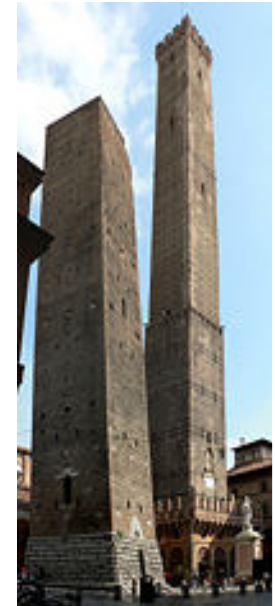


Introducing

Ghent University Association

Prof. dr. Luc François,
Director

- Bologna Declaration, **1999**: catalyst for educational reform
- Structural decree **4th of April 2003**: legal foundation of associations in Flanders
 - Collaboration between one university and one or more university colleges
 - 5 in Flanders
(Antwerpen – Brussel – Gent – Hasselt – Leuven)
- Responsibilities of the associations:
 - Some determined by decree: art. 101: e.g. rationalisation of educational programmes, “academization”, study career guidance, internationalization, organise “Recognition of prior (experiential) learning”, ...
 - Others assigned by the institutions



Unique form of cooperation in Europe (1/2)

- Establish a clear **(binary) educational system**: professional and academic Bachelors and Masters
- Increase the research potential of university colleges (referred to as "***Academization***")
- Increase **scientific output** in Flanders
- **Avoid fragmentation of funds** for research and higher education



Unique form of cooperation in Europe (2/2)

- **Scales** advantages
- **Democratisation** by internal mobility between university colleges and university
- Joint **quality assurance** mechanisms
- Optimal/rational **offer** of educational programmes
- **Link** to other educational providers, local/regional/national authorities
- ...

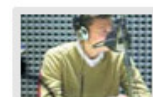


- **Ghent University** 
- **University College Gent** 
- **University College Arteveldehogeschool** 
- **University College West-Flanders** 



- Campuses in Gent, Aalst, Brugge and Kortrijk (provinces of East and West Flanders)
- In all scientific and academic fields:
 - 200 basic courses (Bachelors and Masters)
 - 160 postgraduate courses
 - fundamental & applied research
 - services to society
 - lifelong learning

- ± 65,000 students
 - ± 33.000 at Ghent University
 - ± 16.000 at University College Ghent
 - ± 10.000 at University College Arteveldehogeschool
 - ± 5.000 at University college West Flanders
- ± 10,000 staff



- Creation of higher education area in Flanders
- Broadened centre for knowledge, development, research and training
- Active pluralistic co-operation, respect for identity of each institution
- Preferential partnership



Structure Ghent University Association

Chairman

Mr. Luc Van den Bossche

General Assembly

(49 representatives of the 4 members)

Board of Directors

(25 persons from the General Assembly)

Executive Board

(10 persons, charged with daily management, chairman = Rector Ghent University)

**Technical
Experts Committees**

**Domain
Committees**

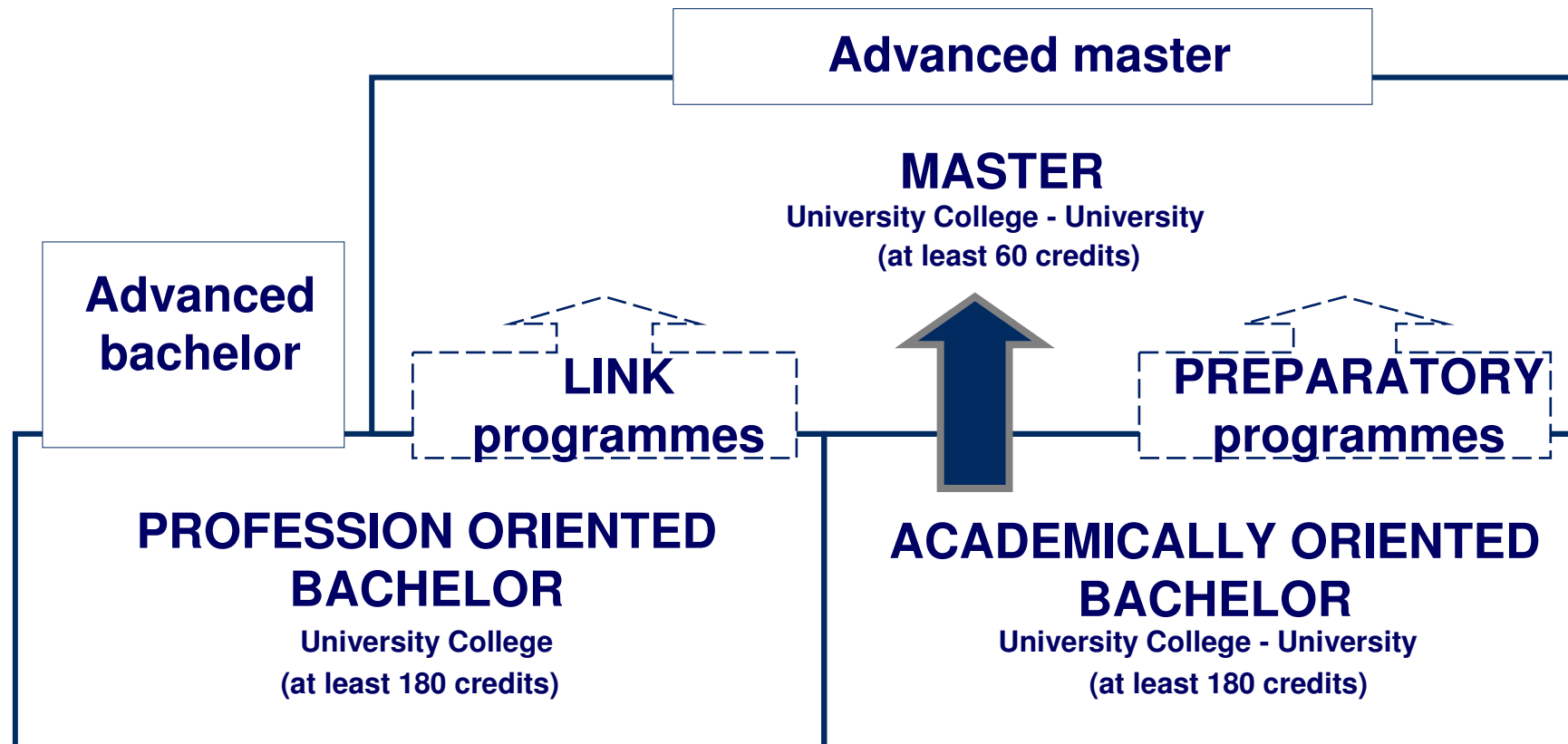
**Advisory Committee
Social Facilities**

**Steering Committee
Electr. Learning Environment**

Director & Executive staff situated in “Het Pand”

creation of higher education area

Bachelor – Master structure



creation of higher education area

- Transfer through increased familiarity with each other's curricula and flexible learning opportunities
- Sharper differentiation of course profiles
 - ⇒ The AUGent does not lead to sameness
- Students can be exempted from courses based on (1) credits acquired elsewhere (another programme, another institution), and (2) competences acquired outside a formal learning context (i.e. prior experiential learning)
- 3 joint master programmes: social work, nursing & midwifery, tourism



1. 'Academization' of the 2-cycle programmes at the university colleges:

Linking education to the mission 'research' ; Organisation and follow-up within the Domain Committees and the Association Research Council; Services-to-society and lifelong learning

2. Harmonizing regulations between members of the Ghent University Association: research, valorisation, representation in Research Committees, ...

3. Stimulation of collaboration in research: association research groups and projects, frame agreement for PhD-students, ...



- Accomplishment of main assignment of the Association: fulfilment of academization: timing uncertain
- Rationalization of educational programmes based on quantitative and qualitative parameters
- Clear binary structure: (under discussion)
 - (academic Bachelors) and Masters in University?
 - Professional bachelors in University Colleges?
 - AND: close (structural) cooperation between these?

