmen der Partnerschaft zwischen den beiden Hochschulen und der Deutsch-Französischen Hochschule, erhalten hat.

Nancy, le / den 21.11.2003

Le Président de l'Université Henri Poincaré Nancy I      Die Präsidentin der Deutsch-Französischen Hochschule / La Présidente de l'Université franco-allemande      Die Präsidentin der Universität des Saarlandes

Prof. Dr. Claude Barlet      Prof. Dr. Helene Harth      Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel

## ..... some Quality Standards for a FGU-Label

- integrated curriculum, jointly developed
- joint study regulations
- full recognition of credits
- two equivalent national degrees
- significant study period at partner university (at present 3-5 semesters)
- often practical training
- language and intercultural preparation

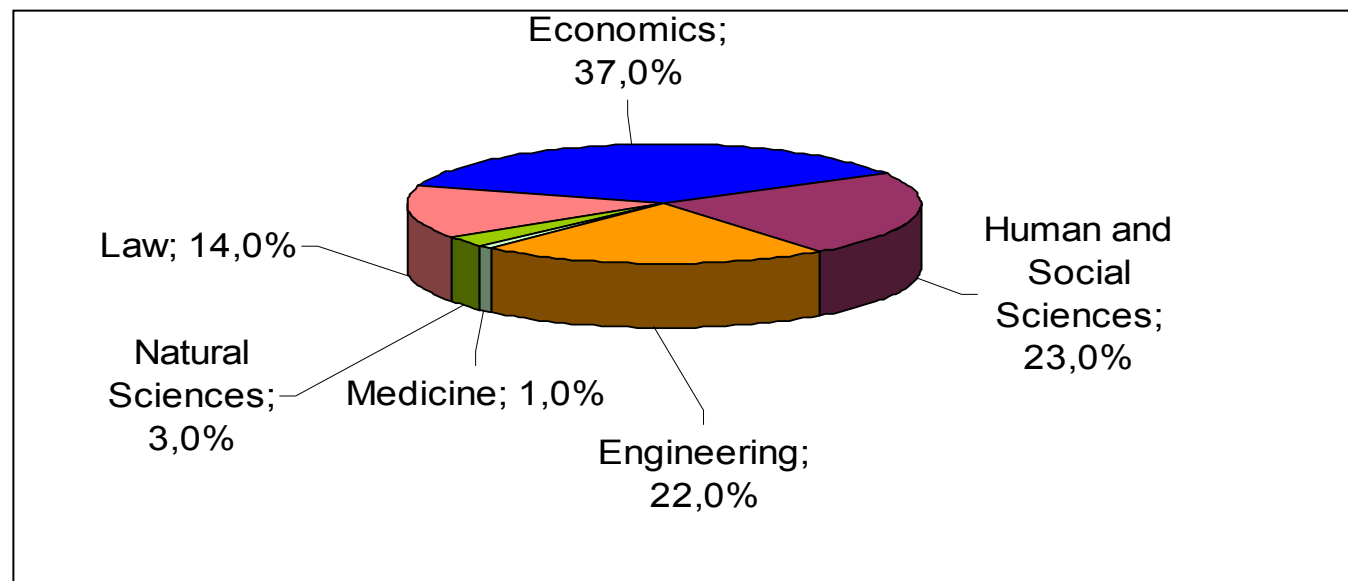
## ..... Quality Assurance

extension of QA-procedures, respecting the national structures, required

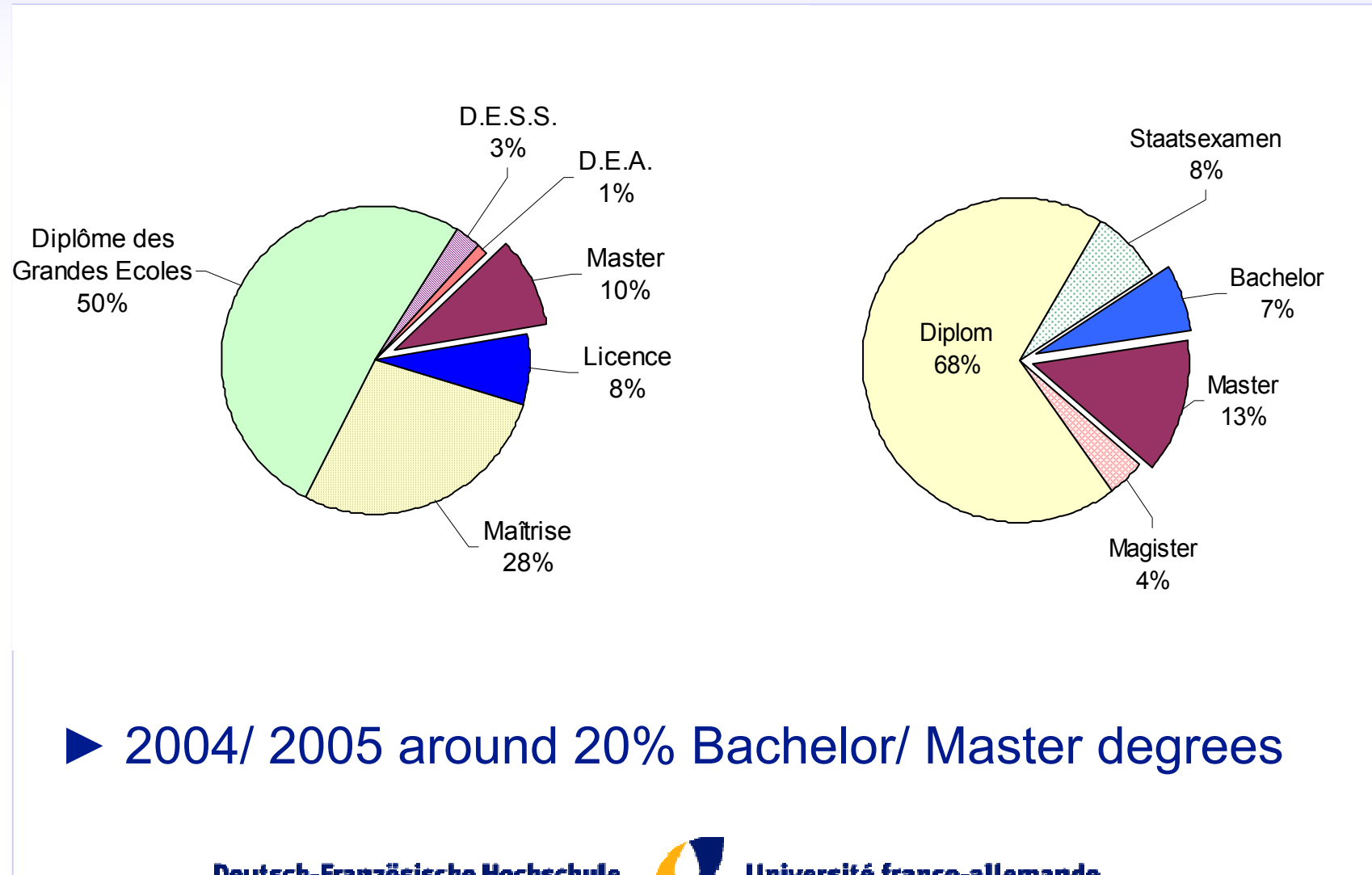
1. call for proposals  
→ FGU / Administration Board
2. formal and administrative evaluation  
→ FGU
3. scientific peer-evaluation and ranking  
→ Scientific Board
4. decision → Administration Board
5. **experience**

## ..... a sustainable success for transnational mobility

- ▶ 121 bi- or tri-national courses with 4300 students
  - ▶ 1/2 of double degrees in Germany
  - ▶ 1/3 of French-German student exchange



## .....types of degrees issued



► 2004/ 2005 around 20% Bachelor/ Master degrees

## .....Employability - a strong argument for joint degrees

- attractive to 50% of companies
  - foreign language (88%)
  - intercultural competency (76%)
  - foreign, discipline-specific expertise (74%)
- recruitment opportunity improves (60%)
- important is
  - internship abroad (87%)
  - Diploma Supplement (76%)
  - short duration (66%)
  - ....
  - ECTS (30%)

figures from "Internationale Doppelabschlüsse",  
Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft, Köln, 2004

## ..... some problems for (Franco-German) joint degree programs

Department level excluded!

- dynamics of change to 2-tier structure is different
- state regulated professions
- Accreditation
- restrictive handling of given European frame by national administrations

f. ex. only 3-year Bachelor  
Master1/ Master2-problem

# ..... Bachelor – a mobility killer?

example: BA/ MA in engineering

Diplom (old)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
France	class. prép/ DUT....				SF	SF	SG	SG	PTG	Thesis
Germany	SG	SG	SG	SG	SF	SF	SG	SG	PTF	Thesis

Bachelor

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
France	class. prép/ DUT....				SF	PTG	SG/Thesis
Germany	SG	SG	SG	SG	SF	PTF	SG/Thesis

Master

	8	9	10
France	SF	SG	Thesis
Germany	SF	SG	Thesis

SG study semester Germany  
 SF study semester France  
 PTG practical training Germany  
 PTF practical training France

 Admission  
 mobility semester

- BA-mobility more difficult, but possible
- may require at least 7+3, but MA-mobility?



## ....alternatives?

- free mover mobility
  - + easy, flexible
  - recognition difficult
    - e.g. modules, responsibility “jungle”
  - sustainable number of outgoings?
  - Quality Assurance?
  - sustainable commitment of HEI?
  
- International Course (with compulsory stay abroad)
  
- BA/ MA - Mobility

....joint degree is the “via regis” to sustainable transnational mobility

Extension works:

“VIA REGIS” to joint degrees....

