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HRK Nexus International Autumn Conference
European cooperation agreements regarding credit transfer

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01. BTU and Internationalisation at a Glance

BTU - Facts and Figures

Founded: 15th of July 1991 · 6,722 students · 119 professors · 571 research officers · 577 non-academic staff
Funding 2010 52.9 Mio. € · Third-party funding 2010: 20 Mio. €

Faculties

- Faculty 1 – Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Information Technology
- Faculty 2 – Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Urban Planning
- Faculty 3 – Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Industrial Engineering
- Faculty 4 – Environmental Sciences and Process Engineering
01. BTU and Internationalisation at a Glance

High share of International Students
- 17% of our student population come from abroad
- Main countries of origin: China, Poland, Cameroon

8 International Study Programmes
- First BSc in Environmental and Resource Management 1998
- Innovative Programmes: Environmental and Resource Management, World Heritage Studies, Forensic Sciences and Engineering
- 33% of international students

Internationalisation of Teaching
- 2008 internationalisation strategy
- 2010 participation in the HRK-internationalisation audit
- 2011 catalogue of measures/ ERASMUS monitoring
02. Study Abroad and Recognition

Which possibilities exist for BTU students to go abroad?

1. ERASMUS
   • Study placements at European partner universities
   • 100 partner universities (to be reduced!)
   • 123 agreements
   • Low outgoing mobility (41% utilisation ratio)

2. STUDEXA (STUDent EXchange Abroad)
   • Study placements at oversea’s partner universities
   • 61 places in USA, Australia, Asia
   • Participation in the GE4 network
   • High outgoing mobility (97% utilisation ratio)

3. DUAL DEGREES
   • BSc Physics, BSc/MSc Architecture, MSc Power Engineering, MSc Forensic Sciences and Engineering
   • Italy, Hungary, Poland, Taiwan, China
   • Low outgoing mobility
02. Study Abroad and Recognition

The Recognition Cycle Studies Abroad

Step 1: Promotion of Places (Oct./Nov.)
Information sessions, advice ERASMUS departmental coordinator + International Office

Step 2: Application and Learning Agreement (Jan.)
Online-Application Move On including learning agreement

Step 3: Selection Procedure and Nomination (March)

Step 4: Preparation (until June/July)
Information sessions, intercultural workshops

Step 5: Monitoring (during studies abroad, Sept./Oct.)
Changes of the learning agreement

Step 6: Decentralised Recognition (upon return)
Advice on recognition procedure Recognition decision by the examination board of the study programme

03 · Serviceleistungen
02. Study Abroad and Recognition

Development of Outgoing Mobility – Relative Share According to Faculties

Bologna goals: 20%! 
02. Study Abroad and Recognition

Obligatory Semester Abroad

• Environmental and Resource Management (2010 DAAD Best Recognition Award)
• MSc Structural Engineering, MSc Civil Engineering

Catalogue of measures: more „windows of mobility“ + additional dual degrees EU

2010: Survey among 1st and 2nd year students at Faculty 2

• 58.9% fear that modules earned abroad will not be recognised

More transparency needed
02. Study Abroad and Recognition

Recognition in Environmental and Resource Management

Study Regulations
• All compulsory modules finished by semester four, 5th semester abroad
• 30 ECTS credits to be earned (margin 18-36 accepted)
• Learning agreement signed by the head of the examination board
• After return: comparison transcript + LA

Regulations in agreements with partner universities
• No specific regulations, basic bilateral agreements, STUDEXA agreements

Flexible study regulations more important than specific terms in agreements
03. Management of Bilateral Agreements and MoUs

(1) ERASMUS Bilateral Agreements
- Responsibility: Institutional Coordinator
- Suggestion by departmental coordinator
- Annual evaluation session

(2) General MoUs/ STUDEXA
- Contract management: International Office
- Signature: President, co-signatures: Chancellor, in-house legal adviser

(3) Cooperation Agreements in Joint Programmes with International Partners
- Contract Management: International Office
- Decision by the Commission of Teaching, Further Education, and Personnel Development
- Signature: President, co-signature: legal adviser, Registrar’s Office, Department for Teaching, Burea for International Studies, Chancellor
03. Management of Bilateral Agreements and MoUs

Essential Parts of MoUs regarding student exchange (STUDEXA)

- Selection/nomination procedure
- Language skills incoming/outgoing students
- Annual quota
- Tuition fee waiver
- Terms on recognition/usage of learning agreements (workload, recognition)
- Services provided to international students
- Validity/financial matters
03. Management of Bilateral Agreements and MoUs

Essential Parts of Cooperation Agreements for Joint Programmes/Dual Degrees

- Selection procedure + criteria (subject, language competency)
- Managing committee
- Organisation of Studies/Schedule (which modules need to be passed where)
- Services provided to international participants
- Tuition fee waiver
- Terms on achievements at each university
- (Grade conversion sheet)?
- Degree(s) awarded upon completion of the programme
04. Best Practice Example: EUROFOS
Postgraduate Master in Forensic Sciences

- Dual Degree with four partners: start 2011/2012

**University of Parma**
(consortium leader)
Italy

**University of Messina**
Italy

**BTU Cottbus**
Germany

**EÖTVÖS Lorand University**
Budapest, Hungary

1st semester home university, 2nd at a partner institution
04. Best Practice Example: EUROFOS
Postgraduate Master in Forensic Sciences

Articles
• Scope of Agreement
• Selection Criteria and Procedures
• Organisation of Studies
• Acknowledgement of student achievements
• Assistance at host institution
• Examination and study regulations
• Degree
• Financial and other arrangements
• Monitoring of the Programme
• Scholarly Exchange
• Publicity and promotional material
• Efficacy and Interim Regulations
• Disclaimer/Miscellaneous

Annex
• 1: Eurofos Admission Criteria
• 2: Master's Calendar
• 3: Double Degree Scheme
• 4: Joint Committee Representatives
• 5a: List of Modules (BTU)
• 5b: List of Modules (UNIPR)
• 5c: List of Modules (UNIME)
• 5d: List of Modules (ELTE)
• 6: Conversion of Examination Results
• 7: Tuition and Extra Fees
05. Pros & Cons formalised agreements

Pros
- Give students certainty
- Help us to think of problems before they appear
- „Translate“ national system and rules
- Create common standards + facilitate the EHEA

Cons/ Challenges
- See above: study regulations more important
- Impossibility to clarify everything in advance
- Administrative burden
- Inflexibility
- Incapability of other units than International Office to provide services in English
- Mode to „translate“ European instruments (ECTS User‘s Guide, Lisbon Recognition)
06. Points of Discussion

• Challenge to integrate **European instruments** (grade transfer) into cooperation agreements?

• Choice of partner and **check of curriculum** more important than contract management?

• Exchange of **European best practices** with regard to recognition needed?

• Surveys among participating students as a **monitoring instrument**?
Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions?

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