



# CIDDD NEWSLETTER

*Newsletter from the Consortium of International Double Degrees*



## About this Publication

The Consortium of International Double Degrees has members from 18 countries. While we come from various cultures, we share a mission – to educate people and help them develop the knowledge and skills to succeed. Higher education has never been more needed. Many people seem to make pivotal decisions based on political reactions and not on facts. Last spring, the main challenge that most nations faced was the lack of vaccine shots. With the vaccine widely available in most developed countries, the main challenge is to vaccinate everyone. We cannot overcome this pandemic unless most of the population is vaccinated.

What can we, as educators, do to encourage people to get the vaccine? One thing that does not work is dismissing or belittling people who are skeptical about the vaccine. There are legitimate concerns regarding the vaccine such as flu-like symptoms, allergic reactions, and blood clotting. Fortunately, grave medical complications are exceedingly rare. We need to educate people about the potential risks of taking the vaccine and the far greater risk of not being vaccinated. It is also essential to listen to people. I had several discussions with my students about their concerns regarding the vaccine.

As educators, we can also help students think about their impact on other people. I challenge my students to think about their obligations to their family, friends, and community. Receiving the vaccine is more than a personal choice; it has an impact on society. The vaccination effort should be global. Studying abroad helps students better understand the world. The CIDDD helps students engage in programs that broaden their perspective and deepens their understandings. Universities can move society towards resolving this global challenge.

Best of Luck this School Year,

Yoav

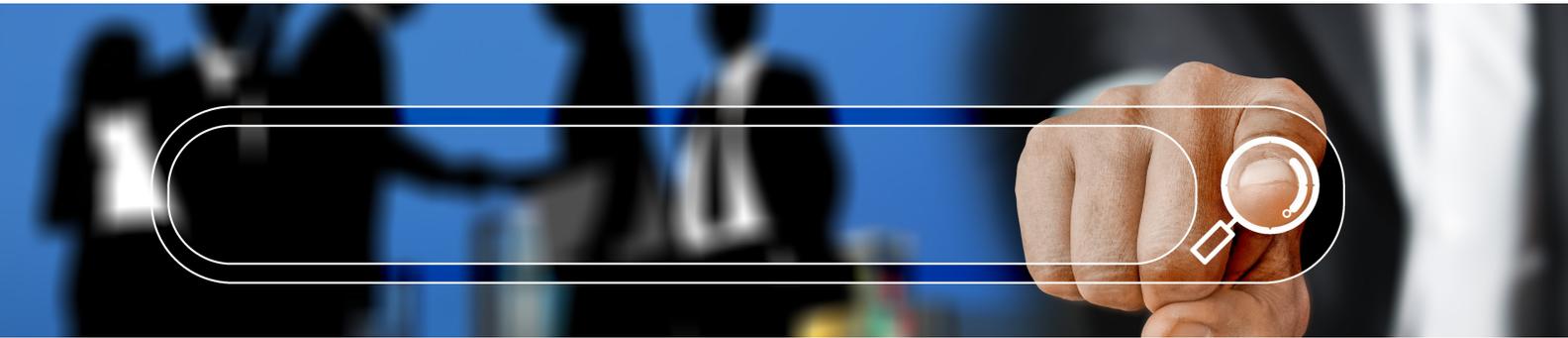
## IN THIS ISSUE

**THE CIDDD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2021**

**CIDDD DOUBLE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP FIRST-PRIZE WINNER 2021: THY THI VAN**

**CIDDD DOUBLE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP SECOND-PRIZE WINNER 2021: EDGARDO**

**COLLABORATING INTERNATIONALLY THROUGH A CODESHARE PROGRAM**



## The CIDD General Assembly in 2021

The 2021 CIDD General Assembly took place online using Zoom. During the assembly, we voted on the budget, selected a new board, and discussed the future of the CIDD. The members of the board are:

**President:** Yoav Wachsmann, Coastal Carolina University

**Vice-President:** Anne-Mari Karppinen, Haaga-Helia UAS

**Treasurer:** Karin Schmitz, ESCE International Business School

**Secretary:** Jana Blštáková, University of Economics Bratislava

Other Board Members:

**Ludmila Štěrbová**, Prague University of Economics & Business

**Galina Zilgalve**, RISEBA University

**Inga Koryagina**, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics

CIDD members also voted to reduce the membership fee to 250 Euros in 2022. With the increasing availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, we hope that we will be able to meet in person in 2022. Our next GA is tentatively scheduled for June 14 and 15 in Karlstad, Sweden, with optional evening activities on June 13. Hopefully, we can meet and work together to increase collaboration among our universities.

### Short profile of our new board member Inga Koryagina

**Professional background:**

I have been teaching at the university level since 1994. And since that time, I have been running my own consultancy business. So I am an example of a playing coach by turning theory into practice.

**Current position:**

I am a Vice Dean and Head of International Division, Faculty of Finance, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics. I have a Ph.D, and I am an Associate Professor of Marketing. I promote the Faculty of Finance on the international level.

**Hobbies and interests:**

I love making beautiful pictures of beautiful moments and showing beauty to the world.

**Expectations of working as a CIDD board member:**

I hope to bring some fresh waves into our collaboration.

**Development ideas for CIDD:**

Could we make letters of gratitude to all our members for different input so their universities would be proud of them?

**A short greeting to our members:**

Dear CIDD colleagues, it's a great opportunity for all of the internationally-minded people to be together, to know our DD programs, to communicate one DD language, and find common bridges doing one great job: bringing different countries into one DD union. Let me wish us strong health and personal enthusiasm on our path!





*"I highly suggest everyone who wants to explore the world to its fullest to go for a double degree program."*

## CIDD DOUBLE DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP FIRST-PRIZE WINNER 2021: Thy Thi Van

This year the CIDD gave out a total of five scholarships to exceptional double degree students and Thy Thi Van received first prize. She is completing her double degree at LAB UAS in Finland (home university) and Wurzburg-Schweinfurt UAS in Germany (host university). To know more about Thy Thi Van's double degree experience, read her story below and don't forget to watch her double degree video as well.

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I come from the Binh Duong province, Vietnam. My first international experience was me coming to Finland as a degree student where I had studied for two years and after that I had chosen Germany as my destination for the double degree program. I speak Vietnamese as my mother language, Thai, English and I'm currently studying German. As of now I'm finishing my Bachelor of International Business and after that of course will try my best to get as much work experience as possible. As my hobbies I enjoy studying new languages which helps me a lot with gaining knowledge of different cultures I come into contact with. Moreover, I quite enjoy travelling, reading books and watching movies!

### What motivated you to apply for the CIDD Double Degree Scholarship?

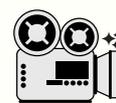
I was motivated to apply for CIDD because I really wanted to share my experience with other students across the globe especially during the current pandemic, I know that many students during this time are afraid of going abroad for study so I just wanted to reignite it.

### Could you tell us about your double degree experience?

I had wanted to study abroad for quite a long time and Finland was my first choice country due to its nature and education quality. To put it shortly, I was not disappointed: Finland had given me many pleasant memories starting from getting quite a few international friends to travelling around the Scandinavia. After two years I had an option to choose between either tacking an internship for three months or going for a full year to another university. I thought that three months is not enough to experience a different culture so I took upon myself to go for a full year even during this pandemic. So, a year from that decision now I'm feeling quite confident in myself. I wasn't able to find more friends here sadly, but well, the pandemic still took its toll on the social aspect of life. As for what was hard during my study abroad, I could say definitely that the culture adaptation is always the hardest part.

### How would you describe your double degree experience in three words?

Best Life Experience



[Click to see Thy Thi Van's double degree video](#)



## Edgardo: CIDDD Double Degree Scholarship Second-prize winner 2021

This year the CIDDD gave out a total of five scholarships to exceptional double degree students and Edgardo received the second prize. He is completing his double degree at Università degli Studi dell'Aquila in Italy (home university) and at Karlstads Universitet in Sweden (host university) To know more about Edgardo's double degree experience, read his story below and don't forget to watch his double degree video as well.

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am from El Salvador. I also have lived in Mexico and thanks to the double degree program I also experienced living in Italy and Sweden. While working, I have been in China, Colombia, USA and Germany. I speak Spanish as my mother tongue. I learned English before the program. During the program I became fluent in Italian and learned the basics of Swedish. At the moment, I am working as an academic writer for an University back in my country. The next step on my career is to study a PhD. I spend my free time reading books, reading scientific news, learning cooking skills, scuba diving and hiking.

### What motivated you to apply for the CIDDD Double Degree Scholarship?

My main motivations were to explore two different study paths, and the experience of living in different European countries. Other motivations were to meet new people, and learn the ways of other cultures.

### Could you tell us about your double degree experience?

Improving my language skills is one of the most valuable assets acquired during the double degree. Also the different perspectives of my universities how to address teaching. Academically I also appreciate the research skills I developed. I would like to remark that I never felt alone during this journey, I met amazing people. As good things came, also some others that were not so good. Something I remember is how tiring it was to deal with the new language and the study topics in English at the same time during the first three months. Also, it took me while to get use to new diet. In a more social side, sometimes I experienced language barriers with other students.

### Do you recommend others to complete a double degree program?

I fully recommend the experience of studying a double degree program. Besides the ups and downs, the fact of having a double degree after your studies may be game changer in your curriculum.

### How would you describe your double degree experience in three words?

Challenging, enjoyable and rewarding.



[Click to see Edgardo's double degree video](#)



# Collaborating Internationally through a Codeshare Program

The COVID-19 pandemic compelled universities to rely on live streaming to educate. Many universities discovered that live streaming could also provide a way to collaborate across borders. International collaboration includes short-term programs, online guest presentations, and codeshare courses. Last year, Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg in Germany developed a codeshare program with four of its partners. The other universities in the program are Hochschule Koblenz RheinAhrCampus in Germany, South-East Finland University, the University of the Cape Coast in Ghana, and Coastal Carolina University in the USA.

## What is a codeshare program?

The codeshare program allows students to take online courses with professors from partner universities alongside students from multiple countries. It started offering courses in the spring of 2021. The program includes weeklong courses in the summer and longer courses in the fall and spring. Students receive a certificate and a grade for completing each course. It is up to each institution to decide how they will recognize these courses.

## What are the advantages of a codeshare program?

The principal advantage of a codeshare program is that students collaborate and engage with students from other universities for a low cost. Since the courses are streamed, students can join them from anywhere in the world without paying for an airplane ticket or a new place to live. Students can take classes not offered by their university. Last summer, students from Coastal Carolina University took a codeshare course on cryptocurrency, which CCU does not offer. A codeshare program can help strengthen international partnerships and additional collaboration like faculty and student exchanges.

## What are the challenges of a codeshare program?

One of the biggest challenges is the difference in time zones. It is particularly true if students are taking the course in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Asian-Pacific region at the same time. The best time to offer a codeshare course is early in the afternoon in Europe. At this time, it is morning in the Americas and evening in Eastern Asia. Universities must find a time that works for different academic calendars. For instance, most US universities start their fall semester in later August, while most universities in Germany start it in October. Using shorter terms from October to December and from March to May works for most countries. Internet connectivity might also become an issue. Therefore, it helps to record and post the lecture for students who cannot join the streaming.

## Should students pay for codeshare courses?

The codeshare program requires reciprocity. Each university contributes courses to the program and agrees to accept students from other universities. In the spirit of collaboration, universities in the program do not charge students from partner universities any fees. It is up to the sending university to determine if its students should pay anything for the program. Each university must also decide how to transfer credits and grades. It helps to have the course grades in percent, which makes it easier to translate them.

## Want to learn more?

The codeshare program is managed by Dr. Ralf Meyer and Ms. Jana Kohl from Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg. If you want to learn more about the program, please look at their website at <https://www.h-brs.de/en/wiwi/codeshare-project> or email them at [codeshare.project@h-brs.de](mailto:codeshare.project@h-brs.de).