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## Challenges for the construction of Joint degrees' structures in Europe: the experience of the ALE programme

Nowadays, the main aim of European university systems is to fulfil the agreements reached by all member states in order to build a common area of higher education. New structures are then needed for the construction of this new HE system in Europe. In this paper, we are dealing with the triple-award mobility programme "Applied Languages Europe", where a group of European institutions from different member states have been working together since 1987<sup>1</sup>.

Since then, the programme has been putting into practice some of the current objectives of European HE: networking between HE institutions, cooperation at all levels, students' mobility, life-long learning, new relationships in the academic framework, etc. not without much effort on the part of all parties involved. In this paper, we will analyse the challenges that common degree structures present to European university system, in the light of the experience of the ALE programme administrators. Apart from the programme being very demanding for all actors involved, participants' experiences will be also presented, as they help us support experiences of this kind in the field of HE in Europe.

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