

Public report quality of the Master of Leading International Vaccinology Education

Most important conclusions from programme accreditation customised to own conduct by NVAO of the Master of Leading International Vaccinology Education

The [report](#) of the [programme accreditation customised to own conduct](#), published in 2022 mentions some strong points and contains some recommendations for further improvement that have been implemented by the programme. The study programme was accredited by NVAO on the basis of this report.

Below are the most important conclusions from the Programme accreditation customised to own conduct.

Strengths of the programme

The panel unanimously reached a **positive accreditation** decision regarding the Master of Leading International Vaccinology Education (LIVE, an Erasmus+ Joint Master Degree Programme, leading to three national master's degrees. The University of Antwerp jointly offers the programme with a consortium of four partner universities: two in France and two in Spain.

The panel impressions of the programme are positive. The panel noticed how **passionate students, teaching staff and consortium leaders** talked about the programme, and how ambitious they are.

The LIVE consortium deliberately offers a broad and **multidisciplinary** curriculum, as it wants to cover the chain of vaccine from start to finish, an approach that is appreciated by students, alumni and the working field. The **international and intercultural** aspect of the programme is strong, with students from all continents studying and learning together in three countries.

The long-lasting involvement of the **working field**, ensured through associate partnerships, is a particular strength of the programme. It underpins the programme's relevance, and is truly beneficial for students. It introduces them to the breadth of the professional field, they have many opportunities to interact with researchers and future employers which also helps build their network, which in turn contributes to high graduate employment numbers. The **LIVE family network** that students and alumni are part of is another asset of the programme. Altogether, the panel believes that LIVE has a strong profile that is truly unique.

LIVE's curriculum is built on existing master's programmes of five international universities, which poses challenges when it comes to **curriculum development and quality assurance**. The panel encourages the consortium to continue improving the structure and the alignment of the programme. The panel feels that LIVE's overarching quality assurance system is well-developed. Students feel that they can openly share feedback. The panel feels that the consortium is well aware of some of the challenges that come with organising a joint programme. The consortium found ways to deal with these without compromising on quality.

Suggestions for further improvement

The panel recommends to make **competences** more explicit in the curriculum, in particular with regard to soft skills. This also goes for how and when these skills are assessed, and how students receive feedback. The consortium may wish to consider how soft skills could be exploited in the internship.

The programme can also look into possibilities for **staff development** to ensure that all teachers know in what way they contribute to the programme, and how their course contributes to the competences.