Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond 2017

25th May 2017

Exploring Issues Challenging Academic Integrity in South East Europe

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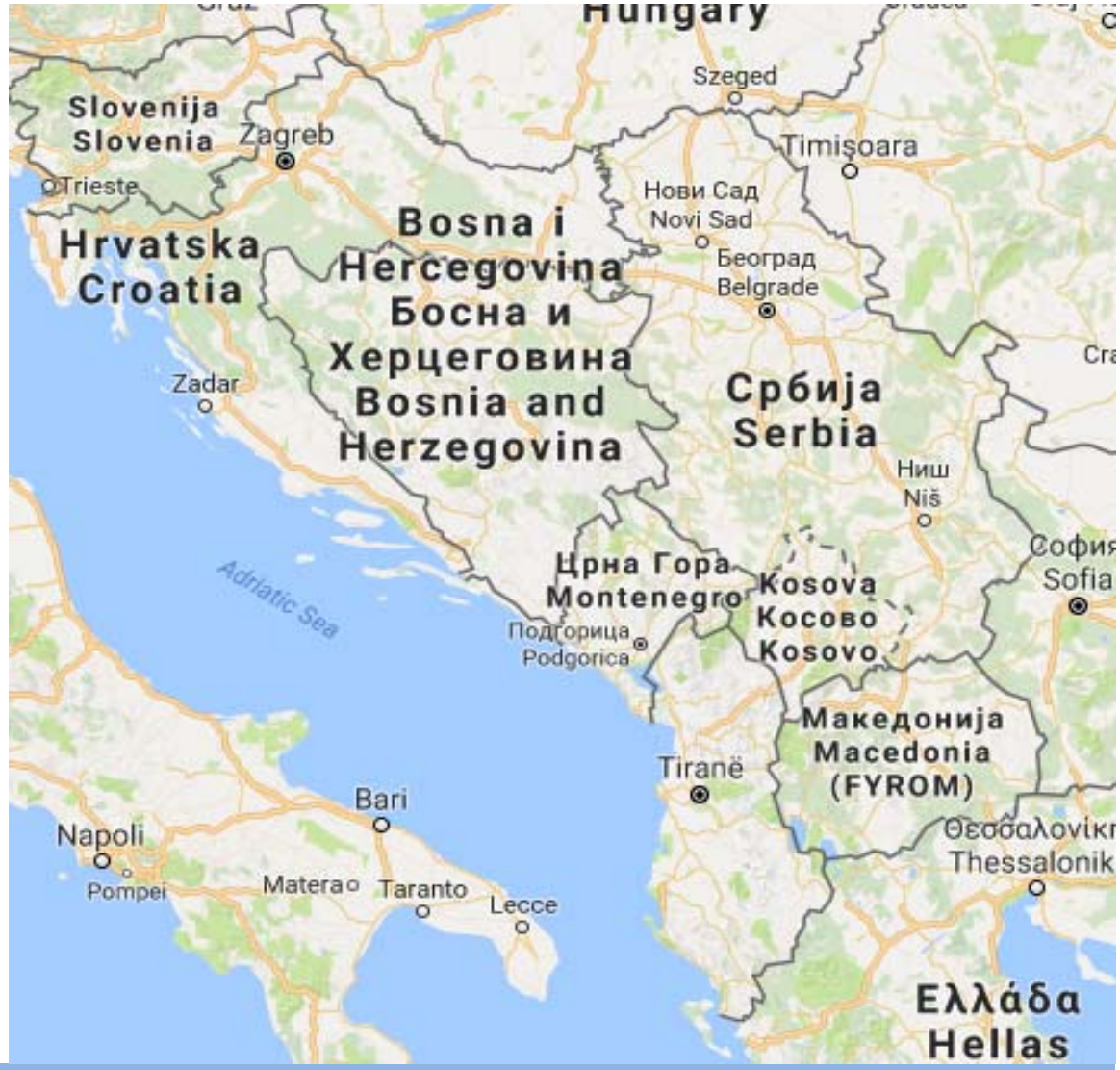
South East European Project on Policies for Academic Integrity

  - Commissioned and funded by **Council of Europe**
  - Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED)
  - www.coe.int/etined
- Precedestor: Impact of Policies for Plagiarism in Higher Education Across Europe
  - IPPHEAE
  - www.plagiarism.cz/ippheae
- Project period: September 2016–March 2017
- www.plagiarism.cz/seeppai

South East European Project on Policies for Academic Integrity

- Target countries:
  - Albania
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Croatia
  - Montenegro
  - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - Serbia



South East European Project on Policies for Academic Integrity

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Data Collection

- Online questionnaires
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Higher management
  - English + national language versions

- Personal visits
  - Focus groups with students
  - Personal interviews with teachers and management
  - Multiple institutions per country

Data Collection

- Online questionnaires
  - Students – 460
  - Teachers – 255
  - Higher management – 15
  - English + national language versions

- Personal visits
  - Focus groups with students – 13
  - Personal interviews with teachers and management – 15 + 7
  - Multiple institutions per country – 17

Questionnaires

- Academic integrity in general, plagiarism, ghost writing, exam cheating
- Education, knowledge, source of information
- Strategies and policies – existence, following, knowledge among students and teachers
- Consequences after breaches
- Similarities detecting or text matching software
- What are the reasons for plagiarism and cheating
- Ideas, preventions

Personal Visits

Higher Education in SE Europe

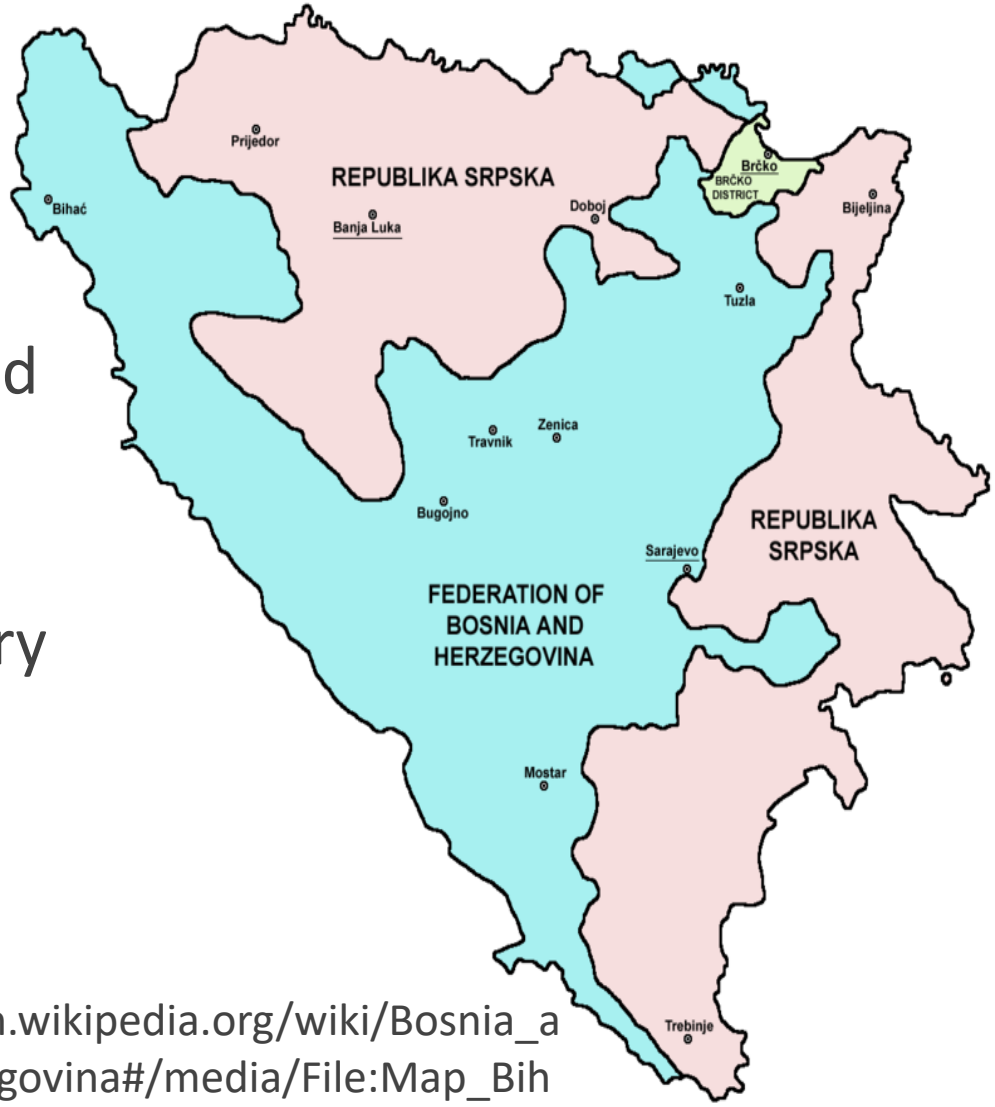
- High corruption in general
  - Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI 2015): Croatia 49th, Albania 88th (of 176)
- Huge universities with many faculties (20—30)
  - Usually one public university in city
  - Faculties are quite autonomous
    - Usually no wide policies
- Big differences among universities within the countries, even among faculties of one university

Higher Education in SE Europe

- In some countries – distrust to private universities
- In some countries – private universities are examples of good practice (e.g. Albania)
- In general didactical approach to teaching, critical thinking not encouraged
- Many written exams, assessment being repeated
- Relaxed attitude to cheating

Bosna and Herzegovina

- 3 entitets:
  - Brčko District
  - Republika Srpska
  - Federation of of Bosnia and Herzegovina – federation with 10 cantons
- There isn‘t one comon ministry of education
- No mutual recognition the diplomas across internal borders



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina#/media/File:Map_Bih_entities.png

Students vs. Teachers

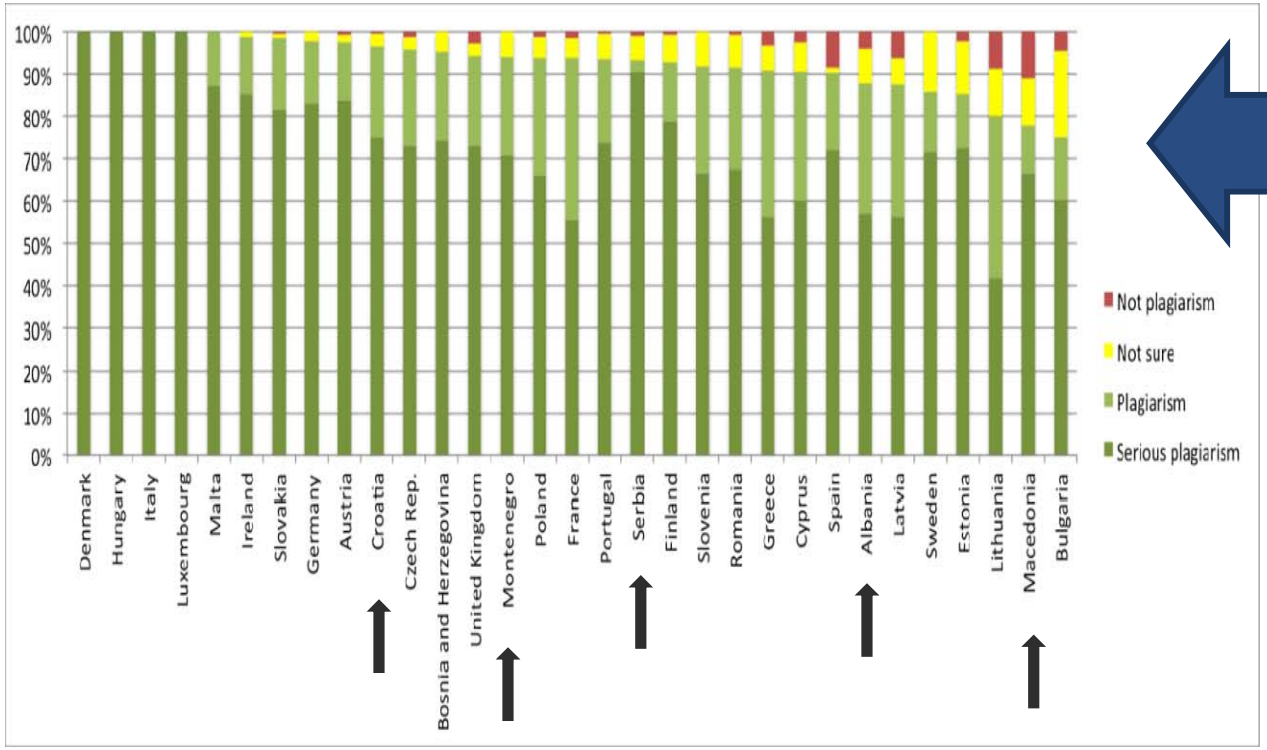
- Students: *„cheating is in our blood“*
  - *Cheating in our country is approved, you can see it.* (RS)
  - *Basic problem is our mentality, we want everything and we want it now and without any work.* (BA)
  - *We all cheat sometimes, it's very common everywhere.* (HR)
  - Contract cheating is very well known among students, relatively cheap
    - Underestimated by teachers
- Sometimes teachers are optimistic about their students honesty

Agreement that “my institution has policies and procedures for dealing with …”

	teachers	students	managers
Plagiarism	51%	60%	73%
Academic Dishonesty	55%	59%	94%
Exam cheating	75%	71%	94%
Ghost writing	51%	45%	73%

IPPHEAE Comparison

- Is it plagiarism?
  - 40% of student's work copied word for word with no quotation, references or citations
  - 40% of student's work copied some words changed, no quotations, references or citations
- Student data



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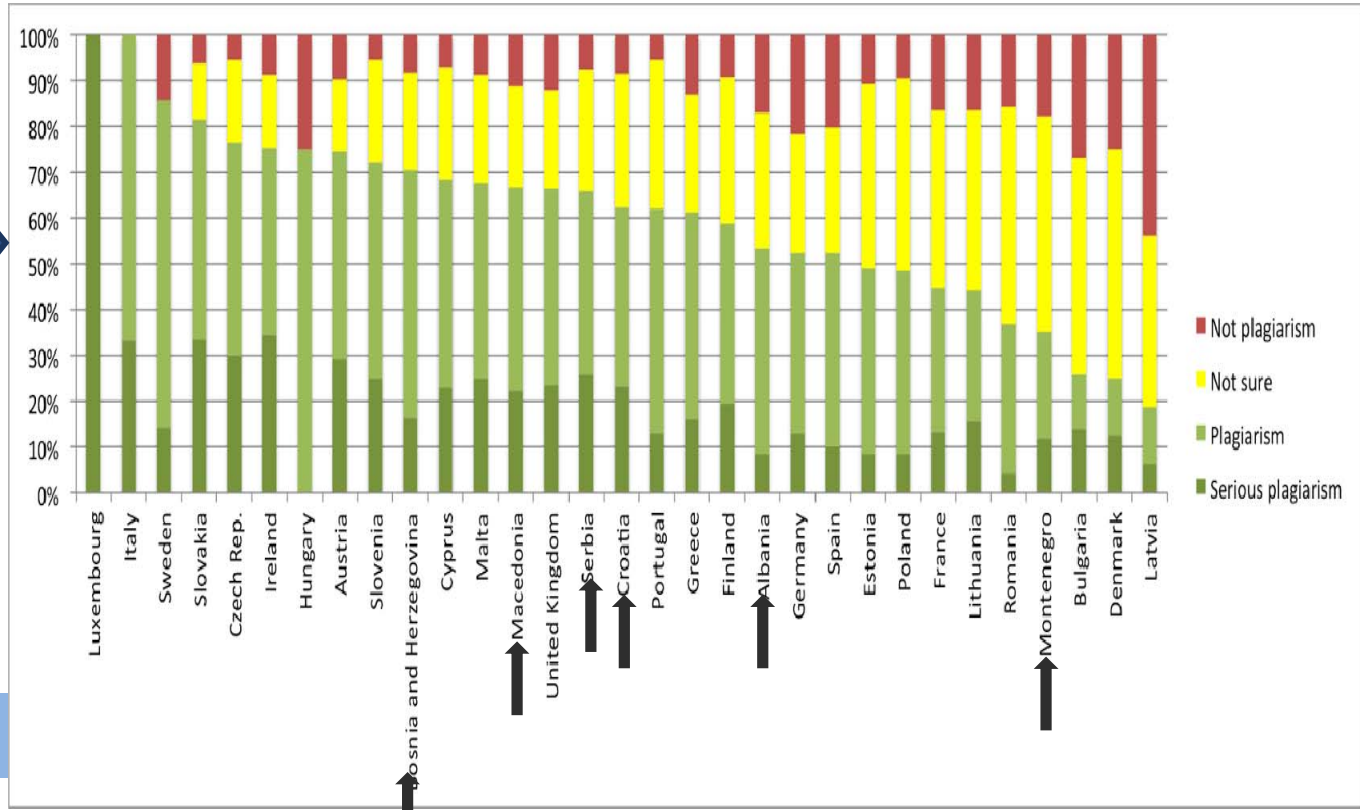
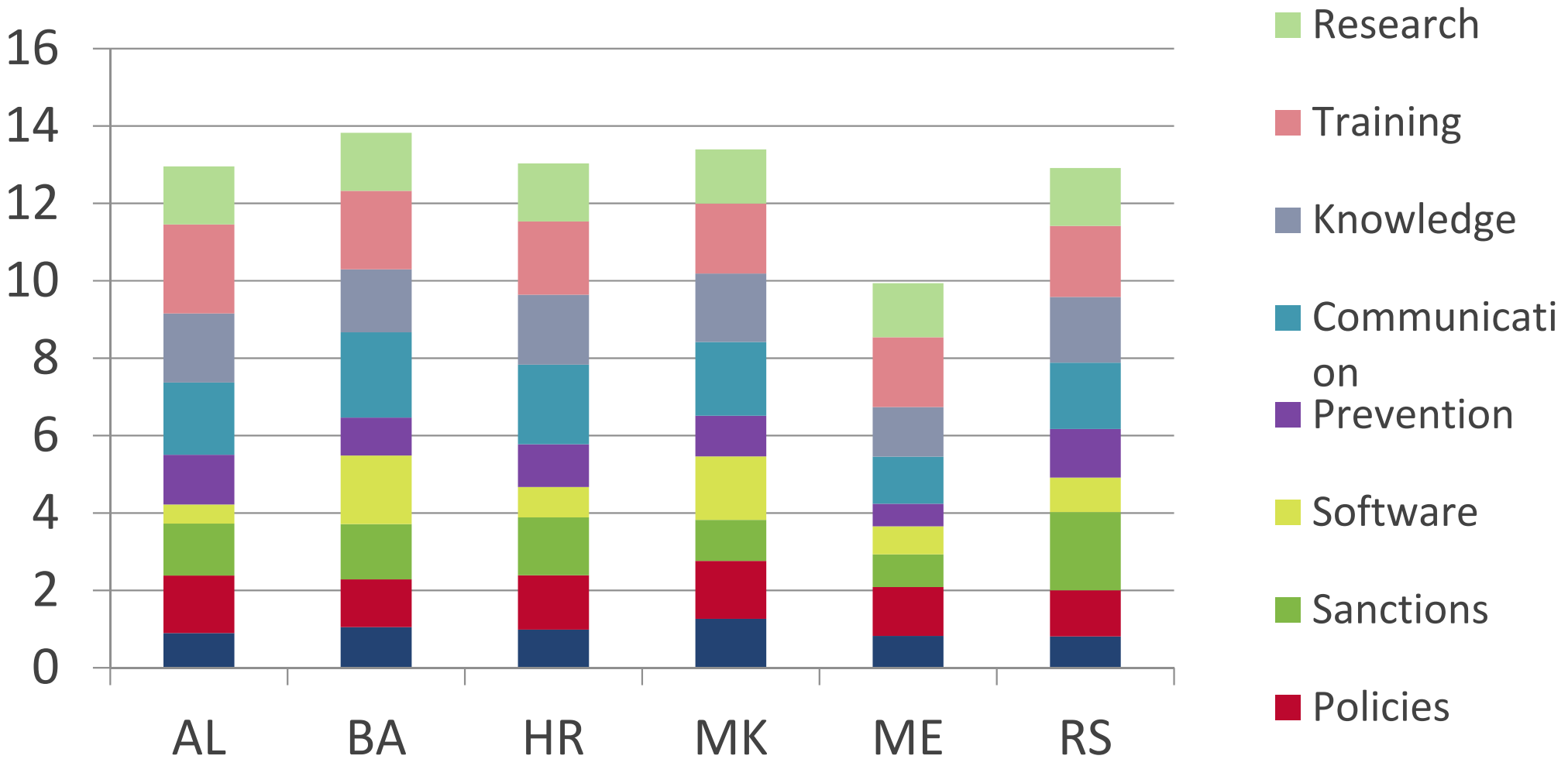


Good practices examples

- FYROM – central repository of theses
- BA – one faculty: went for international accreditation (by USA and UK universities)
- CR – one faculty: web for ethics, special email, mascot, ethical comission meet every year to discuss cases, teachers meeting every year to discuss case, students have regular workshops (thanks to a small group of people)
- RS – one faculty: very strict following of rules, efficient courses of academic writing which students appreciate
- AL – two universities have policies and awareness of academic integrity

Academic Integrity Maturity Model



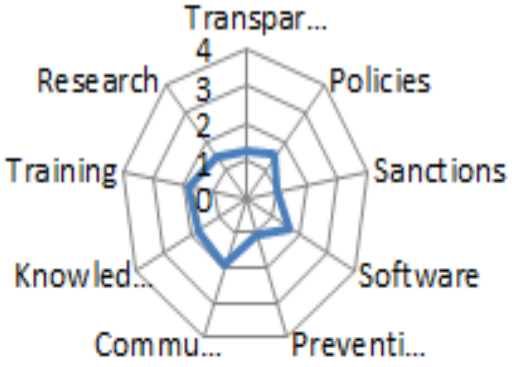
Albania

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Montenegro

Croatia

Macedonia



Serbia

Recommendations to governments

- Governments:
  - Provide oversight for and guidance in strengthening policies and procedures
  - Text-matching SW licenses
  - Facilitate communication among institutions among borders
- Accreditation and quality agencies
  - Monitor the quality of education
- Research in academic integrity

Recommendations to institutions

- United local policies and practices
- Develop guidelines and standard set of sanctions
  - And make them known to students and staff
- Training for staff (seminars, workshops)
- Software tools
- Discourage rote learning
- Procedures for “whistleblowing”

Recommendations to academic staff

- Take responsibility for their own conduct as role models
- Commit to integrity: fairness, consistency, honesty, transparency
- Handle all cases according to institutional policies and procedures

Contacts

- www.plagiarism.cz/seeppai
- www.facebook.com/seeppai
- www.coe.int/etined

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