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RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS' MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

# ACCREDITATION PLAN

DELIVERABLE 1.3

# ACCREDITATION PLAN

Across Europe, ecological, social, and technological shifts are redefining how organisations create value. Companies, public institutions, NGOs, and the third sector face climate risk, circular-economy demands, AI-driven transformation, and rising expectations around ethics, inclusion, and accountability. Yet much of management education still treats these issues in isolation. Employers need leaders who can connect strategy with sustainability, technology with ethics, and communication with stakeholder impact.

ROMST—Responsible Organisations’ Management for Sustainable Transitions—was launched to meet that need. Funded under Erasmus+ EMDM (Erasmus Mundus Design Measures), ROMST unites a European consortium led by UVSQ—Université Paris-Saclay with partner universities in Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and Serbia, and is supported by the European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS). The project’s goal is to co-design a high-level, innovative joint Master’s aligned with the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

By creating a cross-border, jointly governed programme, ROMST strengthens the European Higher Education Area and develops a talent pipeline capable of steering just, green, and digital transitions—delivering measurable impact for organisations and society.

*The Coordinator undertakes to:*

- be responsible for the overall coordination, management and implementation of the project;
- be the intermediary for all communication between the Beneficiaries.

*Each beneficiary, including awarding HEIs, supporting HEIs and association undertakes to:*

- ensure adequate communication with the Coordinator and with the other Beneficiaries;
- perform the project activities and tasks.

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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## DOCUMENT APPROVALS

Role	Name of the Institution	Date
Project Coordinator/ Key/Awarding Partner	University of Versailles Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines – University Paris Saclay	30.11.2025
Key/Awarding Partner	University of Alcala	
Key/Awarding Partner	University of Hambourg	
Key/Awarding Partner	Polytechnic Institute of Braganca	
Key/Awarding Partner	Business and Technology University, Georgia	
Key/Awarding Partner	University of Sofia	
Supporting Partner	University of Paris Saclay	
Supporting Partner	Union University Belgrade - Belgrade Banking Academy	
Supporting Partner / non-academic Partner	European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS)	

### **Background Information**

The Project Coordinator and Key/Awarding Partners of the project did the background check and prepared the individual Accreditation files based on the National Regulations of double and joint Master programs.

Administrative frameworks vary considerably among the Erasmus+ Programme Countries and often reflect legal traditions on how to operate with public or non-profit organisations. Some countries grant a large autonomy to their HEIs whereas in others, highly prescriptive operation modalities are specified in detailed legal bases.

Master programmes are accredited by national authorities regardless of the degree-awarding institution in France; In Portugal, the degree-awarding courses have to be registered by the Directorate General for Higher Education further to their accreditation and the accreditation of Master programmes for all HEIs is under the responsibility of a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency. Moreover, Mundus is identified as a political objective for the internationalisation of higher education.

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This document includes the information about the research findings of the Key/Awarding Partners and the decision on how to proceed further with ROMST Master Program accreditation.

## **BACKGROUND CHECK OF NEW, DOUBLE AND JOINT MASTER'S DEGREE ACCREDITATION POLICIES AT KEY PARTNER INSTITUTIONS OF 3D-M CONSORTIUM**

### **University of Versailles Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines -IAE, France**

In France, higher education institutions accredit their education programs every 5 years with HCRES (High Board of research and educational programs' evaluation of higher education establishments is an independent public authority in charge of evaluating all higher education and research structures, or validating the evaluation procedures conducted by other bodies). Each university accredits all of its programs at the same time.

In France, the titles of the programs are set by the Ministry of Higher Education at the level of the "mentions" (or generic titles), but the titles of the specialized degrees (that are part of the generic "mentions") are the choice of the institutions. Each "Mention" offers several specialized degrees. The Universities accredit the mentions and it is their governance bodies that validate the specialized degrees. The University of Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines – University of Paris Saclay is already accredited for two "Mentions" that could carry the ROMST program: "Strategic management" and "Management and administration of enterprises"

If it is not a question of opening a new "Mention", the accreditation process is internal to each university.

The process is:

- 1.Presentation of the characteristics of the new program to the Board of Directors of the Faculty of Management (ISM-IAE)
- 2.Presentation for vote and validation to the Mentions committee at the Graduate School Economy and Management (University of Paris-Saclay)
- 3.Presentation for vote and validation to the Education' and University Life's Commission (CFVU) of both Universities: University of Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines and University of Paris Saclay (It is necessary to present the interest of the program, its content, its financial sustainability and the relations between the partners if the diploma will be realized in partnership).
- 4.Presentation for voting to the Boards of Directors of the two universities: University of Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines and University of Paris Saclay.

If the training is proposed in partnership with other institutions (which would be the case here), then a partnership agreement will have to be drawn up and signed. The procedure is as follows:

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- 1.The project leader contacts the Service of Law and institutional affaires (DAJI) and presents the framework agreement;
- 2.Preparation of the file of intent. The project leader, with the help of the DAJI, initiates the elaboration of a file of intention;
- 3.DAJI places the file developed with the project leader on a shared space with the other departments and services participating in the "agreements committee" so that everyone can read and analyze it.
- 4.The directorates and departments exchange information among themselves and, if necessary, with the project leader, during a meeting called the "agreements committee";
- 5.Following the meeting, the DAJI sends a first draft to the project owner - the project leader approaches the partner; - if the project leader and/or the partner would like the agreement/framework agreement to be modified, DAJI returns to the directorates and services (Step 4);
- 6.DAJI finalizes the agreement/framework agreement in conjunction with the other directorates and departments - DAJI completes and/or adapts the agreement/framework agreement based on comments from the directorates and departments; - validation by the directorates and departments;
- 7.DAJI presents the finalized agreement/framework agreement to the project leader for validation by DAJI and the partner;
- 8.DAJI sends the finalized project to the CFVU (Education' and University Life's Commission) secretariat to be put on the agenda of the next CFVU meeting. If it is a framework agreement or an international mobility agreement, DAJI submits it to the President of the university for signature;
- 9.The CFVU secretariat informs about the CFVU vote - if the CFVU adopts the project, the DAJI puts the agreement for the signature of the president of the university and provides the next board of directors of the university, for information, a summary table of the agreements signed by the president;
- 10.DAJI sends the agreement/framework agreement signed by the university president to the administrative manager of the faculty who sends the agreement/framework agreement to the partner for signature.

## **Business and Technology University, Georgia**

According to the Georgian Higher System Education, for a Master's Degree to be implemented, it is necessary to achieve accreditation on a national level. The accreditation files has to be submitted to the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement operating under the Ministry of Education and Science of the country. The duration of accreditation of the educational programme is 7 years. An educational programme submitted to the NCEQE for accreditation during the calendar year which has not been defined as a cluster accreditation year for the field of study which the presented educational programme belongs to, accreditation is granted till the date which is defined as an accreditation date for the cluster which this educational programme belongs to.

Specific regulations directly governing the implementation of the double degree programs in Georgia are not available.The position of the National Center for Educational Quality

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Enhancement regarding the implementation of the double degree program is that it is considered as a benefit received within the framework of the exchange educational program, because during the period of study at the home university, the student has the opportunity to accumulate credits in the host institution (foreign country), which will then be recognized by the home university and will be awarded with the appropriate qualification.

On the other hand, in order to carry out a joint higher education program, the institutions intending to carry out the program shall sign an agreement, under which the content of the joint higher education program and the form of its implementation is determined. The draft agreement under this paragraph must be agreed upon with the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement

A joint program, which requires accreditation under the Law, may only be carried out after obtaining accreditation. The accreditation of a joint programs shall be performed under the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia. The accreditation of a joint higher education program carried out together with a higher education institution recognized by a foreign legislation may be performed by an appropriately authorized foreign organization recognized by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement

A student shall be admitted to a joint higher education program according to the procedure established under the legislation of a respective country at one of the higher education institutions preliminarily agreed upon between the higher education institutions implementing the program.

## **Polytechnic Institute of Braganca, Portugal**

According to the Portuguese Higher System Education, for a Master's Degree to be implemented, it is necessary to achieve accreditation on a national level by the A3ES agency, which is a Portuguese agency institution. A3ES agency will confirm that the master's degree program meets a high-quality educational standard. In this regard, it is important to qualify some important standards that are important, such as: (i) the study program; (ii) the teaching staff; (iii) the Institution.

It is important to do some general steps to apply for the Master degree program accreditation, a new study cycle:

1. IPB needs to prepare a written report required by A3ES agency; This moment has a data limit, which is 15TH October 2023. It is necessary also to pay a total of 4 500 euros at the moment that submits the formal accreditation document.
2. IPB submits formal requirement, and a group of peers from academia and administration will conduct an overview of the document in order to check if the program accomplishes the high-quality educational standards necessary.
3. At this moment, the accreditation agency will communicate the final decision and explain their reasons. Sometimes the institutions that apply for accreditation have the opportunity to

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make some changes, explain some questions identified by the A3ES agency and add some requests necessary to have accreditation to the new cycle of studies.

4. Then, when the new study cycle is working the A3ES agency sends a team of professionals to visit the school that applies to accreditation. At this moment, the group does some interviews with a different group of professionals (teachers, directors, president of the scientific committee, president of the pedagogical committee) to confirm the information that was written in the written report, and acquire also some information that is not clear in the document. The group of peers also visits the institution to see if the school offers the necessary physical conditions, resources and so on. At the end of the visiting day, the first impression is communicated to the director of the school.

After explaining the general steps, it is important to explain the teaching staff requirements:

A program leading to a master's degree in a particular area of expertise requires that the institution "develops a recognized activity of education and research or of high-level development of a professional nature, either by itself or through its participation or collaboration, or of its teachers and researchers, in external scientific institutions, with relevant publications or scientific production".

Master's degree requirements:

1. The teaching staff is proper when the total teaching staff is made up a minimum of 75% of teachers integrated in the respective teaching career;
2. Academically qualified when the total faculty members is made up of a minimum of 60% of teachers with a doctoral degree;
3. Specialized, when a minimum of 50% of the total faculty is made up of specialists of recognized experience and competence in the fundamental training area or areas of the study cycle or PhDs specialized in that area.

Table 1 Minimum percentage (composition) for the teaching staff (polytechnic education)

Teaching Staff	2nd Cycle
Full-time staff "own teaching staff"	75%
Full-time PhD	60%
PhDs/Specialists in the fundamental areas of the study program	50%

Note: All percentages are calculated to the total number of teachers.

## **Summary and ROSMTccreditation Plan**

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Each Key/Awarding partner institution will fully apply its own accreditation system according to its national rules.

<b>Type of Degrees Awarded</b>	<b>Multiple Degrees</b>
<b>Nr of diplomas awarded per student</b>	<b>Several</b>
<b>Each graduate awarded the same degree</b>	<b>Two or more diplomas, one diploma from each of the awarding HEIs where the students will study</b>
<b>Diploma(s) are signed, issued and awarded</b>	<b>Separately, each by the awarding HEI where the students will study. Each awarding partner will issue and sign a separate diploma and diploma supplement.</b>

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