



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK



Problems of Recognition
In Making Erasmus

PROBLEMS OF RECOGNITION IN MAKING ERASMUS

By Tony Filoni and Daphne Scherer

ESN PRIME Team

Final PRIME conference, Brussels, 22 January 2010

Outline

- ✱ Information provision
- ✱ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
- ✱ Learning Agreement
- ✱ Recognition



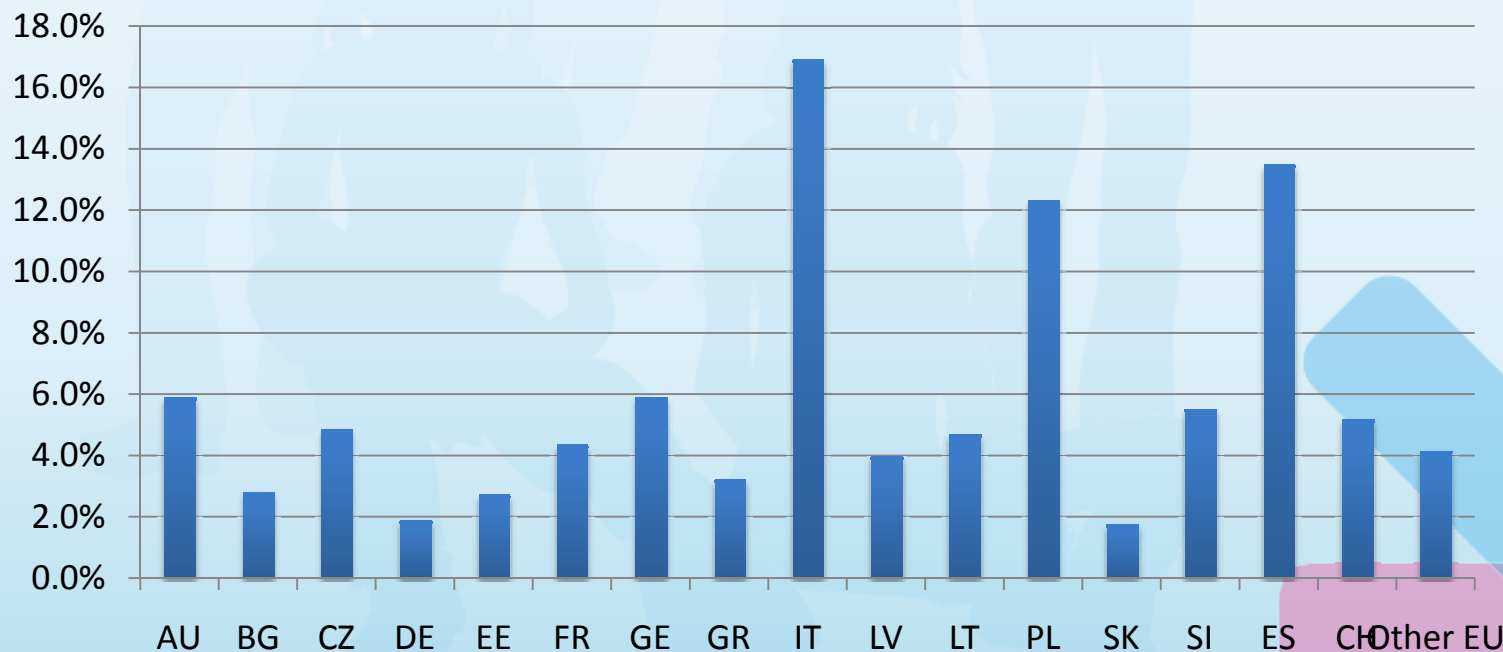
Methodology

- ✱ 2 Questionnaires: institutions / students
- ✱ Universities interviewed by local PRIME coordinators
- ✱ Students online survey



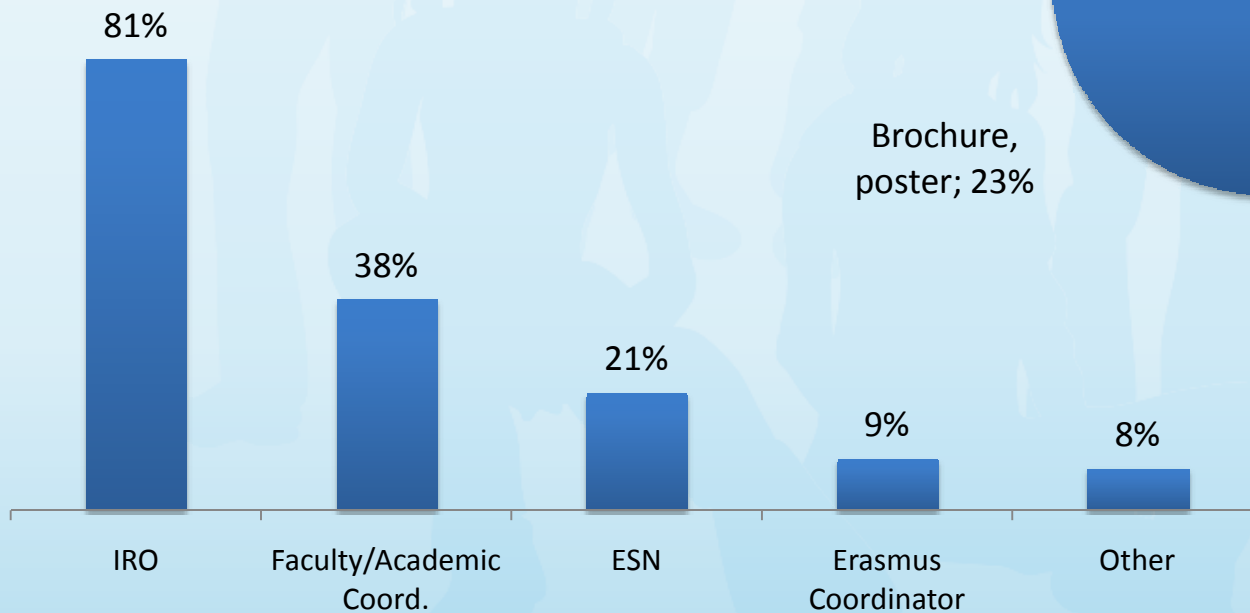
PRIME respondents

- ✿ 100 universities from 24 countries
- ✿ 2367 students from 52 countries
 - 2251 Erasmus students

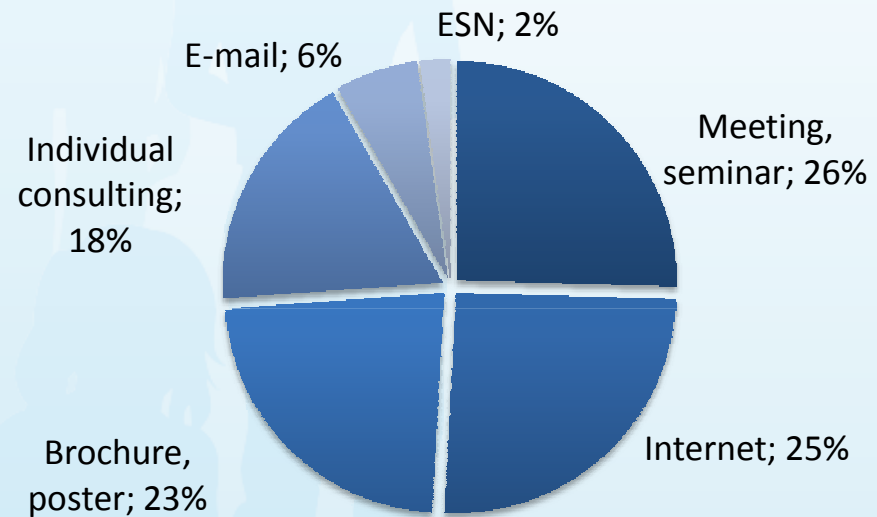


Information Provision

Information providers

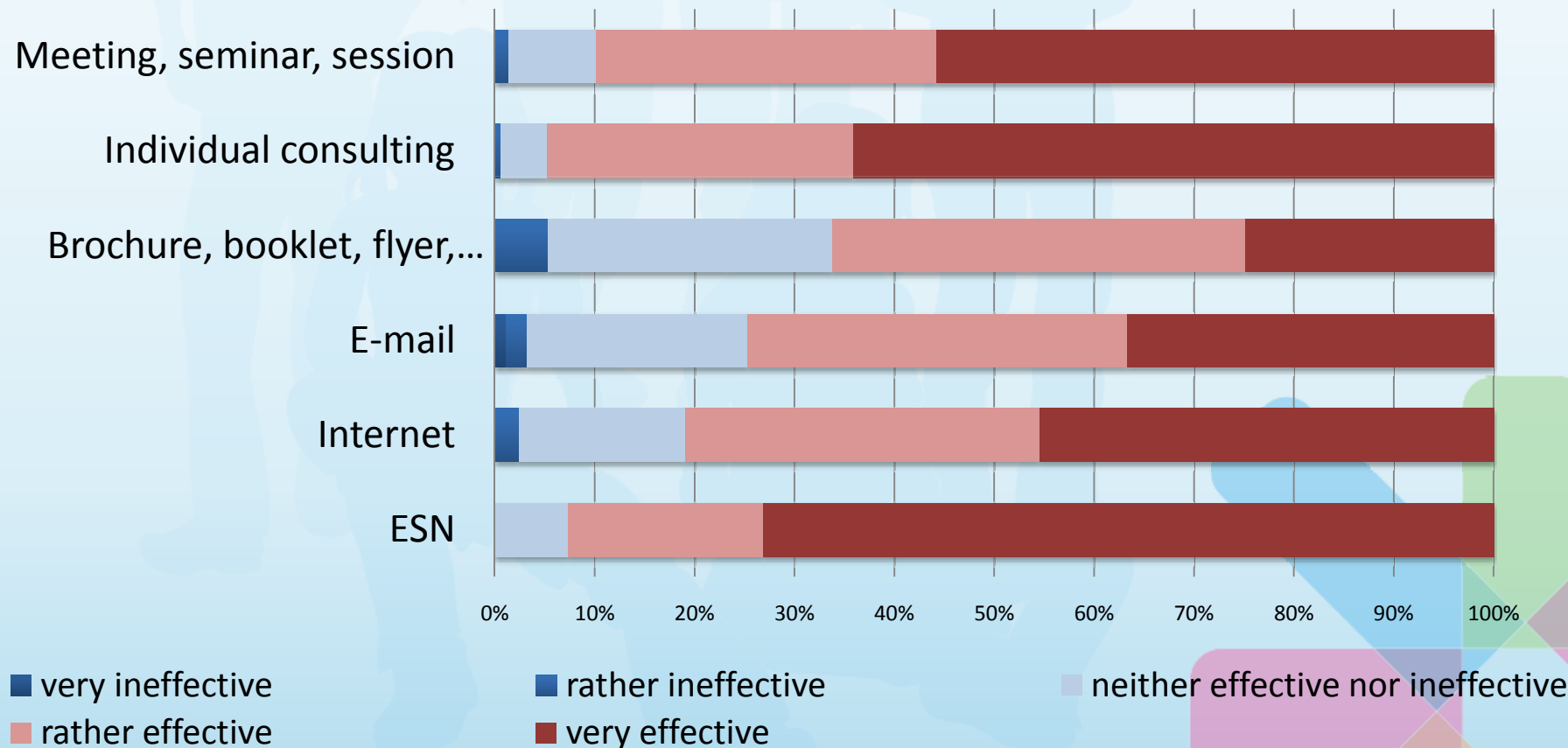


Information by the type of activity



Information Provision

Effectiveness of the means (n=119)

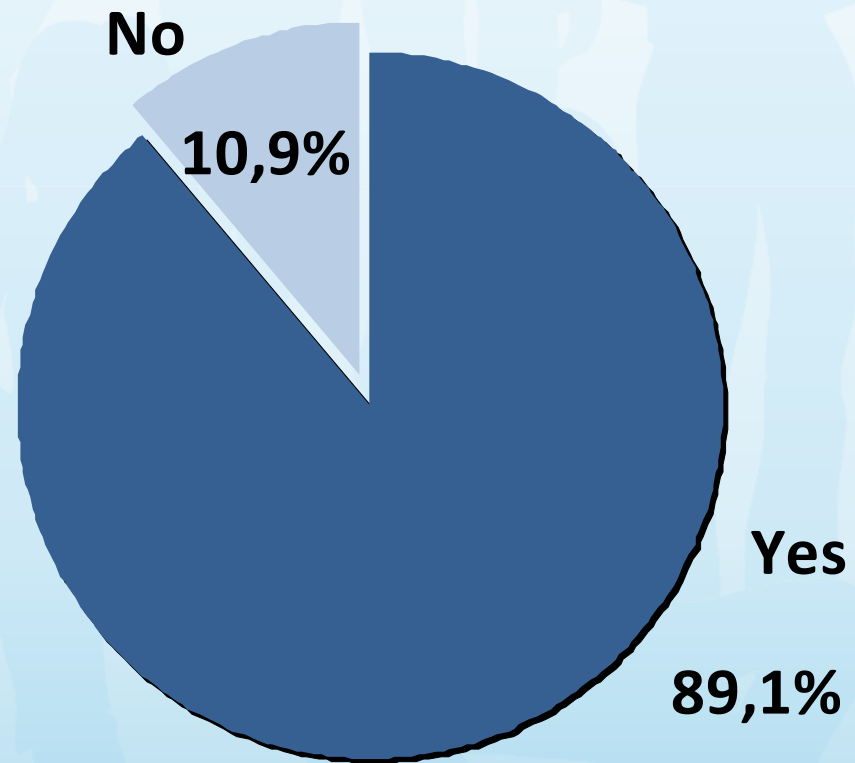


ECTS

- ✱ European Credit-Transfer and -accumulation System
- ✱ Part of the Bologna Process
- ✱ Calculation based on workload
- ✱ 1 ECTS = 25-30 hours of work (for all academic activities related to the outcomes)

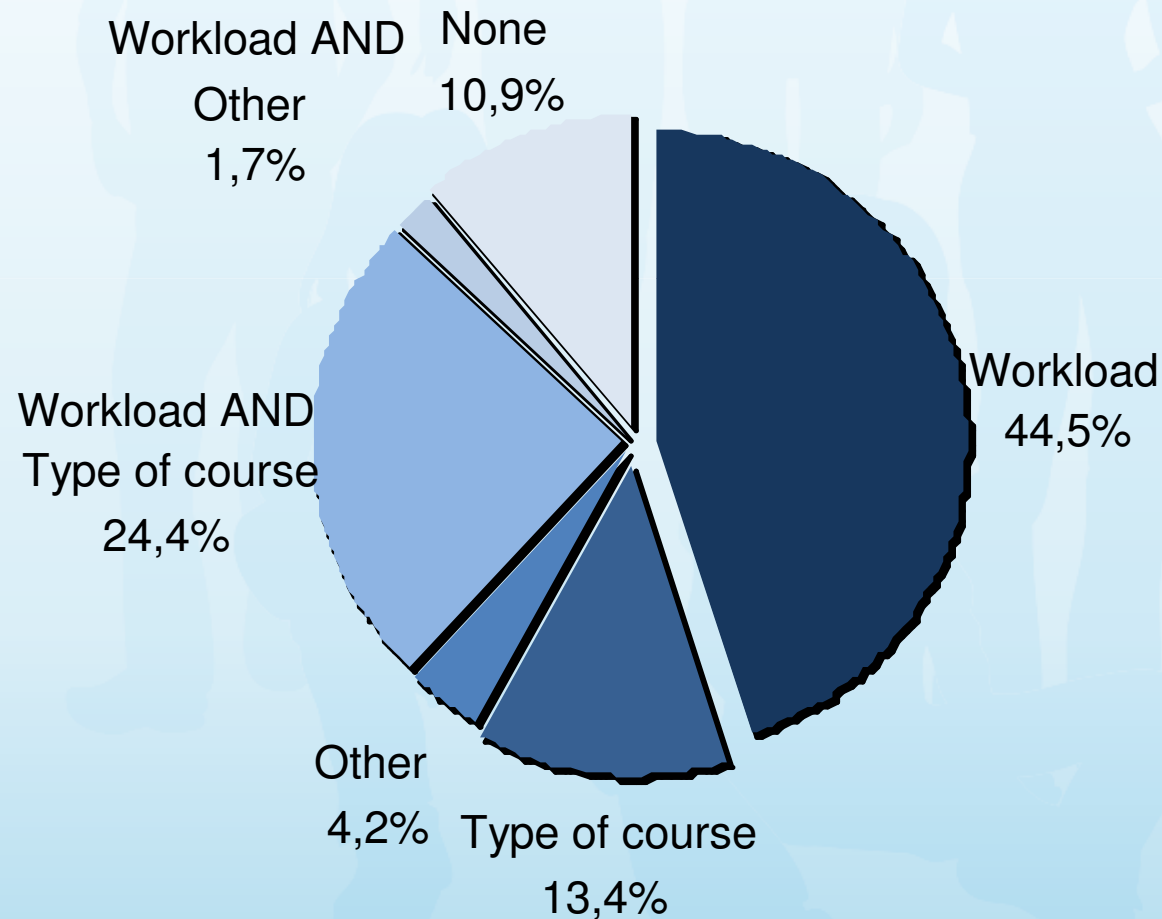
ECTS

Use of ECTS credits (n=119)



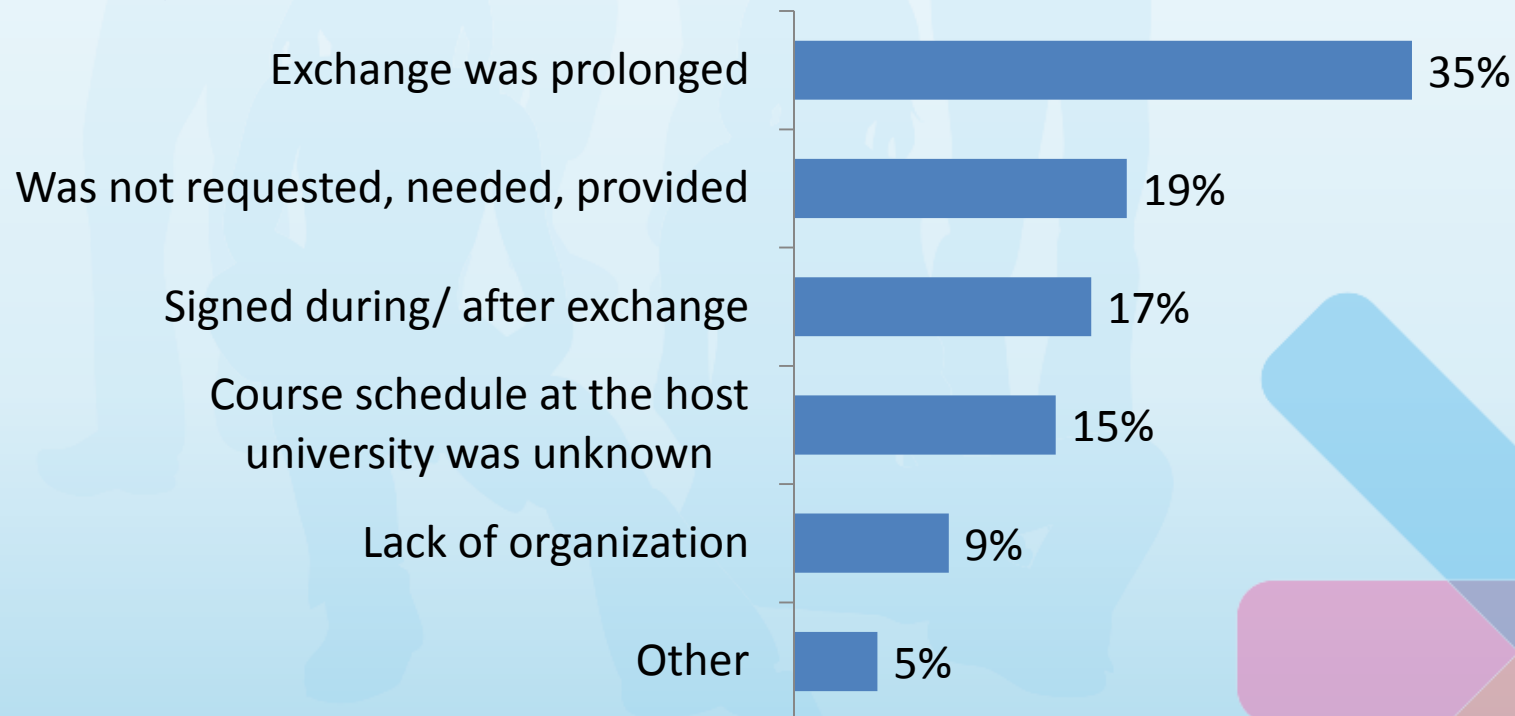
ECTS

Calculation of ECTS credits (2019)



Learning Agreement

- * 95,8% of institutions use LAs
- * 93% of students had a complete Learning Agreement before departure.
- * If not, because:

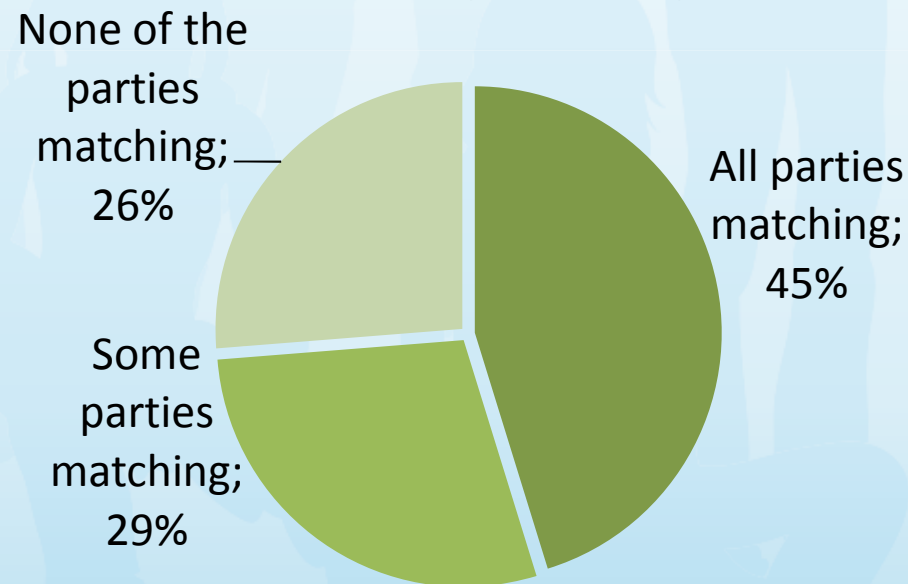


Learning Agreement and Recognition

- * Authority issues & mismatch
- * No regulations
- * 1 year students
- * Prolongation of studies
- * Individual professors are involved

Learning Agreement and Recognition (students' perspective)

Signing the LA and recognizing courses (n=2251)



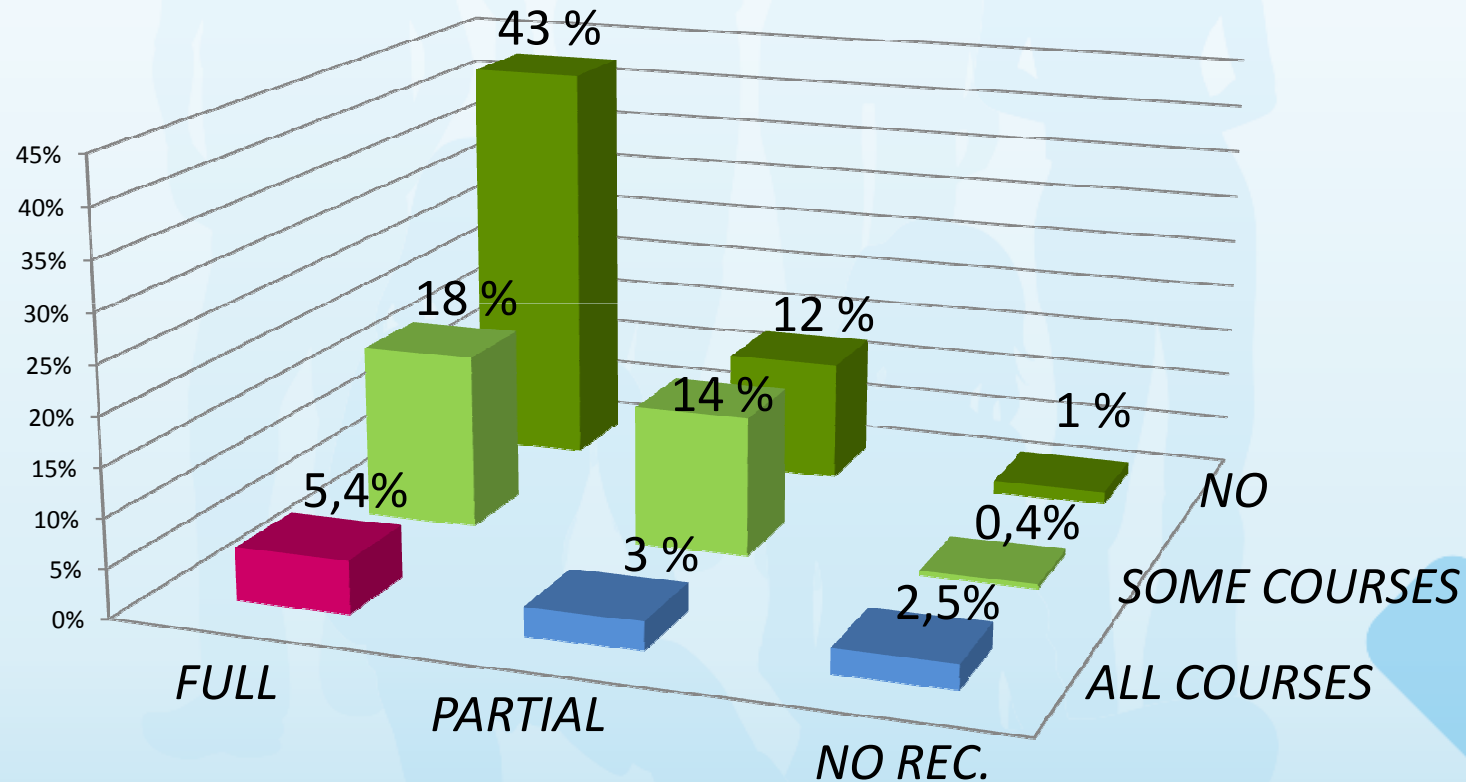
What is full recognition?



“Recognition is given to all credits associated with successfully completed educational components undertaken as part of any approved learning agreement; results should be issued and transmitted promptly” - ECTS Users’ Guide p.26

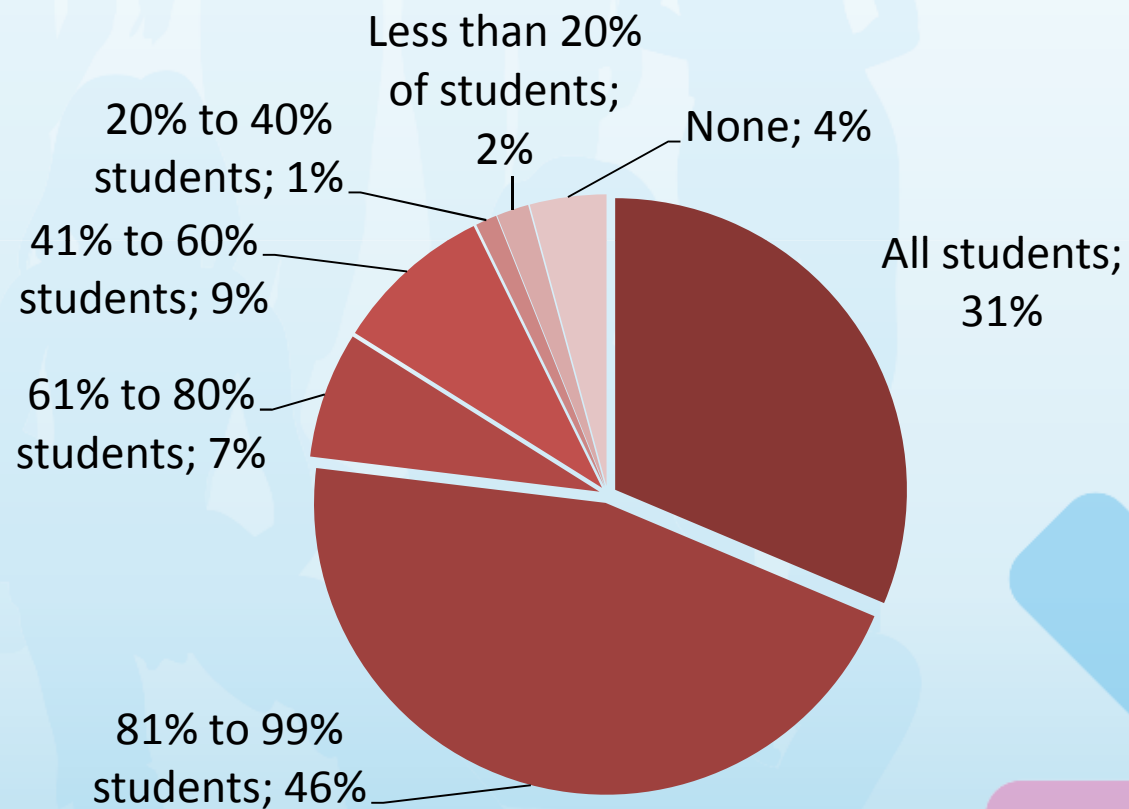
Results - Recognition

Recognition and exams at home university

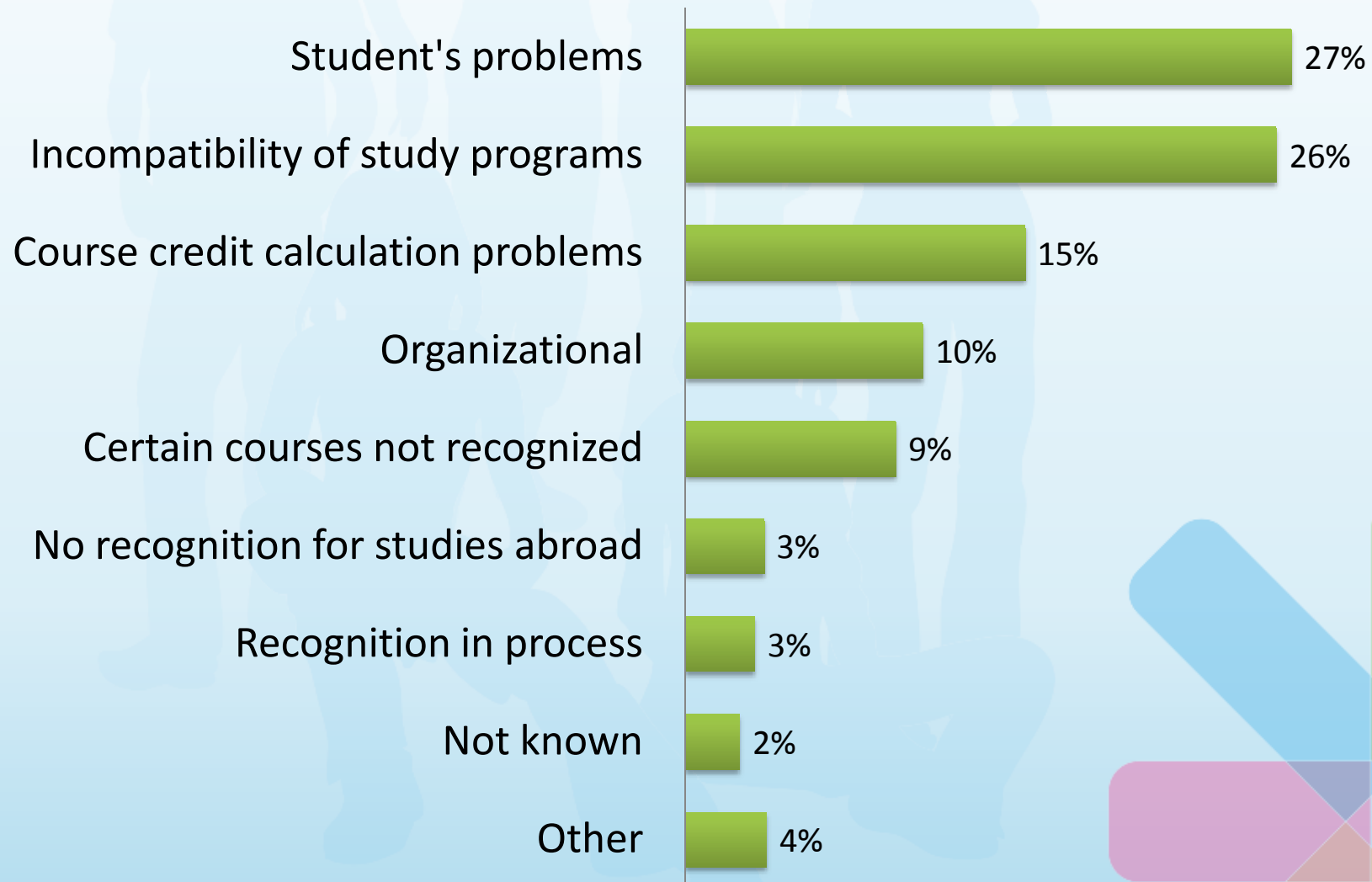


Institutions' Perspective

Universities' view to full recognition (n=111)



Recognition Challenges



Incompatibility of Study Programmes



“Not enough 100 percent matches between available courses in both universities. Steps should be taken to recognize credits within the same programme, even if the course names aren’t exactly the same because the student isn’t responsible if there aren’t enough identical courses”

Non-recognition of certain courses

“Some of the subjects that I took were not in my obligatory study plan at my home university so therefore I had to add these subjects (which still were about my speciality but not in my study plan) under the “free election” module of my study plan.”

Professors do not recognize studies

“When I have asked about recognition, the local coordinator told me, that I have to speak with each and every professor, if some of them would like to recognize me some particular subject. The most of them answered that what I have learned as Erasmus is not the same as they taught.”

“The professors told me they wouldn't accept notes from other colleagues from Germany because they recognize only notes [grades] given by themselves”

Inferential Results

Recognition is mainly influenced by:

- + home institution

Slight influences:

- ~ parties responsible for the recognition are identical to those signing the LA
- ~ fields of studies (+business / - maths)

Inferential Results

No effect:

- level of studies (bachelor / master)
- duration of exchange (1 or 2 semesters)
- information about recognition process provided before



Recommendations



- ✱ Guidelines
- ✱ Recognition of Competences
- ✱ Flexible Study Programmes
- ✱ LA authority
- ✱ ECTS
- ✱ Information in time
- ✱ More research





INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

