



Technical support to QQI

8 July 2026, Dún Laoghaire Carnegie Library

Interpreting and applying the operational guide for the Joint European Degree Label

The purpose of this training activity is to familiarise the staff of QQI and representatives of higher education institutions with the Joint European Degree Label, the operational guide, the assessment framework and the criteria that joint programmes must meet. The session will support QQI and HEIs in interpreting the criteria and indicators, identifying relevant evidence, applying the assessment methodology consistently, familiarising with compliance examples and good practices, and preparing for the possible assessment and award Joint European Degree Label.

The Joint European Degree Label is a new EU label awarded to joint programmes leading to joint degrees delivered by consortia of higher education institutions from at least two EU Member States. Established through a Council Recommendation in May 2025, the label recognises programmes that meet the highest standards of joint programme design and delivery, and reflect a distinctly European dimension. It is a voluntary label awarded to joint degree programmes that meet the criteria set out in Annex II to the [Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education](#). The label is awarded to programmes, while a label certificate may be issued to graduates of labelled programmes.

The training will be delivered by experts involved in the development of the operational guide. It will combine short presentations, guided discussion and a practical case-based exercise. Participants will work through the assessment framework, the interpretation of selected criteria, the identification of suitable evidence, and the formulation of consistent compliance judgements.



Trainers and facilitators:

Alexandru Cartiș, Head of CIVIS Education Unit / Assistant professor at University of Bucharest.

Mirko Varano, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Vice Rector for Internationalization.

Ieva Grumbinaite, PPMI/Part of the Verian Group, Research Manager.

Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:15 Introductions and objectives of the session
- 10:15 – 10:30 The Joint European Degree Label in context: purpose, added value and role of QA agencies and HEIs
- 10:30 – 11:15 Presentation of the operational guide (I): assessment framework, methodology and compliance logic (and annexes). Q&A
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12:15 Presentation of the operational guide (II): Criteria (key concepts, interpretation, evidence). Q&A
- 12:15 – 13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 – 13:15 Tools and templates: self-assessment report template, reporting structure and evidence portfolio
- 13:15 – 14:30 Practical session: Exploring examples of compliance with the criteria
- 14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break
- 14:45 – 15:15 Plenary calibration: comparing judgements, identifying evidence gaps and documenting conclusions
- 15:15 – 15:30 Discussion about the integration into quality assurance procedures: possible approaches, limits and next steps
- 15:30 – 15:45 Wrap-up and closing