

# **Joint Degrees - Further Developments**

**Stockholm , 6-7 May 2004**

## **THE ITALIAN CASE**

**Legal Aspects**

# THE LEGAL PROCEDURE: FOUR STEPS

**1. National level: 1999 Ministerial Decree for the reform of the University System**

**2. Institutional level: General Academic Regulations of the University**

**3. Departmental level: Agreement with partner institutions**

**4. Institutional level: Approval of joint programme/joint degree by relevant academic body**

# STEP I

## National level: 1999 Ministerial Decree for the reform of the University System

### Art. 3 - Qualifications and degree courses

.....9. Italian universities may confer the qualifications referred to in this article also in conjunction with other Italian or foreign universities.

## STEP 2

### Institutional level: General Academic Regulations of the University

- a. Within the autonomy granted to them by MD 1999, Italian universities have availed themselves of the possibility to confer joint degrees by including a specific paragraph on this subject in their General Academic Regulations

For example, *“The university may confer the qualifications referred to in this article also in conjunction with other Italian or foreign universities*

**b. In most cases, they refer to the agreements between the university and its partner institutions for the procedures concerning joint degrees**

**For example, “*The procedures for conferring joint degrees are regulated by the agreements between partner universities*”.**

## STEP 3

### Departmental level: Agreement with partner institutions

The procedures for conferring a joint degree are clearly indicated in the agreement signed by the partner institutions.

## Examples.:

*“Le due università rilasceranno un titolo di studio congiunto, riconosciuto da entrambe le università e firmato dai due rettori.*

*“At the end of the course students are awarded a joint degree signed by the rectors of all participating universities”.*

*“Le titre final sera signé par les recteurs des trois universités. L’autorité d’émission du décret administratif sera l’université de...”.*

## STEP 4

**Institutional level: Approval of specific joint programme/joint degree by central academic authorities.**

**The joint degree course agreed at departmental level is approved by the academic Senate and the joint degree is officially awarded by the university**



# CONCLUSIONS

**In the Italian university system there are no legal obstacles to awarding joint degrees based on joint study programmes.**

**A four-step procedure has been developed which allows institutions to use their autonomy within the national legal framework**