

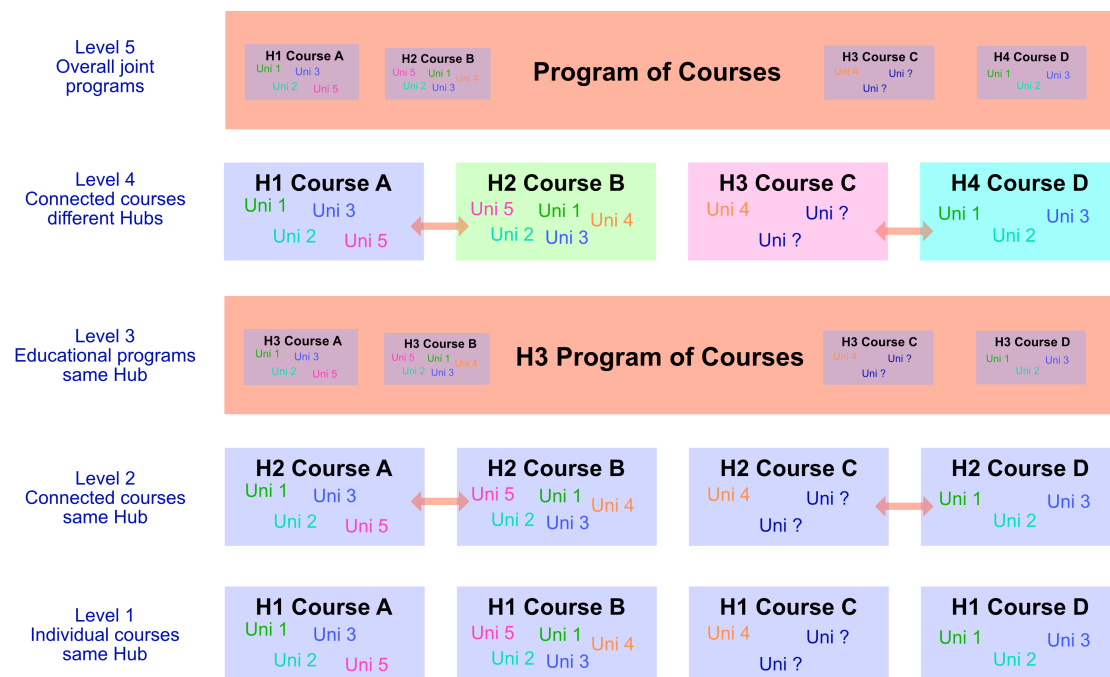
Going from Courses to Joint Programs in CIVIS

Kevin Noone, Stockholm, November 2021

Background

The four Hubs up and running have been very successful in stimulating initial activities – 119 in total as of mid-November 2021. This is an amazing success! There is a great diversity among these activities: summer schools, workshops, virtual and on-campus courses. There are even a few joint degree programs that have been approved.

Since one of the ultimate aims of CIVIS is to enable our students to participate in and complete educational programs that seamlessly encompass several or all of our universities, we need to think of how we wish to transition from being able to offer joint courses between three or more CIVIS universities to how we offer complete joint programs. A theoretical structural hierarchy of this challenge is shown in the figure below.



At this initial stage in the Hub development, most of our activities are at Level 1 in this diagram, with some at Levels 2 and 3. While the thematic orientation of the Hubs provides one way of focusing on pedagogically consistent subject matter, we may find that being able to connect courses between our thematic Hubs may make sense for some students. This is represented as Level 4 in the diagram. Level 5 may or may not be something we want to aim for; there are very attractive features of offering our students a very broad, “liberal arts and sciences” education, but at the obvious risk of not being able to provide them with sufficient depth in any of the component disciplines.

Aims of the workshop

The aims of this workshop are to:

- Gather experience from the Hubs that have already started working on spinning up joint programs
- Brainstorm on identifying and resolving outstanding issues about joint programs such as:
 - Nomenclature – what do we mean by different terms like joint program, micro-program, and many other terms
 - Accreditation – how do we ensure that students get the appropriate credit for courses at all our universities without burdensome administrative procedures?
 - How do we assure and keep track of the pedagogical quality of our joint programs? Who is responsible?
 - Many other questions

Organization of the workshop

After an initial welcome and introduction, the workshop will begin with short presentations from Hub Coordinators or representatives about their experiences with spinning up joint programs. We will then form break-out groups with WP4 Task Force members as discussion leaders to brainstorm about barriers and enablers to achieving joint programs, and what sort of system and support we would like to see in order for CIVIS joint programs to become a reality. We will reconvene in plenary to have reports back from each break-out group, and a final summary and suggestion for next steps.

We look forward to seeing you – and please bring your lively imaginations with you!