

Annex I

Curriculum for the Programme

“International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology”

Introductory Section

Scholars and policy-makers emphasise that social and economic development can be secured only if cultural values of a given social context are understood and taken into account. UN Millenium Development Agenda has recognised that economic development is not possible without human development. EU policy documents point out that culture helps to promote social inclusion and cohesion, as well as political participation and economic well-being. These ideas have been increasingly included into a large number of development documents at national, regional and local levels, in Europe and around the world.

In spite of this general recognition of the importance of human culture, there exists a lack of experts to analyse and interpret its role in the conditions of the present-day economic and social modernisation, taking place on a global scale. The knowledge such experts are expected to apply in their professional practice extends beyond the purely theoretical reflection and includes competences in both quantitative and qualitative empirical research. Equally essential are intercultural understanding, skills of coordination and project management, as well as an ability to work in the multi-level context of the convergent media.

The “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” is launched in order to provide training to these much-needed experts in social and cultural analysis. It combines the strengths and specializations in teaching and top research of the partner universities, thereby offering the students a programme recognized in the countries of the consortium partners as well as creating opportunities for further learning, reflection and research. In addition to acquiring competences crucial for employment in a fast-changing labour market and occupational profiles, the graduates will also create a solid theoretical and methodological grounding for a possible continuation of their studies at a PhD level.

The “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” is an outcome of a long-standing collaboration between the universities of Graz and Zadar. Both universities are committed to high-quality teaching and research and to the jointly created curricula as an instrument for the creation of the common European Higher Education Area. The “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” is a fruit of institutional ties between the two universities that date back to the 1990s and that have especially intensified in the 21st century. Following the contacts of individual researchers, collaboration so far has included student and academic mobility, guest lectures, participation in summer schools and conferences.

The “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” is strongly connected to two of the core research areas of the University of Graz “Heterogeneity and Cohesion” and “The Cultural History of Europe and Its Historical and Current Understanding”. The sociological analysis of culture is an important research topic inside these core research areas, because processes of social integration and exclusion can only be understood properly if cultural phenomena are taken into account. The principle of the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” to connect research and teaching is secured by this interconnection with the core research areas.

The “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” connects well the core research area of the Department of Sociology (the relationship between culture and society) with the overall mission of the University of Zadar (research and education in the interest of regional development within a wider European context). The Department and the University are committed

to the development of international joint programmes, facilitated by their organizational structure, fully integrated in accordance with the requirements of the Bologna Process.

For the University of Trento, the participation in the Cultural Sociology Degree derives from a long lasting collaboration at international level in the promotion of good practices in the double and joint degree management. The common views in this field brought to the organization of joint seminars and workshops for the EAIE and to the decision of taking part to the Cultural Sociology Degree project, since there was a big scientific interest by the Faculty of Sociology in Trento. The University of Trento has an established expertise in cultural sociology. Various research groups at the University of Trento work on five clusters of topics that pivot around research in cultural sociology. The first research cluster focuses on language and society, social interaction, conversation analysis, media studies and the sociology of communication. A second cluster carries both theoretical and empirical work on the cultural dimension of migration studies. This cluster participates also in the activities of the Centre for Cultural Sociology of Yale University since its establishment. A third research cluster focuses on science and society, public understanding of science, public opinion research, and public sphere studies. A fourth research cluster focuses on the cultural analysis of spatial phenomena. Last but not least, a fifth research cluster focuses on the sociology of religion, religious organizations and movements, and religion in multicultural societies. Several PhD dissertations falling under one of the previous headings have been defended recently, and undergraduate as well as graduate courses on the above topics are already active. The University hosts several post-docs pursuing projects in cultural sociology.

The programme builds on a well-established tradition of research and teaching in the field of cultural sociology at Masaryk University's Department of Sociology. The points of interest range from organizational and popular culture to religion and urban studies, yet the two topical areas which give the programme its particular profile are the study of *ethno-national boundaries* (including, e.g., migration and transnationalism) and the study of *collective memory* (including, e.g., generational memory and collective trauma). Today, the research and teaching activities in the field evolve around the Department's *Center for Cultural Sociology*. Although the *Center* was formally instituted only in 2008, its foundation already reflected the many courses – focusing, for example and besides the above mentioned topics, on civic culture, identity formation, gender and sexuality, race, anti-Semitism and protest culture – which had long been offered by the Department in its various study programmes. Many of the *Center's* activities draw on a close cooperation with the *Center for Cultural Sociology at Yale University*, along with, other prominent academic institutions worldwide, including Konstanz University. Since 2008, the cultural sociological orientation of the Department has also been furthered within and through the international doctoral programme *Euro Joint PhD Programme in Social Representations and Communication*. In 2017, the Center for the Cultural Sociology of Migration was established, with monthly meetings during the academic year.

Since the implementation of the master's programme in Cultural Sociology in the year 2012 several students have finished their studies and many activities between members of the four universities have taken place resulting also in further improvement of the collaboration between the partner universities. The curriculum is now adapted to changes of law in all participating countries.

§ 1 General Regulations

The curriculum for the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” has been designed jointly by four partner universities under the auspices of the University of Graz, Austria. Students benefit from a highly internationally oriented programme with a mandatory mobility period included, which has been jointly developed and organized.

(1.1) Consortium Partners

The consortium partners of the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” are the University of Graz (Austria), together with Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic), the University of Trento (Italy) and the University of Zadar (Croatia).

(Reference: Cooperation Agreement §1)

For details refer to the cooperation agreement as well as to Annex II (Degree details).

(1.2) Degree Awarding Partners

Of the four consortium partners involved in developing and organising the programme the following universities constitute the “Degree Awarding Partners”

- University of Graz
- Masaryk University
- University of Trento

(1.3) Non-Degree Awarding Partners - Mobility Partners

The following university is consortium partner in terms of mobility

- University of Zadar

The University of Zadar will act temporarily as a mobility partner within the consortium; a change to the status of a degree-awarding partner is intended as soon as possible.

Universities may join the project as mobility partners offering parts of the curriculum that are automatically recognized as part of the study programme.

(2) Aim of the International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology

The master’s degree places a strong emphasis on research in the service of social, cultural and economic development. It promotes the capability for theoretically and methodologically sound research, necessary for social and cultural analysis in a complex global setting, characterized by an interplay between the simple and advanced forms of modernity. The aim of the programme is to develop students’ capacity for independent, critical and creative thinking with a view to the production of original research.

The mission of the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” is to provide an international master’s programme of highest quality which enables participants to contribute as researchers and policy makers to the societal transformation and development in the conditions of an increasingly interconnected and globalised world.

Apart from the opportunity to continue their studies at a PhD level, employment opportunities for graduates include a wide range of options in the public, semi-public and private sector, as well as NGOs. Public bodies include EU, national, regional, and local governments, university management and administration, and various public and semi-public agencies and think-tanks. Private employers include various consultancies in the areas of opinion research and marketing, the media

and creative industries. Opportunities of employment in NGOs cover a range of roles extending from project management to research and evaluation of projects.

(2.1) Educational Goals:

According to the Dublin Descriptors the Master's degree will be awarded to students who are able to:

- understand the dynamics, complexity and interaction between social, cultural and economic processes and systems
- analyse topics within the field of cultural sociology by applying different theoretical and methodological approaches
- apply comprehensive competences in conducting qualitative and quantitative social research
- use appropriate working methods and instruments for scientific research and application
- apply their knowledge and scientific skills in inter- and trans-disciplinary teams on complex issues,
- apply the according social skills, such as writing, debating, conflict management, teamwork, project management in order to make a substantial contribution to the transition to a more equitable and sustainable society
- conduct independent research projects and put the results of an investigation in the form of a scientific publication or provide an expertise for institutions or the broader public.

(2.2) Scientific Perspectives

Different specialisation perspectives are offered by the partner universities. Within each perspective, the allocation to the perspective and thus the possible specialisation of the students depends on their specific undergraduate education.

(2.3) Professional Fields: Relevance of the Programme for the Labour Market and further Academic Study

Professional fields for which competences are developed are strongly determined by the specialisation module chosen definitely including the public, semi-public and private sector. Typical occupational fields and institutions for graduates are

- Cultural policy
- Cultural management
- Inter-cultural communication management
- Cultural marketing
- Media and creative industries
- Urban Events
- Quality Management
- Regional and urban planning
- Innovation Management
- Training and continuing education
- Academic institutions
- Government and non-governmental agencies
- International Organisations
- Community development and organization
- Public opinion research

(3) Duration of the Programme

Students are allocated ECTS credit points for the work done, which includes both self-study and contact hours. The master's degree comprises 120 ECTS credits per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions.

At least 60 ECTS credits have to be earned at the entrance university. Students are required to complete at least 30 ECTS credits at one of the partner universities.

The remaining 30 ECTS credits can be spent either at the entrance university, either at the same partner university where the student spent the obligatory mobility semester, or at a third partner university of the consortium.

The master's thesis must be presented at the student's entrance university.

The following is the recommended study programme:

	ECTS
1st semester	30 ECTS
Classical theories of culture and society	5-8 ECTS
Advanced quantitative methods	5-8 ECTS
Global transformation and culture	8-15 ECTS
Free elective/Language/Writing Sociology	4-6 ECTS
2nd semester	30 ECTS
Contemporary theories of culture & sociology	5-8 ECTS
Advanced qualitative methods	5-8 ECTS
Module 1	15-18 ECTS
Free elective/Language	4-6 ECTS
3rd semester (obligatory mobility abroad)	30 ECTS
Module 2	15-18 ECTS
Case study in the sociology of culture	6-10 ECTS
Free elective/Language	4-6 ECTS
4th semester	30 ECTS
Master's Thesis	18-30 ECTS
Complementary courses	0-10 ECTS
	120 ECTS

(4) Academic Degree

Students will receive up to two local degrees according to the regulations in the Cooperation Agreement §12 and Annex II.

(5) Basis of the "International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology"

The following curricula/study plans at the respective institutions form the basis of the "International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology".

- at the University of Graz: “Curriculum für das Programm ‘Internationales Joint Master Programm in Kultursoziologie’” published in Mitteilungsblatt der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, 118. Sondernummer, 36.j Stück, am 27.06.2019
- at Masaryk University: “Master in Cultural Sociology” published on 31.05.2012 by the Masaryk University, assessed and approved by the Accreditation Commission of the Czech Republic
- at the University of Trento: Laurea magistrale in Sociology and social research, Curriculum CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION Emanato con D.R. 331 del 18 luglio 2012 e modificato con DR 500 del 7 agosto 2015 (as per Rectoral Decree 331, 18 July 2012, as modified by Rectoral Decree 500, 7 August 2015)
- at the University of Zadar: Diplomski studij sociologije (double major master degree in sociology, graduation title: magistar/magistra sociologije); Međunarodni združeni diplomski studij Kulturne sociologije (single major master degree in cultural sociology, graduation title: magistar/magistra sociologije, addition in diploma supplement: kulturna sociologija)

(6) Limitation of Places in Courses

Limitations on the number of participants in the individual types of classes may apply for educational and/or safety reasons, and shall be determined per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions.

(7) Teaching and Learning Methods

In addition to regular classes at the partner universities, jointly prepared forms of supplementary teaching (e.g. summer or winter schools, intensive programmes) can be used to complete the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” and may be counted towards the 30 ECTS credits requirement.

(8) Target Group and Admission

The target group for the participation in the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” are highly qualified and motivated students interested in issues of society and culture.

The programme seeks students who hold a first cycle degree in sociology, social sciences or the humanities with a solid background in qualitative and quantitative methods, theory of the social sciences, and application of social sciences.

Cultural Sociology is a subject that requires an inter-disciplinary perspective. For this reason, the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” welcomes individuals holding an academic degree of at least 180 ECTS credits (bachelor’s degree or equivalent programme of at least 180 ECTS) who can demonstrate their knowledge of the social sciences, research skills and a general insight in the subject of cultural sociology.

Graduates from different forms and fields of studies can be admitted if the completed programme is judged to be equivalent in the regular admission procedure of the entrance university to which the student applies.

Any student who is interested in taking the master’s programme has to go through an admission procedure. The deadlines for submitting applications for admission are announced each year on both the programme’s website (www.jointdegree.eu) and the local websites of the respective partner universities.

An interest in languages will be presupposed. Large parts of the programme will be offered in English, especially the modules chosen for the mobility period, as well as summer schools. However, students have the opportunity and are encouraged to take courses taught in the local language. However, examinations can be done in English even if the course language is another

one depending on the professor's prior consent. Because large parts of the programme are conducted in English, proof of the applicant's proficiency in English is necessary.

§ 2 Structure of the Programme

It is a master's programme of a total of 120 ECTS credits. The first two semesters are used (in spite of more or less respective prior knowledge of the participants) to give an introduction to the specific field of cultural sociology and cultural studies, including the methodological procedures and instruments. It is therefore intended that only the third semester will obligatory be spent at one of the partner universities. The fourth semester, which is centered on the preparation of the master thesis can be spent either at the entrance university or a partner university. At the request of the student, the duration of the study can be extended according to the regulations at the respective entrance university.

The structuring of the studies is carried out in several packages and modules. The *packages* describe thematic standard qualifications that can be filled at the partner universities through different courses.

In the first two terms there are the two theoretical packages:

- Classical theories of culture and society (5-8 ECTS)
- Contemporary theories of culture and society (5-8 ECTS)

and the two social research packages:

- Advanced quantitative methods (5-8 ECTS)
- Advanced qualitative methods (5-8 ECTS).

The fifth package addresses the broad horizon of the analysis of contemporary societies:

- Global transformation and culture (8-15 ECTS).

In the first three semesters a package of free electives is added (12-18 ECTS). These can be freely selected from the range of courses provided at the respective university, but it is recommended that with the perspective of studying abroad at least basic knowledge of the language should be acquired, as well as a supportive course about sociological / social science / scientific writing. These courses are mentioned as an alternative in the context of the free electives package in order to draw special attention to these options.

In the second and third terms, respectively, a *module* in the extent of 15-18 ECTS credits is part of the curriculum. In contrast to the packages in which substantial congruence between the universities is aspired, the aim of the modules is opposite: use the substantive differences of the partner universities. The partner universities will provide major modules, consisting of several courses, where they can display their particular strengths. Each partner university will offer two modules as follows:

- University of Graz: Global Cultures; Fictions and Realities: Art and Literature
- Masaryk University: Time and Change; Boundaries
- University of Trento: Culture and Communication; Space and Culture.
- University of Zadar: Cultural Theories and Methods; Culture and Identities

Therefore, the students have the choice between different regions and universities, but they also have a choice between certain key contents. Logically, one of the modules will be passed at the entrance university, the other module at the mobility university. Each partner university will offer one of the two suggested modules in the second and third semester.

In the third semester, the mobility abroad, the module will be complemented by a

- Case study in the sociology of culture (6-10 ECTS).

In this case study, depending on the configuration of the partner universities, concrete work (including empirical work) shall be done in any subjects or objects: scientific research with a special emphasis on cultural topics.

The fourth semester is primarily devoted to the creation of the master's thesis, which is classified in the extent of 20-30 ECTS credits. Complementary courses are intended as electives that are to be chosen from the range of cultural and social science courses of each university in a sensible complement to the topic of the thesis.

§ 3 Assessment

(1) Assessment types and procedures

Assessment may take the form of examination and continuous assessment.

(2) Examination methods

Student achievement is assessed by a variety of methods including examination and written and oral assignments per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions. Criteria must be identified for students in the syllabus distributed at the beginning of a course.

(3) Master's thesis module

The master thesis module comprises 20 to 30 ECTS. The thesis reflects the student's capacity for independent study and research. The thesis must include a summary both in English and in the local language of the entrance institution per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions.

Students must determine their master's thesis topic in consultation with a supervisor according to the regulations at the respective entrance university. Students have to write a proposal (including problem description, research goals and questions, research methods, theoretical perspective, expected outcomes, time schedule, bibliography) that has to be approved by the supervisor(s).

It must be possible to finish the thesis within 6 months after the agreed starting time.

The final master's thesis is assessed by at least the supervisor and a second reader. The judgment of any other (external) supervisors who might be involved will be taken into consideration. The final assessment is reached according to the rules of the respective university.

(4) Grading systems

The grading system of the individual institutions is used for assessment. The grading of the achievements accomplished during the mobility period will be transferred to the degree awarding institution according to the grade conversion table as agreed by the consortium.

Graz	5	4		3	2	1	1
Masaryk	failed	60-64	65-69	70-79	80-89		90-100
Trento	failed	18-20	21-25	26-28	29-30		30 L
Zadar	1	2	2	3	4	5	5

In the case of overlapping grades, the maximum comparable grade of the overlapping ranges will be taken.

All consortium partners will provide a grade point average for students at the end of their studies.

§ 4 Obligatory Mobility Abroad

Students are required to spend a semester at a partner university. Places are allocated by the General Programme Board according to available resources.

Given the international nature of the programme students will be required from the outset to draw up a detailed learning agreement with the programme coordinator at their entrance university. It is assumed that the general and specific university academic entrance requirements are satisfied upon nomination by the entrance university.

If a student fails a course during mobility, the ECTS credits can be made up at a summer or winter school if an appropriate course is offered approved and recognized by the General Programme Board. Pre-accreditation of summer or winter school courses by the entrance university is required. Exams can be retaken per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions.

§ 5 Additional Mobility Period Abroad

Students may spend an additional study period at any member of the consortium, whether for a semester of registered coursework or for a short period of study for research reasons. In this case the approval of the entrance and mobility university is required. Financial subsidies can be applied for through existing mobility programmes and grants.

§ 6 Coming into Effect of the Curriculum

The in annex I outlined agreement on the structure and the content of the “International Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Sociology” which will have to be implemented at the four partner universities comes into effect together with the cooperation agreement.