

A European Master in Translation



A LEONARDO Project Experience

9. Dezember 2004

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NB:

Saarland University has decided not to institutionalize the EMT beyond the present LEONARDO contract for lack of funding.

**The European response to the challenge:
The Leonardo da Vinci Program**

• **Aims**

“instrument to implement lifelong learning strategies that offer synergies between European policies for training and employment”

• **Funds**

First Phase: 1995-1999: Euro 793.8 (40% for mobility projects)
Second Phase: 2000-2006: Euro 1.4 million

More information on Leonardo Projects:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/leonardo_en.html

1 A European Master: Concept and Setting

1.1 The General Concept

- Traditional Home-based B.A./M.A. Programs – how attractive can they be in a globalized society?
- Widening the Perspective:
The challenge of internationalization

The Leonardo Program: Joint Masters Degree

Aims

- Quality insurance and recognition
- Student experience and mobility
- Curriculum Integration and Sustainability

Realization

- 2004: over 100 universities across Europe had implemented joint programs (Economics, International Management, Law, Labour Studies and others)
- The joint experiences have been published as the Joint Masters report by the European University Association under
http://www.eua.be/eua/jsp/en/upload/Joint_Masters_report.1087219975578.pdf

Joint Masters Degrees: The European Master in Translation

- the EMT (European Masters in Translation) now under development
- the European Masters in Technical Translation (Master Européen en Traduction Spécialisée), which started last June and involves the following universities:

Institut Catholique de Paris (France)

Université Catholique de l'Ouest (France)

Haute Ecole Léonard de Vinci (Brussels, Belgium)

Haute Ecole de Bruxelles. Communauté Française de Belgique (Brussels, Belgium)

Lessius Hogeschool (Antwerp, Belgium)

Universität Leipzig (Germany)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)

More information on these two programs is available on the respective websites www.emtranslation.net and <http://www.master-translation.net>.

EMT Basic Facts

The EMT

- is a **professionally-oriented master program** taught in **English**
- is **modular** (curriculum of **60 ECTS**) to be taken as a **two year part-time study**
- combines traditional **face-to-face sessions** with **e-learning components**, making it possible for practising translators **to work while following the program**.

The **target groups** are **recent university graduates** and **practising translators**.

The minimum **entrance qualification** is an academic degree at **Bachelor level (four years of study)**.

Entry requirements also include an **admission test**. Total program **costs are around Euro 8.400 (700 per module)**.

More information: www.emtranslation.net.

1.2 The EMT

1.2.1 Concepts and Facts

Aim

To develop and pilot a European masters program in professional translation

Duration

The pilot program runs from 1 October 2004 - 30 September 2005.
Curriculum development has been financed with support from EU's Leonardo da Vinci program.

Partners

The universities participating in the pilot programme are:

- Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus (Denmark)
- Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh (UK)
- Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid (Spain)
- Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken (Germany)
- Université de Mons-Hainaut, Mons (Belgium)

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1.2 The EMT

1.2.2 State of the Art

Modules offered in pilot phase (spring of 2005):

- Precis-writing, revision and editing (Aarhus Business School)
- Text Analysis, text types and conventions (Heriot Watt)
- Institutional translation for international organizations (Mons)
- Legal translation (Comillas)
- Terminology and the basics of LSP translation (Saarland University)

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The overall program will consist of a mix of mandatory and optional modules:

Mandatory 1 (5 ECTS)

- Institutional translation for international organisations
- Text analysis and text type conventions
- Translation theory and methodology
- Précis writing, revision and editing
- CAT 1 (including Professional Strategies)
- Terminology and LSP basics
 - General principles of LSP translation (new title)

Mandatory 2 (5 ECTS)

Legal Translation 1
Technical Translation 1
Economic Translation 1
Medical Translation 1
CAT 2

Optional (5 ECTS)

Legal Translation 2
Technical Translation 2
Economic Translation 2
Medical Translation 2
Media Translation
Localisation and Technical writing

Thesis
15 ECTS

2. Some General Problems

2.1 Joint Degrees

- genuine joint degrees are legally not possible today
- stop-gap solutions are: a national degree (legal authority) and a certificate supplement containing the signatures of the participating universities (no legal authorization), double degrees (where legal situation permits), 'diploma supplement'
- success of joint masters programs will depend on joint European degree

2. Some General Problems

2.2 Curriculum Development

- what subjects can be proposed that are not adequately addressed in one national context
- **what academic value would be gained from approaching the field/discipline (i.e. translation) from a collaborative, European perspective (added value)**

2. Some General Problems

2.3 Administration & Project Management

- a successful project needs excellence on both fronts: academic **and** management
- **professional project management** and expertise are indispensable (consortium set-up & management, scheduling, setting objectives, time management, efficiency control, formal communication channels, handling of meetings) and usually necessitate a European Project Office within university structure (as for example Eurice at Saarland University, www.eurice.de)

2.4 Funding

- Joint programs incur specific added expenses for activities e.g. international meetings for curriculum development, planning, examination and grading, funding of network support structures, short-term accommodation and travel costs as well as university administration and overhead costs (institutional project office)
- Specific funding for the implementation of joint programs is not available on a European level.
- Due to the lack of recognition, national funding may not be available or budgets may vary between institutions and thus cause additional problems

Other financial problems may result from modern fiscal restrictions:

- “expensive” joint cooperation initiatives can be regarded as an easy target for reducing funding.
- Institutions are increasingly judged upon success in meeting national performance criteria and in such a context may find it hard to justify funding for seemingly elitist programs which are only partially the responsibility of the institution.

As a result joint programs are often marginalized as peripheral activities inside institutions.

2.5 Other

Other specific problems include:

- tuition
- mobility periods
- admission criteria
- language policy

3 Perspectives

3.1 Europe: Inter-institutional cooperation and mobility

3.2 World-wide: ERASMUS Mundus

- focuses on the role of Europe in the global context
- raises problems of equity
- high institutional cost with low administrative support

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/education/programmes/mundus/index_de