



# ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER'S DEGREE (EMJMD) PROGRAMME

## "PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION AND E- GOVERNANCE" OR PIONEER

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## WHAT AND WHY?

- Joint MA degree programme between TalTech, KU Leuven (Belgium, coordinator) and University of Münster (Germany)
- Duration: 2017-2021
- Budget: 2.34 mln Euros (45 scholarships)
- **Focus on public sector and ICT** - prepares experts with knowledge of both public administration and information and communication technologies (ICT) and who can implement a variety of technological solutions for public services and improving the efficiency of public administration. Graduates should be able to see the opportunities and threats of different public sector innovations as well as the essence of **e-governance**.
  - Interdisciplinarity
  - Buzzword
  - Strengths
  - Uniqueness / value added



## HOW?

- **Jointness** through complementarity (core Public Administration + Information Management and Technologies + e-Governance) – each university focuses on where it's strengths are. Jointness in Integrated Research Seminar and MA thesis + common evaluation of candidates, joint evaluation of the programme etc.
- **Well-structured and balanced** programme: equality of educational contribution – all universities offer 5 mandatory courses for 30 ECP-s; students' mobility path fixed.
- Clear **distribution of tasks** and roles between universities – coordination and admission @ KU Leuven; marketing, alumni and communication with associated partners @ TalTech; MA thesis and quality assurance @ Univ. Of Münster.

Limit the number of partners to minimum critical number and structure-wise, have a maximum clarity/simplicity in the programme



- **Fitting the EMJMD format** into the national / university regulatory framework (academic policies + financing).
- **Overlaps** and some problems with cohesion between courses and semesters – learning in the process.
- **Different academic traditions**, e.g. MA thesis format, varying exam regulations.
- **Attracting self-paying students** – sustainability issue.
- **Different timelines and deadlines** in three universities, e.g. admission, semesters, defense, changes in the curriculum etc. – prepare a calendar of activities for each year.
- **Visa issues** and settling students in a new environment.
- ‘Killing’ students with a **heavy study-load** – finding a balance between and during semesters.



## ADVANTAGES?

- **Credibility** of the university – sign of a quality.
- Expanded body of **international students**.
- **Flexibility** and more leeway for deviations from established rules – compromises are essential.
- Top **visiting scholars** teaching on a programme.
- Possibility to **recruit master students** to research projects on a niche topic, given the peculiar nature of EMJMD programme.
  - New scholarly discipline – a potential for preparing a new generation of experts for academia
- **Broadened network** of international partners/stakeholders – universities, NGOs, public sector organizations, international organizations.



## TIPS

- Make sure in advance, what are the requirements on the Erasmus Mundus side and how the common approach taken in EMJMD project fits into the university's and national regulatory framework.
- Create / join the consortium based on established contacts – trust issue.
- Build a network of reliable associated partners, who are willing to actively contribute.
- Think through the design of the whole programme to guarantee jointness.
- When- and where-ever possible, create common (shared) rules, but don't try to squeeze everything into one format.
- Have a clear division of labor, both between partners and inside the institution (university).
  - Be ready for a lot of coordination between partners and for 'paperwork'.

**THANK YOU!**

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