



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE  
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK



Problems of Recognition  
In Making Erasmus

# PROBLEMS OF RECOGNITION IN MAKING ERASMUS

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[WWW.ESN.ORG](http://WWW.ESN.ORG)

# Outline

## \* PRIME research

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

## \* Stories from students

## \* Inferential results

# Methodology

## ✳ 2 Questionnaires:

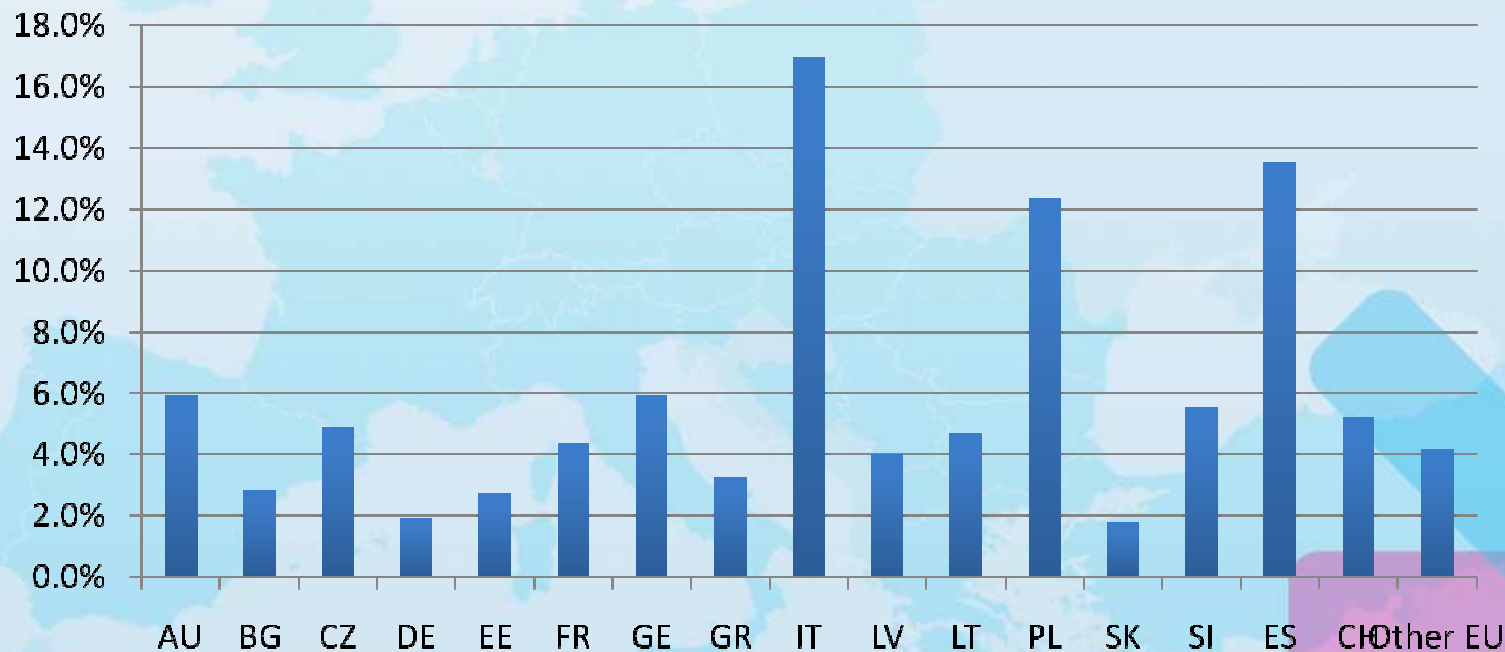
- Higher Education Institutions
- Exchange and Erasmus students

✳ Universities interviewed by local PRIME coordinators

✳ Students online survey

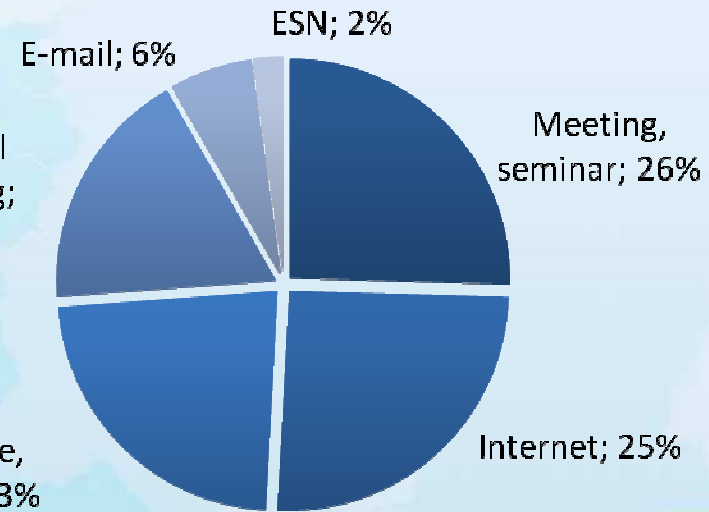
# PRIME respondents

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

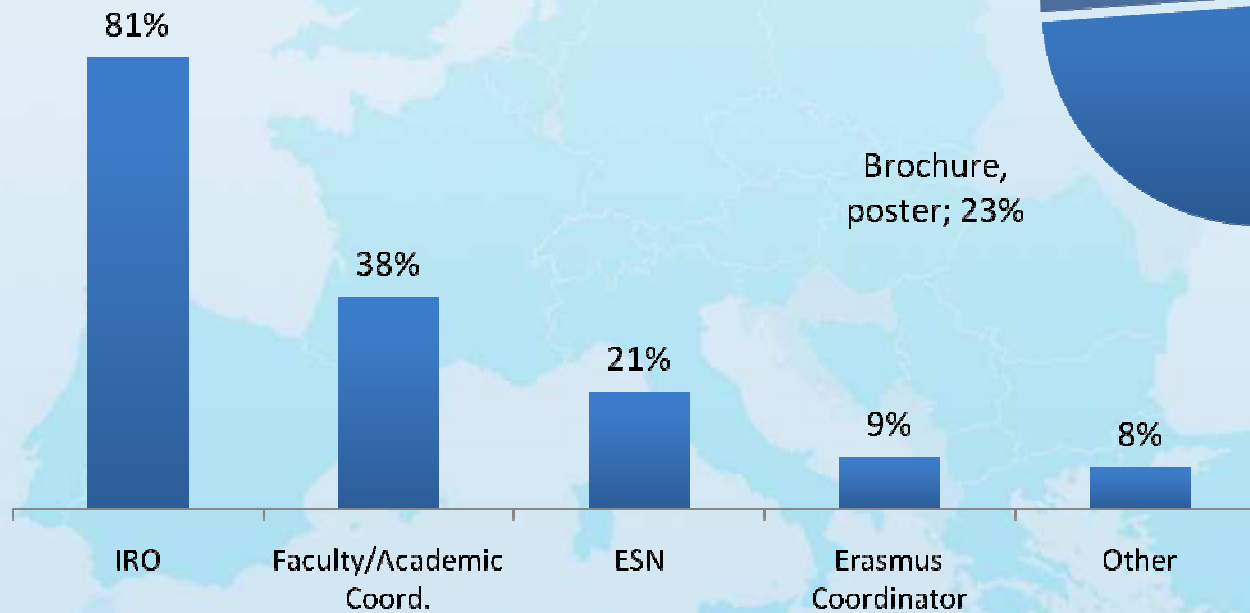


# Information Provision

Information by the type of activity

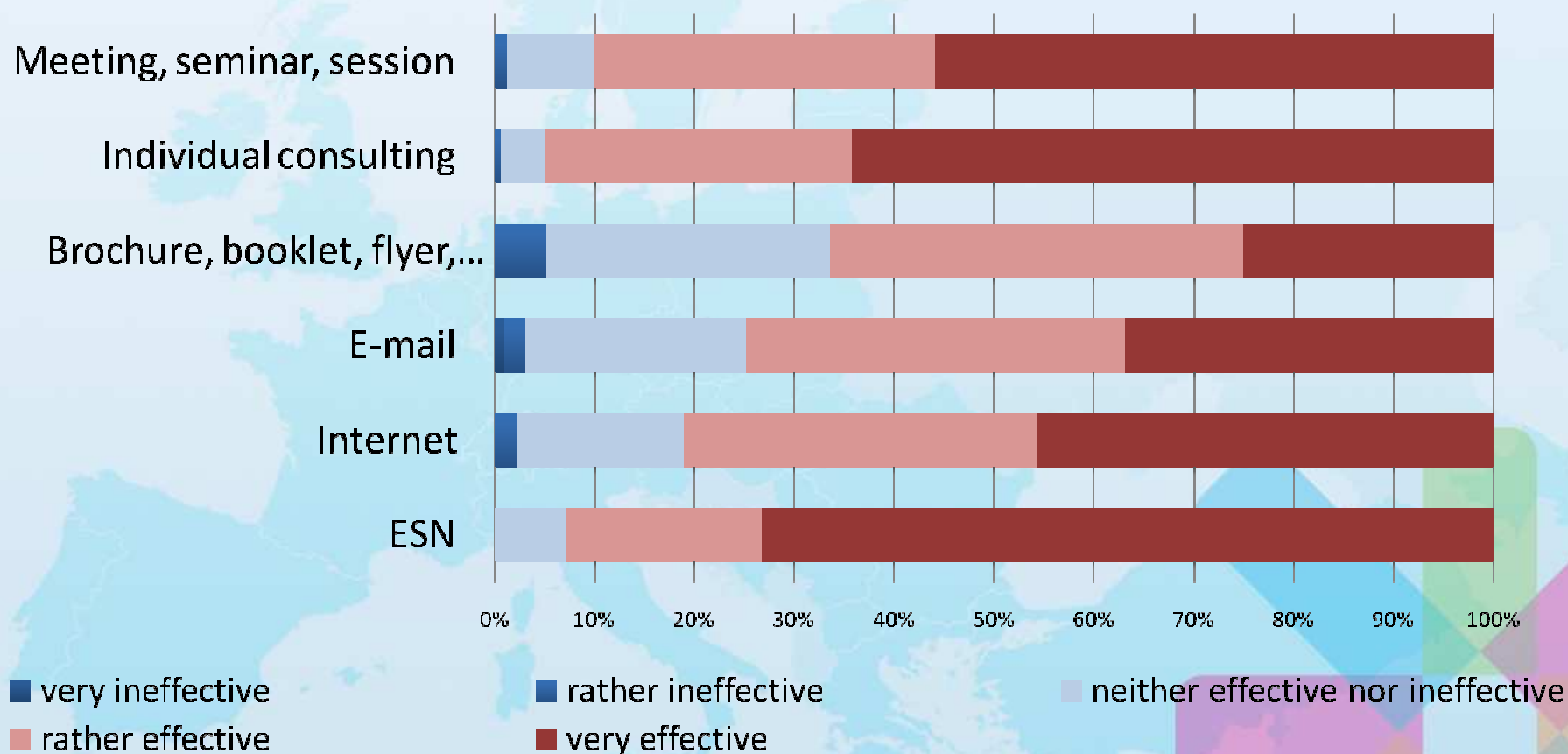


Information providers



# Information Provision

## Effectiveness of the means (n=119)

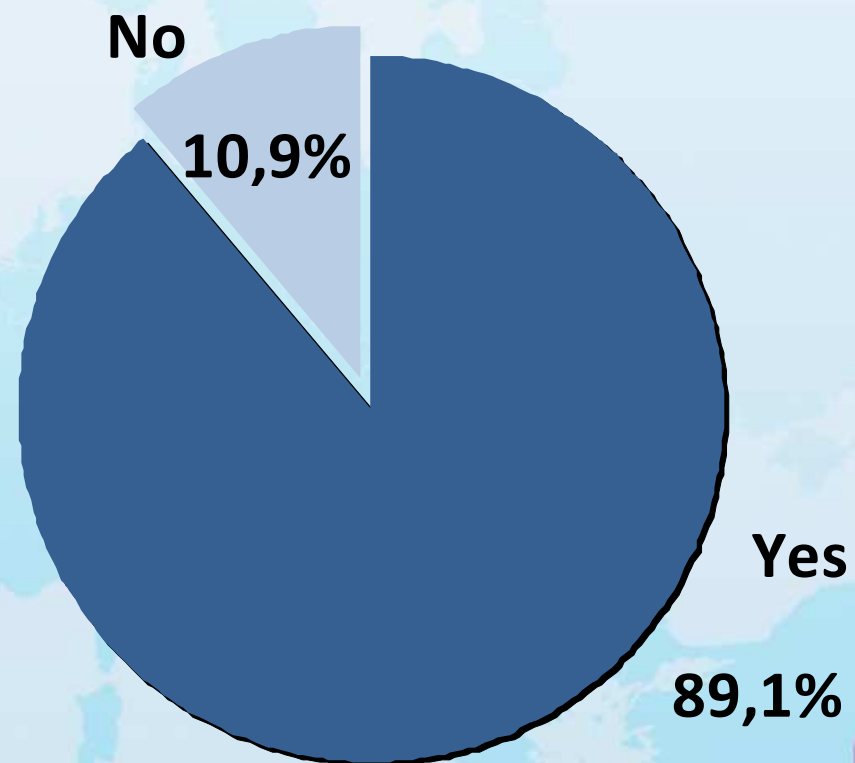


# ECTS

- ✱ 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 (self-study, lectures, examinations etc.)

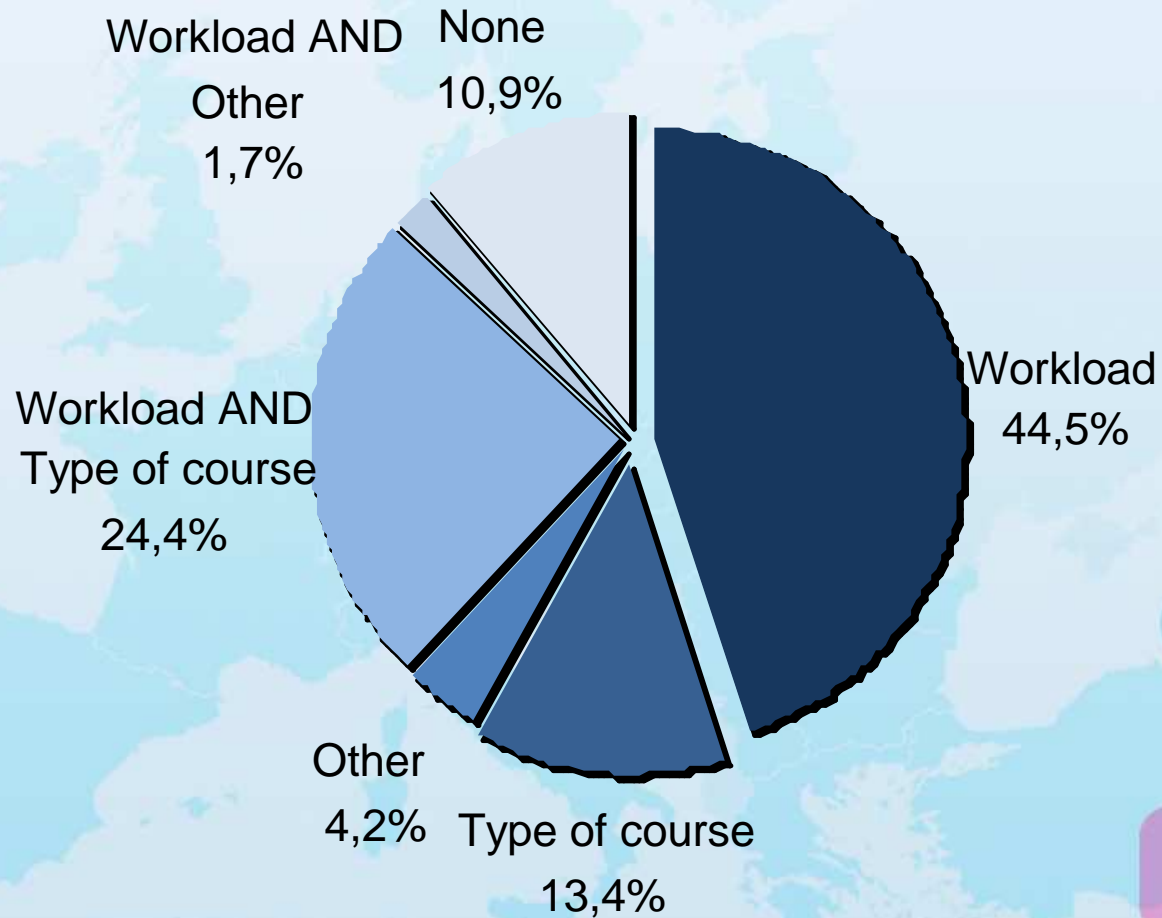
# ECTS

## Use of ECTS credits (n=119)



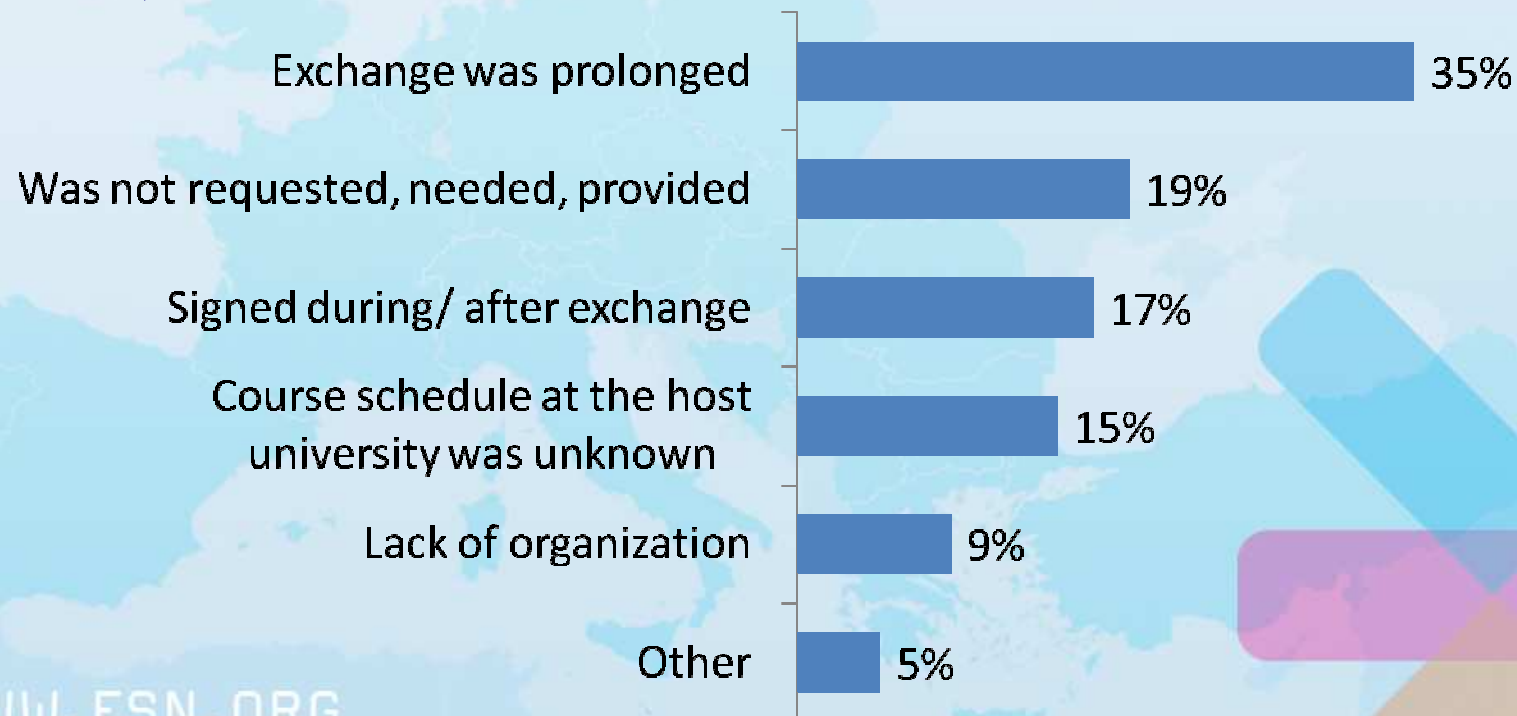
# ECTS

## Calculation of ECTS credits



# Learning Agreement

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

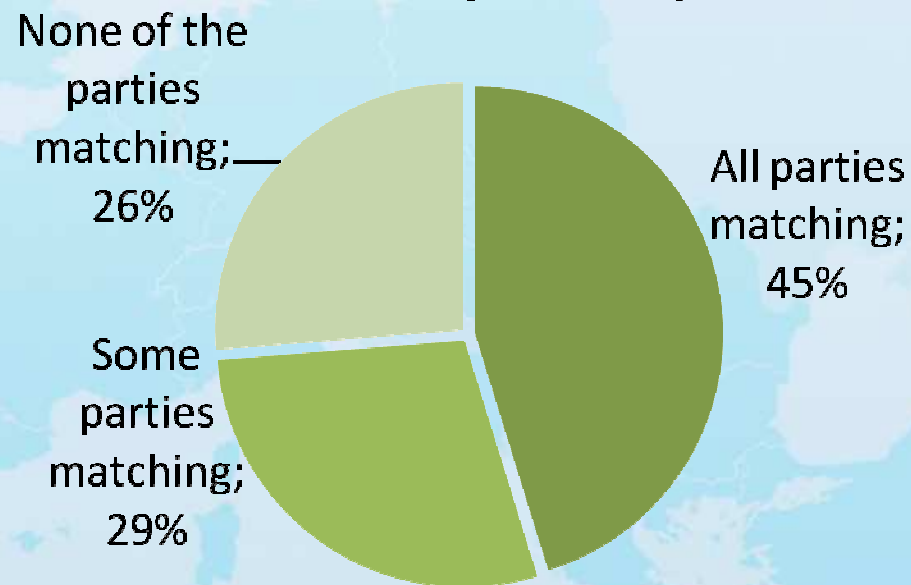


# Learning Agreement and Recognition

- \* 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)



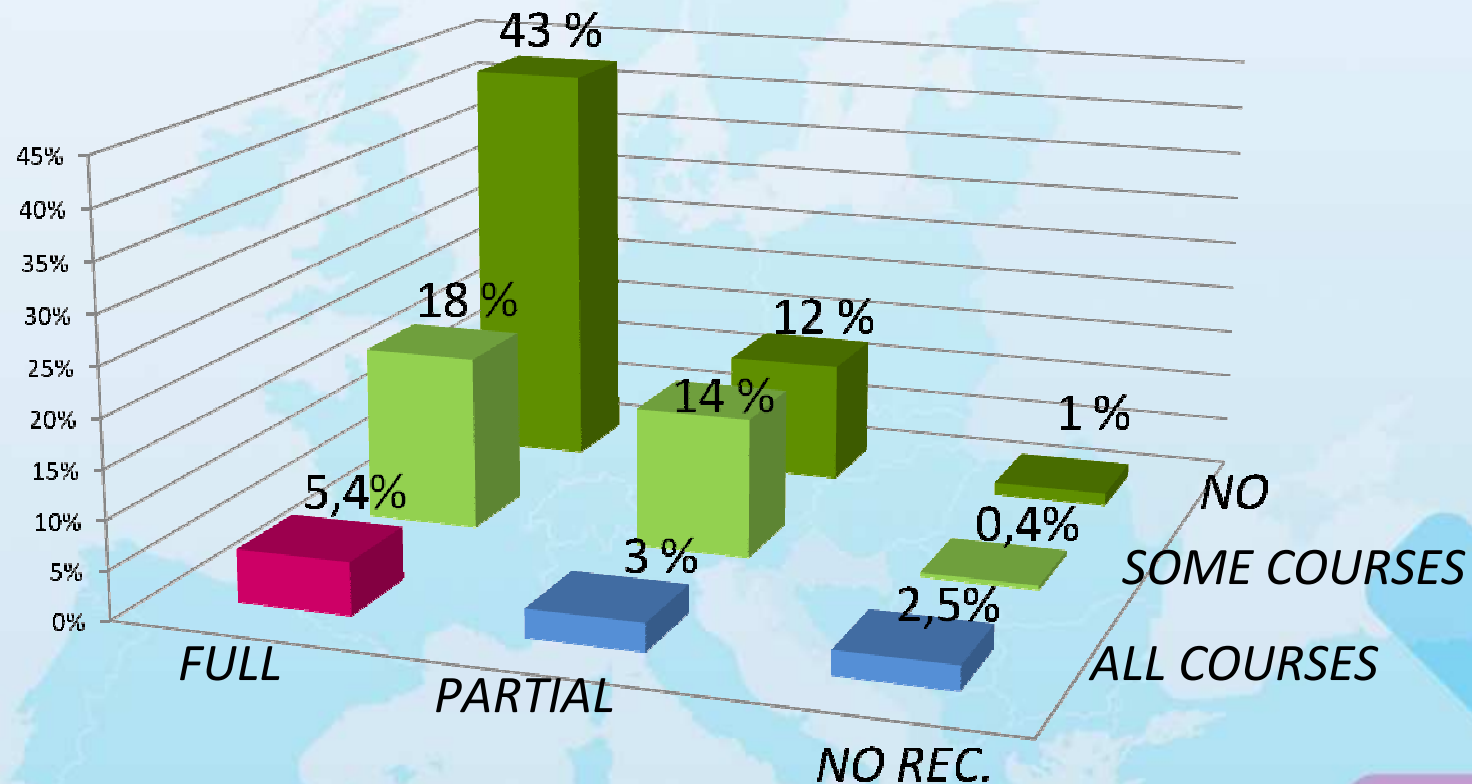
# What is full recognition?

“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



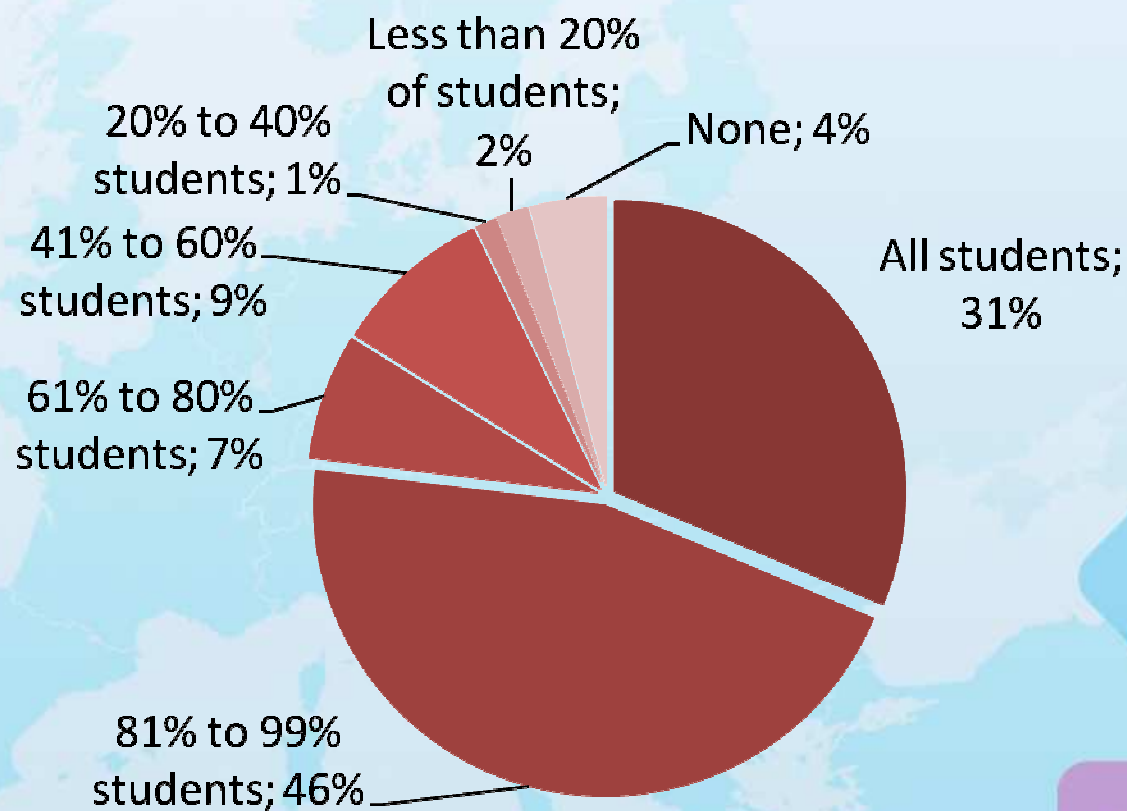
Nothing; 4%

Partly, 30%

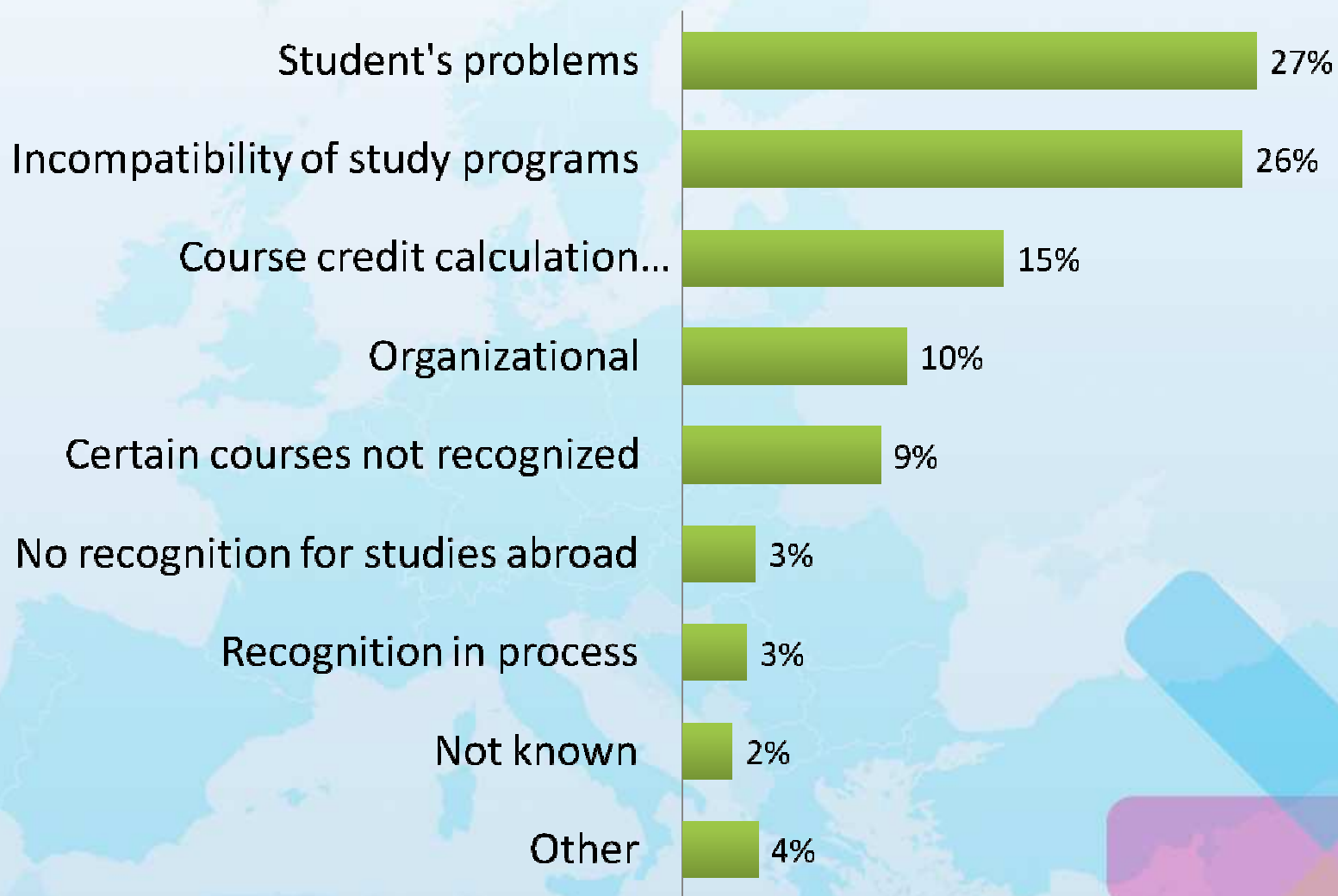
Full, 66%

# Institutions' Perspective

## Universities' view to full recognition (n=111)



# Recognition challenges



# Common problems in recognition

- ✱ Incompatibility of study programmes
  - “Not enough 100% 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”

# Common problems in recognition

## \* 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.”
- “Number of credits I received was just 6 (one subject). The other 54 credits were confirmed as “voluntary subjects”, which makes me study one year longer!”

# Common problems in recognition



## ✳ Professors do not recognize studies

- “When I asked about recognition, the local coordinator told me that I had to speak with each and every professor, if some of them would like to recognize some particular subjects. 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 influence:

- Parties responsible for the recognition are identical to those signing the LA
- Fields of studies (+ business /- maths)

✱ 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



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
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