EUROPEAN GRADE CONVERSION

ASEM PLA – 27/04/2017
THE NEXT STEP OF RECOGNITION
WHY DO WE NEED GRADE CONVERSION?

• European HEIs have different grading scales and passing rates

• Mobility students have the right to a fair conversion of the grades they’ve obtained during a period of study abroad

• It helps ensuring transparency of grading cultures and the accurate conversion of grades for mobility students
# Grading Scales Across Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>15</td>
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</table>
WHY DO WE NEED GRADE CONVERSION?

• European HEIs have different grading scales and passing rates
• Mobility students have the right to a fair conversion of the grades they’ve obtained during a period of study abroad
• It helps ensuring transparency of grading cultures and the accurate conversion of grades for mobility students
When institutions decide to transfer their mobile students’ grades, the academic responsible for credit transfer should compare the grade distribution table from his/her reference group with the one developed by the other institution for the parallel reference group. The position of each grade within the two tables can be compared and, on the basis of this comparison, individual grades are converted.
GRADE CONVERSION IN ECTS USERS’ GUIDE

- ECTS Users’ guide 2009 and 2015:
- Grading table: use of distribution tables

**Italy**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>100*</td>
<td>93.1</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**France**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
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<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.79%</td>
<td>18.59%</td>
<td>18.45%</td>
<td>12.05%</td>
<td>9.46%</td>
<td>3.65%</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>65.21</td>
<td>46.62</td>
<td>28.17</td>
<td>16.12</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Accumulated percentage in red

- 27 in Italy becomes 12 in France
1. Identify the reference group
2. Calculate the absolute number of passing grades awarded to students belonging to the reference group
3. Calculate the grade distribution in terms of percentages of the passing grades awarded to the reference group
4. Develop cumulative percentages starting from the highest passing grade
GRADING AT GHENT UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Sciences
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Faculty of Political and Social Sciences
EGRACONS TOOL
WHAT IS IT?

- A reliable web application that helps participating institutions to convert grades obtained abroad
- The tool is available for staff active in international cooperation
- Grade conversion can happen only between your own institution and a host institution
- Participating institutions must provide grading tables before potential users can use the tool
WHAT IT IS NOT?

- A tool for students to select their study abroad destination
- A tool that substitutes the institution’s Student Information System or other Erasmus tools
- A tool that keeps track of all conversions, storing their history
- A tool that converts final degree grades (cf. GPA)
- Conversion from the own grades to those abroad
PROCEDURE

- An institution performs a query on their student database for the last 2 or 3 years counting all the grades per degree (with ISCED codes assigned to each degree)
- They enter/copy these grading tables into the Egracons template and send it to Egracons
- The grading tables are uploaded into the tool
- Each institution identifies a local administrator. He/she registers in the tool and the account is activated
- The tool will compare the grading tables and do the conversions
ISCED CODES

- In Higher Education 4 digits are required. EGRACONS only accepts 4 digits (e.g., 0215, 0912, 0715 but also 0288 or 0518 (=051))
- Only 1 code is assigned to each degree
- Some codes are close but still different
- 0231 Language Acquisition
- 0232 Literature and linguistics
EGRACONS USER ROLES

- Converter  Performs the grading conversion for a HEI
- Uploader   Uploads the HEI’s grading table to the Tool
- Local Administrator Manages the users for a single institution
- Super Administrator Management of the tool as a whole

- The Converter, Uploader and Local Administrator roles are assigned per institution and their activity is limited to that institution
- The same user can have any combination of the first three roles
- Super Administrator cannot be combined with another role
CONVERTER

- Performs grading conversions of grades obtained abroad
- Several Converters at one institution

- User Interface functions:
  - Grade Conversion
  - Transcript Conversion

- Transcripts are owned by a user: a transcript can be viewed only by the user who added it
- For grade conversion the Home Institution can only be the user’s institution
Manages the grading tables for one’s own institution and uploads the tables
Several Uploading can be appointed for the same institution

User Interface functions:
- Grading Tables (upload, view, download, publish, delete)*

→ Only one table at time can be active
→ A table can be deleted only if it is not active
→ A table becomes inactive only when another table is activated

* Limited to one’s own institution
LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR

- Manages the users of one’s own Institution, and can more particularly enable and authorize users.

- User Interface functions:
  - Users (view, reset password, authorize modify, delete)*
  - Logs (view)*

* Limited to one’s own institution
WHAT’S NEXT?

– Provide us with grading tables: see
  http://egracons.eu/page/grading-table-instructions-and-template
– We will upload them and give you access
– Officially operational since September 2015
– List of participants: see:
  https://tool.egracons.eu/content/registered-institutions
COUNTRY REPORTS

– Description of existing grading systems in Europe
– So far 30 countries included
– Includes visual representation of grading scales
– Intention to cover all EHEA countries
– To be supplemented with Institutional Reports
MORE INFORMATION

- Website: [http://egracons.eu/](http://egracons.eu/)
- List of HEIs in Egracons (80+ at the moment): [https://tool.egracons.eu/content/registered-institutions](https://tool.egracons.eu/content/registered-institutions)
- Tool registration: [https://tool.egracons.eu/](https://tool.egracons.eu/)
- Demo video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpPanS-PQmg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpPanS-PQmg)
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