

POLITECNICO DI MILANO



Fostering the internationalisation of universities: How to promote university networks able to foster attractive and competitive research and learning environments and help Europe to attract and train highly qualified human resources?

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Giancarlo Spinelli – Lisbon, November 6, 2007



We all agree on the mutual influence of education and research
In the Bergen Communiqué (20 May 2005) the Ministers underline:

- the importance of higher education in further enhancing research
- the importance of research in underpinning higher education for the economic and cultural development of our societies and for social cohesion



However, there are concerns about:

- attractiveness
- competitiveness

of both:

- research
- education

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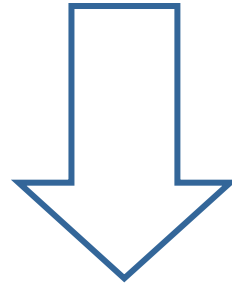


The instrument we are discussing
is the creation and development
of European Universities networks

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Previous assumptions



Focus on Doctoral programmes

At this level, we have to compete with the top North American universities that have been recruiting the best talents, at least for the last 60 years



At present we have:

Research networks supporting doctoral candidates but not attracting a sufficient number of high potential human resources from outside Europe

Educational networks with very good practice, but mainly focused on Master's and undergraduate level

Both should converge toward promoting high-level doctoral studies very attractive for candidates from outside Europe



Example of the T.I.M.E. Association

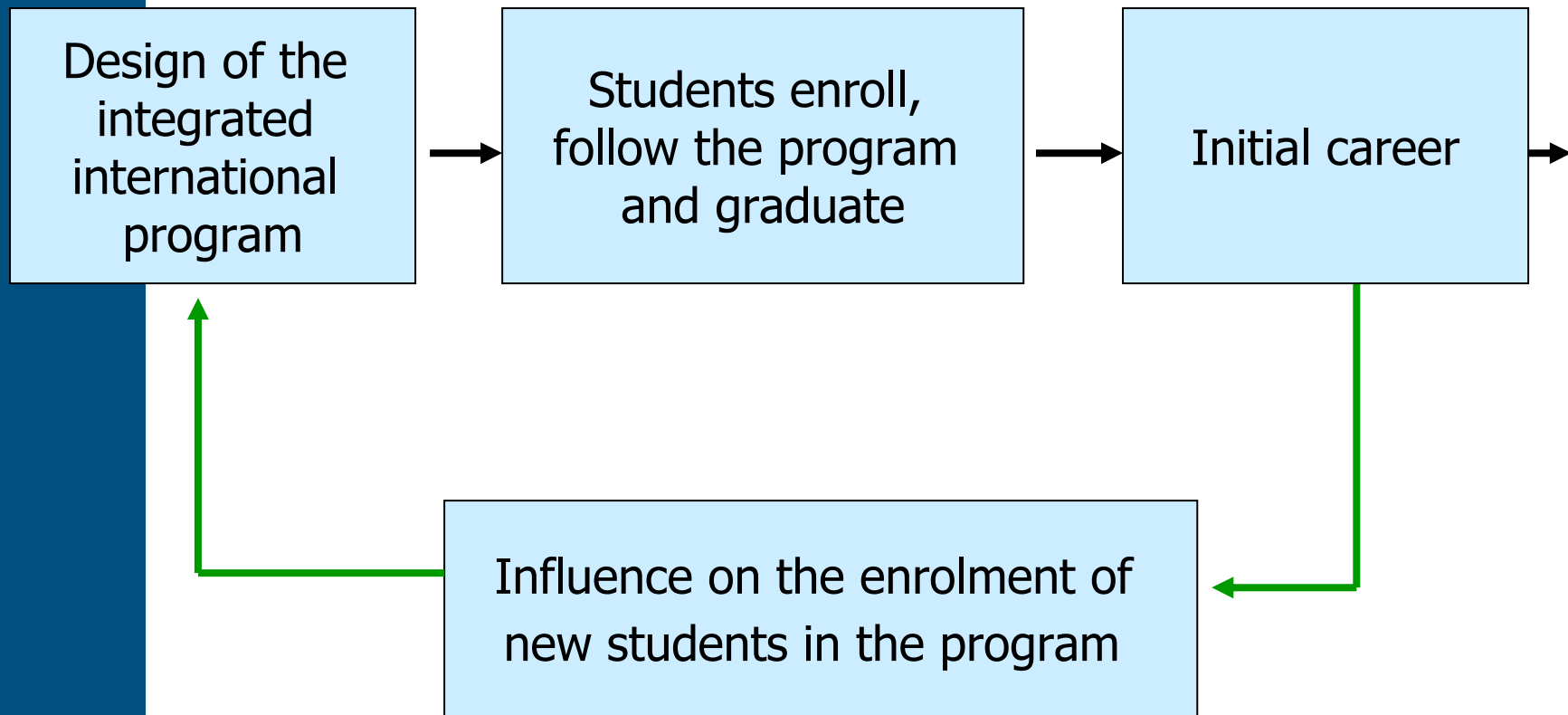
- **T.I.M.E. Master** awarded by 3 member Institutions
- **T.I.M.E. Master** label awarded by the Association (51 top-level Institutions in technology)
after a quality control of the process done by a committee
- ERASMUS Mundus
 - ⇒ Enormous attractiveness
 - ⇒ Selection of extremely high potential candidates

The challenge is now to extend the scheme to joint doctoral programmes



The other important aspect is employability

One cannot rely only on the job market feedback





The constant of time of the over mentioned feedback is too long

That is why we must involve all the actors of the job market since the first stages of designing programmes

This is already the case in some excellence networks like Unitech where there are **academic** partners and **corporate** partners. Both are involved in all activities (as interviewing candidates)



RECOMMENDATIONS

Financing more programmes for
Doctorates requiring:

- a) Strict quality control of research at each member Institution of the network
- b) A label with a transparent quality control by the member Institutions
- c) Commitment of all the network to the label awarded by some of the members
- d) Involvement of Corporate members



Since quality in internationalising the doctorate programmes requires big expenditures in structures and services

⇒ More overheads for really top-quality networks aimed at and effective in attracting and training highly qualified human resources at the doctoral level.