



**P**roblems of **R**ecognition  
**I**n **M**aking **E**rasmus



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE  
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK

# PROBLEMS OF RECOGNITION IN MAKING ERASMUS

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\* PRIME - aims and methodology

\* PRIME - the study

- Information provision
- ECTS
- Learning Agreement
- Recognition

\* Recommendations

# What is ERASMUS?

- ✱ European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (1987)
- ✱ European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)

# What is ESN

- ✱ Erasmus Student Network
- ✱ Founded in 1989 for supporting and developing student exchange
- ✱ 150.000 students in 307 local sections in Higher Education Institutions (universities, colleges etc.) in 32 countries
- ✱ Non-profit organization run by students, working mainly on a volunteer basis
- ✱ ESN = students helping students



# ESN in the Czech Republic

- \* Set up in 2007 (existing since 2004)
- \* 9 clubs in 6 towns
  - Praha, Brno, Ostrava, Olomouc, Plzeň, Hradec Králové
  - Cooperating with other ISCs in the Czech Rep
- \* In 2009 awarded as a STARland of ESN
- \* In 2007/2008 took care of about 44% of incoming Erasmus students in the Czech Rep

# Why PRIME?

- ✱ 20 years Erasmus Programme
- ✱ ESNSurvey 2006 and 2007
- ✱ European University Association
- ✱ Recognition as main obstacle

# Aims of the Study

 Information provision

 ECTS

 Learning Agreement

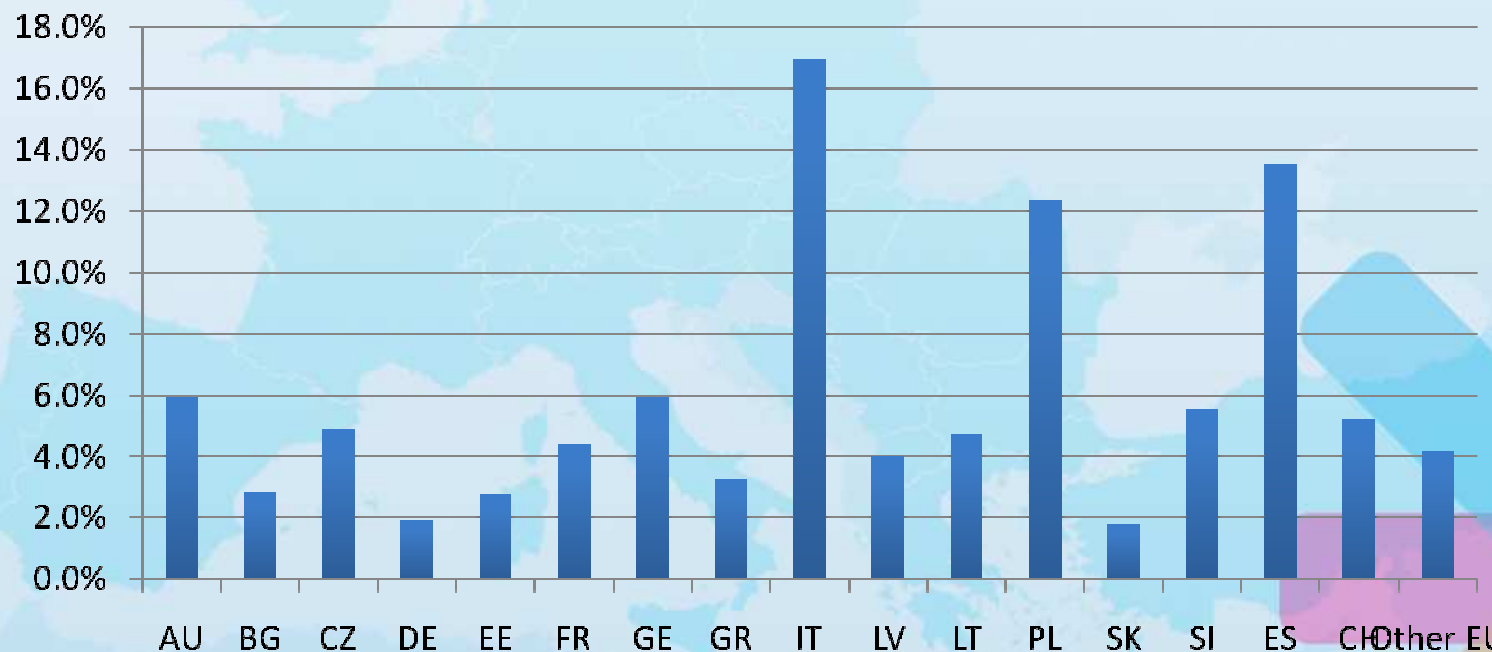
 Recognition

# Methodology

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

# PRIME respondents

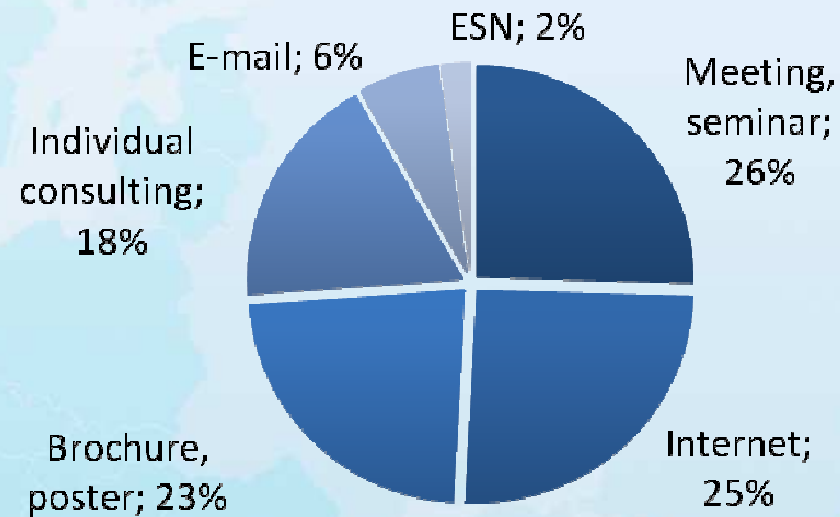
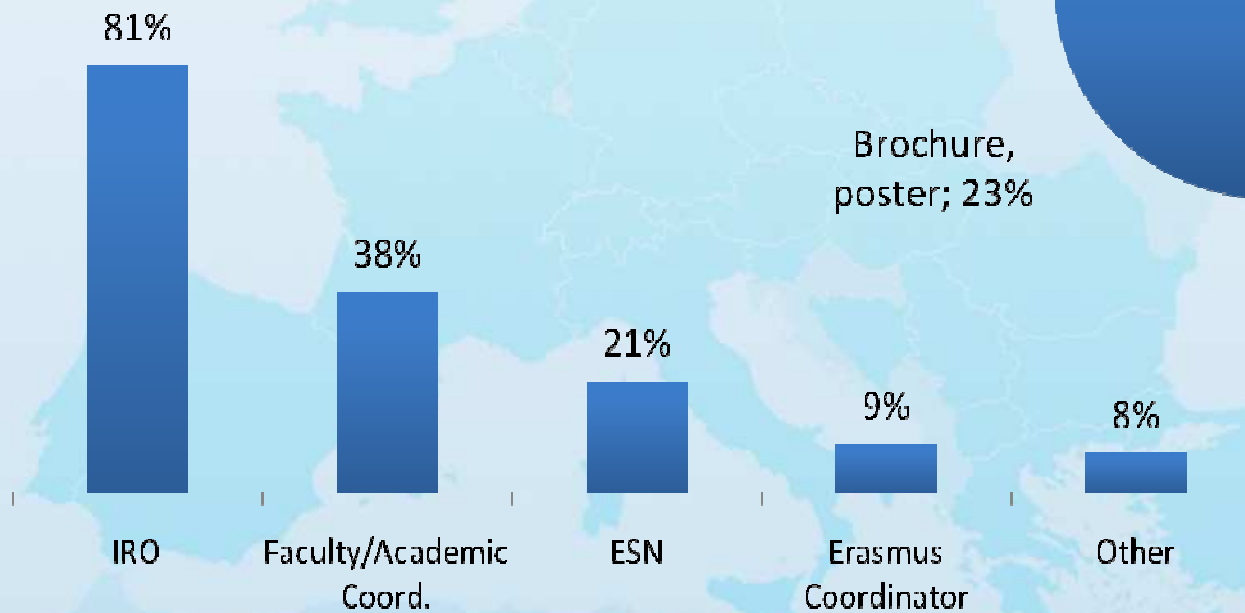
- ✳ 100 universities from 24 countries
- ✳ 2367 students from 52 countries
  - 2251 Erasmus students



# Information Provision

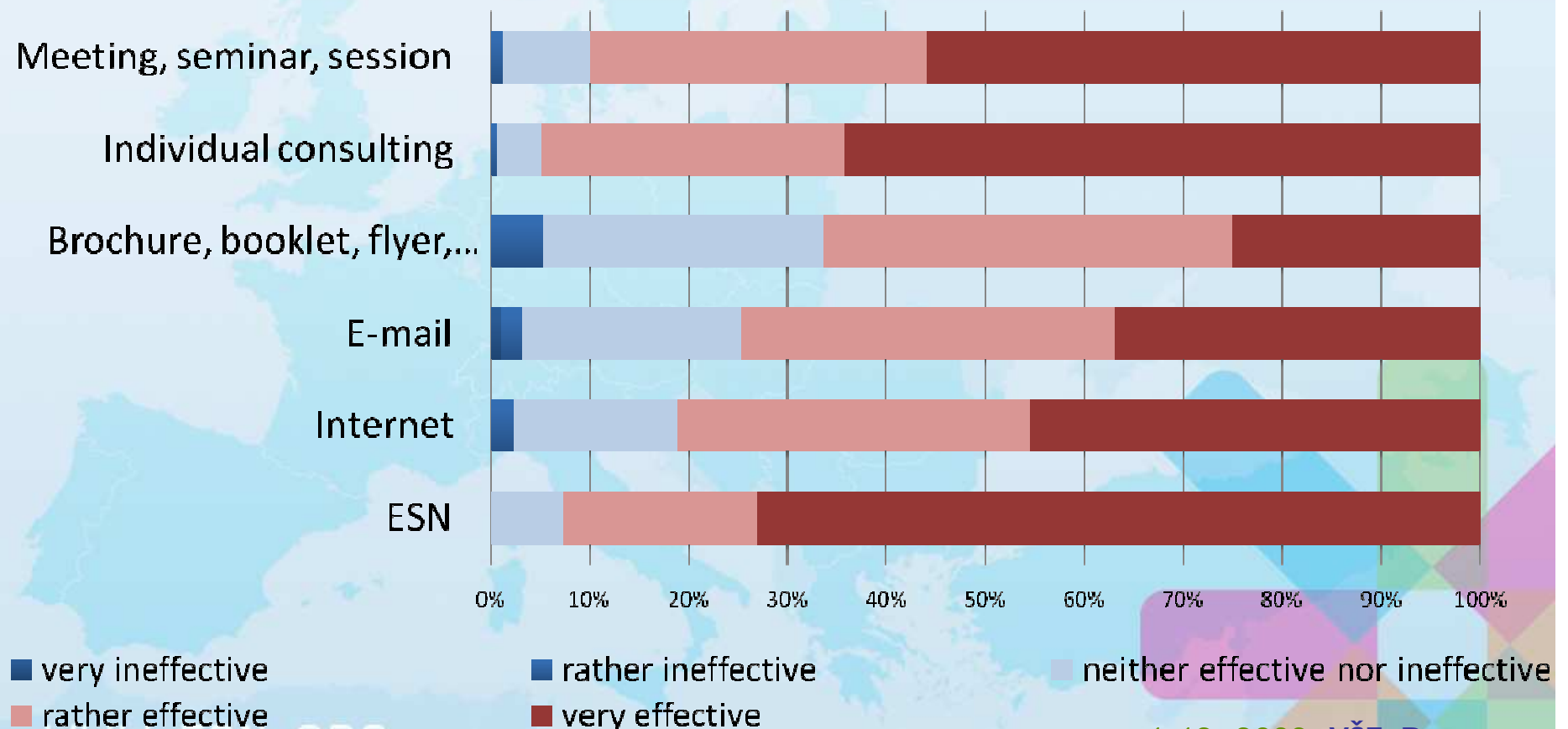
Information by the type of activity

Information providers



# Information Provision

## Effectiveness of the means (n=119)

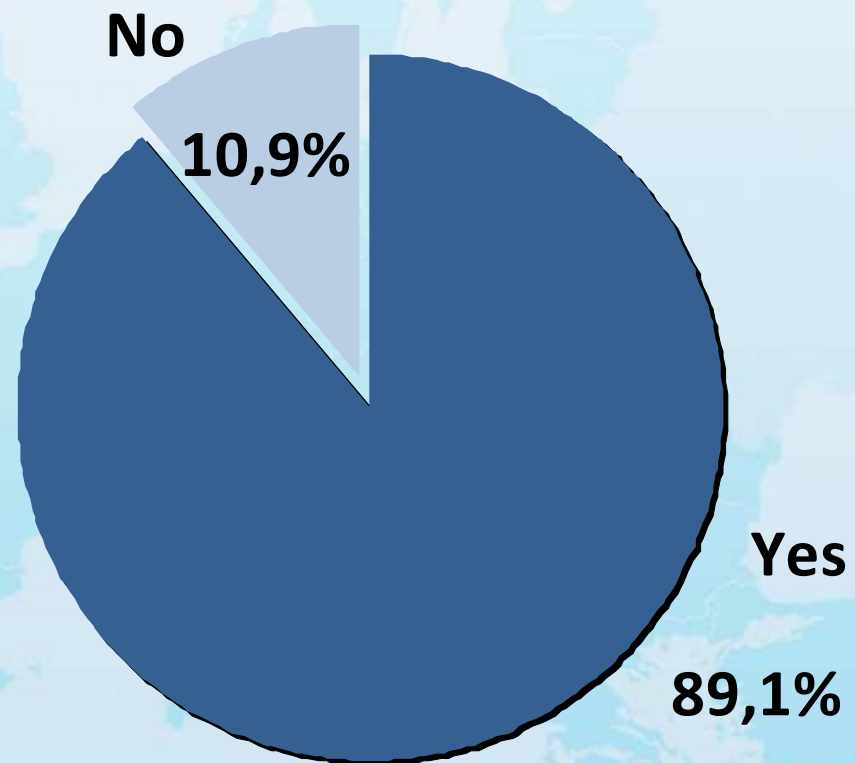


# ECTS

- \* 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)

# ECTS

## Use of ECTS credits (n=119)

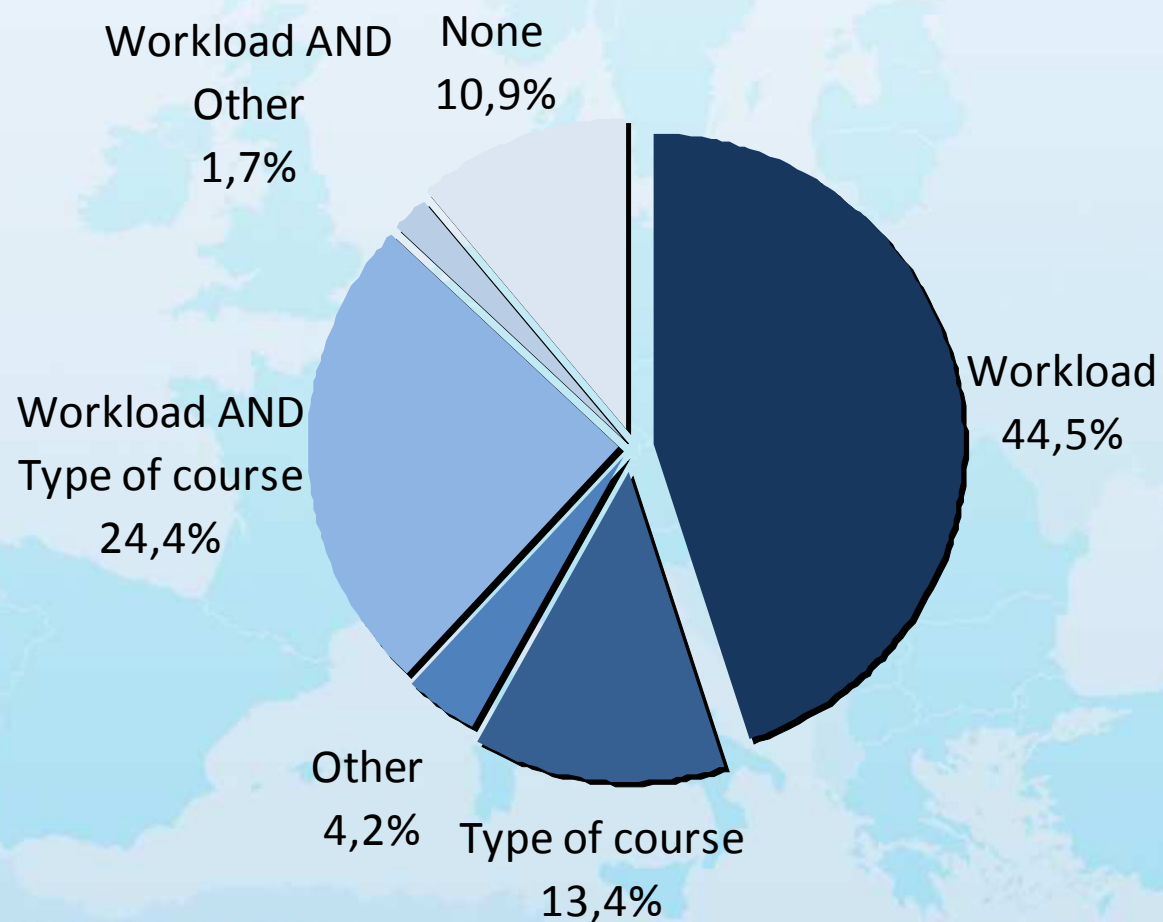


# ECTS



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## Calculation of ECTS credits (n=119)

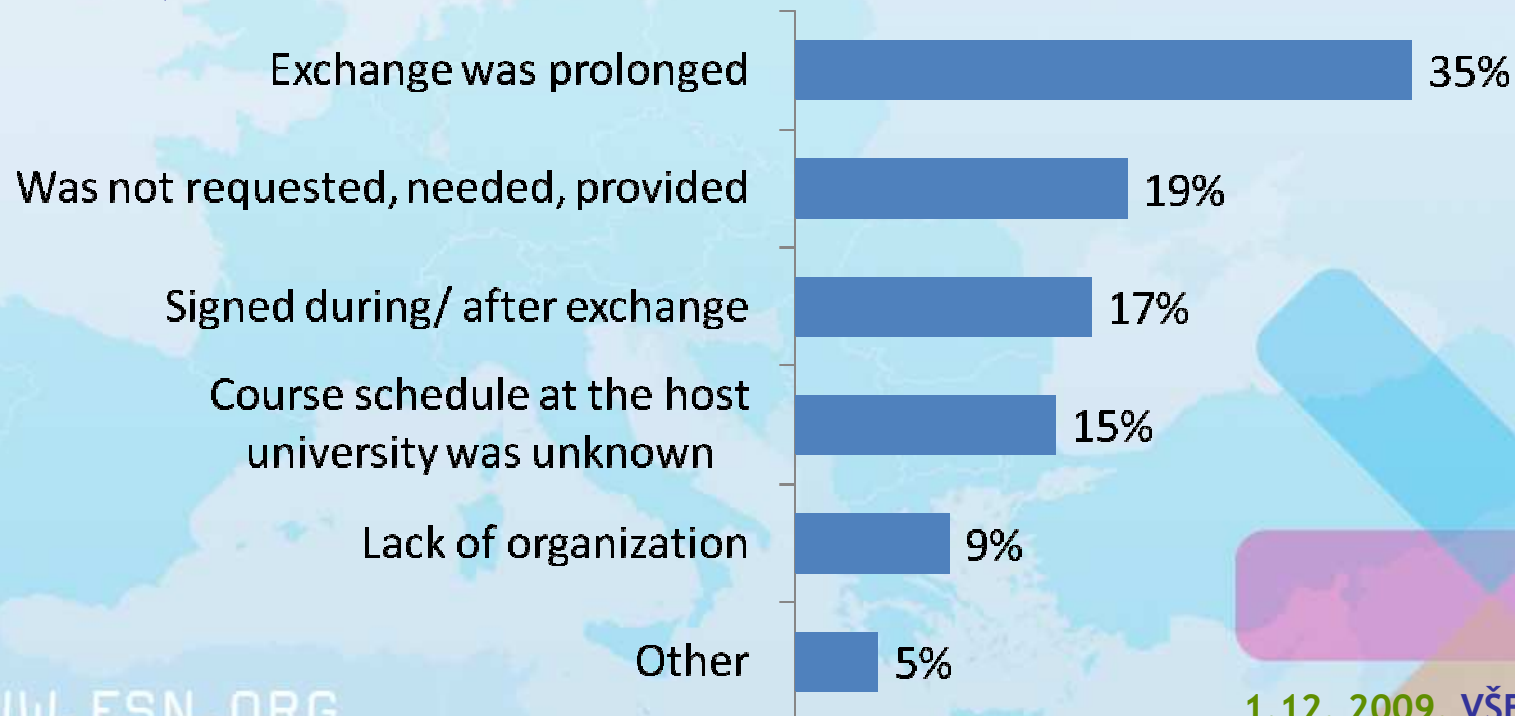


# Learning Agreement

- \* Compulsory
- \* Negotiated
- \* Binding
- \* Parties involved

# Learning Agreement

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

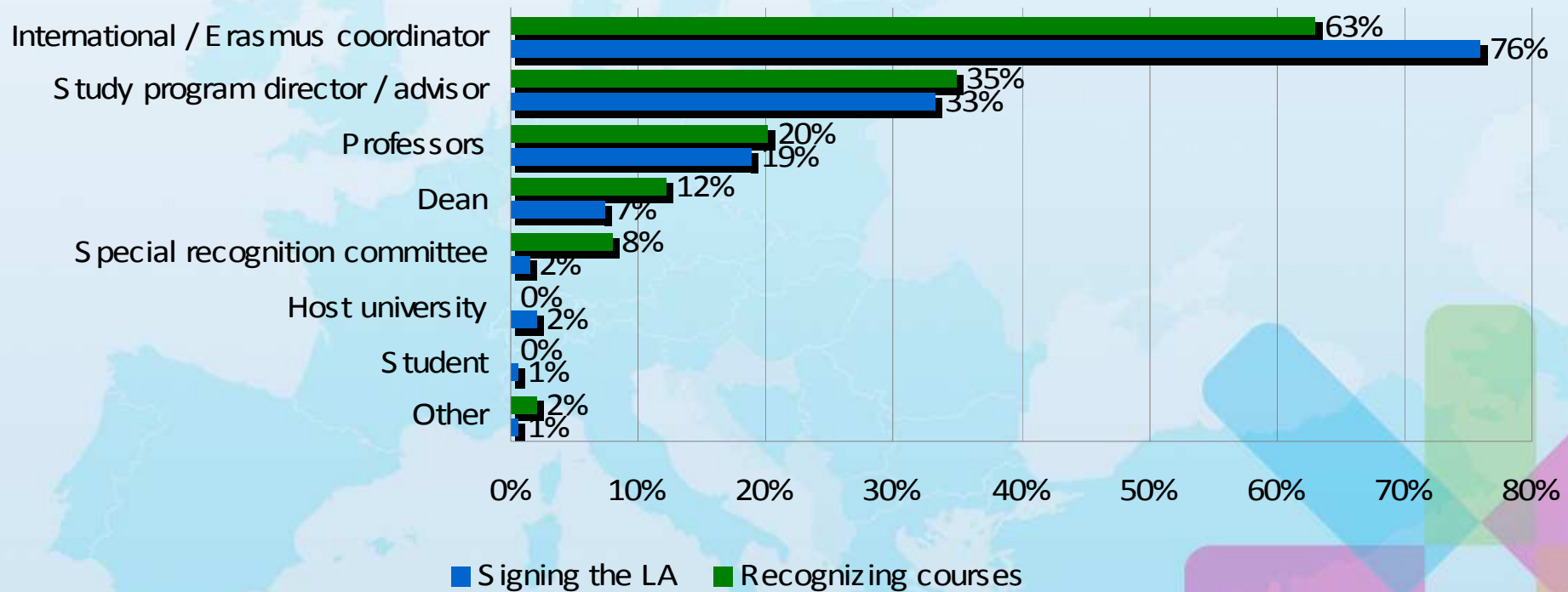


# Learning Agreement Procedures and Recognition

- ✱ Authority issues
- ✱ No regulations
- ✱ 1 year students
- ✱ Prolongation of studies
- ✱ Individual professors are involved

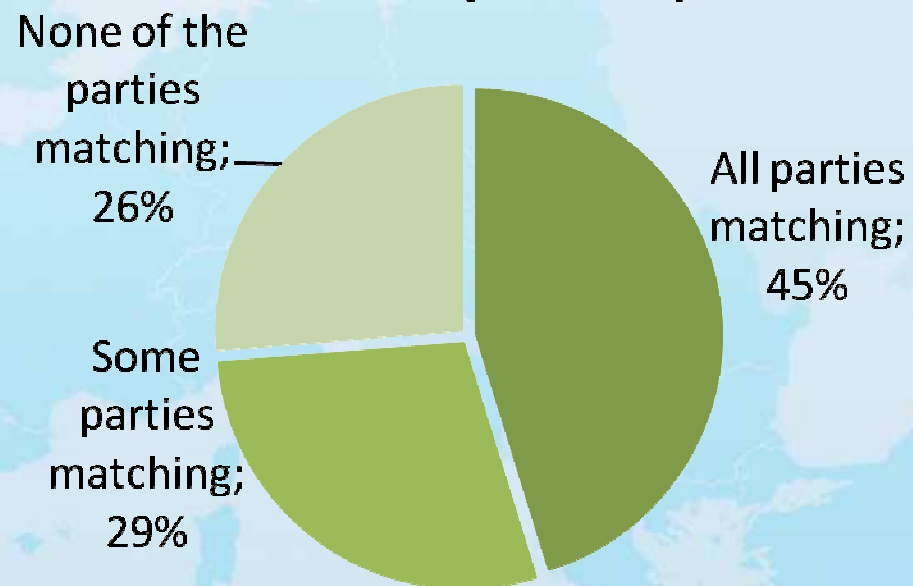
# Learning Agreement

## Parties involved in signing the LA and course recognition



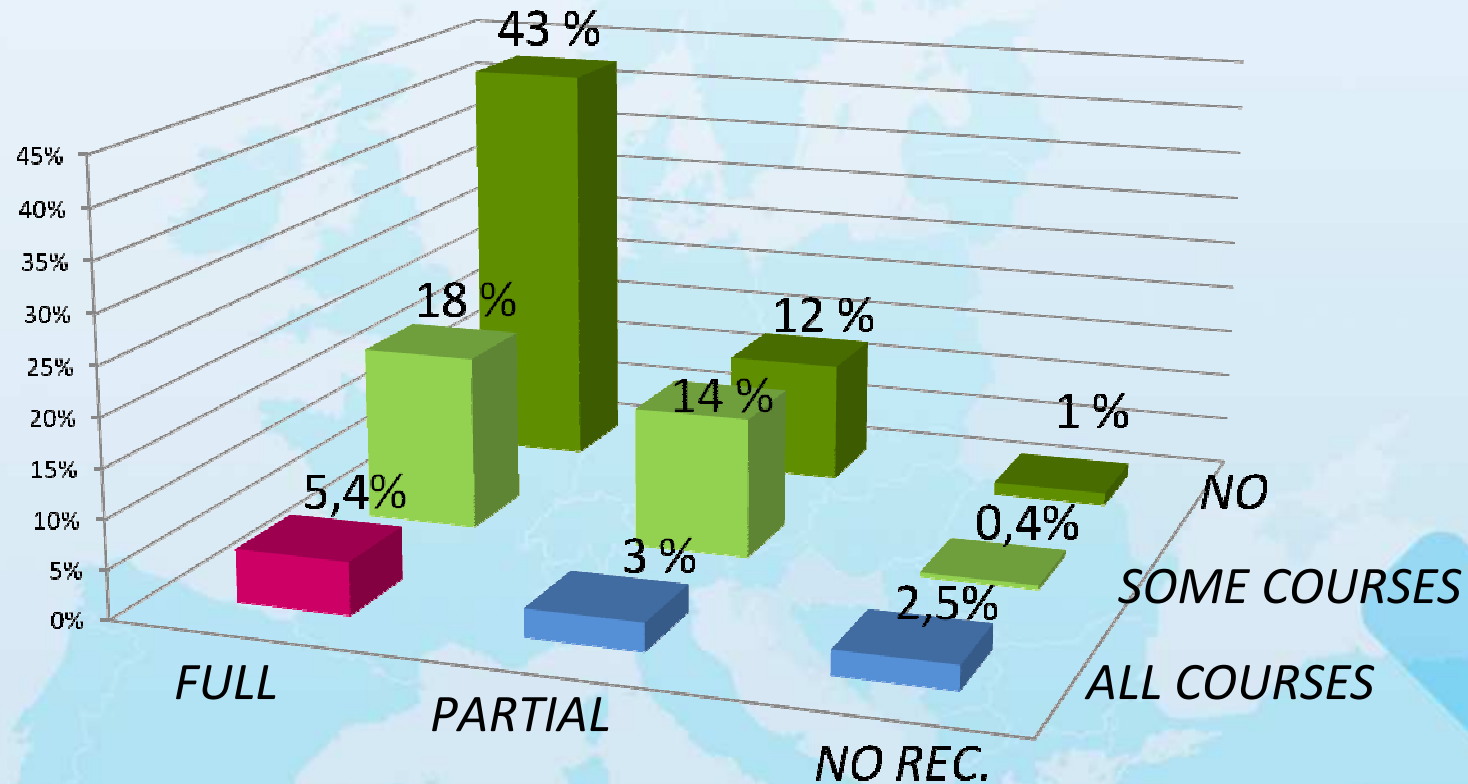
# Recognition (students' perspective)

## Signing the LA and recognizing courses (n=2251)



# Results - Recognition

## Recognition and exams at home university



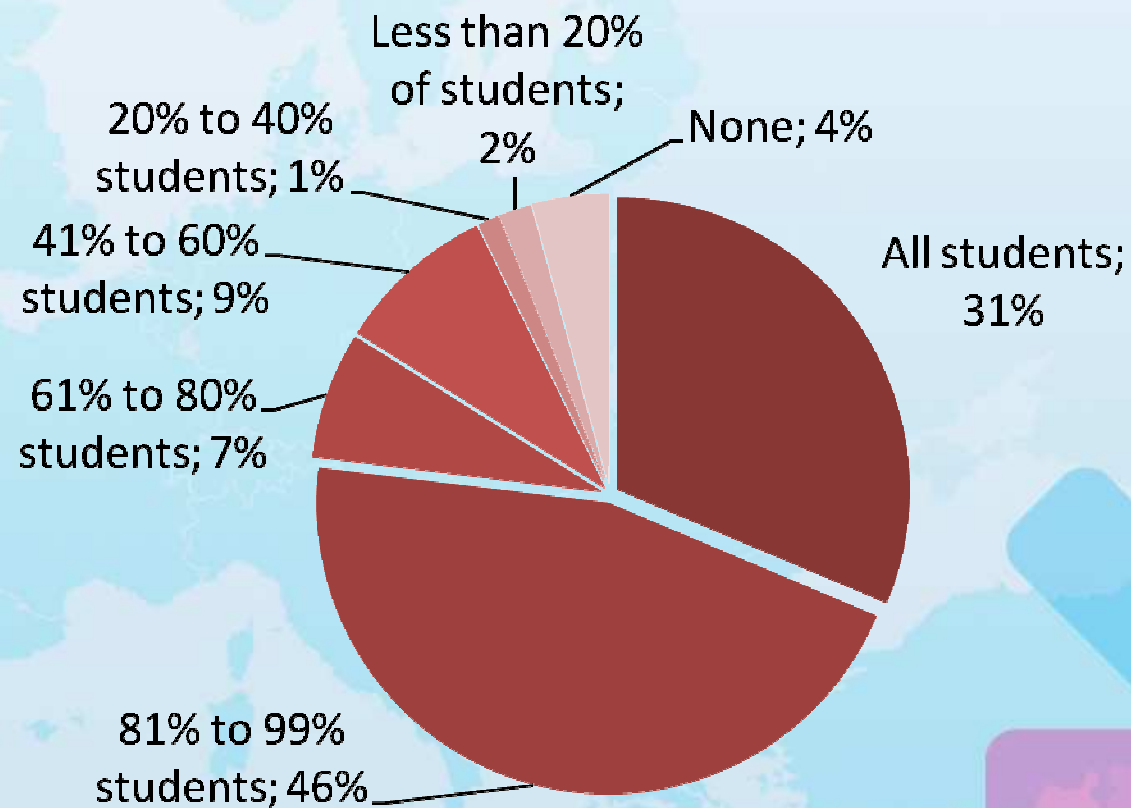
Nothing; 4%

Partly; 30%

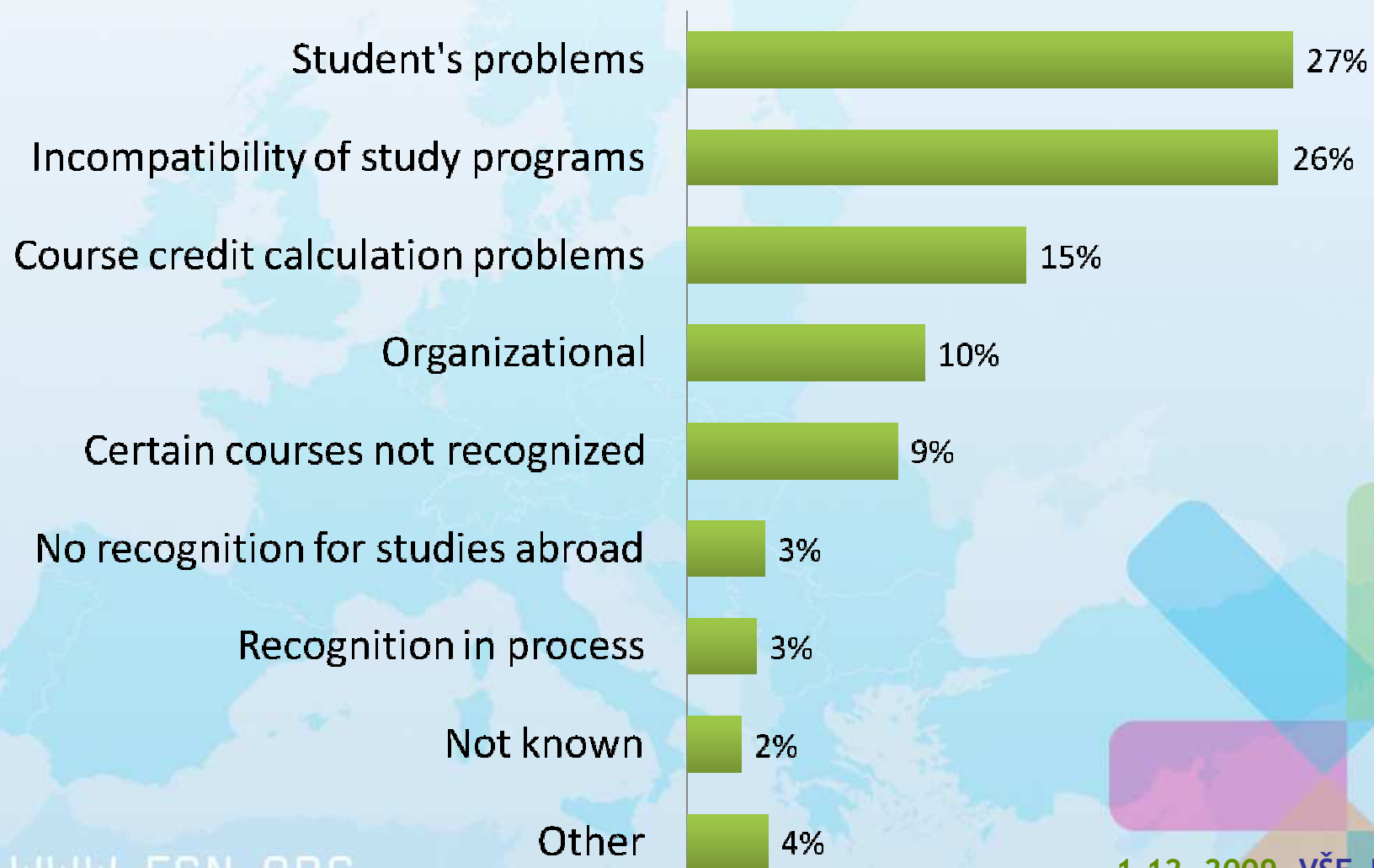
Full; 66%

# Institutions' Perspective

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

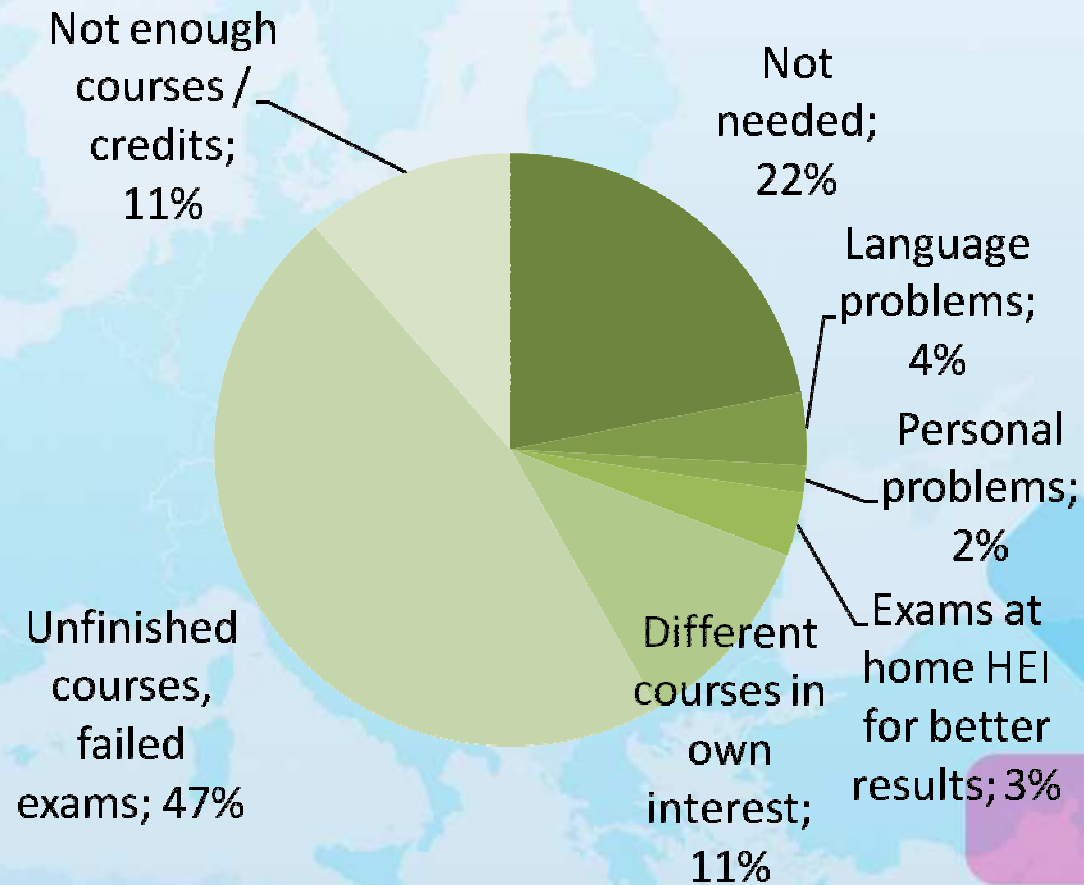


# Recognition Challenges



# Recognition Challenges

## Students' problems (n=201)



# Common PRIME

- \* Incompatibility of programmes
- \* Course credits calculation
- \* Organizational issues
- \* Non-recognition
- \* Professors do not recognize studies

# Incompatibility of Study Programmes



## Czech university's perspective

*“Subjects were not equivalent to our studying plan which we have to follow precisely and therefore we did not obtain full equivalence of credits.”*

# Problems with the calculation of course credits

## Czech student's perspective

*“I didn't passed one course and from the others courses I received less credits than I obtained at foreign university.”*

*“The transformation of ECTS to local credits was not transparent.”*

# Non-recognition of certain courses

## Czech student's perspective:

*“The lessons of languages are not evaluated with credits on my home university.”*

*“Because of the difference between syllabi of foreign and Czech courses even though names and brief descriptions are similar!”*

# 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



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
**ATTENTION**

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