

TRANSLATED FROM DUTCH

# Memo

To The Executive Board  
From Eu-HEM management (ESHPM)

Re Increase in Eu-HEM tuition fees  
Date 16 June 2021

---

## Introduction

Since the 2015 academic year, the European Master in Health Economics and Management (Eu-HEM) has been a joint master degree programme accredited by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The Eu-HEM is an international programme organised by the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), the University of Bologna, the Management Center Innsbruck and the University of Oslo.

This memorandum explains the legal basis and substantive arguments for increasing the Eu-HEM tuition fees. At present, EUR collects the tuition fees for all Eu-HEM students. Students from the Netherlands and the EEA member states pay the statutory tuition fees (amounting to €2,143 in the 2020-2021 academic year) and students from outside the EEA pay the fixed institutional fees (amounting to €6,000). Through the international partnerships and coordination between the four educational institutions, and the unique design of the programme, Eu-HEM has extra costs for running the programme in relation to regular courses of study, as a result of which the course operates at a loss and this could be at the expense of the quality of the education. The Eu-HEM Consortium Board therefore proposes to increase the tuition fees to €2,550 and to follow the annual percentage increases in the Dutch statutory fees, in order to enable optimal functioning and coordination of the programme and to provide students with the best-quality education.

## Legal basis

In the Netherlands, the statutory tuition fees are fixed for institutes of higher education, and it is not possible to raise the fees. For that reason, the Eu-HEM consortium proposes to arrange for the University of Oslo to collect the tuition fees for students starting their courses from the 2022-2023 academic year (cohort 8). The University of Oslo is currently already working on the administration relating to applications for and admission to the programme, as a result of which these processes for collecting tuition fees will be simplified and made more efficient for both the consortium and for the students.

The Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) makes it possible for a partner university to collect tuition fees. In accordance with the letter of the law, EUR may cooperate in the transfer of the money flow. In the spirit of the WHW, the urgent advice is to introduce changes to the money flow only with justification and on the basis of new facts/calculations.

Article 7.3(f) of the WHW provides as follows:

*'1 - The management of the relevant Dutch institute of higher education is authorised to set tuition fees for students who have enrolled for a joint course or a joint specialisation with a foreign institution at zero, or at a lower rate than the tuition fees in Article 7.45.*

*2 - The second sentence of Article 7.46(2) applies likewise to the determination of the tuition fees referred to in paragraph 1.'*

Based on the above Article of the WHW, EUR has drawn the conclusion that it must be possible to set tuition fees for students from the Netherlands and the EEA member states collected by EUR at €0 and to collect higher tuition fees from the University of Oslo, provided that this is properly substantively justified.

### Substantive justification

The substantive reasoning underlying the increase in tuition fees for the Eu-HEM master degree programme is based on the fact that with the current budget, the programme will operate at a loss of €33,000 during cohort 8 (2022-2024 academic years) with tuition fees of €2,230 in the first year and €2,274 in the second year and with 80 students (consisting of 73 EER and seven non-EEA students). If the number of non-EEA students were to fall still further, the loss would rise to €49,000 (with five non-EEA students) and to €86,000 (with zero non-EEA students). See the Appendix for the underlying draft budget for cohort 8.

The reasons for the loss are extra cost items that are specific to the Eu-HEM and distinguish this programme from regular courses of study. Eu-HEM has an international character and the programme consists of extensive collaboration between four different European universities, each with different laws, regulations and educational systems. The extra costs that Eu-HEM incurs in relation to regular study programmes can be divided into the following components:

- **Additional coordination of the programme and between the universities.**  
In order to coordinate everything well between the four partner universities, supra-university coordination is necessary for all aspects that also apply for regular study courses, such as in the fields of student affairs (from enrolment to graduation), curriculum development, internal quality assurance, examination and accreditation. Furthermore, extra coordination of education is necessary, for example in the different specialisation tracks in the programme, which are always provided jointly by two universities. This supra-university coordination is provided by four programme directors (for the management), four local coordinators (for the organisation of education and student affairs) and eight track committee members (for education), and is directed from EUR by a Chair of the Board, supported by a secretary and a policy-making officer.

- **The mobility of staff between the different universities.**  
The organisation of physical meetings of employees with coordinating, monitoring and supporting roles is necessary on a regular basis. In addition, lecturers provide education at other universities, organise joint activities for all Eu-HEM students and take part in these activities.
- **Additional activities for partnership, social cohesion and international labour market orientation.**  
A specific extra cost item within the Eu-HEM is the deployment of different activities aimed at investment in the diverse international student population. Because Eu-HEM students are together at a single location in the first semester, but then follow and complete their studies spread over the four partner universities, extra is invested during the first semester in activities aimed at mutual cohesion and collaboration within the Eu-HEM programme, and in follow-up semesters in the development of a comparable set of skills and in international labour market orientation. These extra activities make Eu-HEM a successful programme that is distinguished from regular master degree programmes in Europe and produces students who represent a major gain for the labour market.

In the past five years, Eu-HEM has been able to absorb the shortfall by deploying part of the Erasmus Mundus subsidy granted for coordination and student activities of the regular curriculum. However, this does not constitute a future-proof situation, firstly because the Erasmus Mundus source of funding is no longer present from the start of the upcoming academic year; our 2020 application was rejected. It is not yet known whether our 2021 application will be approved. As Erasmus Mundus funding is (temporarily) no longer available, it has become clear that we need to be able to run the regular educational programme at all times, without making use of incidental funds (subsidies). The 2021 Erasmus Mundus application therefore aimed for (extra) activities that do boost the quality of the education, but do not interfere with the continuation of the course on cancellation.

Due to the situation described above, we see a need to raise the tuition fees for the Eu-HEM to €2,550 on a structural basis from the 2022-2023 academic year (cohort 8), then following the indexation of the Dutch statutory tuition fees on an annual basis (about 2% per year). As a result, a high-quality and financially sound Eu-HEM programme will be assured. Without this increase in tuition fees, it will be necessary to cut back on the coordination and/or activities that make the Eu-HEM a unique and attractive international programme. Our view is that this will be at the expense of the (educational) quality and represents a threat to the continuity of the programme. For the time being, we can continue with this limited increase, partly because for 50%, we benefit as a consortium from the low statutory tuition fees in Norway and Austria.

We request the approval of the Executive Board and the University Council for the proposed increase.