

Joint Master's Programme “Comparative Social Policy and Welfare” (COSOPO)

<http://cosopo.mruni.eu>

Assoc prof. dr. Vida Česnuitytė
Assoc prof. dr. Svajonė Mikėnė
Mykolas Romeris University

Joint Master's Programme is implemented by the **partners:**



Mykolas Romeris University (MRU, Lithuania)



UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPERE

Tampere University (UTA, Finland)



JOHANNES KEPLER
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ | JKU

Johannes Kepler Universität Linz
(JKU, Austria)

Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

The programme already implemented in several rounds:

I streams - 2008-2010

II streams - 2010-2012

III streams - 2012-2014

IV streams - 2014-2016

V streams - 2016-2018

Planned: VI streams - 2018-2020



Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

The idea of common preparation of joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" originated:

- in the process of **collaboration** between partner universities under **ERASMUS programme**

and

- under **signed Mutual agreements of cooperation** between MRU and UTA, MRU and JKU.

Development of the Joint Master's Programme “Comparative Social Policy and Welfare” (COSOPO)

- For the Programme Curriculum development, the **Project Proposal** to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the Commission of the European Communities was prepared.



Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- The **project work plan** was elaborated during the meeting of representatives of participating universities, held on February, 2006, at MRU.
- The analysis and evaluation of academic and research experience, human and material resources of partner universities enabled to identify the common areas of interests, namely, **comparative social policy and welfare**.

Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- The Agency positively evaluated the Project proposal and has allocated financial resources for the period of 2006 – 2009.
- The financial support of the EC has played a **crucial role** for the successful realization of the project.

Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- Contributions from all three partner universities to the project, both **financial and organizational**, were very important.
- For the Programme development, each partner university has formed the group of **academic personnel** for the preparation of curriculum and courses.

Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

Two **documents were signed** by the official representatives of partner universities:

- **Partnership Agreement** that defined the relations between the partner universities, their rights and obligations in the Project.
- **Detailed Agreement on the Operation of a Joint Master's Degree Programme „Comparative Social Policy and Welfare“** that outlined the basic principles and terms of cooperation of the universities in order to carry out this Joint Master's Degree Programme.

Development of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

The main outcome of the project:

- The Joint Master's Degree Programme in Comparative Social Policy and Welfare was **officially approved by Faculty Councils, and Senates** of the three partner universities - Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), University of Tampere (Finland), the Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (Austria)
- the programme was **registered according the national regulations** of each country during autumn 2007- spring 2008.

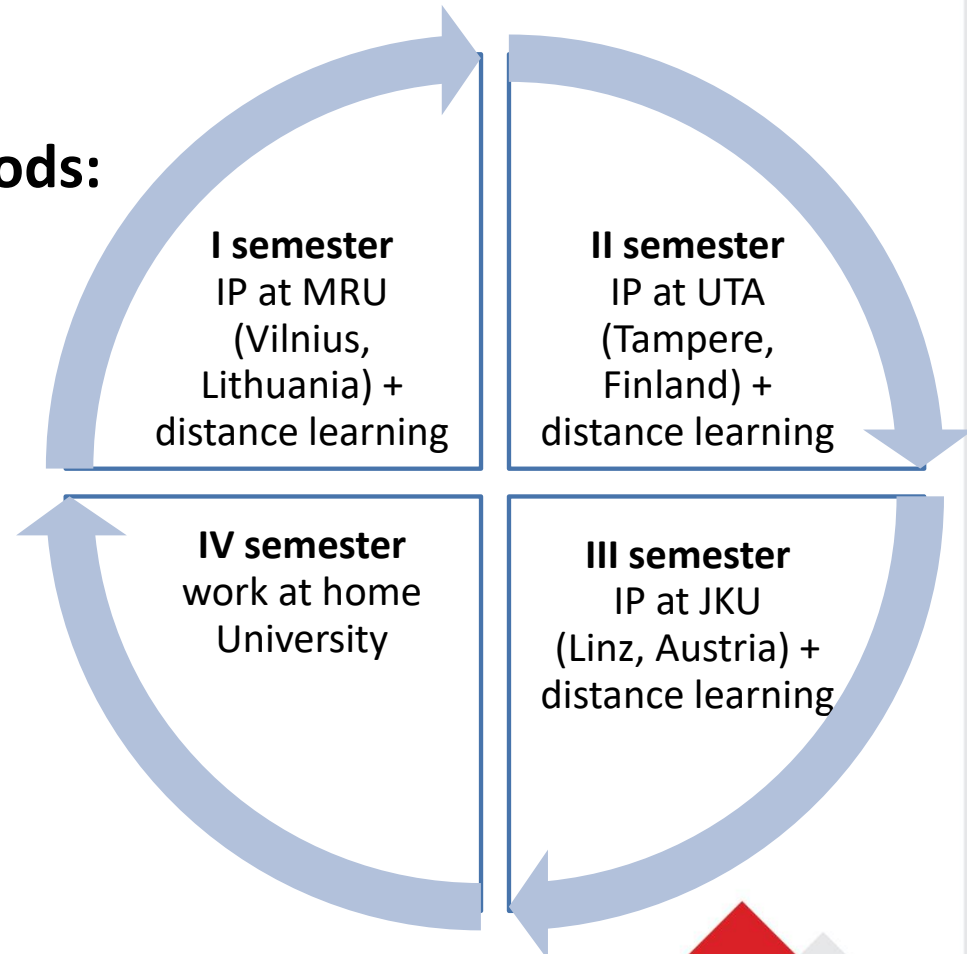
The structure of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- **Duration:** 2 years (4 semesters)
- **Extent:** 120 ECTS credits
30 ECTS in each semester, 1 study subject – 5 ECTS
- **Study period of the program:**
Fall semester: September – January
Spring semester: February – June
- **Programme language:** English

The structure of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

Teaching and learning methods:

- **Intensive programmes**
*2 weeks IP's in turn
in all partner universities*
- **distance learning**
*in online learning
Moodle environment*



The structure of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

The contents of the Study Programme curriculum include the following major subjects:

- Comparative European Welfare Regimes / *courses in Theories of Welfare state, Comparative European Social Policy, European Systems of Work and Welfare*
- National Systems of work and social security / *courses in National systems of work, welfare and social security, Gender and generations in social security systems, Poverty and social exclusion*
- Empirical studies on European systems / *work, welfare and social security: courses in Quantitative and Qualitative research methods*
- Field studies and practicum in EU institutions, international organisations and NGO's
- Master's Thesis Studies

Outcomes of the Joint Master's Programme “Comparative Social Policy and Welfare” (COSOPO)

- The Study Program completes with the final **thesis defense**
- The defense process is organized in accordance with national requirements
- MRU student works are reviewed by UTA and professors of JKU, and they are invited to participate in defense commissions



Outcomes of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- Students of the Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" complete their studies with a **Master degree**.
- The corresponding equivalents in the countries of the partner universities are as follows:
 - Master **of Sociology in Lithuania**
 - Master **of Social Sciences in Finland**
 - Master **of Social Sciences in Austria**

Outcomes of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- The programme serves the purpose to enhance students' career prospects as highly qualified sociologists and social policy / welfare experts in national, European or international organizations.
- The programme offers academic training in the field of welfare management / social policy development.
- Students have an opportunity to increase competence and understanding of methodological issues and sociological research methods.
- The students are be able to continue their studies in PhD level.

Challenges of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- Financing of student's travels and living abroad
- Coordination and harmonization of national differences (requirements of the legal basis, traditions of the universities, etc.)

Advantages of the Joint Master's Programme "Comparative Social Policy and Welfare" (COSOPO)

- **Interdisciplinarity and originality** – students acquire theoretical, methodological and sociological knowledge on social policy and welfare
- International study **quality standards**.
- High **qualifications of teachers**.
- **Multicultural study environment**, opportunities to improve English language skills.
- Modern learning / **teaching technologies** (Moodle).
- **Good (advanced) administration**, based on mutual understanding and interest among partners, continuous and active cooperation, support administrations at all levels of the program implementing universities.

The detailed information on Curriculum, academic staff, academic calendar, etc. of the **Master's Programme**
"Comparative Social Policy and Welfare"
can be find in the special website of the programme:

<http://www.cosopo.it>

Thank you for the attention!

Vida Česnuitytė

v.cesnuityte@mrni.eu

Svajonė Mikėnė

svajone@mrni.eu



MYKOLO ROMERIO
UNIVERSITETAS