

REPORT REVIEW

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

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. DANIELA CAPOROSSI (Chair – responsible for the Review Report)

Mr. LUCA MARINARI (Students' representative)

Additional members¹

Dr. MONICA PITTALUGA (Faculty member – teaching coordinator)

Dr. DIEGO VISENTINI (Officer – International Relation Office)

They were also consulted:

Prof. ARNALDO ZELLI (Chair – Quality Assurance Committee)

Dr. CARLA PERSICHINI (Teaching Affairs Office Manager)

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

October 1st, 2013, Presentation of the objective data made available in the database from the local statistical or quality assurance offices to the program Council and preliminary discussion

January 23rd , 2014, Update of relevant data and finalization of the Review Report

Submitted, discussed and approved by the Program Board on: **January 29th, 2014**

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

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 who, together with the Program Board, including representatives from all partner universities, identify strengths and weaknesses of the program, suggesting corrective measures to be undertaken.

On October 1st, 2013, the program Council approved the 2013's Review Reports (N. 671-9BIS/2013), evaluating positively the implementation of corrective measures A1-c and A2-b already implemented, and discussed the objective data available so far.

On January 29th, 2014, the program Board discussed and approved the 2014's Review Report.

I - Report on Annual Review of the Study Program

1 - ENTRANCE, PROGRESSION, EXIT FROM STUDY PROGRAM

1-a CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN AND OUTCOMES (*Objectives identified in the previous report, progress and outcomes*)

Objective n. A1-c: The program Council decided to change the structure of the study program, in order to increase the credits related to Research Methodology from 12 to 15 ECTS, and to bring from 16 to 30 the ECTS for the completion of the master thesis.

Actions taken: Modification of the study program by submission of the new curriculum to the relevant institutional and ministerial bodies.

State of progress of the corrective action: The National University Council (CUN) approved the new curriculum on April, 5th, 2013. The new study program has been implemented in the 2013-2014 academic year.

1-b ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION ON THE BASIS OF DATA

(Data analysis and comments. 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 new curriculum of the European Master in Health and Physical Activity (Laurea Magistrale in Attività Fisica e Salute, LM-67INT) activated in 2013-2014 jointly with the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, the University of Vienna and the German Sport University in Cologne, represents the modification of the previous European Master in Health and Physical Activity activated in the 2010-2011. This course meets objectives to promote the convergence of the European University System and the internationalization of study programs, by having academic staff from all partner institutions, study periods abroad, a curriculum dedicated to training for high professionals and research, making use of regular, curricular internships. At the end of the program, students receive a joint European Certificate and a double National degree, depending on the specific bilateral agreement.

After reviewing the statistical data collected during the academic years 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, the course currently has the following strengths:

1) a progressively increasing attractiveness (number of applications: 2011-2012 = 25; 2012-2013 = 39; 2013-2014 = 58, on a programmed number of students min. 20 - max 30; students enrolled: 2011-2012 = 20; 2012-2013 = 25; 2013-2014 = 35). Percentage of students graduated at another university (2011-2013) = 78 %;

2) a high degree of internationalization: regular foreigner students (2011 – 2013) = 51 %; non-Italian students from partner Universities = 17,5%; non-Italian students from non-partner Universities = 35,9%

3) 100% of students acquire at least 15 ECTS through one mobility in a foreign partner University, 90% of the students acquire at least 30 ECTS through two mobility periods in two different foreign partner universities;

4) lack of early exit.

Other relevant aspects are:

5) a linear career with more than 95% of students who pass first-year required exams (average CFU acquired 58.1 out of 60, average mark 25,1, or C) and 88% for the second-year required exams (CFU average 27.5 out of 30, average mark 27, or B);

6) percentage of total number of graduates: 2010-2011 = 76%; 2011-2012 = 55%.

The data show a low percentage of non-Italian students coming from partner Universities, with the exception of Norwegian students, and an unsatisfactory trend in the number of students (24%) who, although meeting the admission requirements and passing the exams in the relevant years, are unable to complete the program in the allotted time.

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. 2 (title and description): Increase the percentage of students from partner Universities

Actions to be taken (description): Overcoming barriers that restrict the student mobility from partner universities in Austria, Germany and Denmark

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities (description): Analysis of the competitiveness and attractiveness of the LM 67I program compared to the local offer in Austria, Denmark and Germany, taking into account financial and administrative limitations imposed by the different university systems. The action must be completed by July 2014 under the responsibility of the program Executive Board.

Objective n. 2 (title and description): Increase the percentage of students able to complete the program in the allotted time

Actions to be taken (description): Identification of the main causes for the delay in finalizing and delivering the master thesis

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities (description): An analysis of students' background and career, 2-year academic results, availability of thesis' supervisor will be performed, also through individual interview with the students. The action must be completed by October 2014 under the responsibility of the teaching coordinator.

2 - STUDENT EXPERIENCE

2-a CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN AND OUTCOMES (*Objectives identified in the previous report, progress and outcomes*)

Objective n. A2-c 1: Publication of exam results in an anonymous form;

Actions taken: Use of an alpha-numeric code that uniquely identifies the student in an anonymous manner;

State of progress of the corrective action: Implemented in the academic year 2013-2014.

Objective n. A2-c 2: Avoiding the ambiguous interpretation of some multiple-choice questions included in the exam.

Actions taken: Objective assessment of level of difficulty of questions generated by linguistic ambiguity through review of percentages of correct answers for each question with respect to the overall averages.

State of progress of the corrective action: Implemented in the academic year 2013-2014.

2-b ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION, REPORTS AND COMMENTS

(Analysis and comments on data, reports and observations. 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).

From the analysis of the student evaluation forms (academic years 2011-2012, 2012-2011 and, partially, 2013-2014), students declare a good appreciation of the teaching activities, with average indices of positive evaluation (IVP) of 3.2 on a scale of 1-4.

In general, students consider it as a strength the international nature of this course, both in the content and in the teaching, and the opportunity to pursue their studies in different European Universities.

Reports from students, either individually or through the evaluation questionnaires, as well as observations made by the students' representative in the Council meeting and on the occasion of the last Annual Report of the Joint Faculty-Students Committee, outline the following main suggestions:

- a better co-ordination of the teaching activities during the first year, both within the same module that between different modules, where some subjects show overlapping contributions that could be avoided in favor of additional specialized topics;
- possibility of identifying an examination procedure that allows a better assessment of the global knowledge of the specific module;
- reconsider the distribution of the student workload within the module.

With respect to the last point, it must be considered that the number of teaching hours/week/module complies with the student workload of 25 hours/1 ECTS, with a ratio less than 1:3 for lectures' hours versus individual study.

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 (*title and description*): Co-ordination of 1st -year teaching activities to avoid overlapping and to increase the specialized contents.

Actions to be taken (*description*): Harmonization of the teaching activities within the 1st year

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities (*description*): Revision of syllabi and study materials from the different subjects of modules 1, 2 and 3. Action under the responsibility of the teaching and modules' coordinators to be completed by August 2014.

Objective n. 1 (*title and description*): Assessment modality

Actions to be taken (*description*): Revision of assessment modality and content

Mode, resources, deadlines, responsibilities (*description*): Evaluation of an alternative procedure for the assessment of student knowledge. Action under the responsibility of the program chair, the teaching coordinator and the representatives of the partner institutions. To be completed by October 2014.

3 –ACCOMPANYING MEASURES TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT

3-a CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN AND OUTCOMES (*Objectives identified in the previous report, progress and outcomes*)

Objective n.:

Actions taken:

State of progress of the corrective action:

3-b SITUATION ANALYSIS, DATA REVIEW

Comments on data, reports and observations from the program Council. 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.

To promote students' employment, this study program makes use of curricular internships and facilities available in the various partner universities that facilitate students and graduates training in companies and centers. In addition, the program structure includes the organization of national and international seminars, and meetings with stakeholders within the area of adapted and preventive physical activity.

At present, we can refer to the data from a survey carried out on graduated from the 2006-2009 European Master and from the 2010/2011 LM-67INT. The results show a satisfactory efficacy of the degree with respect to the needs of the labor market, with most of 80% of respondents who affirm they have found a job that requires the title and the skills acquired in the course of study between three months and one year after the release of the title. This percentage drops if it refers only to Italian students who, with the exception of those who have pursued graduate studies with a doctorate (42%), state that their job does not necessarily require possession of this title, although they use the skills acquired by attending the master .

3-c CORRECTIVE ACTION (*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*):

As already pointed out in the previous report, the main weakness detected regards the lack of adequate legislation as to Health and Physical Activity professionals in the Italian **labor** system of reference. In view of this, the Review Group could not identify corrective actions that could be implemented in the short term.