



**Work on the Council of Europe/UNESCO
Recommendation
on the recognition of joint degrees**

**Bologna follow-up Workshop
Joint degrees – further development,
Stockholm 6-7 May, 2004**

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RECOMMENDATIONS of the EUA survey

- National legislation should be amended to ensure that
 - development of joint programmes is legally possible;
 - joint awards are legally possible;
 - obstacles to recognition of JDs are lifted
- International legislation should be amended to extend the scope of the Lisbon Recognition Convention to joint degrees

Why amending national legislation?

- Very few countries legislate specifically for joint degree
- No specific legislation =
all national requirements should be met:
 - rules for national approval of programmes (some countries),
 - names and classification of programmes,
 - regulations for quality assurance,
 - enrolment requirements

Recognition of joint degrees

questions to answer:

- are study periods recognized among partner institutions?
- are joint degrees “officially” recognized nationally?
- are the joint degrees recognized by **other** institutions in the participating countries?
- are joint degrees recognized by third countries?

Why a document to supplement Lisbon Recognition Convention?

- Convention is a treaty between states
- States parties to the Convention ***agree to recognize each other's qualifications***

Are joint degrees
(automatically) covered?



Existing documents supplementing the Convention

- Recommendation on the Criteria and Procedures for Recognition,
- Code of Good Practice for the provision of Transnational Education,
- Recommendation for the Recognition of the International Access Qualifications

The draft Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees:

- Brings joint degrees under the legal framework of the Convention,
- Underlines the basic principles that apply also to the joint degrees,
- Sets specific requirements that the joint degrees should fulfil

The background of the slide features a photograph of a building's facade, likely a cathedral or church, with intricate stone carvings and a tall, ornate spire. The building is set against a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Draft
Council of Europe/UNESCO
Recommendation

supplementing the
Lisbon Recognition Convention



***Convention strictly applies to national degrees,
Recommendation also concerns joint degrees***

2. The purpose of the present Recommendation is to **improve the recognition of joint degrees.**

While degrees that are considered as belonging to the education system of a party to the Lisbon Recognition Convention ... fall under the provisions of the Convention,

the Recommendation also concerns joint degrees.

Widening the scope

In principle,
Recommendation applies to Parties,
but it can be applied also to other countries
(p.1.)

Recommendation also applies to
single-country joint degrees (p.3)

Definitions – same as in the Convention

4. Terms defined in the Lisbon Recognition Convention are used in the same sense in the present Recommendation, and reference is made to the definition of these terms in Section I of the Convention.




Definition of a joint degree for the purposes of this Recommendation:

**a qualification issued jointly
by at least two higher education institutions
on the basis of a study programme
jointly developed
and/or provided jointly by these institutions.**

How a joint degree is awarded

- (5) A joint degree may be issued as
- a joint diploma in addition to national diplomas,
 - a joint diploma issued by the institutions offering the study programme in question without being accompanied by a national diploma
 - national diploma(s) issued officially as the only attestation of the joint qualification in question.

The background of the slide features a vertical golden spire on the left side, set against a clear blue sky. The spire has intricate carvings and a pointed top. The text is overlaid on this background.

Joint degrees should be considered for recognition

7. Holders of joint degrees shall have adequate access, upon request, to a fair assessment of their qualifications.

Principle of substantial differences is applied also to joint degrees

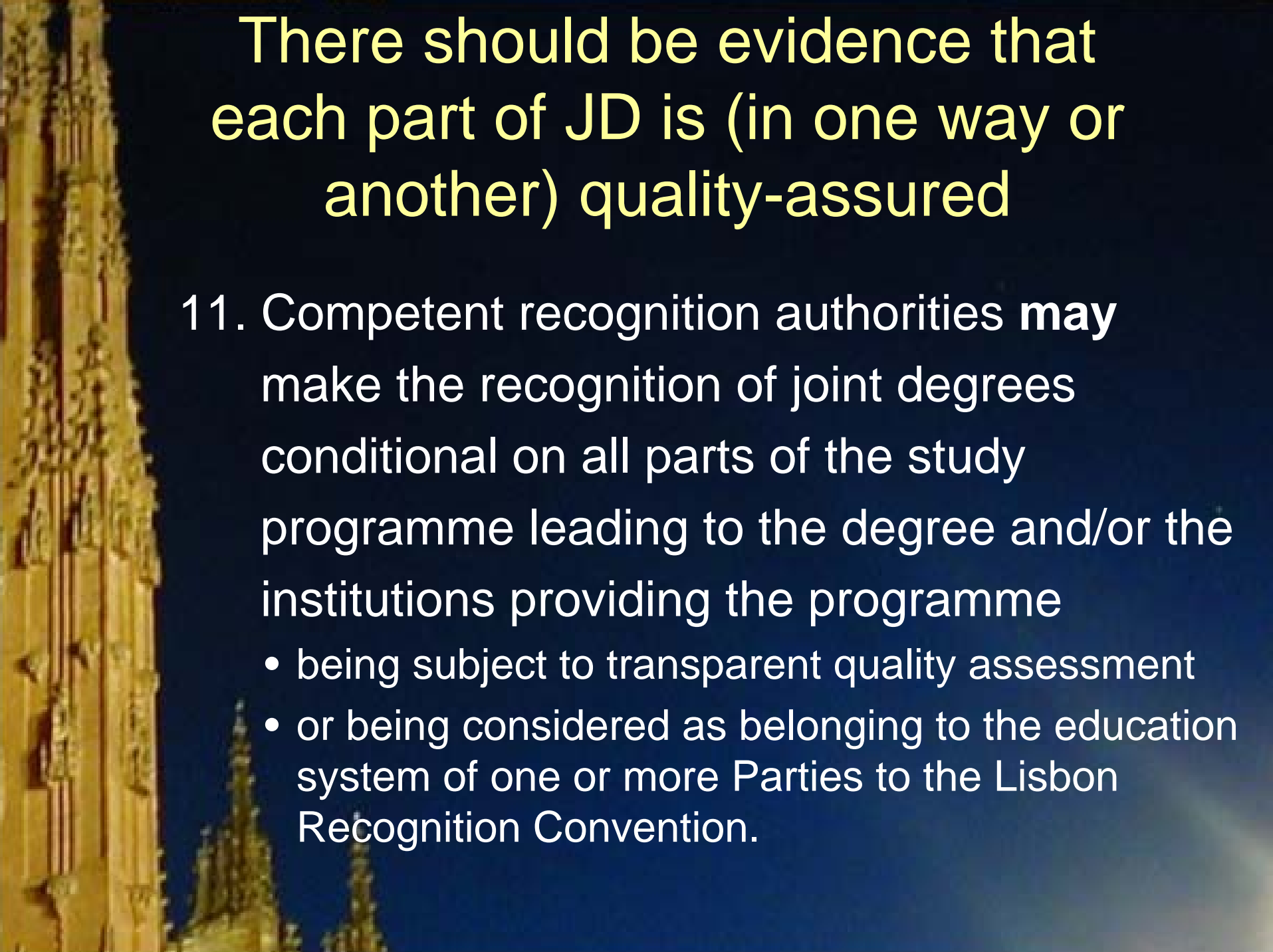
8. ... should recognize foreign joint degrees unless they can demonstrate that there is a substantial difference between the joint degree and the comparable qualification within their national system.

Recognition of foreign components of the joint degree should be flexible

9. Competent recognition authorities of Parties whose higher education institutions confer joint degrees should
- recognize the **foreign components** of these degrees with the greatest flexibility possible,
- and at least as favourably as other qualifications from the country to the education system of which they belong.**

National legislation should be reviewed

10. Governments of States party to the Lisbon Recognition Convention should therefore review their legislation with a view to **removing any legal obstacles** to the recognition of joint degrees and, where appropriate, **introduce legal provisions that would facilitate** such recognition.



There should be evidence that each part of JD is (in one way or another) quality-assured

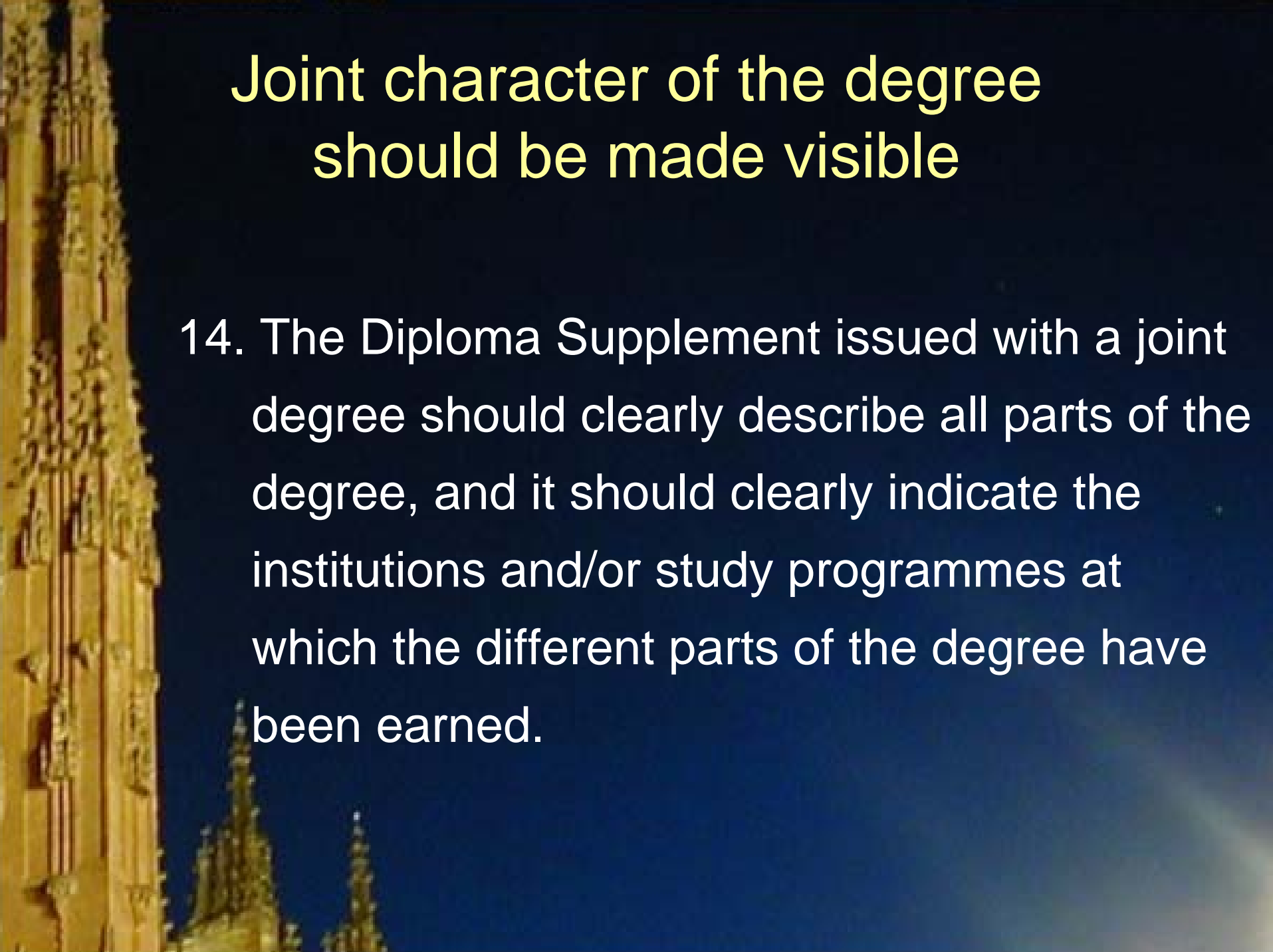
11. Competent recognition authorities **may** make the recognition of joint degrees conditional on all parts of the study programme leading to the degree and/or the institutions providing the programme
- being subject to transparent quality assessment
 - or being considered as belonging to the education system of one or more Parties to the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

If the joint degree comes from a large consortium, each consortium member should be a trustworthy institution

12. Where the joint degree is issued on the basis of a curriculum developed by a **consortium** consisting of a number of higher education institutions, recognition of the degree may be made contingent on **all member institutions or programmes** of the consortium being subject to transparent quality assessment, (or belonging to the education system...), even if only some of these institutions provide courses for any given degree.

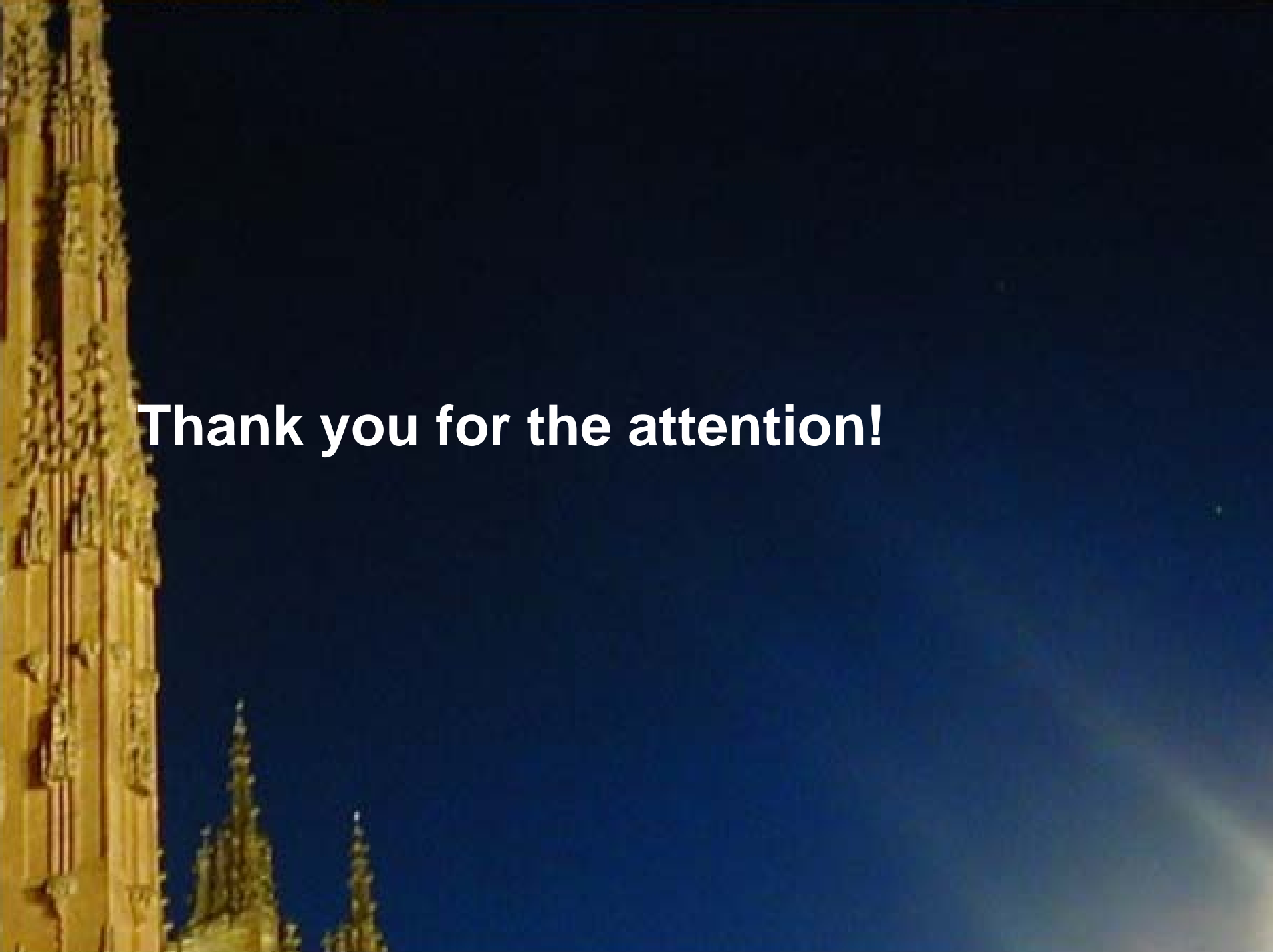
Usage of DS and ECTS as transparency tools is especially important in the case of joint degrees

- 13. In order to facilitate recognition, candidates earning joint degrees should be provided with a **Diploma Supplement**,
- and study programmes leading to joint degrees should make use of the ECTS.



Joint character of the degree should be made visible

14. The Diploma Supplement issued with a joint degree should clearly describe all parts of the degree, and it should clearly indicate the institutions and/or study programmes at which the different parts of the degree have been earned.



Thank you for the attention!