

I – REPORT ON CYCLIC REVIEW (2010–2014)

Study Program: EUROPEAN MASTER IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN ATTIVITA' FISICA E SALUTE)

Class (Italian System): LM67

Location: UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA FORO ITALICO
DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DEL MOVIMENTO, UMANE E DELLA SALUTE

First academic year of course activation: 2010 (modified as for MIUR - Prot. n. 8278 - on 05/04/2013)

Show parties involved in the Review (the Review Group's components and functions) and operating procedures (organization, division of tasks, sharing mode).

REVIEW GROUP

Mandatory members

Prof. MARIA PAOLA PARONETTO (Chair – teaching coordinator – responsible for the Review Report)

Mr. MATTEO SCORCELLETTI (Students' representative)

Mr. LUCA MARINARI (Students' representative 2013-2014)

Additional members¹

Prof. MASSIMO SACCHETTI (Faculty member)

Dr. DIEGO VISENTINI (Officer – International Relation Office)

They were also consulted:

Prof. DANIELA CAPOROSSI (Former Chair of the Program)

Dr. CARLA PERSICHINI (Teaching Affairs Office Manager)

Dr. ANNAMARIA D'APICE (Statistical Office)

The Review Group met for the discussion of the topics contained in the frames of the sections of this Review Report as follows:

January 2016, Update of relevant data and finalization of the Review Report by the Review Group.

Submitted, discussed and approved by the program Council on: **January, 29th 2016**.

Summary of the outcome of the discussion within the Study Program Council:

Report processes for the annual and cyclic reviews are drawn up by the Review Group together with the Program Board and/or the Program Council in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Program, thus suggesting corrective measures to be undertaken.

On *January 29th 2016*, the Program Council discussed and approved the First Report on Cyclic Review 2010-2014 (N. LM67Int. - 05/2016).

SIGNED PROF. MARIA PAOLA PARONETTO (*CHAIR OF THE PROGRAM*).

1 – EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEMANDS

1-b ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

(Comments on investigations, consultations on production, service and professions used by the Study Program in order to determine the training request over the years considered in the review process. Identification of potential problems and areas for improvement. Report any strengths of the Study Program, if deemed to be of particular value and interest)

The consultation with the socio-economic partners relevant to the European Master in Health and Physical Activity (Laurea Magistrale Internazionale in Attività Fisica e Salute) included:

- a) the commercial sport sector which provides equipment for exercise training, sport therapy and/or functional evaluation;
- b) public or private fitness and rehabilitation centers;
- c) non-profit associations and government agencies in relevant fields;
- d) partner universities.

Representatives of the social partners expressed a substantial consensus on the quality of training, with a wider appreciation of the offer in English language and the realization of the training program in several European countries. Specific theoretical and practical training requirements have been outlined on the basis of the different economics and professional sectors represented. One of the emerging professional profiles within health and fitness is the sports therapist, a professional figure working with sport and exercise participants to help prevent injuries, to recognise, manage and treat them should they occur, and then to rehabilitate the participant back to full fitness. Moreover, they are involved in functional recovery in the field of rehabilitation and maintenance of fitness in various age groups, and prevention of chronic degenerative diseases. Another emerging professional profile is a professional figure with skills in psychological counseling.

The consultation with the partner universities that have completed the process of accreditation of the program in the period 2011-2012, highlighted the need to standardize some learning objectives and their teaching methods in order to achieve high competences in the research methodology, an educational objective considered mandatory for the release of the second level university degree in the north Europe countries. The monitoring of the course showed that the students of this Study Program acquire scientific and translational research skills beyond current educational goals. A dedicated follow up in the 2006 -2011 graduates from the previous master, that was then transformed in this program, also verifies that the research/technology sector is one of the main employability area of this Study Program.

Although this program makes use of curricular internships and facilities available in the various partner universities including regular seminars and meetings with stakeholders within the area of adapted and preventive physical activity in order to promote students' employment, the close monitoring of both graduates' career and changes in society needs is considered fundamental for the improvement of the program goals and student competences. Considering that the last relevant data from graduates and stakeholders surveys were collected from 2009 to 2012, new surveys on the program evaluation by the socio-economic parts with respect to knowledge and competence of the EMH&PA (LM67-I) graduates, as well as on the working situation of EMH&PA (LM67-I) graduates 2012 – 2015, has been planned.

1-c CORRECTIVE ACTION

(As a result of the previous analysis, identify the issues on which a priority action must be taken, then describe the objective to be achieved and the verifiable outcome).

Objective n. 1: Program evaluation by the socio-economic parts with respect to knowledge and competence of the EMH&PA (LM67-I) graduates.

Actions to be taken: A survey on specific stakeholders in all partner countries.

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities: Consultation with relevant stakeholders in all partner countries to be completed by October 2016 in the responsibility of the Board members.

2 – EXPECTED AND OBSERVED LEARNING OUTCOMES

2-b ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

(Analysis and comments on data, reports and observations on learning outcomes of the Study Program. Analysis of the ability to ensure the achievement of learning outcomes. Identification of potential problems and areas for improvement. It is optional to outline strengths of the Study Program if deemed to be of particular value and interest for the purpose of improvement).

In view of its international aspect, all information about the program, including the teaching courses, are available in Italian and English in the University website (<http://www.uniroma4.it?q=node/727>) and in a dedicated program English website (www.europeanmasterhpa.it) linked to all partner university web sites. A specific Handbook updated every year and made available to the students on September contains all relevant details about courses' content, progression, objectives and competences (Dublin descriptors), teaching staff, exam format, student's workload (http://www.elingueiusmlearn.it/master/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=413&Itemid=194).

Up to date, no major discrepancies between the descriptions of the courses and learning outcomes, as indicated in the SUA-CdS, A4b, have been identified.

In the course of the reference period, the results from the courses' evaluation by the students demonstrate a good appreciation of the teaching activities, with an average general index of positive evaluation of 78.0 on a scale of 0-100, with the highest indices for the 2nd year curricular internships, that reach positive evaluation of 98. Importantly, after careful analysis of the data and proper corrective actions, the evaluation of the two internships with lowest score in 2013-2014 strongly improved and received an IVP score excellent in 2014-2015 (Rome: 2013-2014 IVP 50, 2014-2015 IVP 98; Cologne 2013-2014 IVP 68, 2014-2015 IVP 84).

As general outcome, the students consider their background overall sufficient to cope with the program topics and methodology, with some difficulties in the Research Methodology Module, although very well welcome and appreciated. The overall interest in the topics by the students, the teachers' skills and availability, information on examination content and modality, as well as the respect of the scheduled timetable, receive positive evaluations. The international nature of this course, both in the content and in the teaching, and the opportunity to pursue the studies in different European Universities, have been confirmed as the strength of the Study Program, although poor housing facilities in some partner university, including Rome, and the absence of dedicated scholarships to support student mobility, have been identified as the main issues limiting the access of international students to the program, especially those from low income, non-European countries.

The learning outcomes expected at the end of the studies in term of skills and competences are consistent with the scientific and professional profile identified on the basis of the consultations, as mentioned in the previous section. From the dedicated survey performed on graduates up to 2012, a satisfactory efficacy of the degree with respect to the needs of the labor market has been verified, with most of the 80% respondents affirming that they have found a job that requires the title and the skills acquired in the course of study. Moreover, they are able to find employment between three months and one year after the release of the title. Indeed, this percentage drops if considering only the Italian students. In fact, with the exception of those enrolled in a PhD Program (42%), the Italian students graduated in this Study Program state that their job does not necessarily require possession of this title, although they use skills and competence acquired by attending the European Master.

2-c CORRECTIVE ACTION

(As a result of the previous analysis, identify the issues on which a priority action must be taken, then describe the objective to be achieved and the verifiable outcome):

Objective n. 1: Working situation of EMH&PA (LM67-I) graduates.

Actions to be taken: A survey on all graduates from July 2012 to July 2015.

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities: Telematics surveys to be completed by October 2016 in the responsibility of the Program Chair in collaboration with the Program Board.

3 - MANAGEMENT OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

3-b SITUATION ANALYSIS

(Comments on management effectiveness. Any requirements of redefinition or revision of the Study Program management. Identification of potential problems and areas for improvement. It is optional to outline strengths of the Study Program, if deemed to be of particular value and interest.)

The management of the Study Program includes:

- a) The program Board, including the representatives appointed by the Rectors of the five partner universities, chaired by the representative appointed by university of Rome "Foro Italico", as coordinating institution;
- b) The Review Group, with four members, including the program chair and the students' spokesperson;
- c) The Faculty Council.

Student offices and International relation offices from all partner universities, as well as Teaching, Job Placement and Statistical offices from the university of Rome "Foro Italico", act as supporting facilities.

In view of its inter-university characteristic, the quality assurance process has been established from the very beginning (2010 – 2011), in compliance with the rules and regulations indicated by all partners.

Since 2013, several processes have been adapted in order to comply with the new ANVUR-AVA requirements: Review Reports (RAR) have been prepared annually, following the given timetables and deadlines. Given the peculiarity of this Program, where 70% of the teaching staff comes from the partner universities and other European universities, and meets in plenary session twice a year, usually on May (telematics consultation) and October (in person), while the majority of the administrative and academic responsibility is delegated to a local committee, it was decided to comply with the Review Reports (RAR) as follows: actual data made available in the database from the local statistical or quality assurance offices (enrollment, study career, graduation, internationalization, program evaluation) are submitted to the program Council in October and discussed. On the same occasion, the Council monitors the implementation of corrective measures outlined in the previous report/s. The information are then updated by the following January through continuous informal exchanges with partners and through relevant data (statistics and evaluation forms) from coordinating as well as partner institutions. Reports on annual and cyclic review processes are drawn up by the Review Group together with the Program Board and/or the Program Council in order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the program, suggesting corrective measures to be undertaken. Given the complexity of the SUA-CdS, the program Board identified the Review Report as the fundamental instrument of self-assessment in which the managers of the European Master in Health and Physical Activity reckon with their promises and their results. For this reason, it has been decided to use the English language in order to share and discuss documents among all partners.

To facilitate the dissemination of the program content, structure and organization, courses' content and organization, a dedicated website has been organised and maintained by the coordinating institution, with a detailed handbook, in addition to the information available in the Foro Italico website and in the Student Guide, published annually by the Press office. The handbook contains all the information about the objectives of the program, location, the list of the lessons with their teachers, objectives, content, methods of examination, workload. The website also contains information about study material, exams, Thesis modality and agenda.

3-c CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

(As a result of previous analysis, identify the issues on which a priority action must be taken, then describe the objective to be achieved and the verifiable outcome):

No corrective actions have been identified.

Objective n.:

Actions to be taken:

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities: