



# PSRS Quality Assurance Board #1 Meeting (2/10/2020)

## Participants of the meeting

1. Fabrizio Giorgis (POLITO), Physicist, Researcher on optical spectroscopies and photonic biosensing. Chair of the Quality Assurance Board.
2. Pasi Vahimaa (University of Eastern Finland) Theoretical optics, Learning outcomes coordinator
3. Thierry Fournel (UJM)
4. Regis Fournier (UPEC) Signal processing biometrics lecturer
5. Marwan Abdou Ahmed (Université de Stuttgart) Laser Optic departments head. External expert of the Quality Assurance Board.
6. Joseph Leibenguth (3R-Innov) Associated industrial partner representative.
7. Georges Kotrotsios (CSEM) Associated industrial partner representative
8. Gustavo Insaurralde (UJM) Head of the International Cooperation Department
9. Noora Heikkila (UEF), administrative manager of PSRS master degree in Eastern Finland.

## Communication platform

For this very first meeting and a way to respond to COVID19's travel restrictions, participants to this meeting decided to use Cisco Webex to make the first meeting of PSRS Quality Assurance Board. If travel restrictions are removed, next QAB meeting will take place next February in Finland.

*This meeting was structured based on a Power Point Presentation, which is available here.*

## Learning Outcomes remarks

Comments on definition of "Learning Outcomes" (8<sup>th</sup> slide): Strong encouragement of students to take up transversal modules of entrepreneurship, business management and intellectual property. In the degree, there is two optional modules in year 1 who could correspond at this need: "Digital innovation and entrepreneurship" (Semester 1) and "Commercializing high-tech" (Semester 2), besides two such modules for only two destinations over three in Year 2: "Industrial or Research Project" and "Research and professional culture". Therefore, a student may miss out on this type of skills. One of the members proposed to make these soft skill development courses mandatory to students but Master Degree curriculum is defined by the Consortium Agreement. Members have decided to promote entrepreneurship skills and includes them in one of the Key Performance Indicators of the consortium (eg. Number of students having participated in these type of courses).

Other suggestions:

- Developing of mentoring programs on the ground to create entrepreneurial skills.



- Business games during modules.

### **Selection process assessment**

PSRS is based on two phase evaluation process. First, two evaluators (AMB members) classify submissions and they proposed a list of best applicants. Then best applicants' submissions are reclassified by the four universities of the consortium. A mark threshold was imposed on the evaluation criteria (3.2/5). After this decision, the administrative coordinator checked all this information and propose interviews to assess different skills on the students. Then the selection process is made by all the members of the AMB. Rules in this regard were respected and no comments were made.

Some members demanded some clarifications on the mobility rule applied to Erasmus Mundus Programs (internships are given to up to three students from the same country). In the programs, some students have not received an internship because they were more than 5. However, they received a local internship.

One of the recommendations proposed was to increase the attractivity for European students by advertising the program to key private and public stakeholders. Another recommendation was to reinforce recruitment based on industrial partners.

### **Definition of Key Performance Indicators**

Key Performance Indicators were decided to be defined after the meeting, having into account the needs of the different stakeholders implied in the program (industrial partners and academic excellence interests). One of the key indicators proposed was the employability of students after the graduation.

The Quality Assurance Board manager will be in charge to send a list of propositions of Key Performance Indicators.

### **Questionnaire definition**

Two questionnaires are going to be structured to define quality for the courses and internships. The questionnaire would be submitted on Microsoft Teams and anyone can make modifications. Some of the members proposed to make an online survey based on a compact version which could be add other questions considering students' answers. These questionnaires will be answered mandatorily at the end of the course.

Quality Assurance Board Chair will recollect 8 questions of each partner so as to a unique version of the questionnaire can be defined.

### **Website and diffusion recommendations**

1. Include missing syllabuses (a minority) and a flyer downloadable from the website.
2. The website and the questionnaire should be adapted to mobile phone portals because students have a strong attachment to these means of communication.



3. The site must be rendered more user-friendly (direct programme access, short texts to be separated from photographs, ...).
4. The presentation text in the section “About” is not clear.

### **Next steps**

Two weeks: Definition of Internal questionnaire (each member suggests 8 questions) and Prof. Giorgis (QAB Chair) needs to work on the selection and merging of the questionnaire.

One week: Prof. Giorgis (QAB Chair) is going to write on Key Indicators list to make them circulate to be discussed by the other members of the board.