

Joint Degrees at the University of Graz



**Diversifying
university studies
by creating a joint vision**

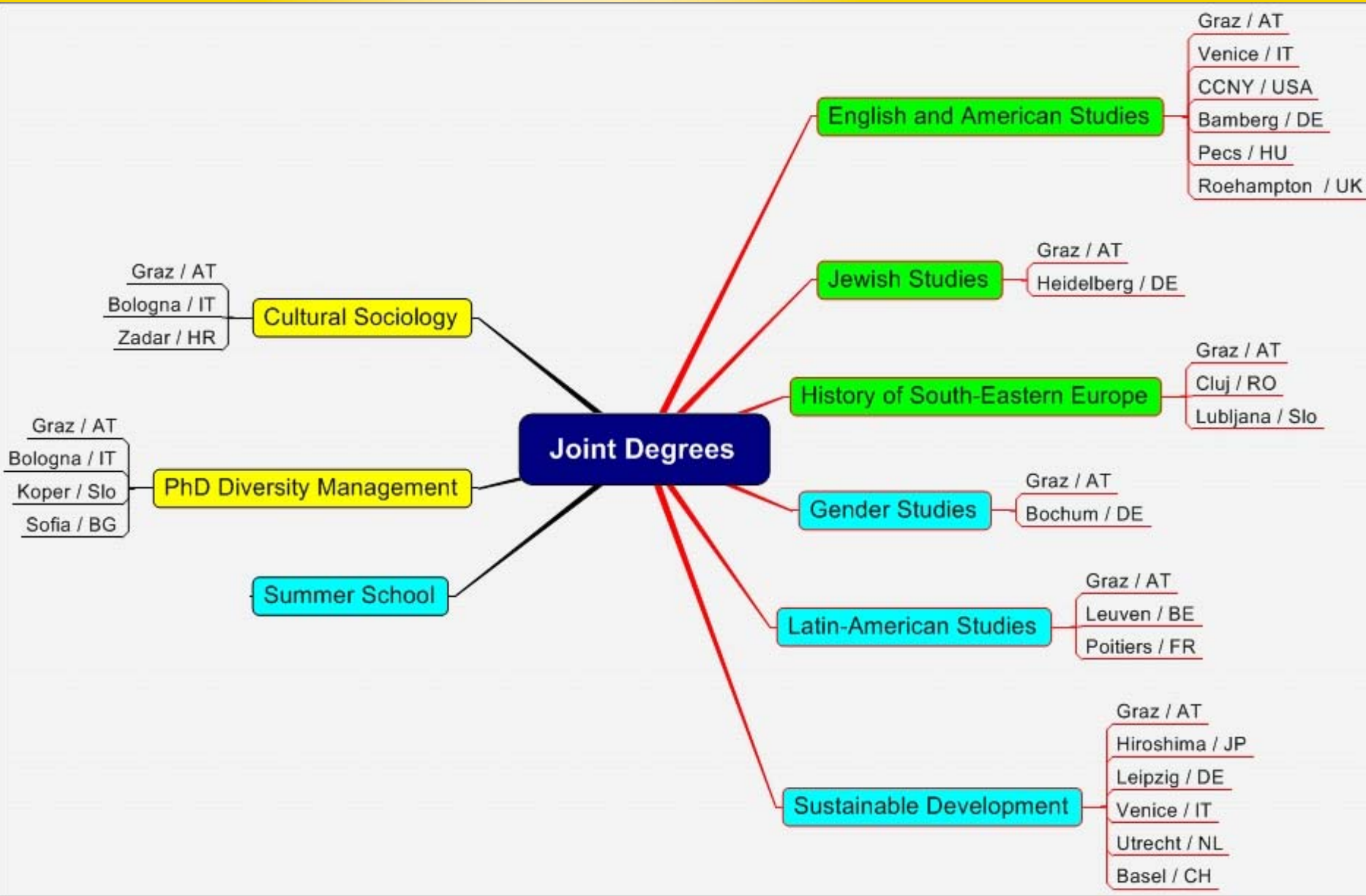
**Christa Grassauer
University of Graz / Austria**

Presentation Outline

1. Background of the project and actual state of affairs
2. Good practice and bad experience
3. Lessons learned

1. Background

- **Objectives:** Development & Implementation of Joint Degrees
- **Graz** = co-ordinating university
- **20** international partners
- **MA** level / **PhD** level
- **Project Start:** October 2004
- **Admission of first students:** September 2007
- **Funding:** Local government
- **Project Team Graz:** 2 persons from IRO + student support



1. Background - Actual State of Affairs

- ✓ Partners fixed in all programs – Letters of Intent exchanged
- ✓ Programs are at different stages in development
 - 3 – program start
 - 3 – approval procedures
 - 2 – development phase
- ✓ Regular cooperation meetings of program coordinators
- ✓ Conference for consortium members: 2006

2. Good Practice & Bad Experience

- ✓ Sufficient funding for planning phase
- ✓ Efficient project management
- ✓ Careful analysis of project environment
- ✓ Well researched choice of partners
priorities - network partners:
Coimbra Group, Utrecht Network,
Danube RC, Alps Adriatic RC, etc.
- ✓ Great interest in participation due to Higher Education policy

2. Good Practice & Bad Experience

- ✓ Lobbying on all levels at Graz University
- ✓ Administrative and academic staff involved
- ✓ Information package and folders
- ✓ Top level support (strategic project of rectorate)
- ✓ Joint Degrees included in university policy document (statutes)

2. Good Practice & **Bad Experience**

- Decision makers at partner institutions
not always involved in development
- Partners decided to quit
- BA/MA reorganization not complete at all partner institutions
- Accreditation and Quality Assurance = “virgin soil”
- Legal differences, state law

2. Good Practice & **Bad Experience**

- Communication (language, cross-cultural communication)
- (Financial) commitment of all partners
- Dissemination of project information at partner universities
- Understanding of project management & dimensions of project
- Time
- Not much experience available – trial and error –
leads to many unanswered questions

3. Lessons learned

- Stick to the “10 Golden Rules” (EUA)
- Clear tasks for everyone involved
- Coordinators at all partner institutions need
VERY clear understanding amongst themselves
- Agree on clear terminology and rules
- Ensure flow of information (PR, www, ...)
- Thorough preparation of meetings
- Top down AND bottom up approach

Thank you for your attention !

Further information:

www.uni-graz.at/en/bibwww_jd.htm

Christa Grassauer, M.A.

University of Graz

Office of International Relations

christa.grassauer@uni-graz.at