



**GHENT
UNIVERSITY**

SHIFTING PARADIGM: FROM QUANTITY TOWARDS QUALITY IN STUDENT MOBILITY

Businet conference – 10/11/2017

Erasmus+: 30 years in the making



9 MILLION



PEOPLE



**HIGHER
EDUCATION
STUDENTS**
4 400 000



**YOUTH
EXCHANGES**
1 400 000



**VOCATIONAL
TRAINING LEARNERS**
1 300 000



**EDUCATION STAFF
AND YOUTH WORKERS**
1 800 000



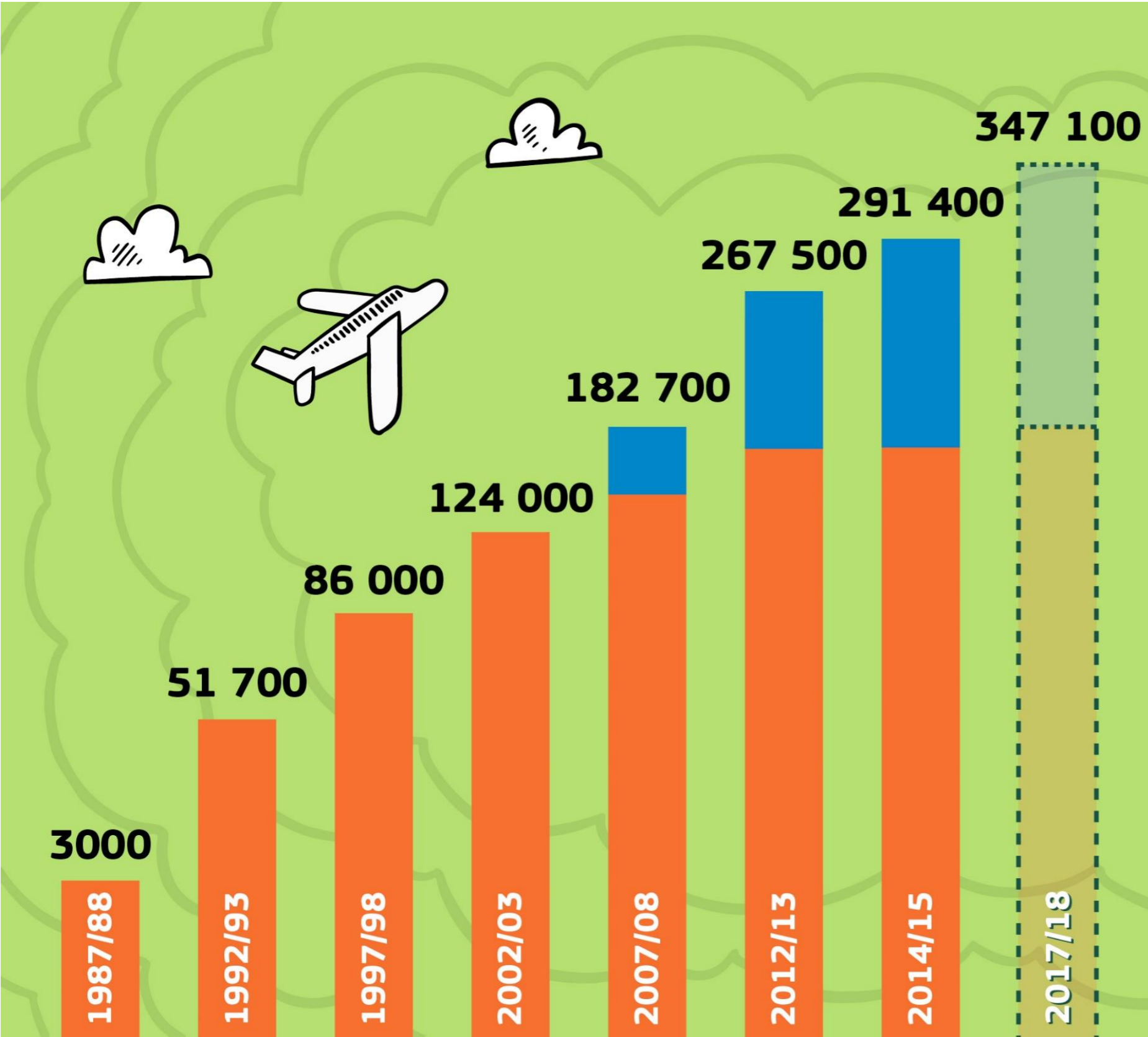
**EUROPEAN
VOLUNTEERS**
100 000



**ERASMUS
MUNDUS STUDENTS
AND STAFF**
100 000

Source: European Commission, 2017

30 years of Erasmus higher education exchanges



STUDIES



TRAINEESHIPS

TOTAL **4.4** MILLION

Source: ©European Commission, 2017

“In the new Erasmus program we should be 9 times as ambitious as we’ve been in the previous period”

Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission during 30 years Erasmus celebrations at the European Parliament

QUANTITY OR QUALITY A TRADE-OFF?



Brussels, 30.5.2017
COM(2017) 247 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

on a renewed EU agenda for higher education

{SWD(2017) 164 final}

→ Mobility is addressed
→ Quality of mobility itself
isn't



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES
POLICY DEPARTMENT B
STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES



INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDY

EN DE FR

2015



8. Rising numbers

The **numbers are still rising everywhere**. The increase may be fast or slow, large or small, but the numbers for all international activities and, in particular, student mobility whether credit- or degree-seeking, show a clear upward trend, and more countries are becoming involved. Moreover, major sending countries of degree-seeking students are increasingly becoming receiving countries as well.

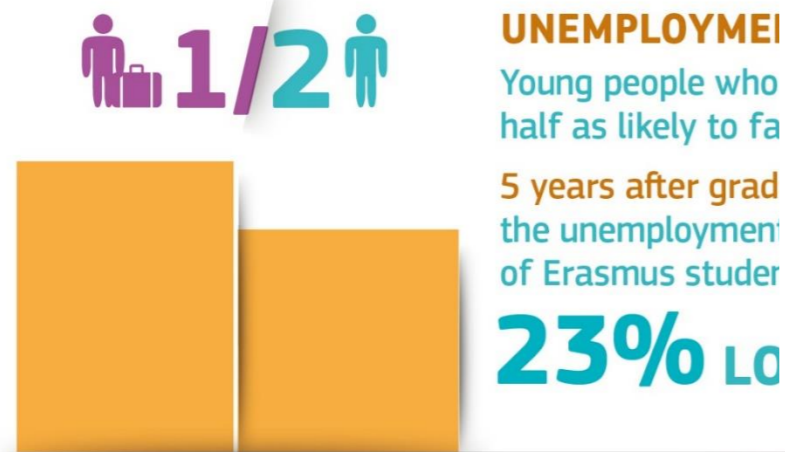
However, in developing countries there is imbalance between outgoing and incoming students and scholars, resulting in brain drain and decreasing quality and reputation. There is also concern in Central and Eastern Europe about the imbalance in both credit and degree mobility with more outgoing than incoming students, and this is further exacerbated by the challenges of demographic decline and a shrinking student population.

Increasing numbers have led to a debate on **quantity versus quality** in a number of countries. Internationalisation exposes and magnifies institutional weaknesses, and as international student numbers rise, along with the subsequent impact on funding and/or reputation, some countries and institutions are turning their attention and efforts to improving the quality of the student experience. Development of strong **quality assurance mechanisms for internationalisation** is increasingly perceived as key to providing a high level of education and service to students and in creating transparent institutional standards for all aspects of internationalisation.

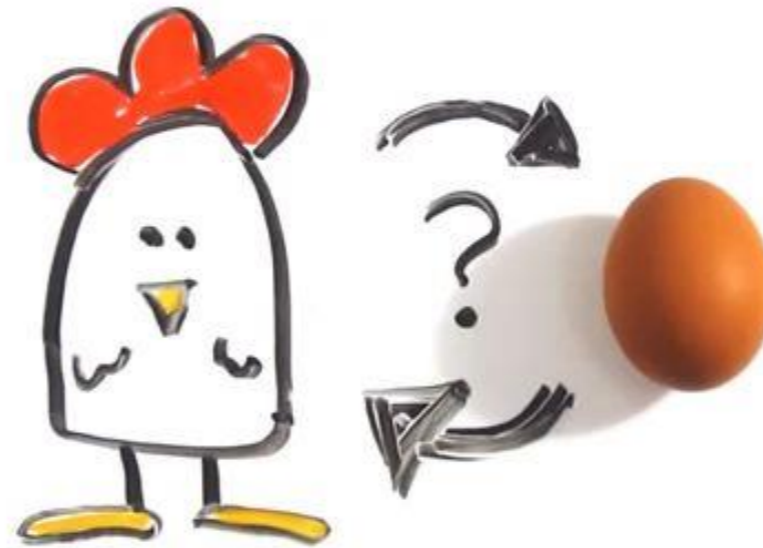
ERASMUS IMPACT STUDY

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

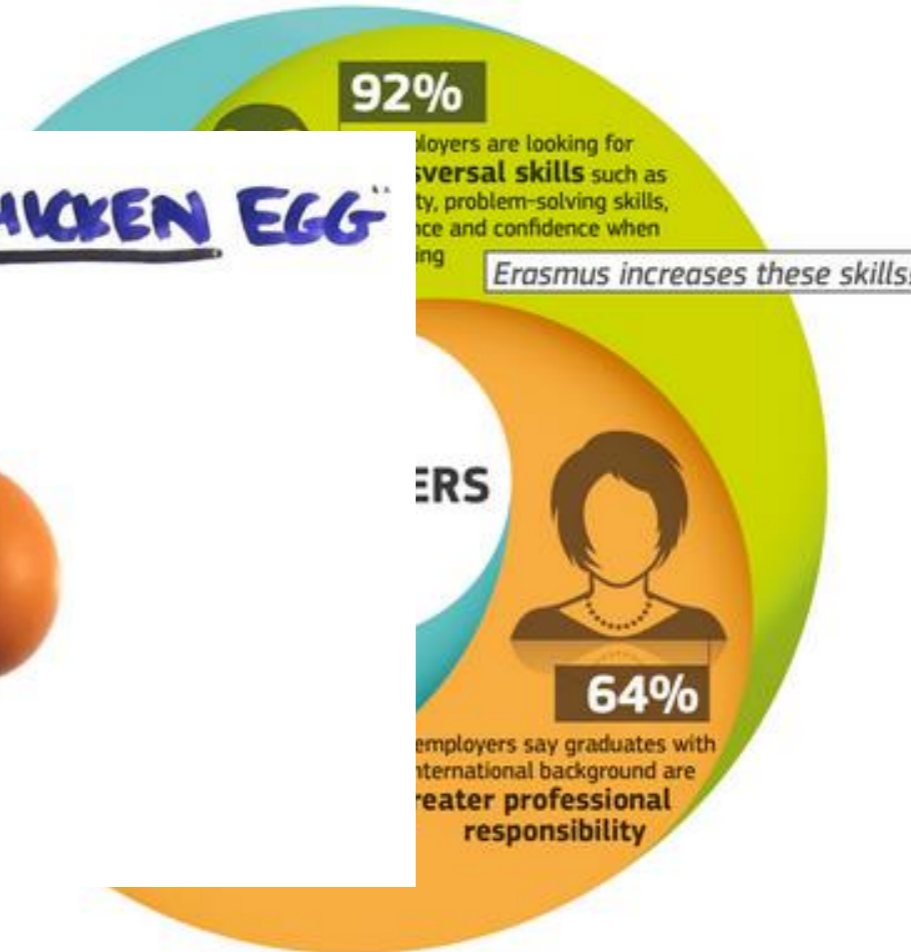
ERASMUS STUDENTS



THE CHICKEN - OR - THE CHICKEN EGG



EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT



POINTS OF ATTENTION

- Mobility does not automatically lead to international/intercultural competences
- Importance of preparation
- Importance of assessment



HOW EC SUPPORTS QUALITY?

- KA2 - Strategic Partnerships
 - KA3 – Support for Policy Reform
 - Tenders

 - ISBI project
 - Developing Mobility Skills for studies and career abroad
 - Assessing quality of partnerships amongst Higher Education Institutions
- The kind of projects EC is looking for!



HOW GHENT UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS QUALITY

ECTS Users' Guide



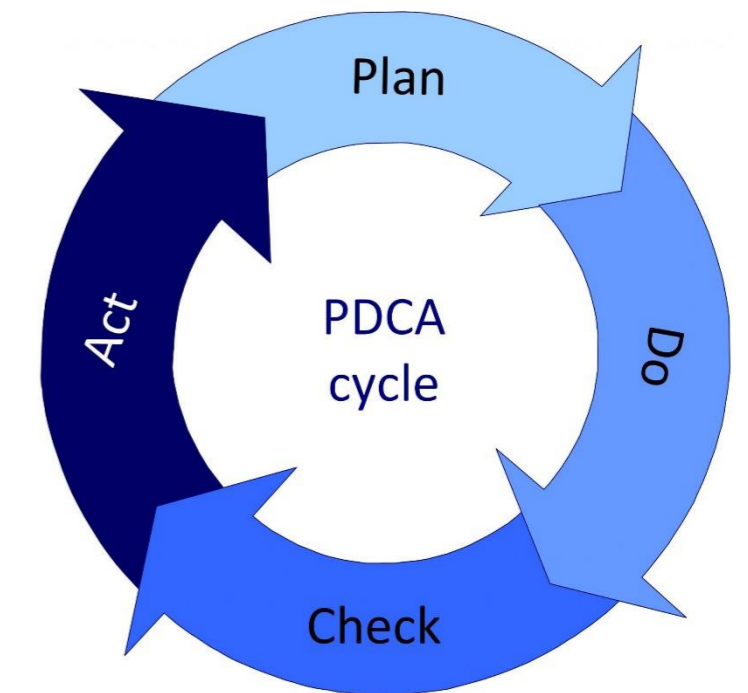
SHIFTING FROM PARTNERS TO PARTNERSHIPS

PROBLEM AREA

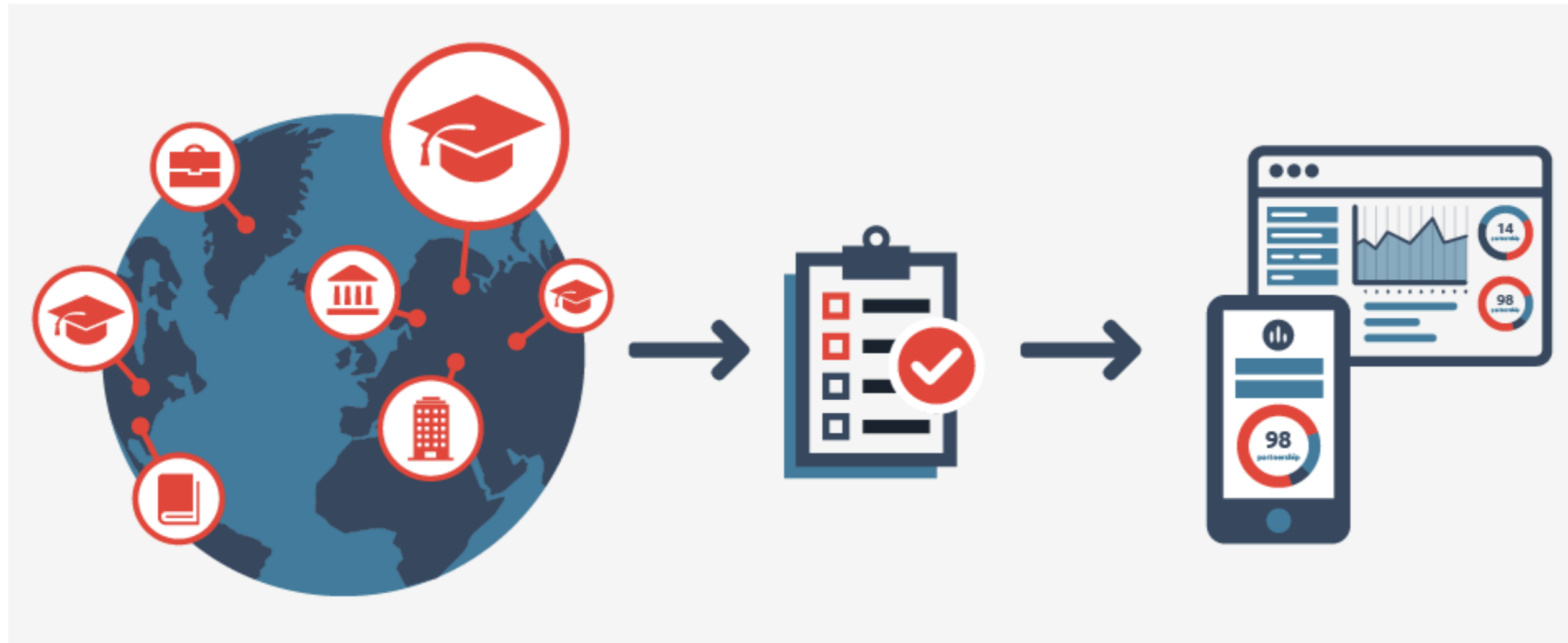
- The number of partners
 - The decentralised context
 - Academic freedom
 - 1.200 mobile graduates = 36.000 credits abroad =
6.000 courses
- How do we assure quality of 6.000 courses offered at partner institutions?

OUTLINE OF AN ANSWER

- Structurally analyse our partners
- Use data that we (all) have available
- Share information with our partners
- Improve both sides of the cooperation
- PDCA



THE PROTOTYPE



available
data

comparable
scores

easy to read
information

QUALITY REPORT (1)



Intervention required

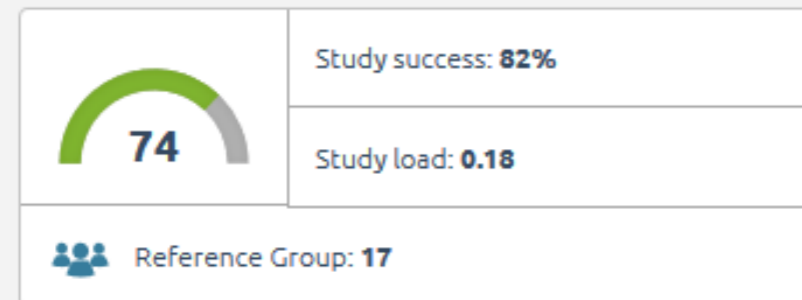


Fair



Good

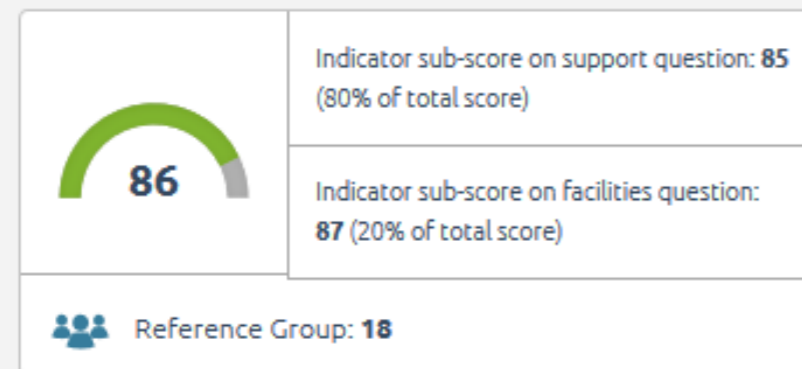
Performance of incoming students



This indicator tells us something about the performance of the incoming students from Ghent University by assessing their study success combined with the study load. The average number of credits incoming students from Ghent University take per day is 0.18 ECTS (30 ECTS per semester equals about 0.20 per day). The study success of the incoming students is 82%.

To calculate the indicator score the completed credits are divided by $0.20 * \text{the number of days}$.

Support and facilities

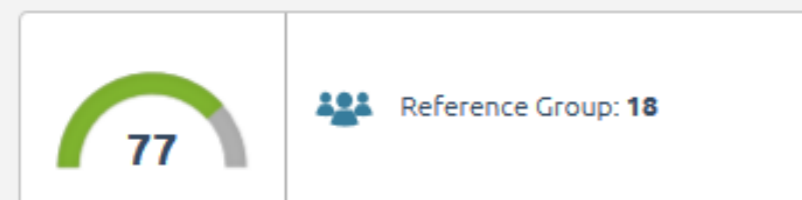


Support and facilities at the host institution gives an indication of the satisfaction of outgoing students with the support and facilities at Ghent University. The score for this indicator is based on feedback from outgoing students.

To calculate the indicator score the support-questions count for 80% towards the final score, the facilities count for 20% (if this information is available¹).

¹ For institutions that only host trainee students, facilities will not be taken into account as there is no question on this topic in the questionnaire for trainee students.

Academic quality

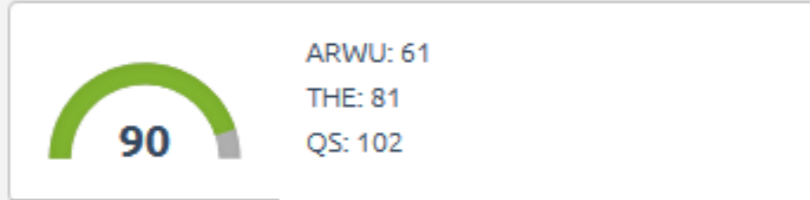


The indicator on academic quality is based on the feedback of outgoing students to Ghent University. In the context of this indicator, academic quality is the combination of three elements: degree of learning support; quality of teaching methods and quality of the course content².

² In the feedback from trainee students academic support is taken into account for this indicator.

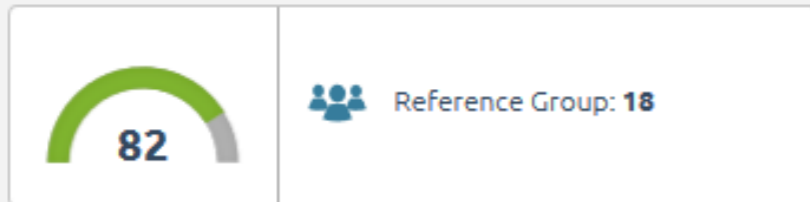
QUALITY REPORT (2)

Rankings



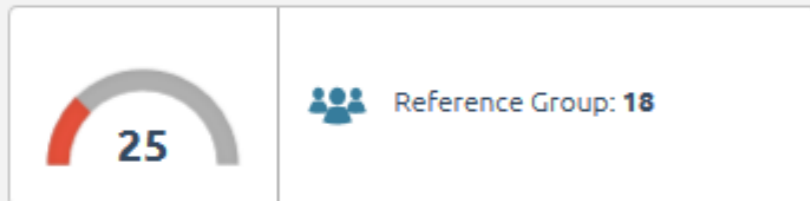
The rankings indicator takes three major rankings into account: the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), the World University Rankings from Times Higher Education (THE) and the QS University Rankings (QS). Institutions that appear in the top-500 of at least two of the rankings will get an indicator score based on their average position in the rankings. The highest ranked institution gets the highest indicator score.

Course catalogue information



This indicator evaluates the availability of information necessary to complete the learning agreement. It is based on the feedback from students. They indicate whether the course catalogue was: up to date (+4); available in time (+3); complete (+2); published on the website (+1).

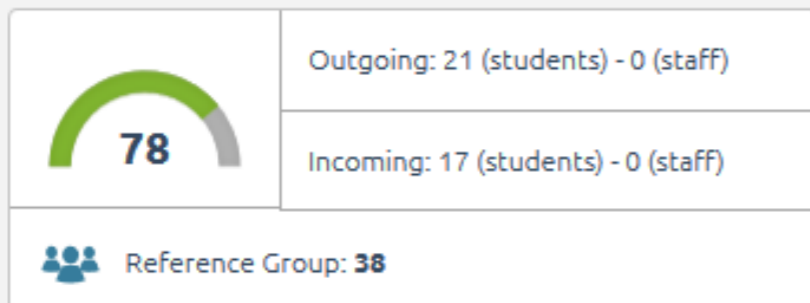
Exchange of mobility documents



For the indicator on the exchange of mobility documents, student feedback was taken into account for half of the total score. Two elements are taken into account here: was the learning agreement signed by the host institution and did students receive their transcript of records in time?

Ghent University has not yet uploaded a grading table in the Egracons tool (50% of the total score) so the maximum score it could get on this indicator is 50.

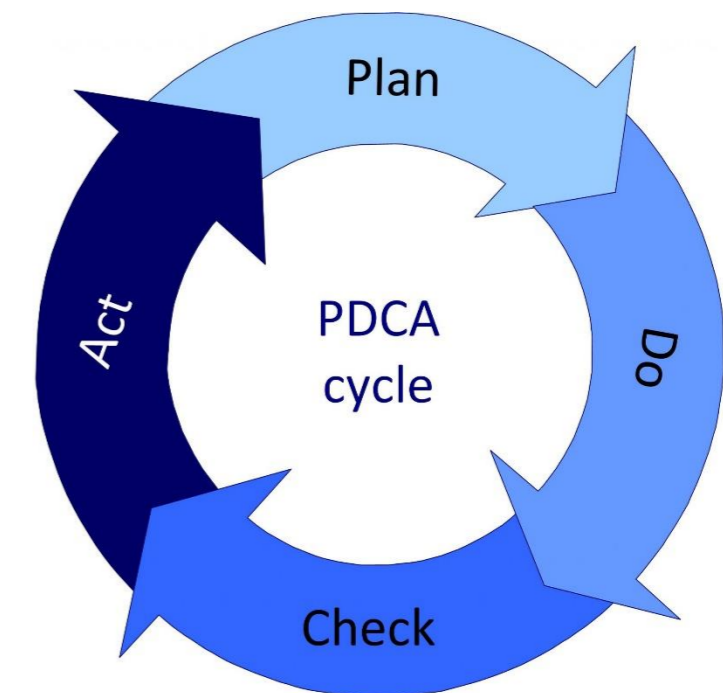
Mobility rate



The mobility rate indicator is based on all incoming and outgoing student and staff mobilities with Ghent University for the selected academic years. 50% of the total score reflects whether there has been a mobility in each academic year (yes or no). The other half of the score is based on the overall balance between incoming and outgoing mobility flows for both students and staff.

PEER ASSESSMENT

- Based on mutual data input
- Generate reports on quality of international partners
- Reports on your own quality as perceived by your partners
- In order to improve the quality on both sides of the cooperation



EUROPEAN PROJECT

Assessing quality of partnerships amongst Higher Education Institutions

- Support institutions wanting to use eQuATIC
 - Data gathering and reusability
 - Research on existing practices
 - Peer assessment toolbox
 - Training
 - Policy recommendations
- Upscale of eQuATIC prototype



AND BEYOND 2020

“In the new Erasmus program we should be 9 times as ambitious as we’ve been in the previous period”

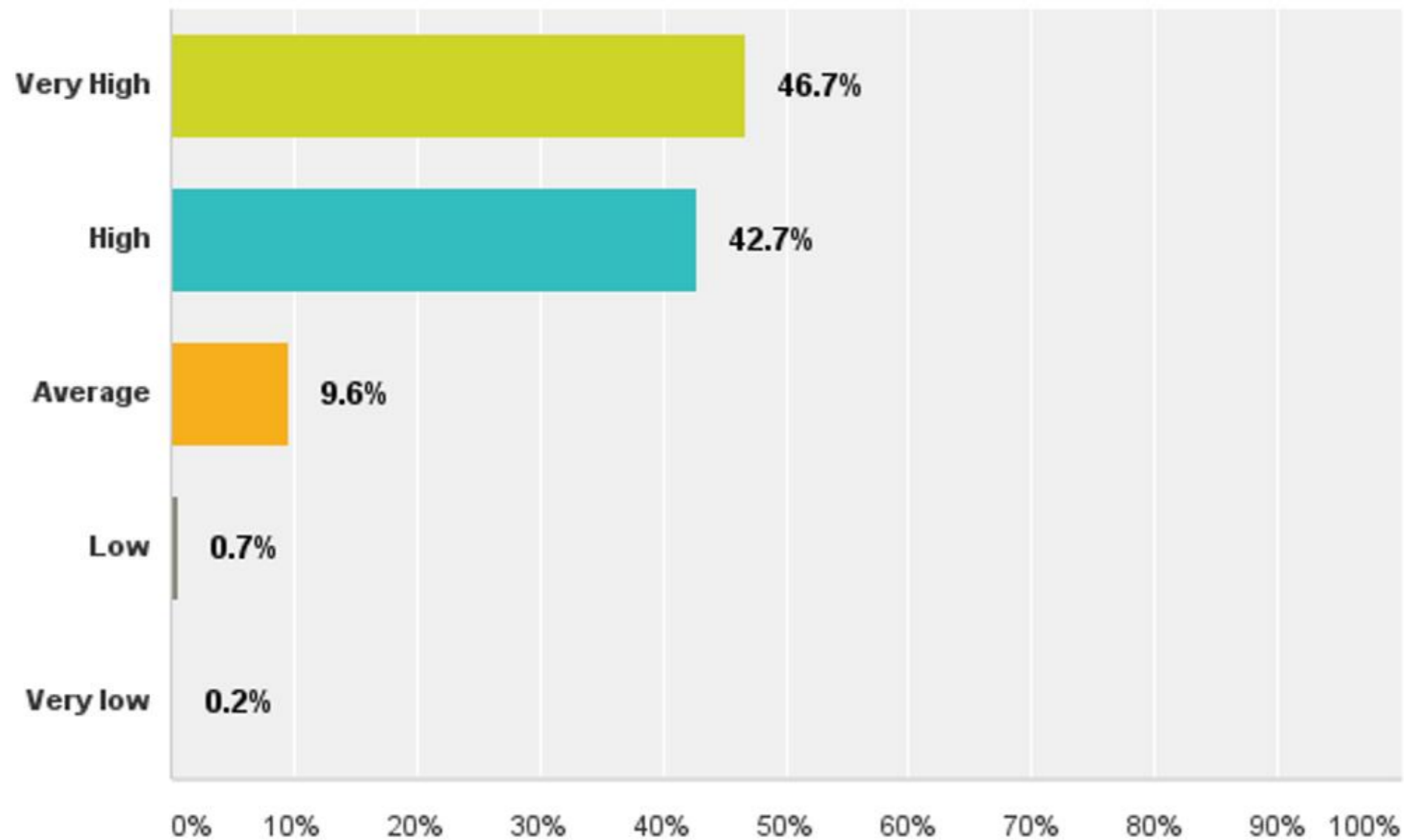
Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission during 30 years Erasmus celebrations at the European Parliament

9 TIMES THE WORKLOAD???



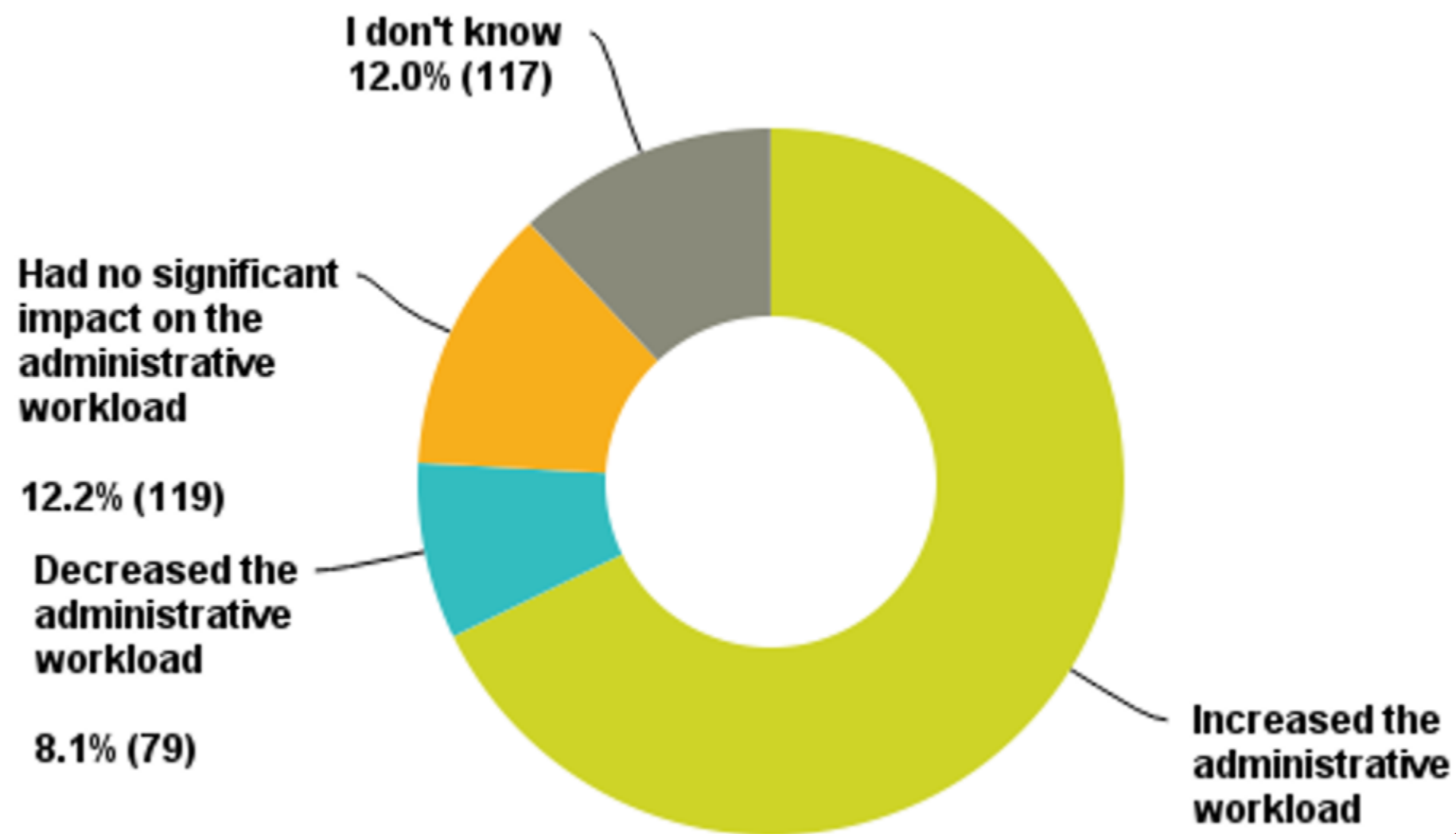
WORKLOAD IN ERASMUS+ (1)

- Q: the workload surrounding the management of Erasmus+ exchanges is...?



WORKLOAD IN ERASMUS+ (2)

- Q: in your opinion the changes introduced by Erasmus+ in 2014 have:



CONSEQUENCES

- Negative impact on student experience
- Resources available to IROs do not increase proportionally to increase of international mobility
- Danger of not reaching EU target of 20% mobile graduates by 2020
- There is no time to focus on quality if staff is drowning in administration

RETHINKING THE SYSTEM

“In order to do that, we need to change our system. If we are going to move from where we are now with 350 000 students a year, if we are going to double that or triple or quadruple, there is no way that we can stay with the system that we have at the moment. We have to have a system that is going to make the whole process much easier. We have to make the system work better than today... In 2018 when we invite 4 000 universities that have an Erasmus charter that they are ready to join us on this adventure that has the potential to change the way we deliver education”

Adam Tyson, Acting Director for Strategy and Evaluation at DG for Education & Culture, European Commission during closing conference Erasmus Without Paper project

ERASMUS WITHOUT PAPER: A PIECE OF THE NEW SYSTEM





erasmus
without paper



erasmus
without paper



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

PROJECT GOALS

- integrated communication network supporting the exchange of student data in an electronic form
- connectors that allow Student Information Systems (SISs) with built-in mobility modules and/or stand-alone Mobility systems to exchange data over the EWP Network

INTRODUCING EWP

- Goal 1: enable **interoperability**
- Defining standards
- Address higher level security and privacy issues
 - security: authentication of servers and users
 - privacy: ensure compliance with GDPR

INTRODUCING EWP

- Goal 2: create a trusted **network** to enable communication among data repositories
- Keep the data where it is stored, but make it accessible in a simple, reliable and secure way
- Exchange structured data, not scanned documents
 - direct SIS-SIS communication
 - machine readable data

EWP TODAY

- Proof of concept/working prototype
 - proves feasibility of technical approach
 - testbed underpinned by extensive desk R&D

EWP TOMORROW

- EWP 2.0: finish what we started!
- The EWP network will:
 - be further developed
 - tested with real data
 - and publicly launched by December 2018 (tentative date)

CHALLENGE # 1

Institution A



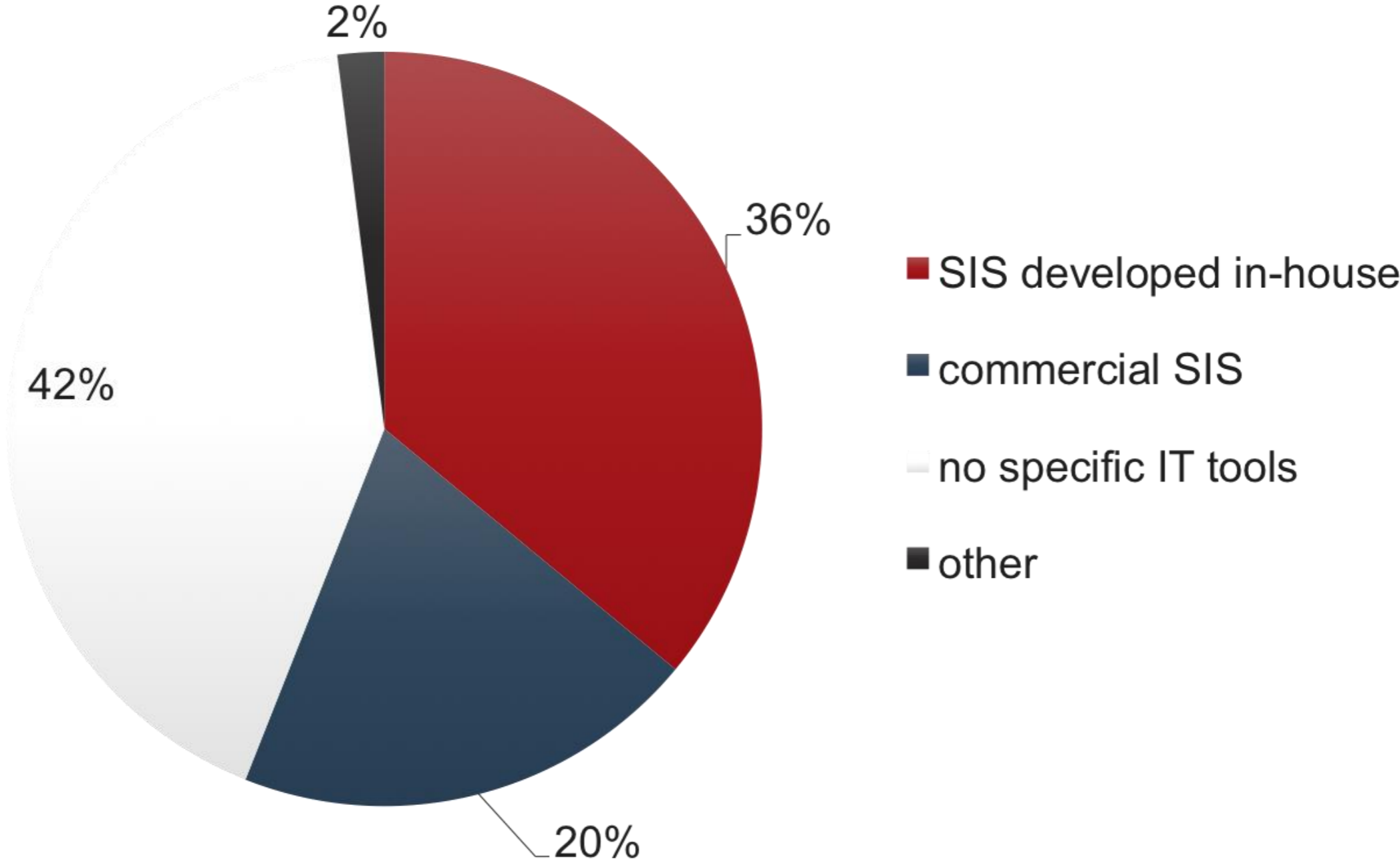
Institution B



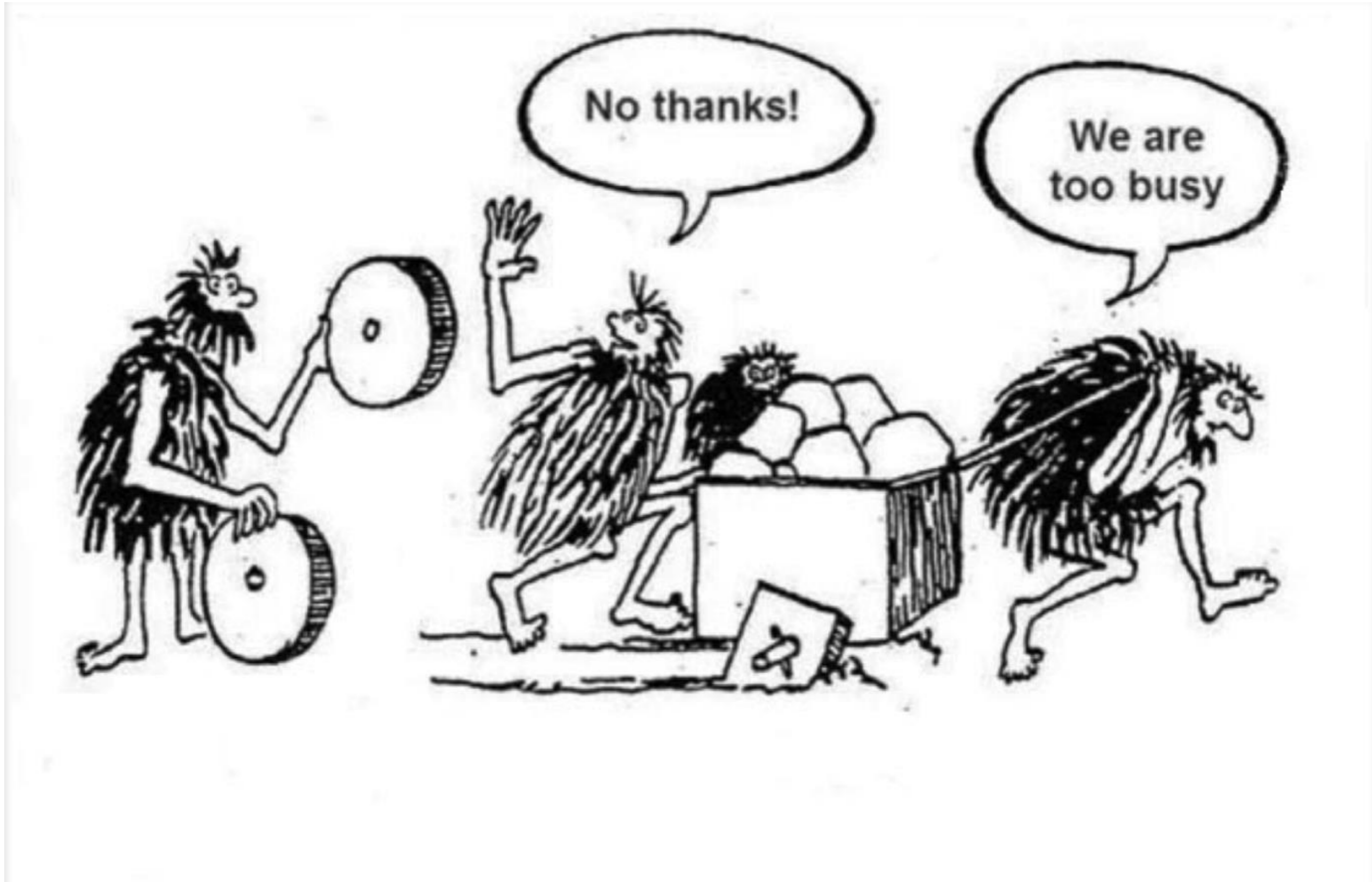
MINDING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- How?
- Reuse and recycle
- EWP as umbrella for existing open source tools developed with EU funding (or not)
 - Egracons
 - Online Learning Agreement
 - European Student Card
- Enhances impact / sustainability + fights fragmentation
- Support of developers

DATA REPOSITORIES



CHALLENGE # 2



CHALLENGE # 2

Digital change is cultural change!!

Developing the technology is easy.
Making the most out of it.. not always.

COMPETENCE CENTRE

- Provide practical examples of how local SIS have been connected to the EWP network
- Ensure availability of high quality reference documentation
- Stepping stone for a professional EWP helpdesk

LOOKING AT 2020

- EWP as the “electronic brain” of new E+ programme
- Anticipate how workflows can be adapted and take advantage of new infrastructure (EUF Erasmus Experts workgroup)

“We have to have a system that is going to make the whole process much easier. We have to make the system work better than today...” – Adam Tyson, quoted earlier

CONCLUSIONS

QUANTITY OR QUALITY?

- Quantity and quality can go hand in hand
- Institutions can take up their responsibility
- The European Commission needs to support bottom up initiatives
- The European Commission needs to focus on quality (besides focusing on quality)

**The next big thing
will be a lot of small things.**



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