



# Toward Integrated Internal Quality Assurance for Joint Programmes: The SEA-EU Experience

13 November 2025

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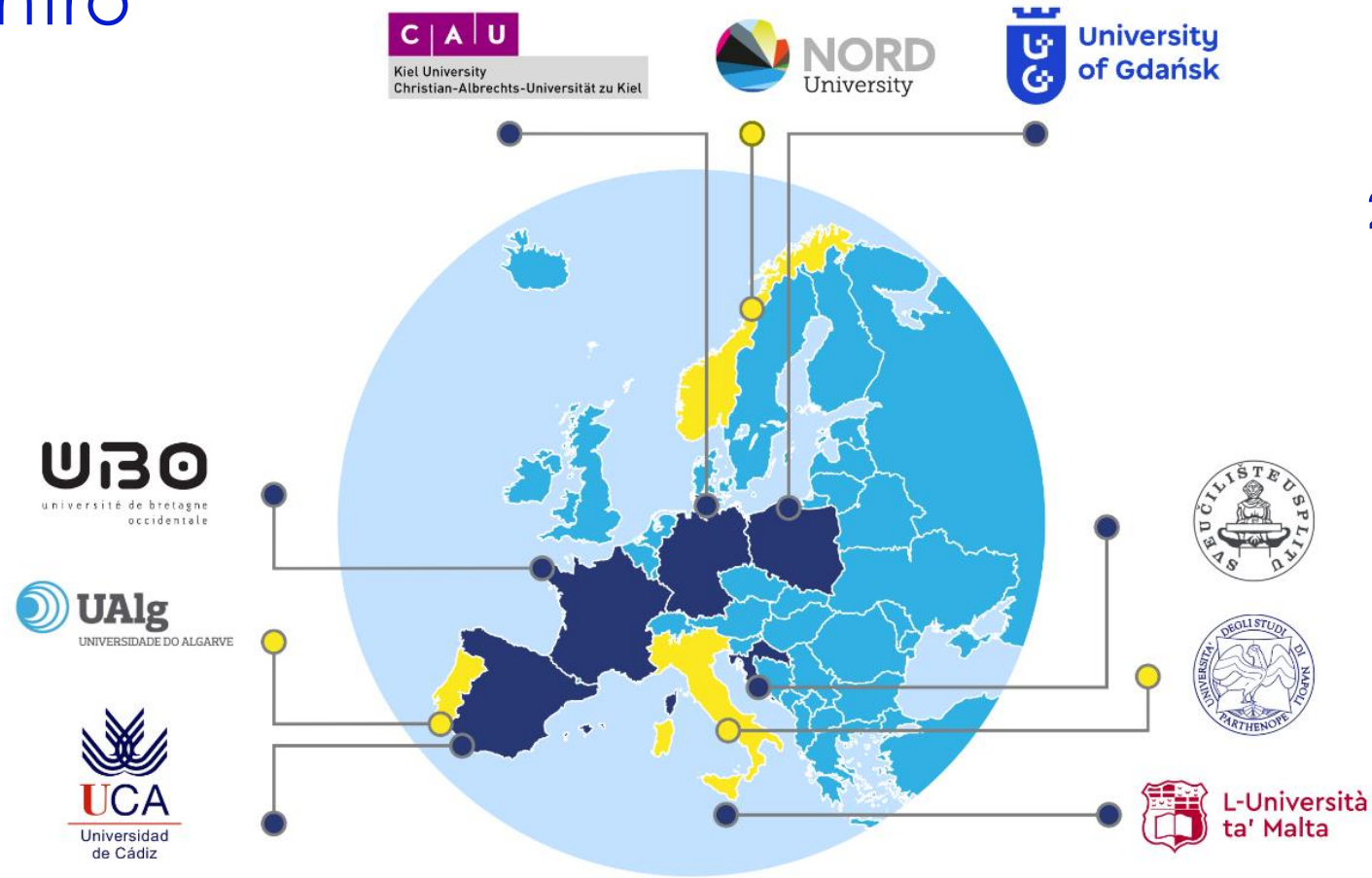
## General Outline

- Introduction (10 mins)
- Main presentation (15 mins)
- Group Activity: Mapping Institutional QA Systems (25 mins)
- Case Study Discussion (25 mins)
- Wrap-up (15 mins)

## Introduction section – Workshop Objectives

1. Understand the requirements and principles of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, and how they relate to the integration of internal QA systems across universities.
2. Identify practical strategies and models for aligning institutional QA processes, including mutual recognition of procedures, collaborative self-assessment, and shared governance frameworks.
3. Evaluate the challenges and enabling conditions for preparing joint programme accreditation dossiers across national systems, with specific insights from the SEA-EU experience.

# SEA-EU Intro



2019 – **2023** – 2027

*Coastal and marine-maritime character as its hallmark*  
*Geographically-balanced*

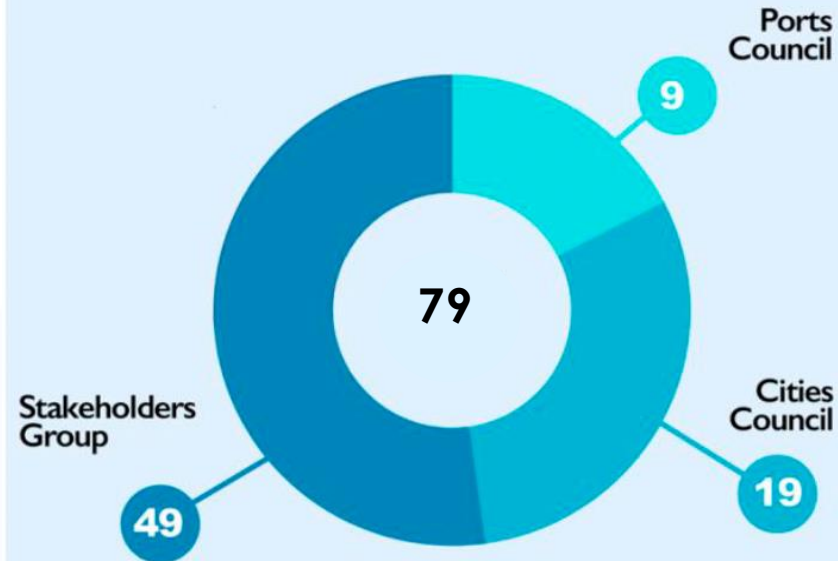
*Multiculturalism and multilingualism*  
*Distributed inter-partner open governance*

# Associated Partners

## SEA-EU 2.0 Associated Partners

| UCA | UBO | CAU | UG | UNIST | UM | UAig | UPN | NORD |
|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|----|------|-----|------|
| 12  | 8   | 7   | 7  | 11    | 6  | 10   | 6   | 9    |

## In SEA-EU Bodies



2

External Universities  
Associated Partners



13

COMPANIES



18

RESEARCH  
INSTITUTES



37

PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION



9

NGOs

**WMU** WORLD  
MARITIME  
UNIVERSITY



Odesa I.I. Mechnikov  
National University

*Co-creation approach*

# sea·EU COMMUNITY

A living European campus of **9 universities**  
with one shared vision:  
building a more competitive Europe

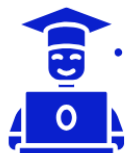
**MORE THAN**  
**145.200 STUDENTS**



**Bachelor**  
**107.500**



**Master**  
**44.000**



**Doctorate**  
**6.100**

**MORE THAN**  
**21.500 STAFF**  
**MEMBERS**



**Admin and  
Technical**  
**7.800**



**Academic**  
**11.000**

**139 PARTNERS**



**21 Cities**



**12 Ports**



**57 Administration/  
Companies/NGO  
Research Inst.**



**18 Advisors**



**31 Ext/Assoc.  
Universities**

# SEA-EU Joint Programmes (2025/26)



Joint Bachelor in  
Sustainable Blue Economy

**Sea-BluE**



Master's Degree in Port  
Management and Logistics

**MIPMAL**



Master's Degree in  
Sustainability Transition for  
Organisations and Resilience  
Management

**STORM**



Joint Doctoral Study  
Program

**Marine & Maritime Sciences  
and Technologies**

**A full pathway: from the Bachelor to the PhD**

# Is it only about Joint Programmes?



ECTS - Credits

**sea·EU**  
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF THE SEAS

**Marine Data Literacy**  
Blended Intensive Programme

Apply before November 30, 2024



**sea·EU**

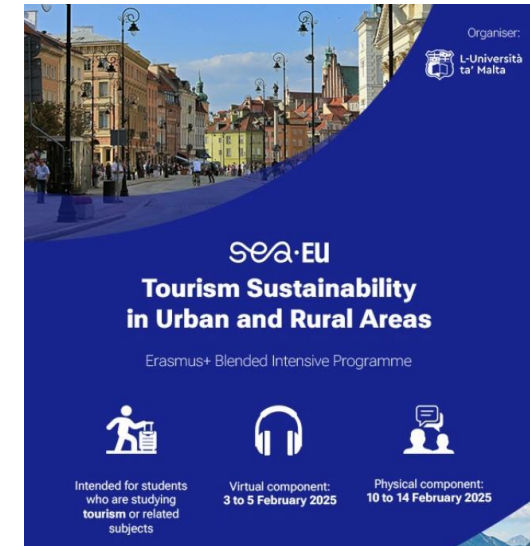
**Blended Intensive Programme**  
**Coastal Management Brest**

Intended for students in earth sciences

Virtual component: 6-13-20-27th of may 2025

Physical component: 23rd to 27th of june 2025

**U3O**  
Université de Bretagne Occidentale



Organiser:  
L-Università ta' Malta

**sea·EU**

**Tourism Sustainability in Urban and Rural Areas**  
Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme

Intended for students who are studying tourism or related subjects

Virtual component: 3 to 5 February 2025

Physical component: 10 to 14 February 2025



**SOFT SKILLS**

**Blended Intensive Program (BIP):**  
Soft Skills in a Modern Workplace - The Role of Human Capital Management in Ensuring High Empowerment

June 2025, University of Alagve

**UAlg**  
UNIVERSIDADE DE ALGARVE

**sea·EU**  
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF THE SEAS

Co-funded by the European Union



**sea·EU**

**Blended Intensive Programme**  
**BLUE GEOMARKETING: THE CASE OF TOURISM IN THE PROVINCE OF CADIZ**

31 MARCH - 6 APRIL 2025: ONLINE  
7 - 11 APRIL 2025: ON SITE (CADIZ)

**New Deadline 31 January**

**U3O**  
UNIVERSITÉ DE BRETAGNE OCCIDENTALE



**sea·EU**

**MICRO-CREDENTIAL**  
**Global Citizenship**  
10.04.2025 - 30.09.2025

**REGISTER BY 08 APR**

**C | A | U**  
Kiel University  
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

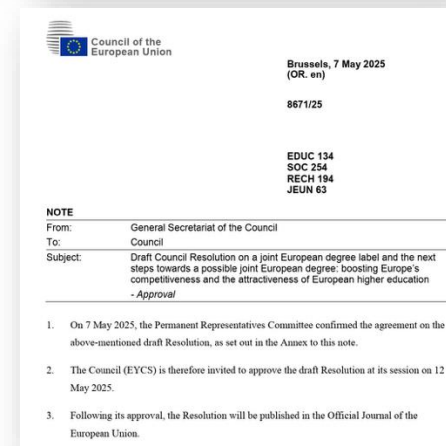
# An European quality label for Joint Programs – What we need regarding QA?

The label seeks to increase the visibility and attractiveness of high-quality joint programmes.

Joint Programme → verification by a EU quality assurance agency registered in the European EQAR or a EU agency fully implementing the European Approach for Quality Assurance

**A.** Programme organisation criteria

**B.** European dimension criteria



## SEA-EU Joint Programmes - Introduction

- Joint Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Blue Economy - **SeaBluE**.
- Joint Master's Degree in Port Management and Logistics - **MIPMAL**.
- Joint Master's Degree in Sustainability Transition for Organisations and Resilience Management - **STORM**.
- Joint Doctoral Study Programme in Marine and Maritime Sciences and Technologies - **MaMast**



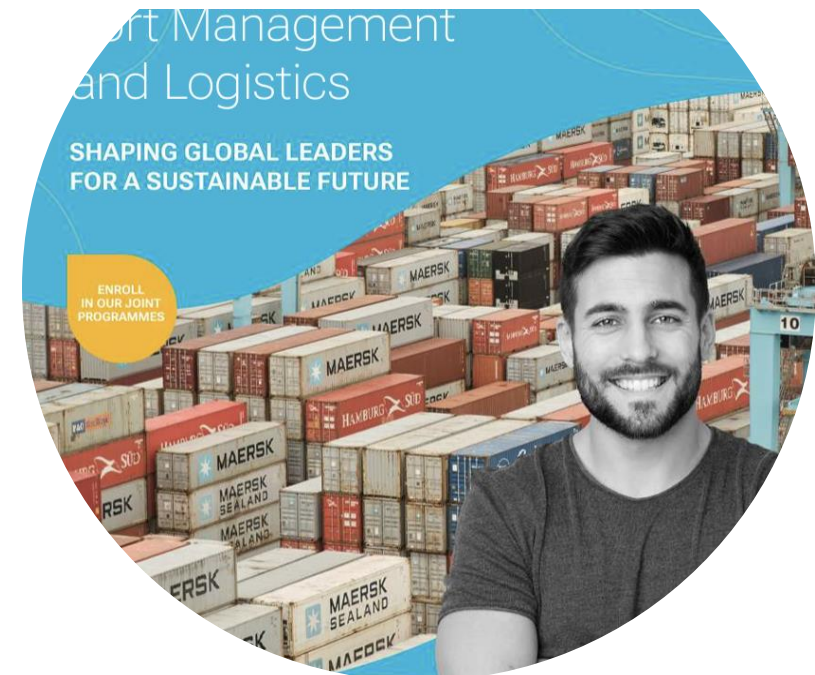
## Joint Programme SeaBluE

- Full name of the programme:  
**Joint Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Blue Economy, SeaBluE**
- EQF level: 6.
- QF-EHEA level: 1st cycle.
- Number of ECTS points: 180 - 3 years.
- Coordinating University: UCA.
- Partners: **UCA**, UNIST, **UG**, NORD, **UPN**, UAlg.
- Associated Partner: UM.
- Fee: 1500€/year (4500€). Scholarships available.



## Joint Programme MIPMAL

- Name of the programme:  
**Joint Master's Degree in Port Management and Logistics, MIPMAL**
- EQF level: 7.
- QF-EHEA level: 2nd cycle.
- Number of ECTS points: 120 - 2 years.
- Coordinating University: UCA.
- Partners: UCA, UG, UNIST, UAlg, UM + 12 Ports.
- Fee: 4500€/year (9000€). Scholarships available.



## Joint Programme STORM

- Name of the programme:  
**Joint Master's Degree in Sustainability Transition for Organisations and Resilience Management, STORM**
- EQF level: 7.
- QF-EHEA level: 2nd cycle.
- Number of ECTS points: 120 - 2 years.
- Coordinating University: UBO.
- Partners: UBO, UCA, UNIST, NORD, UM, UG.
- Fee: 3750 € /year (EU) - 7 500 € /year (Non-EU). Scholarships available.



## Joint Doctorate - MaMast

- Name of the programme:  
**Joint Doctorate in Marine and Maritime Sciences & Tech., MaMast.**
- EQF level: 8.
- QF-EHEA level: 3rd cycle.
- Number of ECTS points: 180 - 3 years.
- Coordinating University: UNIST.
- Partners: UNIST, UCA, UBO, UM, NORD, UAlg, UPN.
- Associated partner: CAU.
- Fee: 5000 € /year (15000€).

# Co-creation process

## Joint Programmes Working Group Committee. JPWG

Course  
Description  
Template

Fees &  
Funding

Common platform for joint  
degrees: Joint Virtual  
Administrative Office &  
Digital Identity

Glossary

ECTS Grading  
System

Common platform for joint  
degrees: Joint Virtual  
Administrative Office

Student  
Council

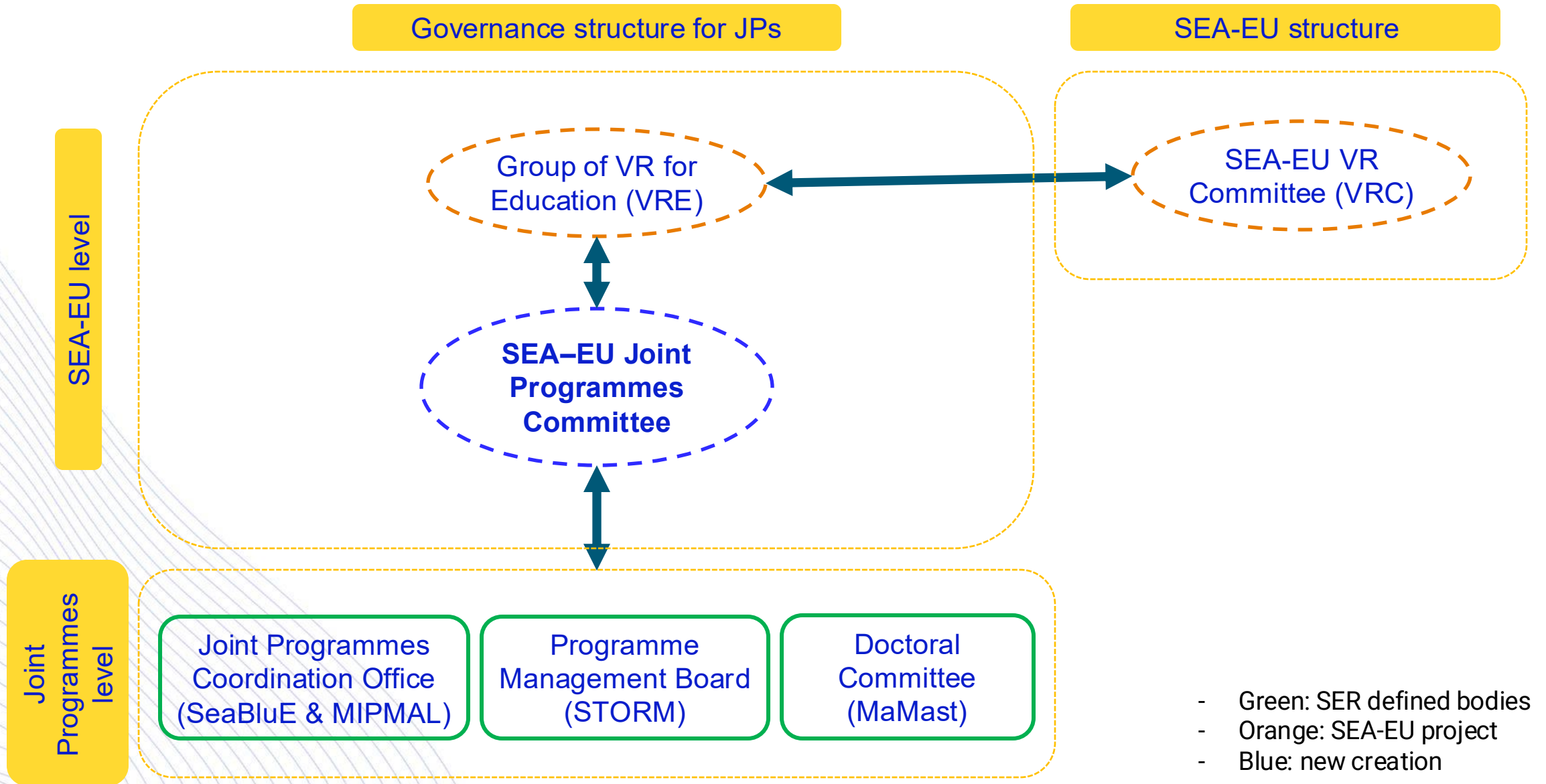
Ports  
Council

Cities  
Council

## Quality and Ethics committee (QEC)

Quality on  
Learning  
Programmes

# Governance structure for Joint Programmes





## Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Findings and challenges from SEA-EU partners

# Short recap

- **9 coastal universities across Europe** (Cadiz, Brest, Kiel, Gdansk, Split, Malta, Algarve, Naples, NORD) since 2019.
- SEA-EU currently offers four joint programmes: two master's degrees, one bachelor's degree, and one doctoral programme.
- Co-teaching, co-delivery and mandatory mobility.
- The programmes are open to applicants both within and outside the SEA-EU alliance.
- All teaching in English

# Topics

- Early academic involvement
- The expert groups (admins)
- Internal QA Handbook (QA processes from admission to diploma)
- Governing bodies of Joint programmes
- Mapping of QA (Staff week in Bodø)
- Regulations and bodies (Ministries, EU, Accreditation agencies, Higher Education Organizations)
- European Approach for QA of JPs

# European Approach

- Developed to ease external quality assurance of programmes
- Defines standards that are based on the agreed tools of the EHEA, without applying additional national criteria
- Agreed standards (Learning outcomes, study programme, admission and recognition..)
- Agreed Procedure (self-evaluation report, review panel, follow-ups)

## Expert groups



|                         | FAIL                                                | SUFFICIENT                                           | SATISFACTORY                                               | GOOD                                         | VERY GOOD                                          | EXCELLENT                                        | EXCEPTIONAL                                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ECTS                    | FX - F                                              | E                                                    | D                                                          | C                                            | B                                                  | A                                                | A+                                                |
| SEA-EU Joint Programmes | 0 – 49%                                             | 50 – 59%                                             | 60 – 69%                                                   | 70 – 79%                                     | 80 – 89%                                           | 90 – 99%                                         | 100%                                              |
| CROATIA                 | 1                                                   | 2                                                    |                                                            | 3                                            | 4                                                  | 5                                                | *                                                 |
| FRANCE                  | 0 – 9.9 (<10 Insufficient;<br><7 Very insufficient) | 10 – 10.9<br>(10 Average)                            | 11 - 11.9                                                  | 12 – 13.9<br>(12 Satisfactory)               | 14 – 15.9                                          | 16 – 17.9<br>(>16 Very good, excellent)          | 18 - 20                                           |
| GERMANY                 | 4,1 – 5,0                                           | 3,6 – 4,0                                            | 3,1 – 3,5                                                  | 2,1 – 3,0                                    | 1,6 – 2,0                                          | 1,0 – 1,5                                        | *                                                 |
| ITALY                   | 0 – 17.9                                            | 18 - 22                                              | 23 - 25                                                    | 26 - 27                                      | 28 - 29                                            | 30                                               | 30L                                               |
| MALTA                   | F 0-44%                                             | PG*: 45 - 49                                         | D+ UG**: 50–54<br>D UG: 45–49<br>PG 50 - 54                | C+ UG:69–60<br>C UG - 55 59 PG – 55 - 69     | B+ UG - 75–79<br>B UG - 70–74 PG -70-79            | UG - 80–89<br>PG 80-100                          | 90 - 100                                          |
| NORWAY                  | F                                                   | E                                                    | D                                                          | C                                            | B                                                  | A                                                | A                                                 |
| POLAND                  | 2<br>(Fail 50% and less)                            | 3.0<br>(Pass – 51%–60%)                              | 3.5<br>(Satisfactory – 61%–70%)                            | 4.0<br>(Good – 71%–80%)                      | 4.5<br>(Very good – 81%–90%)                       | 5<br>(Excellent – 91% and more)                  | *                                                 |
|                         | *                                                   | Satisfactory (3.0)<br>(average of grades up to 3.20) | Satisfactory Plus (3.5)<br>(average of grades 3,21 – 3,70) | Good (4.0)<br>(average of grades 3,71– 4,20) | Good Plus (4.5)<br>(average of grades 4,21 – 4,50) | Very Good (5)<br>(average of grades 4,51 – 5,00) | *                                                 |
| PORTUGAL                | 0 - 9                                               | Passing 10 - 11                                      | Satisfactory 12 -13-                                       | Good 14-15                                   | 16 - 17                                            | 18 - 20                                          | *                                                 |
| SPAIN                   | 0 – 4,9<br>(Suspenso – failed)                      | 5 – 5,9 (Aprobado – passed)                          | 6 – 6,9<br>(Aprobado – passed)                             | 7 – 7,9 (Notable – credit)                   | 8 – 8,9 (Notable – credit)                         | 9 – 10 (Sobresaliente – outstanding)             | 9-10 MH (Distinction – limited to 5% of students) |



## Group activity: Mapping Institutional QA systems

## **Phase I: Individual diagnosis**

To establish the baseline of rigidity by identifying formalized processes within your own institution.

- Individual activity: You must only mark the boxes that represent a process that is documented within your IQAS.

## **Phase II: Strategic mapping & consensus**

To move from individual diagnosis to a strategic group consensus, identifying shared ground and critical friction points

- Group activity: Discussion into the group - the group must agree on and prioritize the Top 3 most relevant points
  - Section A (non- negotiable)
  - Section B (commonalities)
  - Section c (flexibility)



## **Case study discussion:** European Approach Joint Bachelor's in Sustainable Blue Economy

# Joint Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Blue Economy (SeaBluE)

## Full partners:

Coordinator

University of  
Cadiz  
(Spain)

NORD  
University  
(Norway)

University of  
Naples  
(Italy)

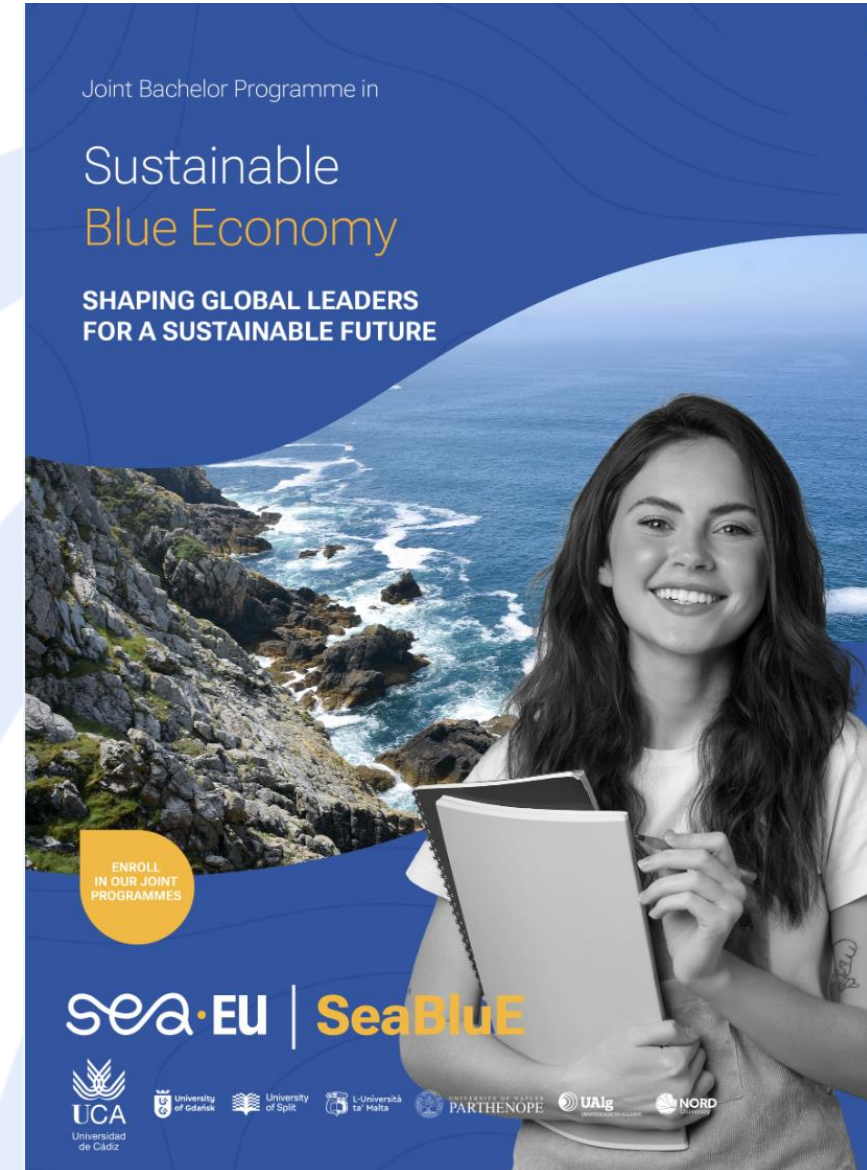
University of  
Gdansk  
(Poland)

University of  
Algarve  
(Portugal)

University of  
Split  
(Croatia)

## Associated partner:

University of  
Malta  
(Malta)



# Programme characteristics

**Number of ECTS: 180/ Years: 3**

Y1. Core Module (60 ECTS).

Y2. Toolbox Module (60 ECTS).

Y3. Expertise Module (60 ECTS).

- a) UPN/UG
- b) UG
- c) NORD
- d) UNIST
- e) UCA
- f) UAlg/UCA

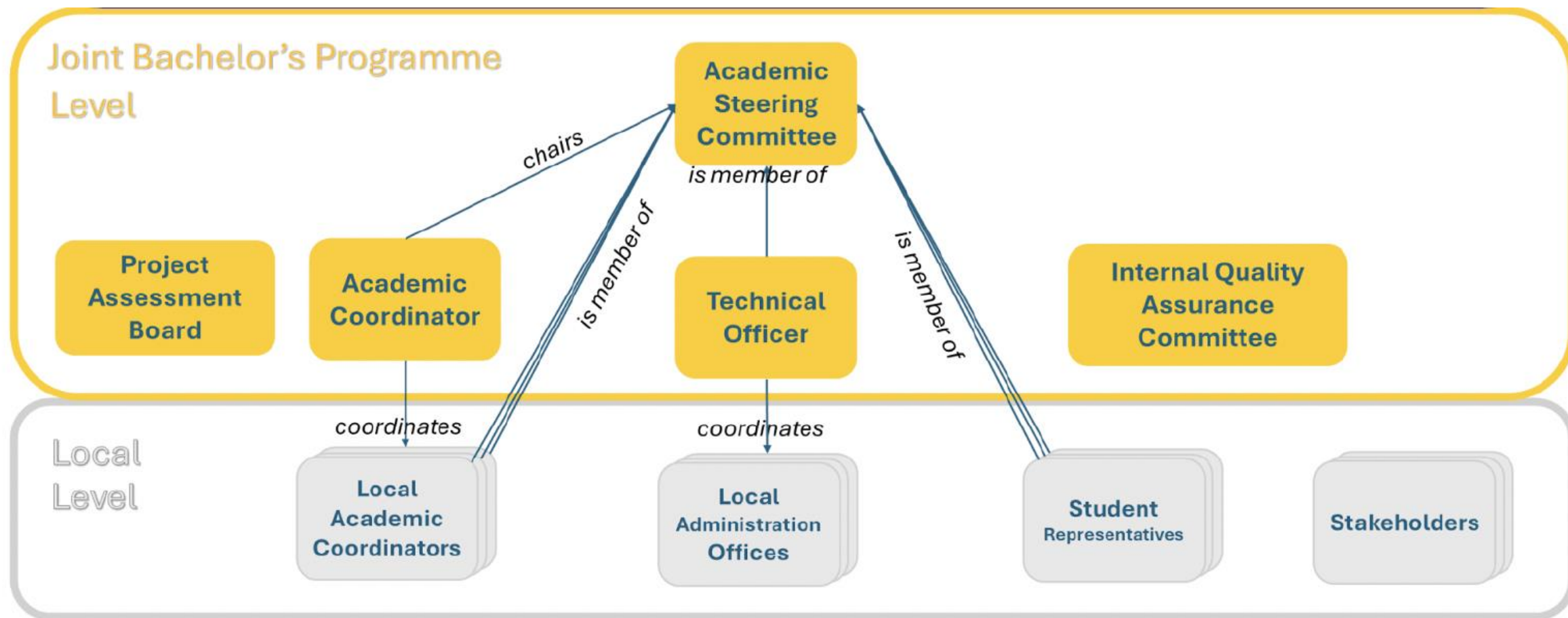
Option 1. Research oriented. Bachelor project (15 ECTS)

Option 2. Professionally oriented.

Internship (10 ECTS) + Bachelor project (5 ECTS)



# Programme governance structure



# European Approach for accreditation phase

## ACCUA: European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Programme           | Sustainable Blue Economy         |
| Other names         | Economía Azul Sostenible         |
| Qualification/award | Bachelor<br>Grado                |
| Level               | first cycle (NQF Level 7)        |
| Programme type      | Full recognised degree programme |

eqar

Verifiable Credential ?

 DEQAR format

Education providers

[Nord University](#)

[University of Algarve](#)

[University of Cádiz](#)

[University of Gdańsk](#)

[University of Malta](#)

[University of Naples "Parthenope"](#)

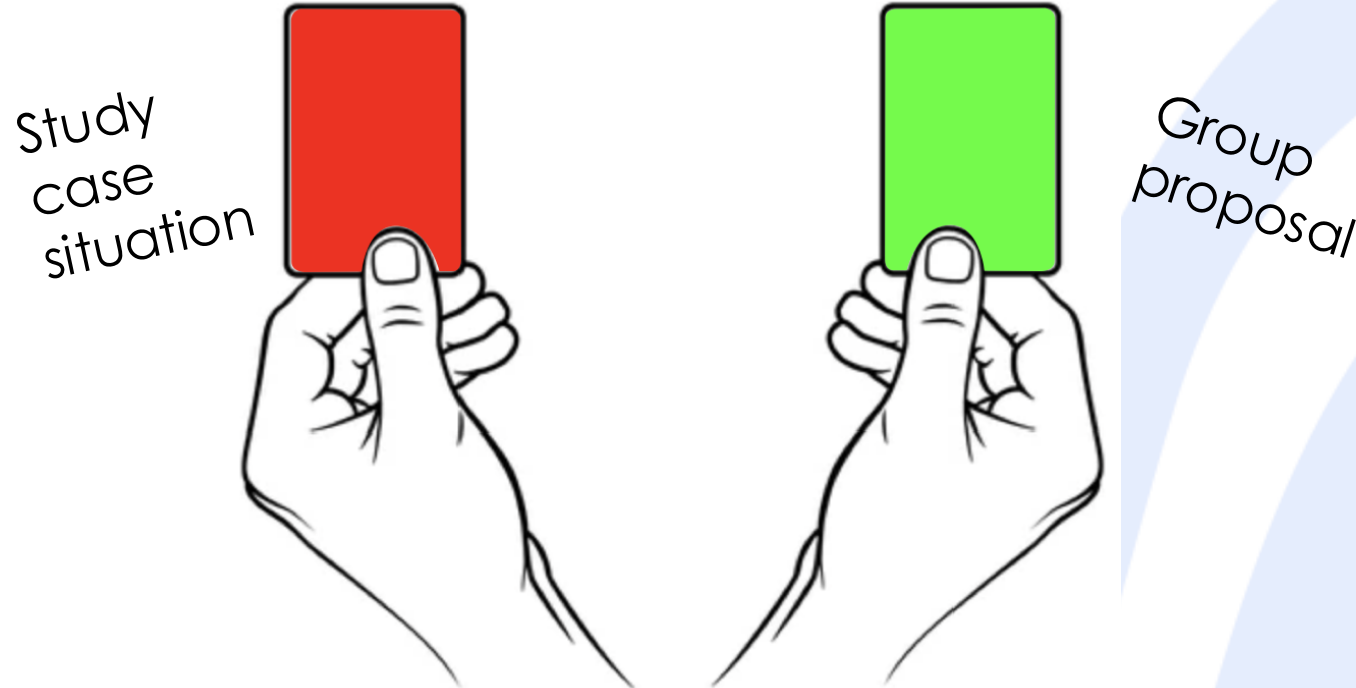
[University of Split](#)

# Quality Assurance and European Approach

| European Approach Standard                | Quality Assurance for SeaBlueE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Eligibility                            | Ensures that programmes are systematically designed, evaluated, and approved, which is essential for establishing the joint framework.                                                                                                                                             |
| 2. Justification                          | Involves the design phase, including alignment with stakeholder needs and ensuring relevance.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3. Study Programme                        | Focuses on the development and evaluation of effective teaching, learning, and assessment strategies to ensure learning outcomes are achieved.                                                                                                                                     |
| 4. Admission and Recognition              | Manages all student-related activities, from admission to graduation and certification.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5. Learning, Teaching and Assessment      | Ensures the implementation and evaluation of teaching and assessment strategies within the programme.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 6. Teaching Staff                         | Supports continuous professional growth and training for academic staff to enhance teaching quality and academic excellence.                                                                                                                                                       |
| 7. Learning Resources and Student Support | Ensures students have access to adequate learning resources and necessary support services for their academic success and well-being.                                                                                                                                              |
| 8. Expected Results                       | Tracks programme performance, including graduation rates and graduate employability.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9. Quality Assurance                      | Responsible for the continuous self-assessment of the IQAS itself and for external audit and accreditation processes.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10. Transparency and Documentation        | Ensures that accurate and up-to-date information about the programmes is publicly available to all stakeholders.<br><br>Manages the collection, analysis, and dissemination of relevant data (indicators, reports) to support informed decision-making and continuous improvement. |

## Case study discussion- Group activity

Each group is given a red card with a situation and a green card on which they will have to provide a possible solution based on the agreements reached in the previous activity.





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Thank you very much for your attention!