

# Master in Research and Innovation in Higher Education

EMJM Kick-off Meeting

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# MARIHE – Preparing Higher Education for the Future

“Preparing higher education, research and innovation for the future calls for ambitious and skilled managers, analysts, researchers and policy makers.”

Prof. Attila Pausits,  
MARIHE Coordinator

## FACTBOX MARIHE

- ✓ *Unique – global – highly selective*
- ✓ *Established in 2012 – 3 funding cycles*
- ✓ *120 ECTS Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree*
- ✓ *Duration: four semesters/ two years*
- ✓ *Student intake once a year*
- ✓ *Mandatory internship of min. 8 weeks worldwide*
- ✓ *Two specialisation options in Asia (China or India)*
- ✓ *Five specialization options in Europe (Austria, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Portugal)*
- ✓ *Graduation rate of nearly 100 %*

# Mobility paths

1<sup>st</sup> semester in Austria



2<sup>nd</sup> semester in Finland



3<sup>rd</sup> semester Specialisations & Internship (worldwide)

Asia:



or



Europe:



or



or



or



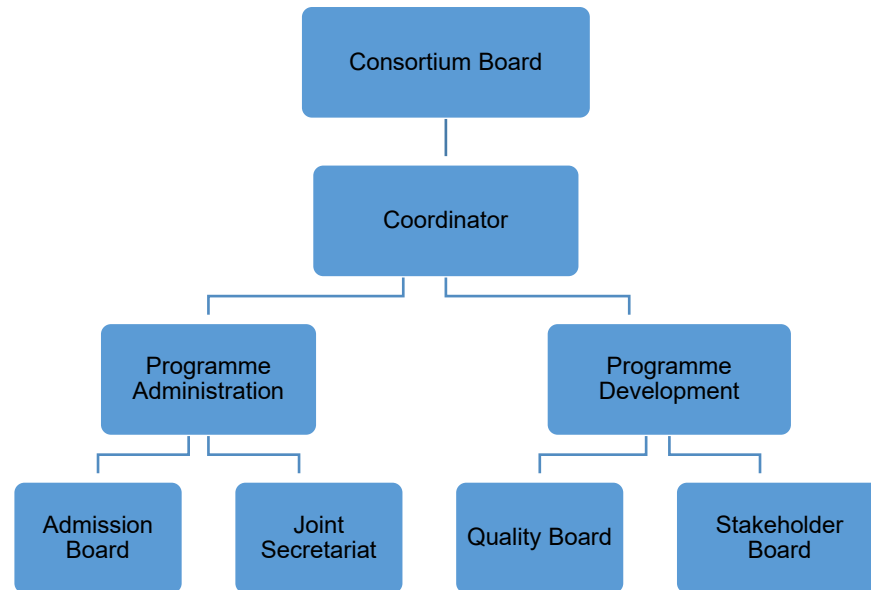
or



4<sup>th</sup> semester Master's Thesis in one of the visited countries

# Continuous strive for improvement

## Governance structure



## Quality management



⇒ Stakeholder involvement and shared responsibility

# Diversity as an asset and a challenge

## Diversity in student population

- Educational background
- Cultural background

⇒ Invest in group activities and create a supportive environment

⇒ Expectation Management!

## Diversity in the Consortium

- Institutional culture and practices
- Different styles of communication

⇒ Agree on joint standards and processes; write them down! (Organisational Handbook)

⇒ Onboarding of new partners and designated contact persons (e.g. administrative, academic)

# Humans matter! Building a strong network

## Investment in personal relationships within the Consortium pays off

- ⇒ Clear distribution of responsibilities and clear communication structures
- ⇒ Yearly meetings in person
- ⇒ Meetings at all partner institutions
- ⇒ Regular (short) online meetings
- ⇒ Administrators and coordinators matter!

## Alumni can serve as multipliers and supporters

- ⇒ Administrators and coordinators matter!
- ⇒ Buddy programme
- ⇒ Alumni network
- ⇒ EMA

## Associate partners are not only an add-on but an asset

- ⇒ Inclusion in teaching & internships & advisors
- ⇒ Multipliers and supporters
- ⇒ Give something back!

# Thinking ahead

**Try to remain up to date with developments in the study field and the employment market**

- ⇒ Alumni and employer survey
- ⇒ Own research and developments in the host countries

**Try to tackle challenges proactively and don't wait until they arrive**

- ⇒ Monitor the programme constantly => quality assurance
- ⇒ Observe changes in the environment, e.g. geo-political challenges, new student needs, AI
- ⇒ Reach a consent and action plan within the Consortium before the challenge appears

**Practicalities matter!**

- e.g., visa processes, housing, transition to and onboarding at the next institution – mobilities are exhausting!



# How we developed the programme further

- Introduction of new specialisations and partners (latest: University of Aveiro/Portugal – Policy Analysis)
- New degrees (latest: joint degree between Austria & Hungary, double degrees with India & China)
- Updated curriculum, revision of modules, re-assessment of lecturers/teaching methods

⇒ Plan well ahead as those processes do need time  
⇒ Use your networks and political influence  
⇒ Stay active, ambitious and motivated! :-)

# Questions???

Dr. Sina Westa

Academic Director of MARIHE

Department for Higher Education Research

University for Continuing Education Krems – Coordinating Institution

[sina.westa@donau-uni.ac.at](mailto:sina.westa@donau-uni.ac.at)