

Double Degree Agreement

on

**Master in Civil Engineering – Building
Construction/ Master in Civil Engineering**

between

Polytechnic Institute of Leiria

And

Polotsk State University



The Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, hereinafter referred as, IPL represented by the President Nuno Mangas and the Polotsk State University, hereinafter referred as PSU, represented by the Rector Dmitry Lazovski ,

Agree on the following terms regarding a **DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME** on Master In Civil Engineering - Building Construction/ Master in Civil Engineering

1. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT AND RELEVANCE FOR THE RETHINKe PROJECT

The aim of this agreement is to establish a double degree programme with regard to these official degrees:

- a) Master in Civil Engineering – Building Construction, official degree of the current academic offer of IPL.
- b) Master in Civil Engineering, official degree of the current academic offer of PSU.

By means of this agreement, students enrolled in one of these programmes could be awarded with both degrees, providing that they fulfil the conditions and requirements established in the following clauses.

The double degree set up by this agreement is intended to be a relevant academic tool to achieve the following basic objectives of the RETHINK project in the field/s of environmental sciences / climate engineering / urban planning:

- a) To promote the reform and modernisation of higher education in Belarus
- b) To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in Belarus
- c) To build up the capacity of higher education institutions in Belarus and Portugal, in particular for international cooperation and for permanent modernisation process.
- d) To foster the reciprocal development of human resources in both institutions.
- e) To enhance networking among IPL and PSU.
- f) To enhance mutual understanding between peoples and cultures of Belarus and Portugal.

2. MUTUAL CREDIT RECOGNITION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT

Students taking part in this double degree programme will have to get a total of 120 ECTS credits to be awarded with both degrees. Part of those total ECTS credits must be earned at the student's home institution and other part at the other Higher Education Institution (HEI) involved in this double programme.

All the ECTS credits and grades awarded by one HEI to students taking part in this double degree programme will be fully recognized by the other institution, according to the terms and conditions established in the Annex to this agreement.



3. DOUBLE DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMME

Students participating in the double degree programme must follow the study programme set out in this agreement's Annex in order to be awarded with both degrees.

The administrative procedure to obtain each official degree after having completed the study programme is defined and managed by the issuing institution.

A new edition of the double degree programme will take place every academic year, only provided that both titles are officially implemented during that year at the partner institutions.

It is agreed and understood that each HEI has the right and responsibility to make changes to its curricula to meet accreditation standards. Any such changes that impact upon the Double Degree program will be promptly and duly communicated to the other HEI in writing.

4. NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Every year a maximum number of 3 students from each party will take part in this double programme.

This number may be increased by mutual written consent.

5. ENROLMENT CONDITIONS

Both institutions will set up a proper internal procedure to select the students that will take part in the double degree among those enrolled in the degrees affected by this agreement. The conditions of access to the double degree will be stipulated by each institution.

5.1) ENGLISH LEVEL

In any case, every student taking part in this programme must, at least, accredit a CEFRL «B1» level in English language.

Students will accredit their language level by means of internationally wholly recognised certificates (Cambridge, TOFEL, IELTIS, TELC, etc.) or official certificates at the students' home country.

Students without one of the aforementioned certificates could be exceptionally admitted to double programme, provided that both universities agree on an assessment procedure to ensure that they have the proper language level.



5.2) REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

IPL will communicate to PSU by 30th July a list with the names, passport and other relevant data of all the students taking part in this programme each year. All the students included in this list will be also registered as ordinary degree seeking students at PSU institution in September.

PSU will communicate to IPL by 30 July a list with the name, passport and other relevant data of all the students taking part in this programme each year. All the students included in this list will be also registered as ordinary degree seeking students at IPL institution in September.

The dates established in the previous paragraphs could vary. Each institution will give notice to its partner of any change regarding those dates as soon as they happen.

5.3) TUITION FEES

a) Fees and taxes when the same number of students from each HEI takes part in the program

If an equal number of students from each institution take part in the double degree programme during the same period, these students will pay their regular tuition fees and taxes at the home institution. No further tuition costs will be charged by the host institution, except for the following:

- At IPL, students from PSU will have to pay 125 € for the application fee plus 1.80 € for the school student insurance.
- At IPL, students from PSU will have to pay 30 € when they finally request the official certificate from IPL.

b) Fees and taxes when there are more students from PSU than IPL taking part in the programme

Each additional students coming from PSU will pay the following fees at IPL at the beginning of the second year of the double programme:

- Tuition fees corresponding to official local regulations for 1 year master: 1.140.00€ /per year.
- 125.00 € for the application fee plus 1.80 € for the school student insurance.
- 30.00 € when they finally request the official certificate from IPL.



The prices and fees could vary from year to year due to governmental or both institutions decisions. IPL undertakes to communicate to PSU any change regarding fees and taxes as soon as it is officially published.

c) Fees and taxes when there are more students from IPL than PSU taking part in the programme

Each additional students coming from IPL will pay the following fees at PSU at the beginning of the second year of the double programme:

-Tuition fees corresponding to official local regulations for 1 year master: 970 € /per year

For all purposes, students will be considered as students enrolled at the two HEI.

6. MANDATORY STUDENT MOBILITY

Mobility in accordance to this agreement's clauses is mandatory for every student taking part in the double degree programme. Teaching staff mobility could be eventually required as well.

Whenever available, student and teaching staff mobility will be carried out under the Erasmus+ programme. The parties agree on establishing a specific Erasmus+ exchange agreement suitable to implement this provision.

Should the Erasmus+ programme be not available to finance the mobility, this double degree agreement, in itself, is considered by both parties a valid agreement for exchanging students and staff. These exchanges will take place according to the following terms:

6.1. Duration of student exchanges

The exchange period shall not exceed the provisions of the learning programme included in the Annex.

6.2. Exchange conditions

- a) Exchanges students will conform to the requirements established in this agreement and will be subject to all the rules and procedures of the home and the host institutions.
- b) Exchange students will be enrolled as regular degree seeking students in the programme of the host institution affected by this agreement. During the exchange period all of them will be registered and attend the courses and activities established in the learning programme included in the Annex.
- c) Exchange students will be provided with the same academic resources and supporting services as normally provided to regular students at the host institution of the same academic level.
- d) Exchange students shall take out appropriate health, life and non-life insurance.

- e) Both institutions undertake to award official transcripts of academic records to the students. These transcripts shall be communicated to the other party in order to get the full academic recognition established in section 2.
- f) The host institution will help exchange students in the search of accommodation by providing all the available information.

6.3 Financial Responsibilities

Exchange students will be responsible for the payment of housing-related costs, transportation, food, life, non-life and medical insurance, medical treatment and all other personal expenses.

7. FACULTY EXCHANGES

Both parties agree on the possibility of exchanging Faculty. This mobility will be governed by specific arrangements between the parties. The details of such arrangements will be negotiated at the appropriate time, according to the academic needs of the double programme and the available funding.

8. ACADEMIC COMMISSION

In order to ensure the good development of the double degree programme, an Academic Commission will be formed including the coordinators of both degrees and one additional representative named by each institution.

This Academic Commission will be responsible to examine the efficiency of the learning programme and the academic results achieved by the students, as well as the resources supplied by both institutions.

The Academic Commission will also be in charge of suggesting modifications suitable to improve the programme quality. The members of this Commission will meet, either personally or on-line, at least once a year.

9. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The signature of this agreement does not mean any financial commitment for any of the parties.

10. PROCEDURE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The parties agree to resolve any dispute arising from the interpretation or performance of the present agreement by common consent. In case that the dispute could not be solved that way, it will be resolved by arbitration of a technical commission formed by three



members. Each party will designate a member of the arbitration commission and the third member will be agreed by both parties.

11. ENTRY IN FORCE AND DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement shall entry in force after being signed by both parties.

The agreement is valid for a period of 5 years and may be renewed for identical periods with the express written consent of the two parties.

The parties may terminate this agreement with immediate effect, due to the determinations of national authorities.

12. CONTACT DATA FOR NOTICES REGARDING THIS AGREEMENT:

Polytechnic Institute of Leiria
Contact: Rui Filipe Pinto Pedrosa
Position: Vice-president of Polytechnic Institute of Leiria
Address: Rua General Norton de Matos, Apartado 4133, 2411-901 Leiria – Portugal
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Polotsk State University
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Phone: +375 214 53 63 40
E-mail: inter.office.psu@gmail.com

In witness where of, the present agreement is signed in duplicate by the official representatives of both institutions.

Nuno Mangas
President
Polytechnic Institute of Leiria

Date: _____ 15-11-2015



Prof. Dmitry Lazovski
Rector
Polotsk State University

Date: _____

ANNEX
STUDY PROGRAMME

Section 1

- The study programme for the students participating in the Double Degree whose home institution is IPL, are provided in the following table:

Semester	Chairs	ECTS
1 (IPL)	Dynamic Analysis and Earthquake Engineering	7
	Construction and Maintenance of Road Pavements	6
	Urban Hydraulics	6
	Coatings and finishes	6
	Sustainable Construction	5
		30
2 (IPL)	Safety and Quality in Construction and Projects	6
	Wood and Masonry Structures	6
	Modelling and Evaluation of Structures	5
	Environmental Comfort in Buildings	5
	Mobility Planning and Management	6
	Introduction to Research in Civil Engineering	2
		30
3 (PSU)	Elective ¹	6
	Structure and solidification of soil	4
	Reinforced constructions/prefabricated constructions	4
	Innovation Management	4
		18
3 and 4 (IPL)*	Project/Dissertation/Internship ²	42
TOTAL		120

*Co-supervision by PSU Professor

¹The students should pick two of the following chairs:

Elective Subject	ECTS
Pathology and Rehabilitation of Buildings	6
Mobility Planning and Management	6

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²The students should pick one of the following chairs:

Elective chairs	ECTS
Project	42
Dissertation	42
Internship	42

- The study programme for the students participating in the Double Degree whose home institution is **PSU**, are provided in the following table:

Semester	Subject	ECTS
1 (PSU)	Technologies and methods of designing and building objects	10
	Philosophy and Methodology of Science	4.5
	Foreign Language	5
	Basics of IT	4.5
	Educational Science and Psychology	2
	Calculations for constructions with software	4
	Modelling of the experiment	4
	Processing data for statistics	4
		30
2 (PSU)	Constructions and methods of their calculations	12.5
	Philosophy and Methodology of Science	4.5
	Foreign Language	7.5
	Statistical methods of planning and processing of experimental data	5.5
		5.5
	Energy- and resource-saving types of constructions	
	30	
3 (IPL)	Pathology and Rehabilitation of Buildings	6
	Pre-stressed Structures and Prefabrication	6
	Support Structures and Improvement of Soil	6
	Elective Subject ¹	12
		30
4 (PSU)*	Dissertation	30
TOTAL		120

*Co-supervision by IPL Professor

¹The students should pick two of the following subjects:

Elective Subject	ECTS
Dynamic Analysis and Earthquake Engineering	7
Sustainable Construction	5
Coatings and finishes	6
Urban Hydraulics	6

- Entrepreneurship: Each student taking part in the double programme will be offered, in IPL, for free, a course on International Entrepreneurship in the second semester. This course will be considered as an option part of the double programme. It is intended to strengthen the students' skills and competences to plan, design, develop and manage business activities related with Civil Engineering.

- The Master in Civil Engineering – Building Construction takes place at the School of Technology and Management of IPL, from Monday to Friday, according to schedules established for every academic year.

- The Master in Civil Engineering, takes place at the Civil Engineering Faculty at PSU, from Monday to Friday according to schedules established for every academic year.

Section 2

The learning programmes described in the previous section follow these criteria:

1. Students enrolled at PSU

- IPL gives recognition to 90 ECTs (subjects of the 1st and 2nd and 4th semester) obtained by the student enrolled at PSU in the Master in Civil Engineering, for the 90 ECTs corresponding to the Master in Civil Engineering – Building Construction.

- PSU gives recognition to 30 ECTs (subjects of the 3st semester) obtained by the student in Master in Civil Engineering – Building Construction at IPL, for the 30 ECTS (subjects of the 3st semester) corresponding to the Civil Engineering at PSU.

2. Students enrolled at IPL

- PSU gives recognition to 102 ECTs (subjects of the 1st and 2nd semester (60 ECTs) and the Project/Dissertation/Internship (42 ECTs)) obtained by the student enrolled at

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IPL in the Master in Civil Engineering- Building Construction, for the 102 ECTS (subjects of the 1st and 2nd and 3th semester and Dissertation) corresponding to the Master in Civil Engineering.

- IPL gives recognition to 18 ECTS (subjects of the 3st semester) obtained by the student in Master in Civil Engineering at PSU, for the 18 ECTS (subjects of the 3st semester) corresponding to the Civil Engineering – Building Construction at IPL.

Section 3

The weighted average of the students' grades obtained at IPL will be assigned, as its grade, to each of the PSU courses passed by means of recognition according to the following table.

Grade description	PSU	IPL
<i>Excellent</i>	9-10	19-20
<i>Very Good</i>	8	17-18
<i>Good</i>	6-7	14-16
<i>Satisfactory</i>	4-5	10-13
<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	1-3	0-9
<i>Failed to appear</i>	No grade	No grade

Any possible conflicts about the mechanism of grade conversion shall be solved by the Academic Commission of the Double Master Degree and accepted by both parties.

Section 4

Students from IPL and PSU taking part in the double programme must successfully complete a master thesis at IPL and PSU. Any master thesis presented and defended under this programme must fulfil the requirements for such works established by both institutions, and each institution will provide the necessary mechanisms for evaluation of the master thesis.

Section 5

Students enrolled in the Double Master degree will have to be awarded, directly or by recognition:



- A minimum of 120 ECTS at IPL to obtain the title of Master in Civil Engineering-Building Construction, and
- A minimum of 120 ECTS at PSU to obtain the title of Master in Civil Engineering.

Students will receive both degrees in two years, after they have successfully finished all the courses of the Double Master Degree.

Section 6

IPL reserves the right to establish other national and /or international agreements related to the Master in Civil Engineering-Building Construction.

PSU reserves the right to establish other national and /or international agreements related to the Master in Civil Engineering.

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