

Impact of Policies for Plagiarism in HE across Europe

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 **PPHEAE**



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Executive Agency

Lifelong Learning Programme

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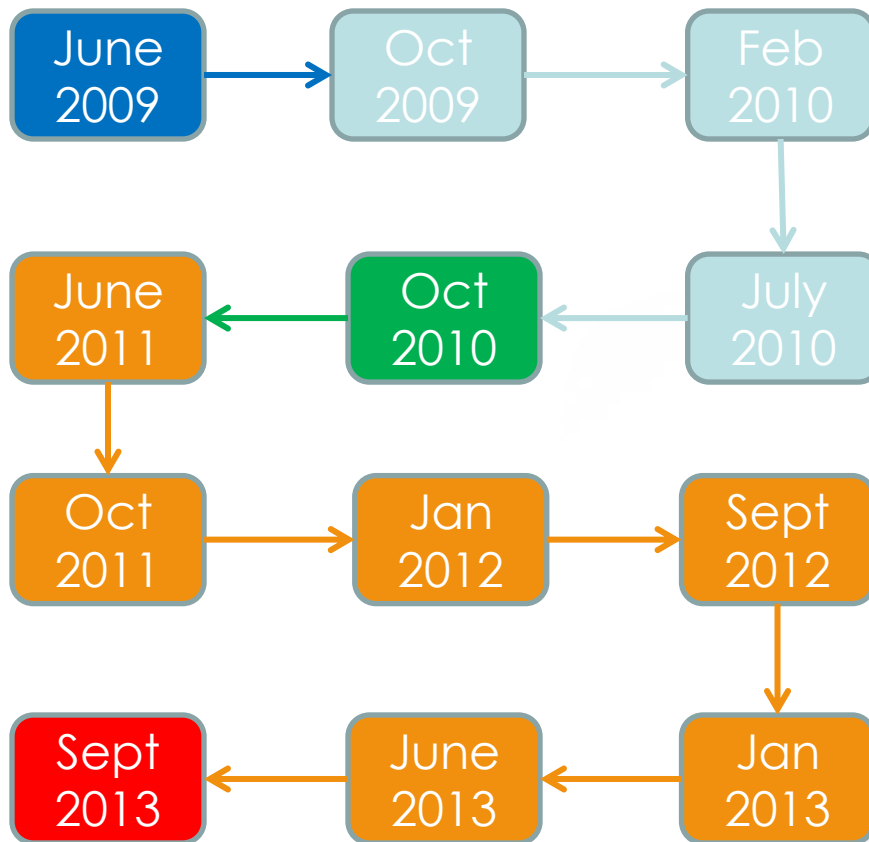
Turnitin / iParadigms / IS4U



**Mendel
University
in Brno**



Small beginnings...



IPPHEAE Aims and Objectives

- Identify what is being done to combat plagiarism in HE institutions across Europe
- Develop tools and resources
- Capture case studies of good practice
- Support interventions for preventing / detecting plagiarism
- Recommend ways to discourage, find and deal with plagiarism and academic dishonesty
- Improve standards and quality in HE institutions across Europe and beyond



Research and Development

ANTON – software tool development

Survey across EU countries

Case studies – exploitation

Analysis, reporting, dissemination



Survey Outputs

- Separate reports for all 27 EU countries
 - Executive summary
 - Details of research
 - Analysis of results
 - Recommendations
- Comparison across the EU
- Institutions: 3 questionnaires, 14 languages
- National/senior management Interviews
- Student focus groups
- Almost 5,000 anonymous responses
- Academic Integrity Maturity Model
 - Workshop focus
- Tested survey questions – for reuse



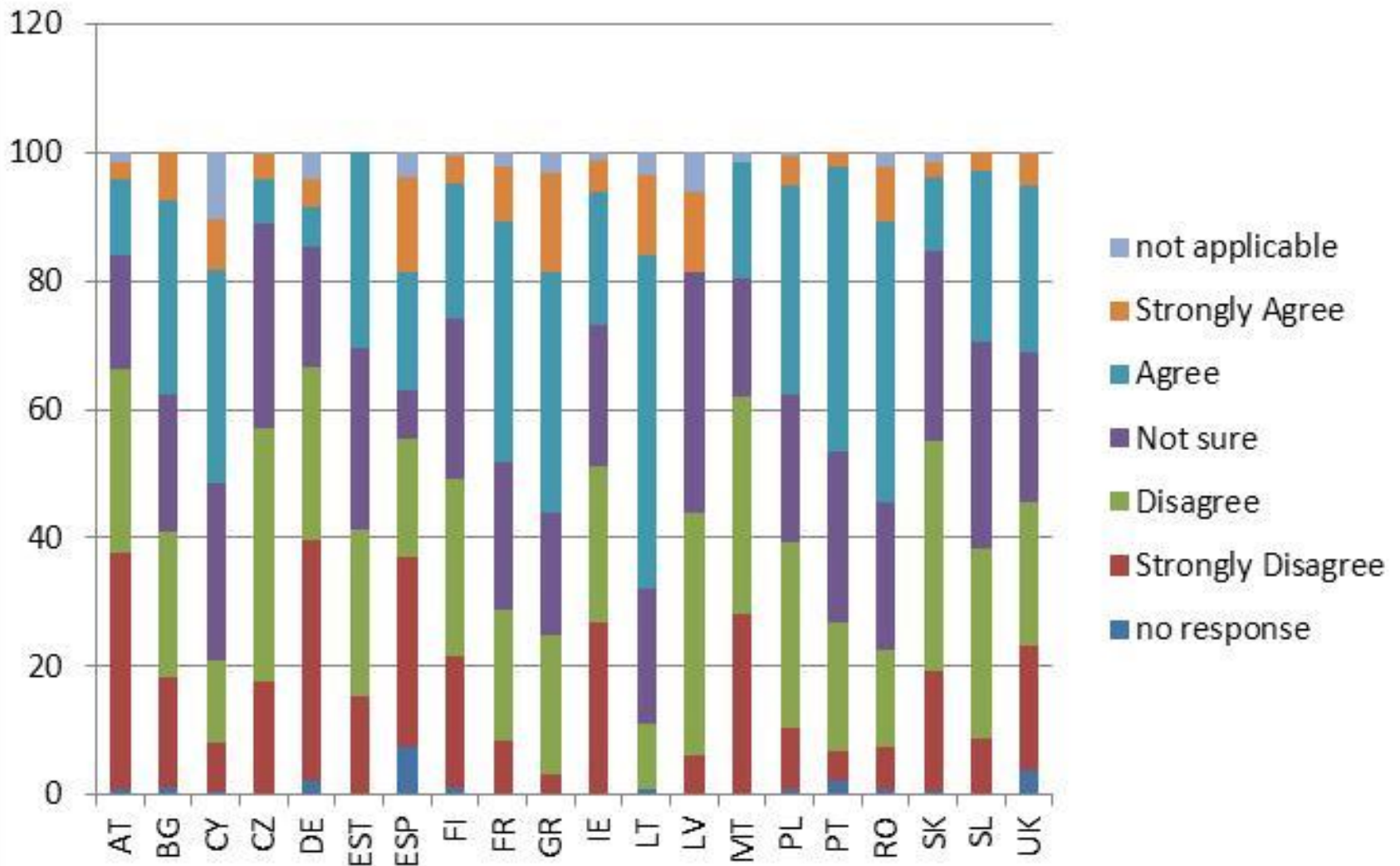
Findings

- Great differences between countries and institutions
 - Approaches to quality assurance
 - Perceptions, awareness – eg what is plagiarism
 - Policies and procedures
- Maturity of systems
 - Nationally, regionally, institutionally
- Inconsistency in
 - Understanding
 - Accountability for decisions
 - Processes
 - Decisions
- Good practice – lots of it (workshop)
- Head in the sand – lots of it
- Acceptance of the need for change - variable

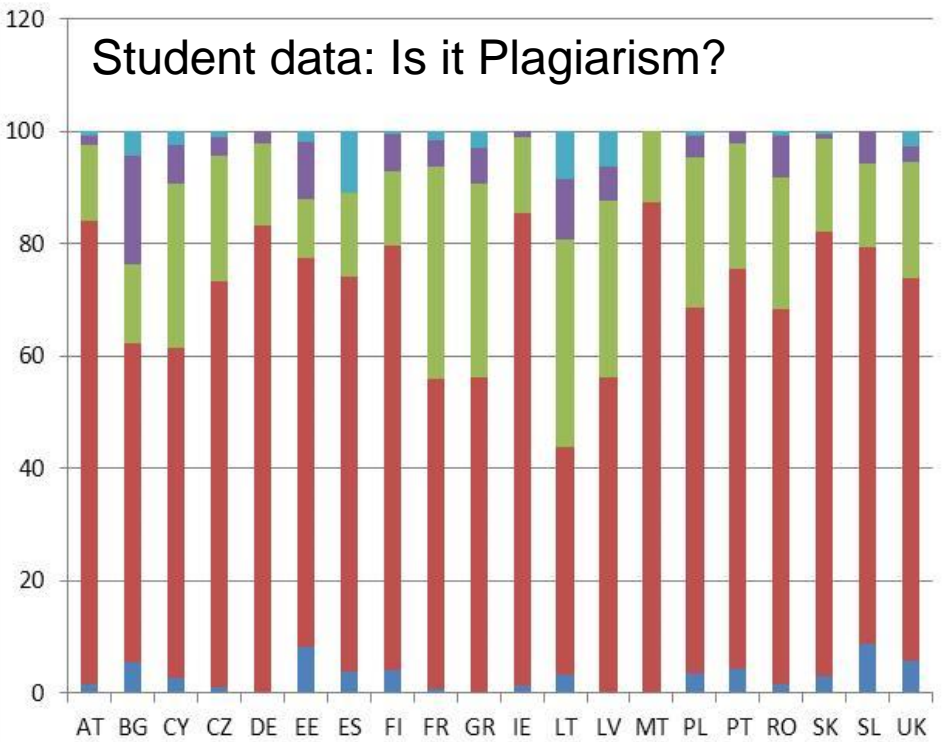


Sample student data

I believe I may have plagiarised (accidentally or deliberately)



Student data: Is it Plagiarism?

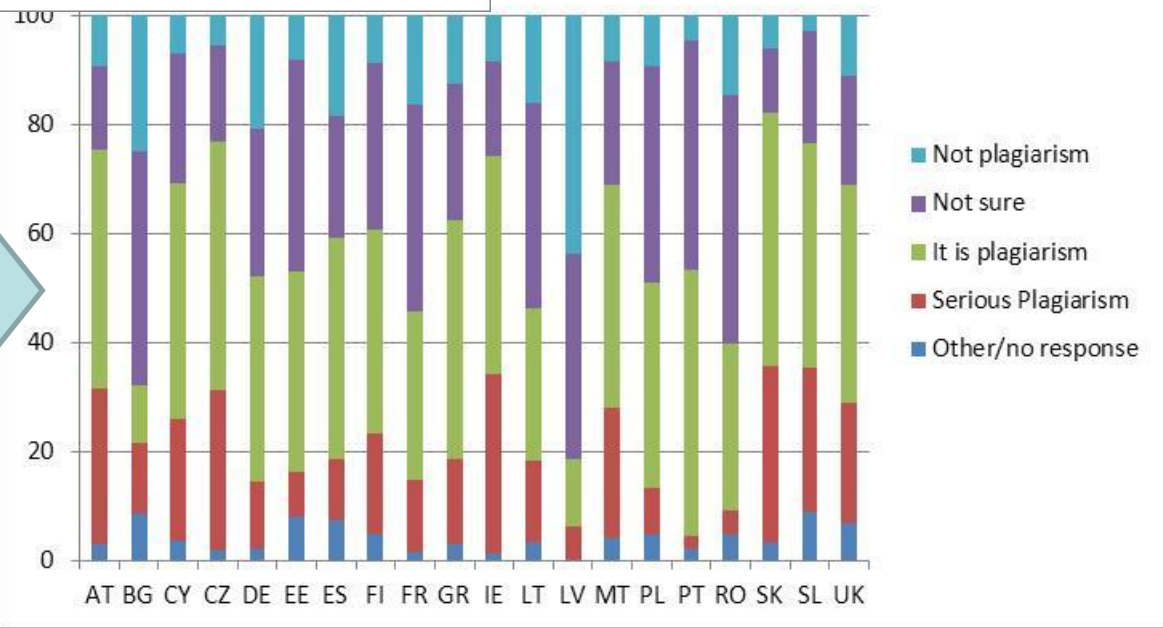
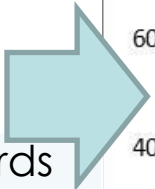


40% copied word for word with no quotations, citations, references - Is it plagiarism?

Eg Bulgaria (n=93) 5-57-14-19-4 %

40% copied with some words changed with no quotations, references or in text citations

Eg Bulgaria (n=93) 9-13-11-43-25 %



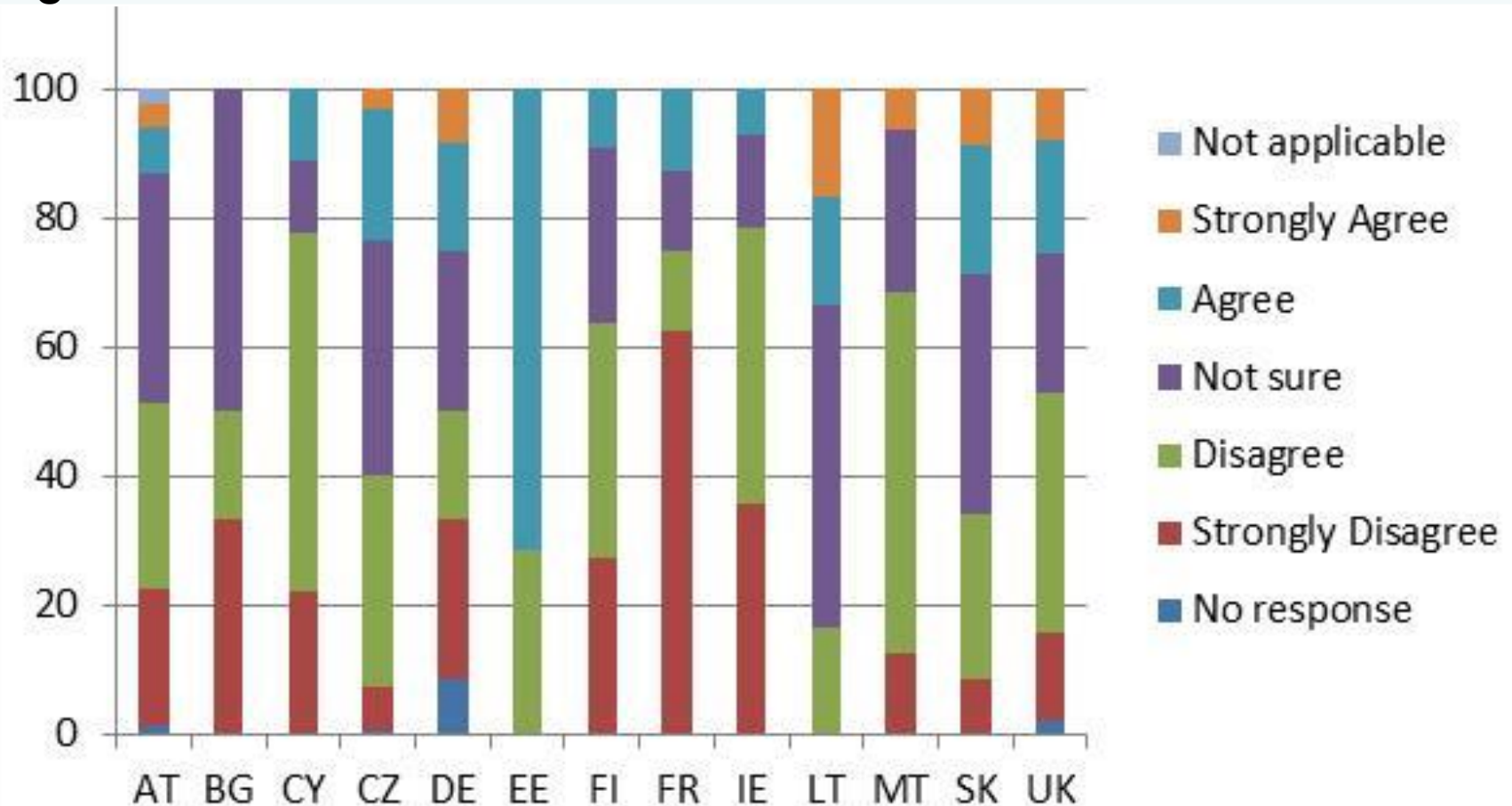
Findings: Policies and procedures

- Austria and Sweden maintain national stats, but ...
- Focus on research and PhD students, not bachelor, masters in some countries
- UK and Ireland different, eg transparency
- Students and most teachers calling for more student training and information
- Separating V Integrating student guidance
- Not all teachers want CPD, “training”
- Use of digital tools – teachers, students



Teacher responses: Are cases of plagiarism handled consistently and fairly?

I believe that all teachers follow the same procedures for similar cases of plagiarism



Recommendations

Varies across countries and institutions, examples:

- National support for institution-wide strategies, including licenses for digital tools
- Accountability and consistency in QA, assessment grading and academic integrity
- Clear and transparent institution-wide policies and systems
- More agreement on what constitutes plagiarism
- Fairness and proportionality of sanctions
- Education and training, staff and students
- Comparability of statistics to monitor impact
- Funding for developments
- Strengthen pre-university understanding and practices



Challenges to future progress

- What could change, what would be possible?
- Reaching the right people to kick-start change
- Gaps: low participation, institutions and countries
- Autonomy institutionally and individually
- Overworked, underpaid academics, second jobs
- Large class sizes, under-investment
- Scale of change needed in some places
- Complacency, lack of interest
- Costs in current economic climate
- Fear of identification, exposure
- Shoot the whistle-blower mentality
- Lack of agreement about how to proceed
- Not viewed as a priority



What's next?

- Complete analysis and publish country reports and evaluation
- Complete and document case studies
 - Examples of good practice in plagiarism prevention and management
 - Access to project resources: workshops, quiz
- Disseminate information to people of influence and try to get buy-in
- Interventions, workshops seminars
- More funding, further projects?
- More research and analysis of existing data and research tools



Would you like to be involved?

- IPPHEAE is a small step on a long journey
- Are you interested in participating in further research?
- Devising strategies to bring about changes?
- Please let the IPPHEAE team know



Thank you!

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