



Tempus



# Experience and lessons learnt from teaching double-degree programmes at Varna University of Management

**Leading and Managing Change in Higher Education  
(La MANCHE)**

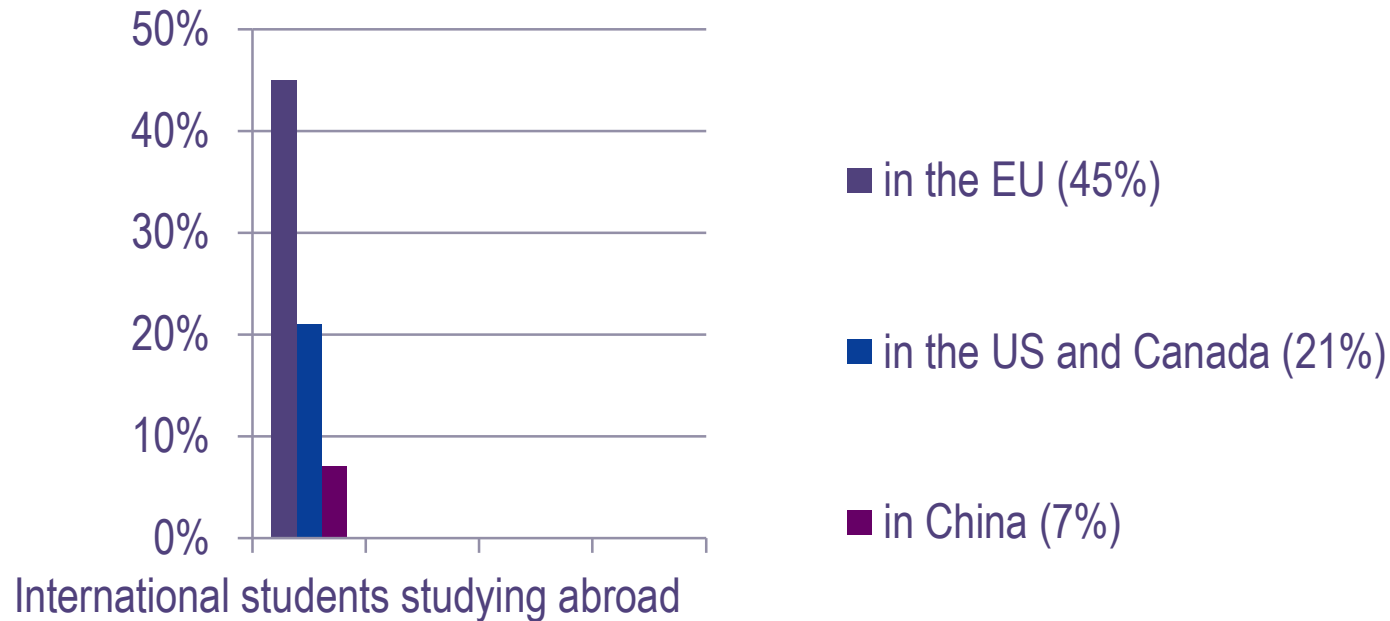
**Assoc. Prof. Todor Radev, PhD**

# Why student mobility and double-degree programmes?



- Multicultural skills are needed for working in tourism industry because of the multicultural profile of the guests and the management of the contemporary business
- That is why international, linguistic and cultural experience is needed in one's university education
- This is the reason why student mobility has become a pronounced trend

# Destinations attracting international students



- In the next 7- 8 years it is expected that countries such as **China, Brazil, India, Russia, Australia**, and others will increase their numbers of foreign students at a much higher rate than the US and the EU

# Benefits from international student mobility



- For students – get to know other cultures, gain different experience
- Students from the host country – they also expand their cultural knowledge
- International corporations – rely on well-trained personnel
- Effects on the local universities and economy
- Greater benefits are obtained from students who after graduation stay to live and work in the host country

# Experience of Varna University of Management (VUM) with short-term international student mobility



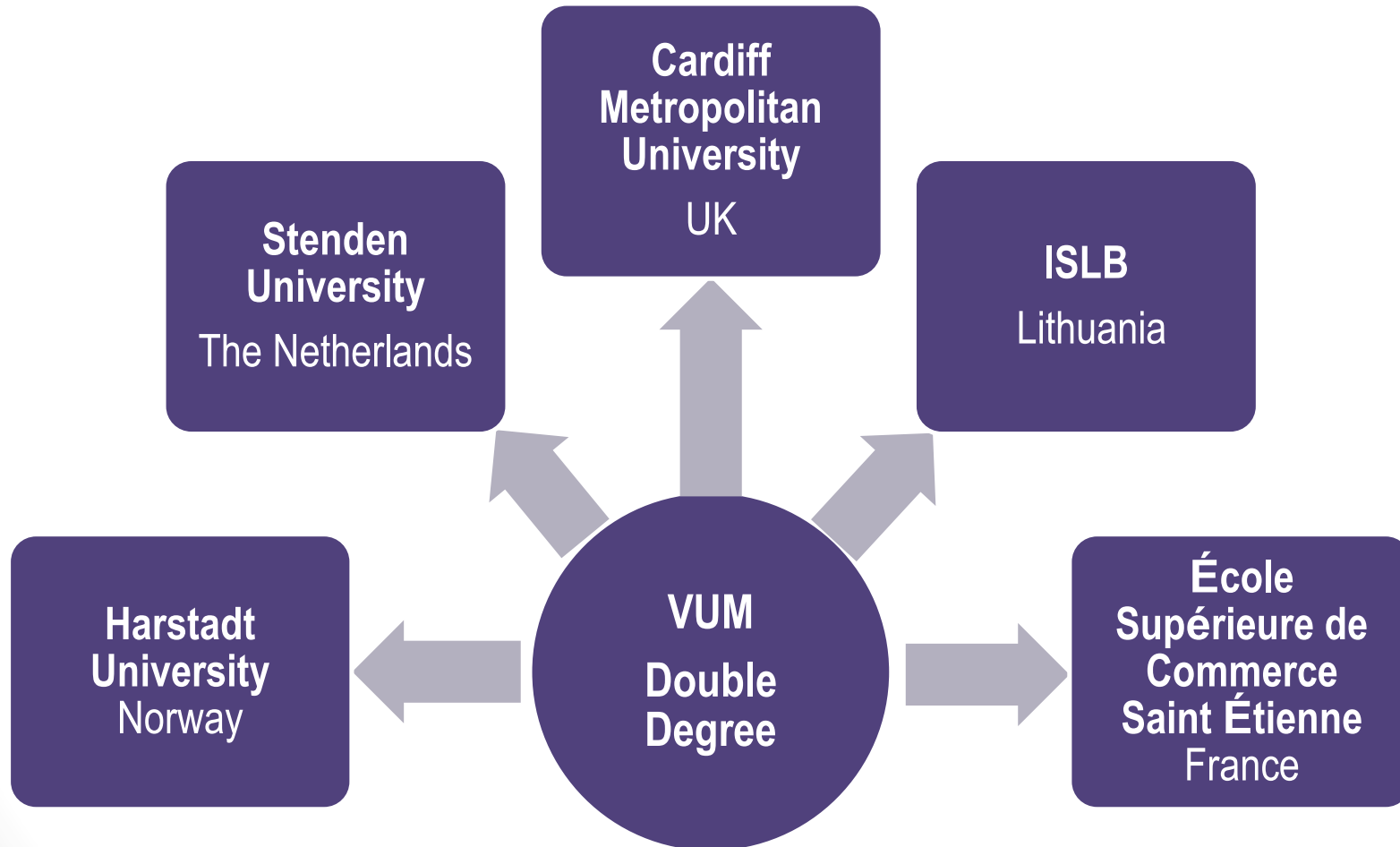
- From 2 - 8 weeks to 1 - 4 semesters
- 60% from the Varna University of Management's students prefer the shortest type of mobility - from 2 to 8 weeks
- 46% prefer a semester abroad
- 17% of the students prefer spending 2 - 4 semesters at a partner university
- Agreements with over **50 universities from 30 countries in Europe** for student and faculty mobility from 1 week to 1 semester

# Priorities of international students at Varna University of Management

- 65% want to study abroad from 4 - 8 weeks
- 30% prefer 1 - 2 years stay at a partner university
- 28% prefer mobility for 1 semester

\*The percentage total is over 100, because the students could choose more than one answer

# Universities preferred for double degree by the students of Varna University of Management



# Cooperation with Cardiff Metropolitan University



- Very popular among students
- They can spend the last semesters at Cardiff Met
- Alternatively, they can choose to study for the whole period in Bulgaria
- At the end they receive both a Bulgarian and an UK Bachelor degree
- The quality of education is controlled by Cardiff Met

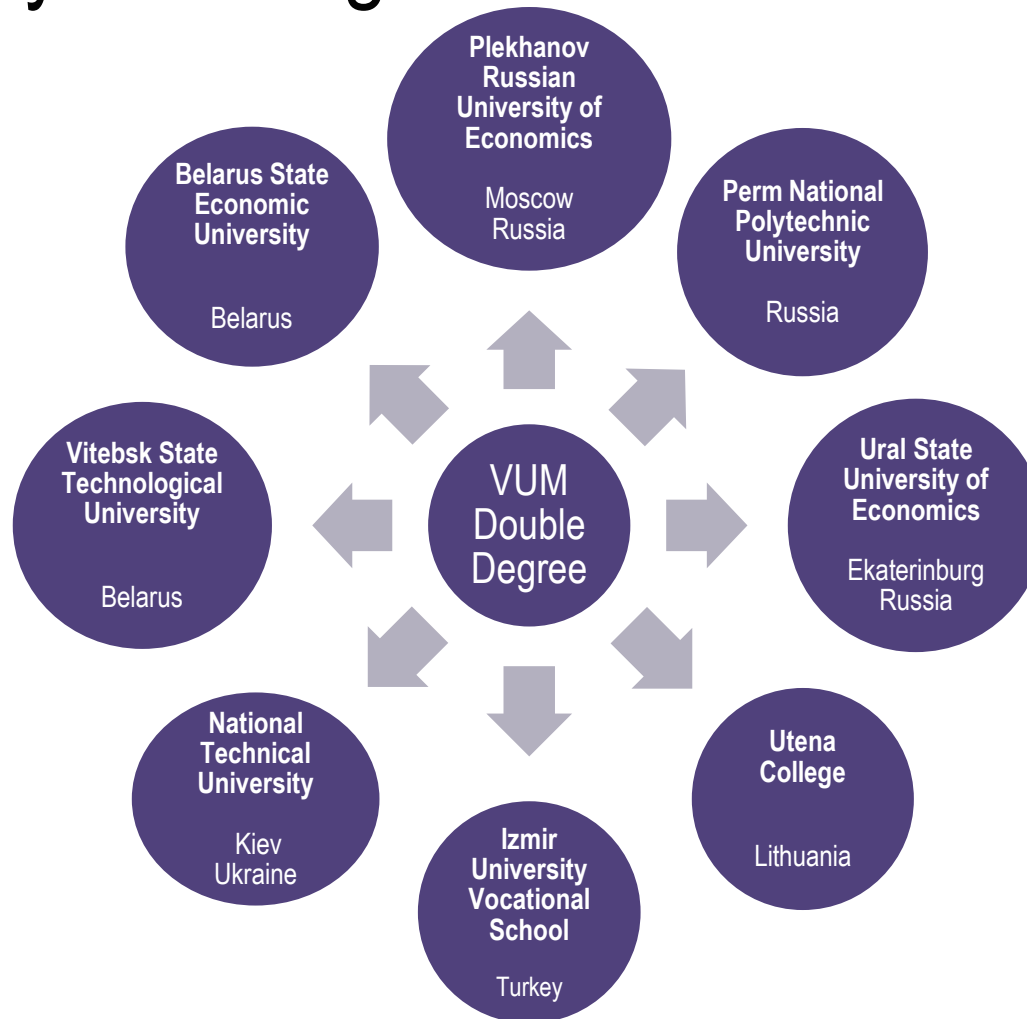


# Advantages of the short-term periods of international student mobility



- Students can study in two universities in two different countries
- Students are prepared for working in multinational companies
- Spending 1 - 2 years abroad does not necessarily mean staying there after graduation and most students come back
- Over 90% of Varna University of Management's students, who study abroad, return to Bulgaria

# Universities, whose students can get a double degree after 3 or 4 semesters at Varna University of Management



# Cooperation with Eastern European and Asian universities – options for students (1)

3 degrees (local, British, Bulgarian)



2 years at home university -> 1 at VUM -> 1 at Cardiff  
Met, UK

# Cooperation with Eastern European and Asian universities – options for students (2)

3 degrees (local, British, Bulgarian)



First 5 - 6 semesters at home  
One calendar year at VUM (From June to May)

# Cooperation with Eastern European and Asian universities – options for students (3)

The whole education period is at home



2 degrees (the local and a Bulgarian one)



Last year is of a franchise program

# Activities of Varna University of Management in international mobility



- Exchange of information related to academic issues
- Participation in scientific conferences
- Short-term and middle-term (up to 1 semester) visits of the faculty staff enabling them to pass the VUM's experience. The visits can also be about particular issues of a certain collaboration
- Short-term and middle-term mobility (up to 1 semester) of students for studying at VUM
- Summer language courses and English Summer Semester at VUM

# Activities of Varna University of Management in international mobility



- From the summer of 2015, Varna University of Management organizes one-semester trainings in various disciplines for students of foreign universities
- Summer placements in Bulgaria and practical training at Varna University of Management for students from partner universities
- Conferences for students and young faculties in Bulgaria
- Helping partner universities to develop 1 semester in English in home university (VUM students travelling to study at the partner university)

# Thank you!



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