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CAMPUS France / TURKEY / 12-14 dec. 2012



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I - FRENCH H.E. SYSTEM overview





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Key figures :

- 2,3 million students
- 80 universities (1,4 M students)
- more than 200 engineering institutes
- more than 200 business & management schools
- 120 schools of arts

+ more than 3 000 various institutions, mostly private



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Feature 1 : a dual system :

- Universities : no entrance selection / low fees
- "Grandes Ecoles" : engineering / business : 2+3 system

Current trend : towards unification ?

- both are complying with Bologna process
- merging trends involving GE/univ.



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Feature 2 : several HE tracks

1 - University track : Bac. → Bachelor → Master → PhD

2 - “Grandes Ecoles” track : Bac. → 2 y. preparatory cycle (CPGE) → selection → 3 y diploma or Bac. → selection → 5 y diploma

3 - Short/Professional tracks : BTS or DUT : 2 years after Bac. (focusing on technology or services) / Prof. Bachelor (L3)

4 - Medical and para-medical studies (dentistry, pharmacy) : Bac. → 1 year common core → selection → 6 to 11 y. diploma



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Feature 3 : a public system :

- all Universities are public
- HE is state funded (90 % state endowment + fees + misc.)
- University is under the supervision of MOHER / differences for some establishments (agri - defence...)
- Tuition fees are very low (180 to 600 €) but true cost is roughly 10 000 € / year / student

Current trend : debate on HE financing / foreign students / costly programmes

Feature 4 - a non selective system ?

- entrance at university vs Grandes Ecoles
- Bachelor
- Master : selection for M2
- selection for PhD

Current trend : selective tracks within univ. (ex : Toulouse School of Economics)



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Feature 5 - a BMD/Bologna complying system :

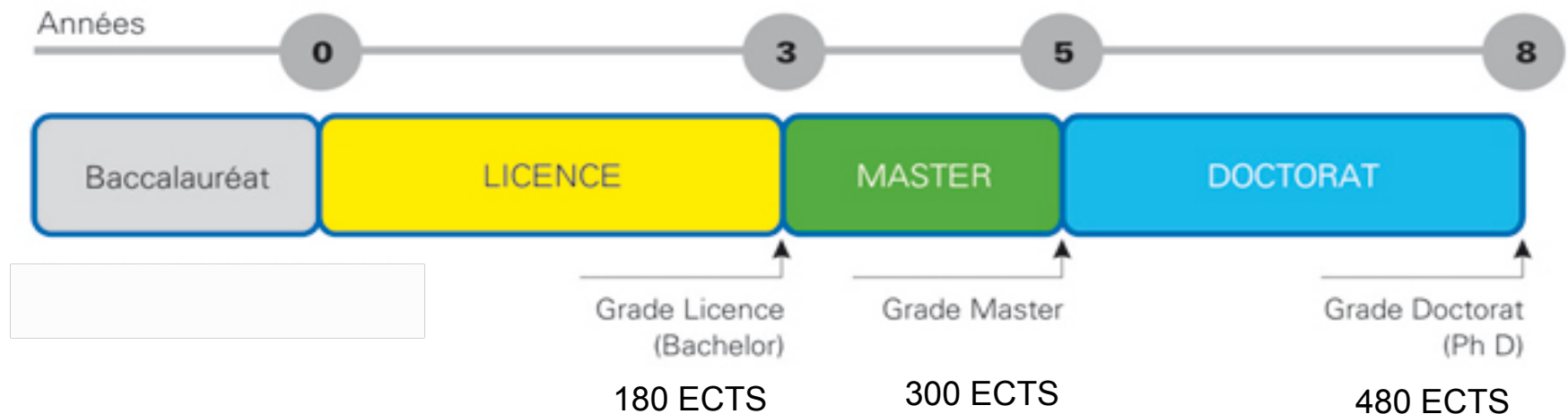
- since 2002 : BMD 3-5-8 or 180/300/480 ECTS
 - / Bachelor : common core (ex : law)
 - / Master 1 : pre-specialization (ex : international law)
 - / Master 2 : specialization (ex : international business law)
- applying to Grandes Ecoles



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European B-M-D

- same higher education scheme
- diplomas' recognition
- credit transfer (ECTS) – diff. American credit syst.





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Feature 6 – a state accredited diploma system

- National diplomas BMD
- Engineering diplomas (now complying with BMD system)
- University diplomas (pay attn to LLM/advanced Masters = **MASTE...**)
- Diplomas issued by private institutions



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Feature 7 – Highly qualified faculty members:

- formal lectures : prof or assistant prof holding a PhD degree + qualification for teaching
- tutorials : PhD students
- professional degrees : professionals



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II - HE recent reforms / achievements





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2007 - LRU (liberty & responsibility university)

2006 - PRES : HE unions / federations

2010 - Idex competition



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2007 – LRU (liberty & responsibility university)

- Also named law on the “autonomy”
- 2 main changes :
 - Governance – one main board with limited number of members (20)
 - More flexibility in HR management (wage bill now granted to univ.)

But : national diplomas are still state accredited / tuition fees are set by the MOHER



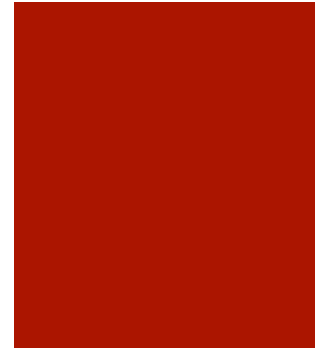
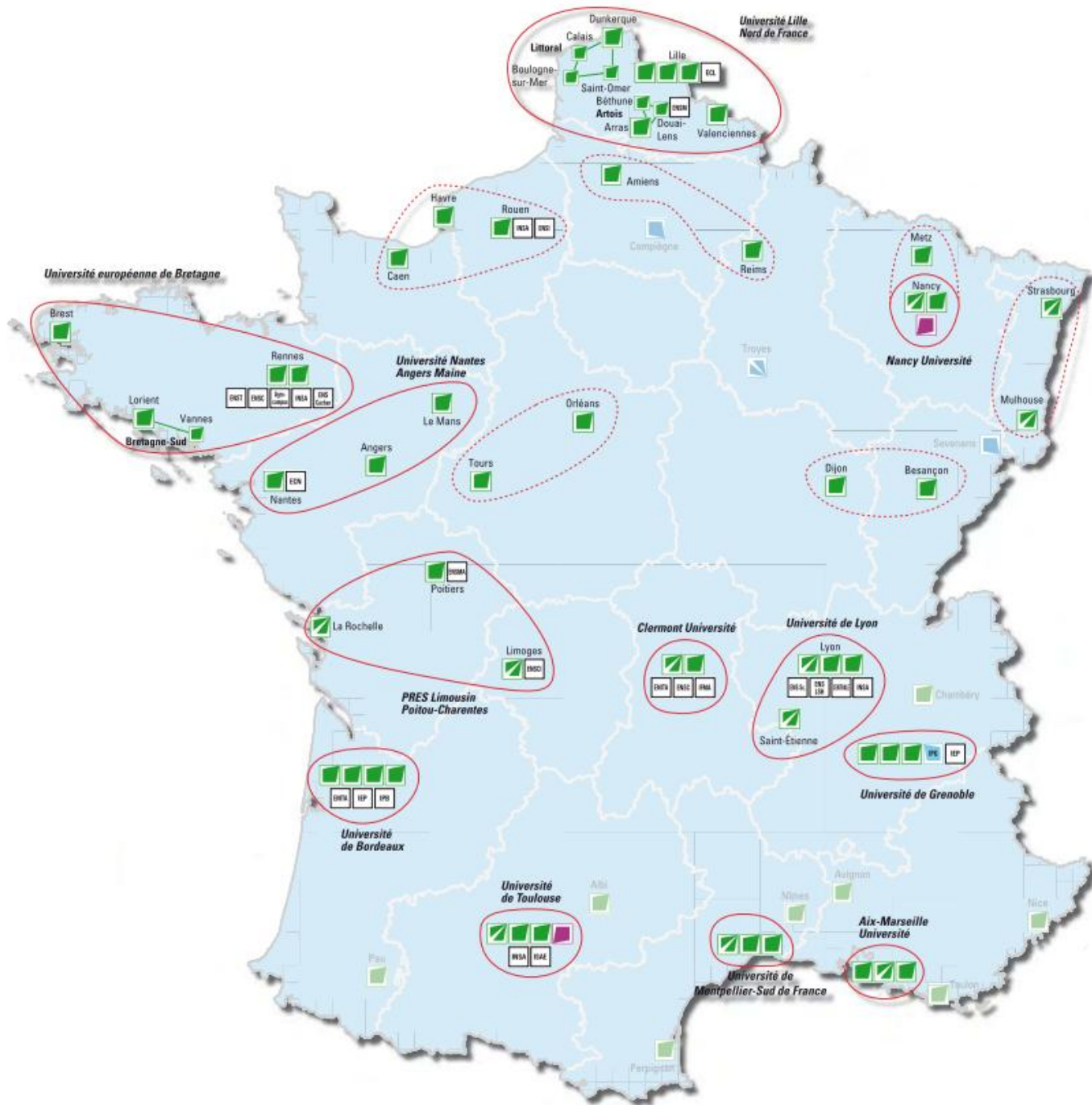
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2006 - “stronger together” : launching of *Pôles de Recherche et d’Enseignement Supérieur* (PRES)

Goals – create + reinforce synergies btw HE&R actors within a region/site (economies of scale) → reach critical size in a global knowledge society competition

Actors : universities / engineering institutes / research bodies / local governments / firms...

Approx 25 PRES in France at present



PRES – Definition

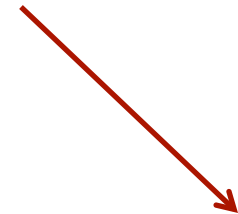
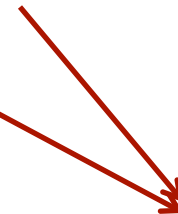
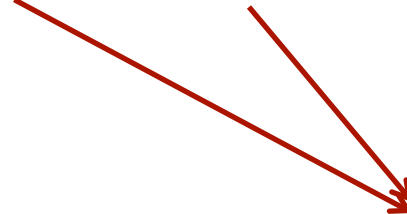
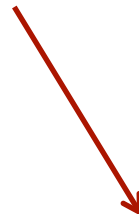
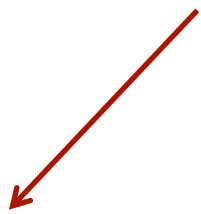
- PRES = name is a misnomer
- Research and Education activities are still operated by UT members, not by UT itself
- PRES is a cooperative body (under construction) involving several HE institution + research bodies
- PRES is not (at present) a University providing training programmes and issuing diplomas (except PhD degree for UT)
- “More than a network / less than a merger”



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PRES - UNIVERSITY of TOULOUSE (6 founders)

UT1 - UT2 - UT3 - INPT - INSA - ISAE



Law Eco Man / Human. Langu / Sciences, techno, medecine / Engineering / Aeronautics



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PRES - UNIVERSITY of TOULOUSE (8 associate members)

Sc. Po. – *political sciences*

ENAC – *pilots training*

Sup. de Co. : *business school*

Ecole des Mines : *engineering*

ENFA – *agriculture*

ICAM - *engineering*

Centre Universitaire Champollion – *non-specialized univ.*

ENS Archi. De Toulouse - *architecture*



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PRES-Toulouse – Key figures

- 14 HE institutions + 4 research bodies
- 110 000 students
- 10 000 researchers / professors
- 15 PhD schools
- 800 PhD delivered each year
- 12 % foreign students
- budget = 1 Billion €/year (incl. research)



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PRES activities and achievements (examples)

Research – support unit for technology transfer from labs to firms (SATT) / support unit for EU call for proposal (research financing) / single signature for research publications

PhD – 15 PhD schools are working together : common strategy / shared actions sp. for students employability after PhD / provide training courses to all PhD students



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PRES activities and achievements (examples)

Students services – summer sessions / language course / housing support / rental guarantee / immigration support / cultural tours

Int. Relations – single gate to all bodies / overseas offices or campuses

«Investing for the future» national programme

- 2010 – French gov. Initiative = invest 35 billions to strengthen sectors in which we are behind
- out of 35 billions, 17 billions € to boost HE & research
- Target – rise in international rankings / focus substantial resources on 5 to 10 “large” Universities in France



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“Investissement d’Avenir” programme opened several call for proposal :

- LABEX : fund innovative labs
- EQUIPEX : finance high tech equipment
- IDEFI : support pedagogical initiatives
- IDEX - label and finance a global research & education campus project (*flagship* of all calls)

Result : 8 univ. (PRES) awarded / committed to change the governance + attract best faculty/students → rise up in rankings

4 consortia in Paris / Bordeaux / Strasbourg /
Toulouse / Marseille



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III – Programmes offered in English

Programmes in English



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Not a national policy / depends on each university strategy

Significant trend / Increasing number in France

Level : few in B / more in M (sp. M2) / PhD

Disciplines : common in management / economics / quite rare in humanities / new trend in engineering + law

Programmes in English



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Bilingual programmes required to master 2 languages ...

Situation in University of Toulouse:

- current academic offer*
- PhD*
- policy : recruit francophile / turn them into francophone*
- higher tuition fees*



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IV – PhD studies





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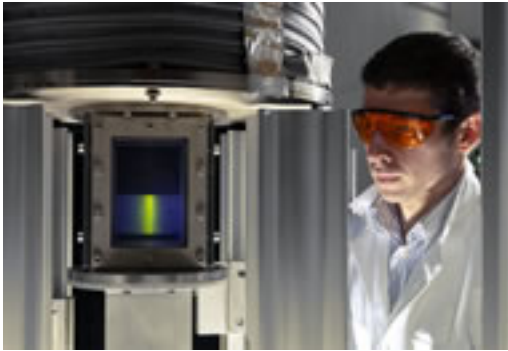
PhD programme features

→ Priority for most of HE institution : attract foreign students

→ More than 40 % PhD students are foreigners

→ National diploma issued by the MOHER

→ Recognized within 27 EU countries (480 ECTS) & beyond



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PhD stakeholders

- Supervisor(s) is responsible for the selection of the research subject + research follow-up + thesis viva + jury choice
- University is responsible for administrative registration (one for each academic year) + diploma issuance
- PhD school is responsible for the selection process of the PhD applicant and the general courses offered (langu. / method...)
- Lab. is the host unit, in charge of providing the research environment



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PhD academic requirements

- Access to PhD is always selective even for French
- PhD candidates shall hold a Master degree or equivalent diploma
- If the diploma is a M2, it shall be a M2 “research track”
- If the applicant holds a M2 “professional track”, the PhD school may require the completion of additional training modules focusing on research (often, the writing of a Master thesis)
- Selection process involves the PhD school and the supervisor (each school has its own recruitment/selection policy).

PhD financial issues / requirements (UT)



- Toulouse policy (sp. in sciences) : each Phd applicant must have a funding for 3 years / amount : 1 000 € / months. Does not apply to social sciences and humanities.
- Universities are offering “PhD contracts” (1 350 € net per month) + additional compensation if tutorials to deliver
- Within IDEX : **new** PhD excellence scholarship programme
- Other kind of scholarships / contracts involving foreign countries, firms, local governments (Region...)

PhD duration



- in the past, no maximum duration requirement applied
- at present, PhD schools policies are more strict :
 - normal duration is 3 years ,
 - most of the funding are offered for 3 to 4 years max.,
 - derogative extensions (waivers) are more and more exceptional (demands have to be motivated)
- for foreigners, PhD student permit may not be renewed after the 5/6th registration.

Ccl : PhD students are encouraged to complete their thesis within 4 to 5 years maximum

PhD language (UT policy)



- UT policy is to attract foreign students at PhD level
- UT is encouraging PhD in other languages : English / Spanish...
- This issue has to be discussed with the supervisor
- In certain fields (humanities...), writing the thesis in another language than French may drive to problems such as :
 - access to documentary resources in English or other...
 - thesis viva requires a jury mastering this language



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PhD co-supervision (or joint supervision)

- PhD students has 2 supervisors : one in France / one in another country
- an agreement is signed by the 2 universities
- a double registration is required but in general, the student pays the tuition fee in one university only
- the contract shall provide an agenda of the mobility → minimum of 30 % of the time in one country (sandwich)
- the 2 universities are issuing their diploma (double diploma) except if a joint diploma has been negotiated (one diploma with 2 stamps)



PhD / training courses offered (UT)

- All PhD students are offered
 - language courses (French or English)
 - methodology courses
 - scientific sessions (“doctoriales”)
 - job research sessions
 - ...



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Thank you for your attention !

