EUROPEAN MASTERS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT - EUROMPM

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Short Abstract

New European Master Courses in Project Management are implemented by a consortium of European Universities. The paper describes the concepts and mainstreams of the study courses and deals with the implementation and accreditation.

Keywords: master course, project management, Erasmus Mundus, EuroMPM

1. Introduction

New European Master Courses in Project Management will be offered by a Consortium including:

- Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway, Asbjorn Rolstadas, Tim Torvatn

- University of Zaragoza and University of Rioja, Spain, Juan Cano, Joaquin Ordieres

- Ecole Supérieure de Commerce – ESC - Lille/Paris, France, Christophe Bredillet , Rodney Turner

- University Maribor and GEA College Ljubljana/Piran, Slowenia, Brane Semolič

- University of Applied Sciences Friedberg, Germany, Nino Grau

- University of Applied Sciences Dortmund, Germany, Peter Reusch, Dino Schönberg.

The EuroMPM is focused on the growing demand for project management qualification in all industries as well as in public administration. The EuroMPM includes training, research and development in various areas of project management and specializations within the network of the consortium. The qualification for project managers follows the guide lines of project management associations. The EuroMPM follows the strategies of the Erasmus Mundus programme and is open for students from all over the world. Teaching language is English.

At the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund the EuroMPM is a strategic endeavour with contributions from 4 faculties and open for the others. The authors of this paper are the course directors of the EuroMPM in Dortmund. Peter Reusch is also chair of the EuroMPM consortium.

There are several versions of the EuroMPM - 3 to 4 semesters, 90 to 120 ECTS, consecutive and further education, part time and full time. Semester 1 (and mostly semester 2) will be studied at the student's host institution. At least one other semester (Semester [2,] 3 and/or 4) must be studied at an institution other than the host institution. The following table shows the core structure of the study course in the 120 ECTS version with the electives offered in Dortmund, the table thereafter shows the courses of the first 2 semesters. More information is available at the website www.eurompm.net – or at the website of the partners[1] [2] [3].

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[1] http://www.ntnu.no/studieavd/dok/DegreeProgrammes_2005.pdf
[2] http://www.esc-lille.fr/
[3] http://www.fh-giessen-friedberg.de/site/content/view/173/41/

Module	Semester		ECTS
1	1	Essentials of Project Management	15
2	1	Establishing Teams and Organization	15
3	2	Communication, Managing Change, Creativity	15
4	2	Knowledge, Finance and Contracts – and Advanced Concepts	15
5/6 one of the Electives	3	Project Management for IT-Projects	30
		Project Management for Projects in E-commerce, E-Business, E-government	
		Project Management for Projects in Architecture and Construction	
		Project Management for Projects in the Social and Cultural Context	
7	4	Master Thesis	30
		Sum	120

Table 1: Modules of the EuroMPM - Dortmund

Sem-ester	Modules		Courses		
1	1	Essentials of Project Management	MP01	Project Context and Organisation	3 ECTS
			MP02	Phases and Life Cycle Concepts	3 ECTS
			MP03	Standards and Mainstreams	3 ECTS
			MP04	Project Planning	3 ECTS
			MP05	Project Control	3 ECTS
	2	Establish Teams and Organisation	MP06	Team Building and Leadership	3 ECTS
			MP07	Project Organisation	3 ECTS
			MP08	Managing Quality	3 ECTS
			MP09	Managing Risk	3 ECTS
			MP10	Project Economics	3 ECTS
2	3	Communication, Managing Change, Creativity	MP11	Communication, Negotiation and Conflict Management	3 ECTS
			MP12	Social Competencies	3 ECTS
			MP13	Managing Change	3 ECTS
			MP14	Creativity and Decision Making	3 ECTS
			MP15	Intercultural Communication	3 ECTS
	4	Knowledge, Finance and Contracts – and Advanced Concepts	MP16	Information and Knowledge Management	3 ECTS
			MP17	Project Finance	3 ECTS
			MP18	Contracts, Procurement and Legal Aspects	3 ECTS
			MP19	Programme and Portfolio Management	3 ECTS
			MP20	Safety, Health and the Environment	3 ECTS
				Total	60 ECTS

Table 2: Courses of the EuroMPM in semesters 1 and 2 - Dortmund

2. Selected Concepts and Mainstreams

The EuroMPM includes the standards of the project management associations (PMI®, IPMA®, …) as described on the websites of the course.

The EuroMPM recognises

- Gender Mainstreaming
- Cultural Mainstreaming
- Safety and Health Mainstreaming.

Mainstreams are issues that are not only mentioned in an isolated part of a course but are concepts that are considered across several courses of the EuroMPM from various points of view. That will improve the skills needed for international and multi-cultural projects.

The mainstreams go across project management from the strategies of programmes down to risk planning and other basic concepts.

During the design of the EuroMPM the partners in the consortium realized that the importance of these mainstreams differs from country to country. We learned from each other and we learned to link our courses to major institutes dealing with these mainstreams professionally like the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Dortmund.

The implementation of fundamental IT concepts across various courses is also very important for the EuroMPM. In the last years XML-based information models for project management become more and more import. Even MS Project® is now based on an XML-schema that improves the selection and transmission of project data significantly. So XML-based concepts are part of several courses of the EuroMPM from the introduction up to specializations for projects in e-commerce for example. A special set of training materials will support this approach, for example "The XML-Schema of MS-Project[4]"

In the EuroMPM we want to strengthen creativity and creative problem solving. At the University of Applied Sciences we implemented a specialization on creativity and creative problem solving that will be transferred to the EuroMPM and applied within the consortium.

A core issue of the EuroMPM is, that the members of the consortium designed the study course, and now exchange course materials and lecturers.

3. Implementation of the EuroMPM

Within the EuroMPM-Consortium there are still some forerunners of the new European Masters in Project Management, for example diploma courses at ESC and in Gießen-Friedberg, or specializations in project management in Dortmund. In the winter semester 2005/2006 the new EuroMPM in a 120 ECTS consecutive version started at NTNU in Trondheim[5]. The implementation at NTNU was easier than at the other universities because at NTNU they do not need a special accreditation of a new study course.

At the other universities in 2005 accreditation procedures started. Regarding the EuroMPM at the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund the accreditation procedure was opened at

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[4] Reusch, Peter; Elsner, Michael: The XML-Schema of MS-Project, Dortmund 2005.
[5] http://www.ntnu.no/studieavd/dok/DegreeProgrammes_2005.pdf

the accreditation agency AQAS[6] in Bonn in December 2005. The accreditation is a time consuming procedure that will not be closed before spring 2006. The accreditation of such a study course – with a network of cooperating universities in several countries and in a foreign language – is not a standard procedure for accreditation agencies in Germany. In Germany accreditation agencies have been found just a few years ago. Today most study courses in Germany are legalised by ministeries – not by accreditation agencies. Now the universities in Germany have to get an accreditation of a new study course by an accreditation agency before they can enrol students. This results in an overload of requests for accreditation at the accreditation agencies. Insiders assume that the accreditation agencies in Germany will not be able to manage the accreditation procedures for all study courses that have to be installed within the next few years. In Germany we have some deadlines regarding the traditional diploma courses – our government wants to comply with the Bologna Agreement soon. All traditional diploma courses have to be substituted by bachelor or master courses. And this is really a major endeavour.

In the EuroMPM consortium we discussed a common accreditation for all our courses. But today we can not be sure that a foreign accreditation will be recognised by our ministeries. So we started national approaches for accreditation. But for a national accreditation the recognition of contributions from foreign universities is not trivial.

At the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund we plan to start with a 120 ECTS consecutive version of the EuroMPM in the winter semester 2006/2007. We also want to invite some students from Trondheim in their 3rd semester in the winter semester 2006/2007.

The first version of the EuroMPM is a consecutive master – based on a bachelor in business administration or in business informatics/information systems/computer science for business administration or equivalent courses.

At the other universities of the consortium we plan to implement versions of the EuroMPM for further education in 2006 - mostly for students with professional experience.

At the University of Applied Sciences in Dortmund we want to implement a 90 ECTS version of the EuroMPM for further education for students with work experience in 2008.

The other universities within the consortium that start with a EuroMPM for further education want to implement consecutive versions later.

The consortium is open for new partners, especially after the consolidation in 2006. New partners outside the European Union could also be integrated into Erasmus Mundus applications.

REFERENCES

1. www.eurompm.net

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