



IDEALiStiC Joint Degrees

June 24, 2018

Contents

Background	2
Description	2
Key questions and goals	2
Output	2
Concept 1	3
Goals	3
Description	3
Timeline	5
Concept 2	6
Goals	6
Description	6
Timeline	6
Concept 3	8
Goals	8
Description	8
Timeline	9

Background

Description

After years of talking on the side of us students and many proposals to the IDEA League board and our universities about the possibility of more Joint Degree programs between the IDEA League universities, the university board from the RWTH is planning to start such. In this workshop we tried to find one or more models for a Joint Program, that IDEALiStiC would like to suggest to the board of IDEALeague and our universities.

Key questions and goals

During the workshop the following key questions were addressed:

- What would be a model of a Joint Degree we want?
- What should a student gain whilst participating in such a degree?
- Can we make a timeline to realise such a degree or is the duty of each university/faculty?

The goals were:

- Make a wish list of benefits for the degree.
- Pin out one or more models that we like to be implemented.
- (Make a timeline)

Output

The participants were divided into three small groups and each group elaborated an idea of a possible joint degree. The idea includes specific goals of the program and what kind of measures would need to be taken in order to implement such a program. Additionally some groups worked out a timeline for a possible implementation. The concepts are described in more detail below.

Concept 1

Goals

- Make use of the strength of each IDEA League university
- International experience for students
- Having IDEA League MOOC's
- Europewide network for participants
- Minimum changes for the courses given at the universities
- Improving IDEA League relations and making information sharing easier

Description

Overview of a possible joint degree:

TU Delft	Politecnico di Milano	ETH Zurich	RWTH Aachen	Chalmers
Basic Courses (30 ECTS)				
courses can be taken at all universities				
students can choose at with university they take the course				
Expertise course	Expertise course	Expertise course	Expertise course	Expertise course
30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS	30 ECTS
Thesis at university of choose (30 ECTS)				

Specific measures that would need to be implemented:

- Bachelor : set up of an exchange platform for video recorded lectures as a tool for students of other IDEA League universities to have access to different explanations of the same topic
- Master : joint degree delivered by IDEA League only if more than 60 ECTS were completed in another university than the university of the bachelor's degree
- Division of courses into basic courses, which will be offered at each university, and into specialisation courses, which are only offered at the university, which has most expertise in this field
- Freedom for the participants to choose at which university they would like to complete the needed ECTS (30 ECTS in basic courses, 60 ECTS in specialisation courses and 30 ECTS for the master thesis). The specialisation courses will already exist at every university. So the changes for the courses will be minimal for the universities. The basic courses have to be the same at every university so that it doesn't matter at which university the students choose for the basic courses.
- Advantages : The students can benefit of other universities fields of expertise very easily without encountering administrative hurdles. It is easy to implement as the universities can base themselves on existing structures
- Implementation : The IDEALiStiC and the student organisation identify fields of study, which are offered at each IDEA League university and where such a degree could be implemented. They elaborate a prototype degree with mention on the one hand of administrative concepts (especially about tuition fees and admission requirements) and on the other hand which existing courses could be considered as basic courses and which ones could be considered as specialisation courses. Once this is done, the IDEALiStiC have to present this detailed concept to the IDEA League board.

Timeline

- Identify fields of study for joint degree (.5y),
- Create a prototype master programme (.75y),
- Identify (administrative) hurdles and find out how to deal with them (1.5y)
- Present plan to the boards of the respective universities
- Iterate plan and improve it (4,5y)
- Start of joint master (5y)

Concept 2

Goals

- Having an european technical university degree
- Make use of the strength of each IDEA League university.
- Foster the exchange within the IDEA League.
- Having IDEA League MOOCs.
- Train the participating students in different languages. Set up an IDEA League spirit.

Description

To strengthen the internationality of the students and use the academic strengths and research focuses of each participating university, it is the idea to set up joint degree programs for both Bachelor and Master. To ensure a smooth transition from school to a joint degree bachelor program, the first Bachelor year needs to be done at the student's "home university". The home university for a student is the one from the student's home country or the one that offers bachelor programs in the student's mother tongue. After this first year students may switch universities every semester or every year. To compensate for non-matching schedules more flexible study units shall be set up, e.g. MOOCs. In order to be eligible for the joint degree diploma, it is mandatory to stay a semester at every university by the end of the masters program.

Such programs may lead to an IDEA League spirit with networking opportunities and makes use of the opportunity to train the participating students in different languages. To accomplish this program a special IDEA League administration for the student taking part in the joint degree with a coordinator at every university must be set up. It is the idea to have set up the program by autumn 2020 therefore a tight timeline is needed.

Timeline

august 2018:	Find possible fields for joint degrees and interview applied geophysics alumni
september 2018:	Promote this idea towards the joint board meeting
end of 2018:	Start to set up the joint program and start to build the IDEA League administration for students: having regular workgroup meetings, workgroups consist of 2-3 persons of each university
start of 2019:	first draft and start of a first workgroup phase
summer 2019:	discussion of a second draft at the IDEA League universities
autumn 2019:	finish second workgroup phase by having the final draft and start finalising the joint program
end of 2019:	Pass the program in each board of the rectors and the IDEA League universities
spring 2020:	Promote the joint degree bachelor and master program
autumn 2020:	Enrole the first program students
summer 2022:	Evaluate the joint program

Concept 3

Goals

The main goal of this concept is the variety of different joint degrees a student can choose. With the possibility of choosing where to go, one can really focus on the personal interests and preferences. Each degree might have a different way to go, but in the end, all of them are students with a degree from IDEA League. This degree shall have a great reputation among all the universities and also to the rest of the world.

Description

The aim of this concept is to focus on broadening the possible joint degrees within the universities of IDEA League.

In order to offer a broad range of different joint degrees, this concept tries to open the possibilities as much as possible. Therefore, a student, who wants to do a joint master, can choose three out of five universities within IDEA League. The student then stays for one semester at each university. The decision, where the student goes therefore fully depend on his / her interests (language, country, culture, approaches and focus of the university).

For the purpose of coordination within IDEA League, a central office has to be installed. This office shall provide an equal treatment of all the students applying for the joint degrees.

The following important aspects shall be implemented in the concept:

- Tuition fees: The joint degrees shall be affordable for students, therefore the fees have to be fixed.
- Graduation: The students graduate with a degree of all IDEA League universities, no matter where they actually went.
- Exam regulation: There has to be an exam regulation which holds for all the universities. This has to be translated in each language.
- Admission: Important for the admission to a joint degree are not only the grades, but also an interview, where the motivation of the students shall be stated. In addition, it is a preliminary to have a bachelor's degree of one of the IDEA League universities. If not,

only people, who would be accepted to one of the IDEA League universities can do a joint degrees after having done their requirements. (Auflagen)

- Number of students: In a first round, 100 students shall be able to join such a program (20 per university).
- Housing: Due to the fact that students are only at each university for one semester, the housing for students must be well-organised. Therefore, housing must be provided by the universities and students should not do this themselves.
- Community: In order to exchange experiences, the students doing the programs shall have meet-ups organized once a semester.
- Language: This program shall give the opportunity to learn the language in the country your chosen university is in. Therefore a language course is mandatory.
- Platform: Communication among students and staff shall be organized with an online-database. This has to be established before the start of the program. On this platform students can ask questions to other students about the content of a course.

Timeline

There is no fixed timeline implementation elaborated. However, there are several ideas, how to start:

1. First, there has to be an IDEA League meeting in order to install a coordination office and give it its assignments.
2. The coordination office has the following to-dos in the beginning:
 - All the named aspects from above have to be implemented (Tuition fees, examination regulations, admission, housing, community, language, degree).
 - List of all possible joint masters has to be elaborated.
3. Several to-dos will follow once the office is installed and has done its first assignments.