



REPORT ON BRIDGE PROJECT ACTION 3
The Responsible of Action 3 was designated to the MALTA through the
Malta Qualification Recognition Information Centre
within the
Malta Qualifications Council
Ministry of Education and Employment
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Executive Summary

This report is a compilation of the conclusions that came out of the third activity under the Bridge Project. The remit of the Bridge project is to provide; “Best Recognition Instruments for the Dialogue between Global Experts” The Bridge project is funded by the European Commission under the framework of Action 3 of the Erasmus Mundus Programme. Its main purpose is to strengthen cooperation among the Erasmus Mundus National Structures and the NARIC, ENIC and MERIC Centres.

The main objective of Action 3 of the Bridge project is the spreading knowledge about Erasmus Mundus Programme activities among the ENIC/MERIC centres. Thus, the topic chosen for this action was to study the level of “Knowledge of Erasmus Mundus Programmes”. This action was entrusted to Malta as one of the five partners in this project through the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre – NARIC Malta. The MQRIC is the sole representative of the Malta Qualifications Council in this project.

We started working directly on Action 3 in April 2011. It was pre determined from the start that the methodology to be used for this Action 3 was to make use of a questionnaire as an instrument to help us establish a clear picture of what is the state of play in terms of both awareness and knowledge of the Erasmus Mundus Programmes among the ENIC’s & MERIC’s.

With the advice of the other partners in the project and through sharing of experiences we drafted the first blue print of this questionnaire and after some fine tuning we circulated this questionnaire through electronic mail to all the ENIC and MERIC centres. The findings of the questionnaire were forwarded to us by the Italian partners who are the leaders of this project in September 2011 both in English and French

Language. Then we started collating the data received in due course and did our best to compile in this study all the replies and the comments expressed by the same respondents.

In order to make this piece of work a fruitful one, the study is both quantitative and qualitative. Thus the questions included in this questionnaire were chosen with the clear mind to analyse the level of awareness and the level of communication among the ENIC's & MERIC's. Another must was to analyse the evaluation and the recognition aspect of the Erasmus Mundus joint/double/multiple degree Programmes. Since this is the critical issue for most of the young people who are opting for Erasmus Mundus Programmes. At the end of the questionnaire we chose questions to spur both the Erasmus Mundus National Structures and the ENIC and MERIC centres to endeavour methods and means to improve the level of cooperation and communication among all the parties involved.

For those who are not familiar with our networks perhaps it is useful to provide some information about the function of the bodies that are being mentioned in this questionnaire.

Thus, the **ENIC network** provided information on the Recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and other qualifications, the education systems in both foreign countries and the ENIC's own country; and the opportunities for studying abroad, including information on loans and scholarships, and practical advice on mobility and comparability.

The **MERIC Network** brings together all the ratifying and signatory states of the Mediterranean Recognition Convention. It aims to promote information exchange in the Mediterranean Region and with the ENIC/NARIC networks, those being developed in the Arab states as well as other existing relevant networks, to promote synergy.

The **Erasmus Mundus National Structures** are supported by the Erasmus Mundus Programme to implement information and promotion projects that disseminate its results supports the nationally and worldwide.

Methodology

The technique used to compile the equivalent data was a questionnaire composed of four parts with a total of 20 questions. Each part was focused to a specific topic and competences. Intrinsically the questionnaire was planned on four parts.

In order to make the compilation of the data received more interesting we decided to make use of flags and pie charts. In this manner the results are more visual and to the point.

Part One

In Part One we focused on questions to establish the level of awareness of the ENIC/MERIC Centres onto the Erasmus Mundus (EM) activities and programmes and their relationship with the Erasmus Mundus National Structures (EMNS) 4 questions (Question 1 to 4).

Part Two

In Part two we dealt with questions aimed to help us analyse the type of information and contact that may or may not exist between the ENIC/MERIC Centres and the Erasmus Mundus National Structures - 10 questions (questions 5 to 14).

Part Three

In Part three of the questionnaire we opted for questions that may help us to elicit the real situation on the evaluation and recognition of EM joint/double/multiple degrees and the purpose and the purpose for requesting a recognition statement on the status of EM degree – 3 question (Questions 15 – 17).

Part Four

In the last three questions of the questionnaire that is in Part 4 we focus on three tangible questions to urge stakeholders to focus on the actions that we believe would help in the process to achieve the aim of this project. By training, improve cooperation and by mentioning factual case studies.

The respondents for this questionnaire were the following countries:



Andorra



Armenia



Australia



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Canada



Croatia



Denmark



Holy See – Vatican City



Israel



Malta



Moldova



New Zealand



Russian Federation



Serbia



Switzerland



Macedonia



Turkey

This means that in actual fact only 17 countries responded to the questionnaire. Most of them belong directly to the ENIC Network.

- **ENIC Malta: Malta EM National Structure**
- **ENIC Yerevan Armenia: There is no separate structure for the EM programme. There is a TEMPUS Contact Point in Armenia that is also providing information regarding the programme.**
- **ENIC Denmark: The EM Structure lies within the Danish Agency for International Education**
- **ENIC Serbia: EM programme activities are under the jurisdiction of National TEMPUS Office of the Republic of Serbia, which is a partner of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia. The Erasmus Mundus programme has been launched in 2004/2005 (at first in respect of scholarships for students and teachers). Since 2008 Serbia has been enabled to participate in all sorts of Erasmus Mundus programmes.**
- **ENIC Turkey: Although Turkey does not fully participate in the Erasmus Mundus programme, citizens of Turkey can participate as a third country national. Turkish National Agency responsible for Lifelong Learning Programme is designated by the National Authority to be the contact point for EM.**

Part 2

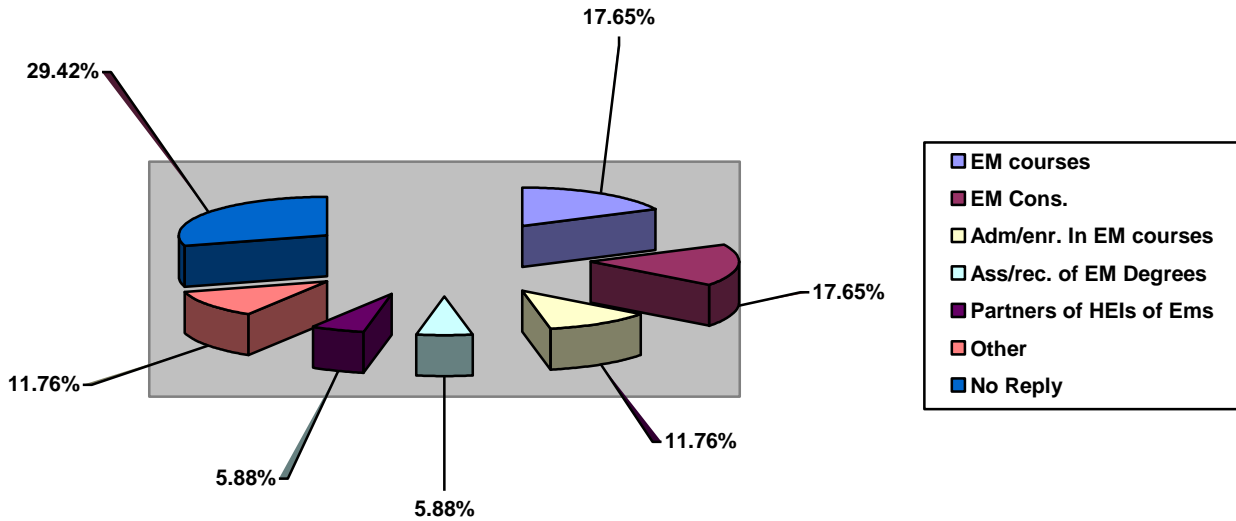
Q 5 – What kind of information did you ask for?

• EM courses	3	17.65%
• EM consortia	3	17.65%
• Admission to and enrolment in EM courses	2	11.76%
• Assessment and recognition of EM degrees	1	5.88%
• Partner HEIs of EM courses	1	5.88%
• Other	2	11.76%
• No Reply	5	29.42%

Comments

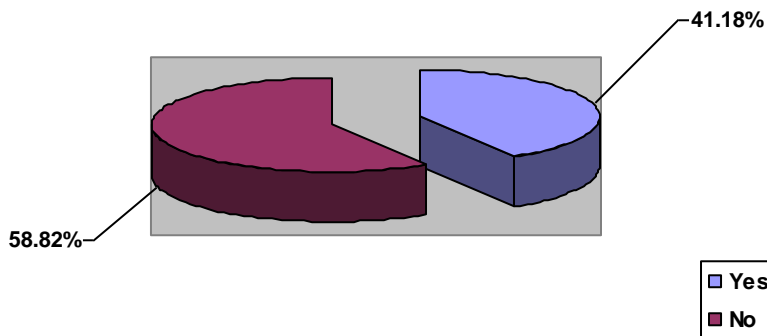
ENIC Armenia: General information statistics related to Armenia

Holy See: Informal meetings (as Holy See's HEI's are not eligible to EM)



Q 6 –Have you ever been connected by an EM National Structure?

- Yes 7 41.18%
- No (If no, go to question 9) 8 58.82%

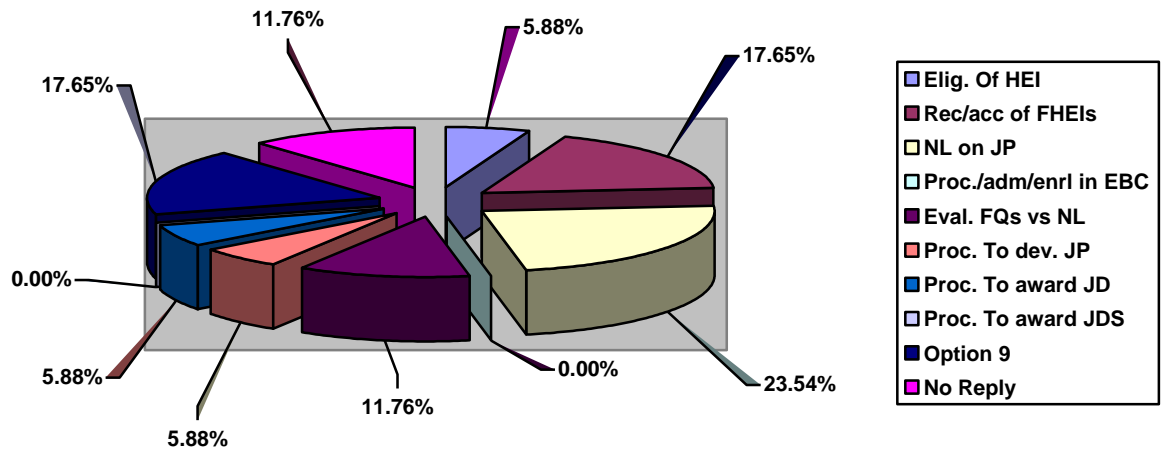


Q 7 – If yes, please specify by which EM National Structure:

- **Enic Russian Federation:** By both structures indicated in p.4. During 2007 – 2008 for reasons indicated in p.4
- **Enic Denmark:** Danish EM

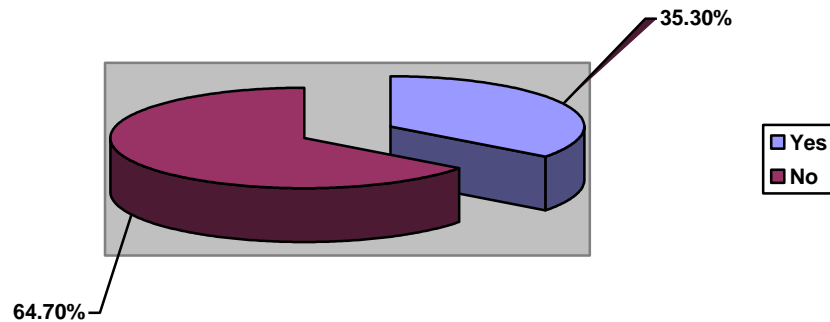
Q 8 – What kind of information did they ask for? (Multiple answers allowed)

• Eligibility for HE institutions	1	5.88%
• Recognition/accreditation status of foreign HEIs	3	17.65%
• National Legislation on joint programmes	4	23.54%
• Procedures for admission to and enrolment in a EM course	0	0.00%
• Evaluation of foreign qualifications in compliance with national legislation	2	11.76%
• Procedure to develop a joint programme	1	5.88%
• Procedure to award a joint degree	1	5.88%
• Procedures to award a joint DS	0	0.00%
• Option 9	3	17.65%
• No Reply	2	11.76%



Q 9 – Have you ever been invited by any Erasmus Mundus National Structure to their national meetings/seminars?

• Yes	6	35.30%
• No (If no, go to question 11)	11	64.70%

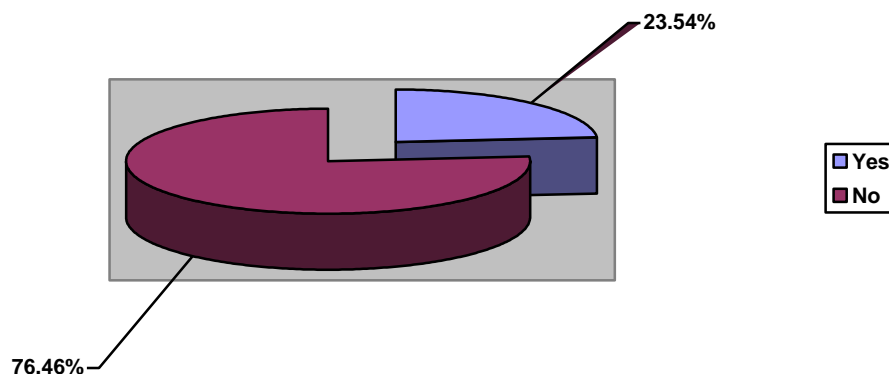


Q 10 – If yes please indicate by whom and what kind of event you have participated in:

- **ENIC Russian Federation:** The project indicated in p.4. culminated with national seminar organized by the Delegation of the European Union in December 2007. Mr Gennady Lukichev made a presentation on specific part of the project results.
- **ENIC Malta:** With Malta EM National Structure. EM information meeting organised specifically for university students.
- **ENIC Denmark:** Invited, but never attended
- **Holy Sees:** At “International Seminar on Joint Degrees” organised by Lithuanian Erasmus Mundus National Structure (in collaboration with University of Vilnius and JOIMAN network) and held in Vilnius October 29, 2010.
- **Denmark:** We constantly participate in the regular Erasmus coordinators meeting at national level where Erasmus Mundus programme has also been introduces and promoted.

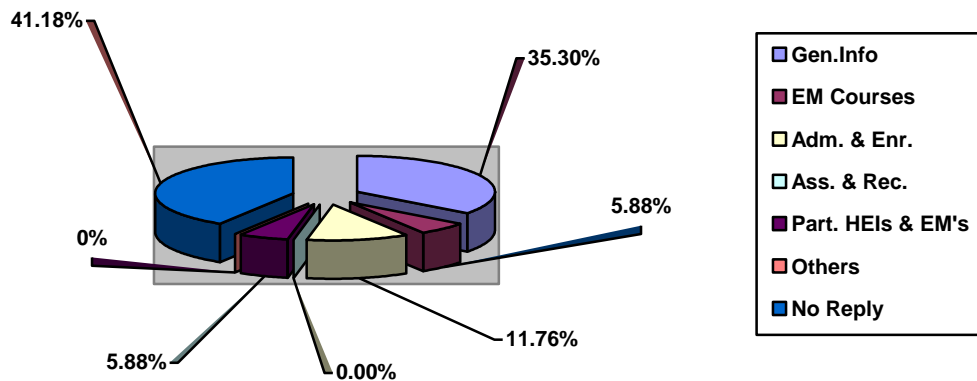
Q 11 – Have ever contacted the EU Delegation in your country about EM Programme?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--------|
| • Yes | 4 | 23.54% |
| • No (If no, go to question 13) | 13 | 76.46% |



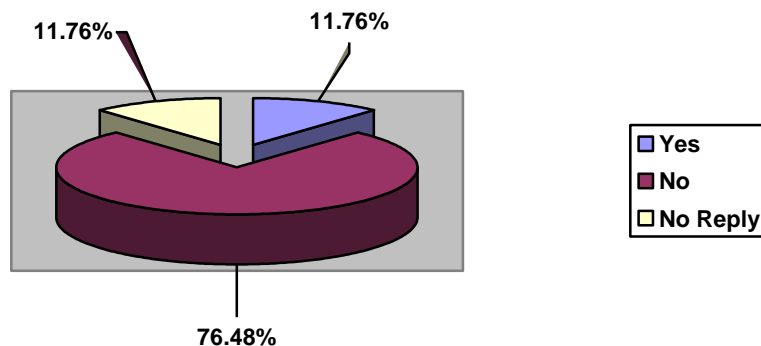
**Q 12 – What kind of information did you usually ask for?
(Multiple answers allowed)**

• General Information	6	35.30%
• EM courses	1	5.88%
• Admission to and enrolment to EM courses	2	11.76%
• Assessment and recognition to EM degrees	0	0.00%
• Partner HEIs of EM courses	1	5.88%
• Others:	0	0.00%
• No reply given	7	41.18%



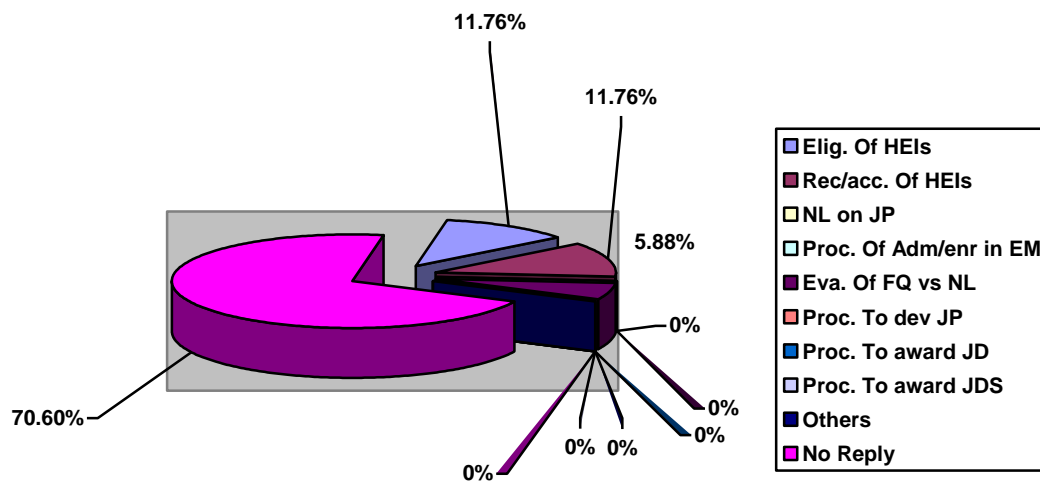
Q 13 – Have you ever been contacted by the EU Delegation in your country about EM programme?

• Yes	2	11.76%
• No (If no, go to question 15)	13	76.48%
• No Reply	2	11.76%



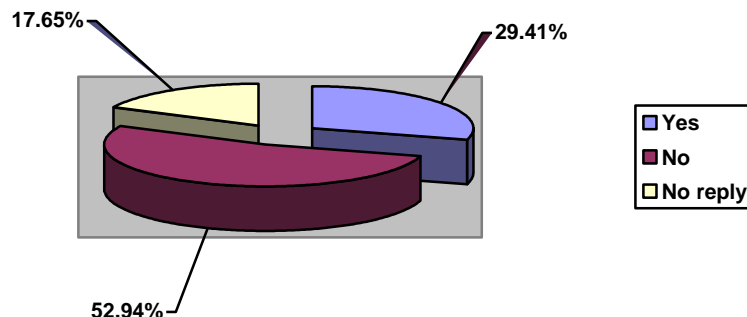
14 – What kind of information did they ask for? (Multiple answers allowed)

• Eligibility of HEIs	2	11.76%
• Recognition/accreditation status of foreign HEIs	2	11.76%
• National legislation on joint programmes	0	0.00%
• Procedures for admission to and enrolment in an EM courses	0	0.00%
• Evaluation of foreign qualification in compliance with the national Legislation	1	5.88%
• Procedures to develop a joint programme	0	0.00%
• Procedure to award a joint degree	0	0.00%
• Procedure to award a joint diploma supplement	0	0.00%
• Other:	0	0.00%
• No reply	12	70.60%



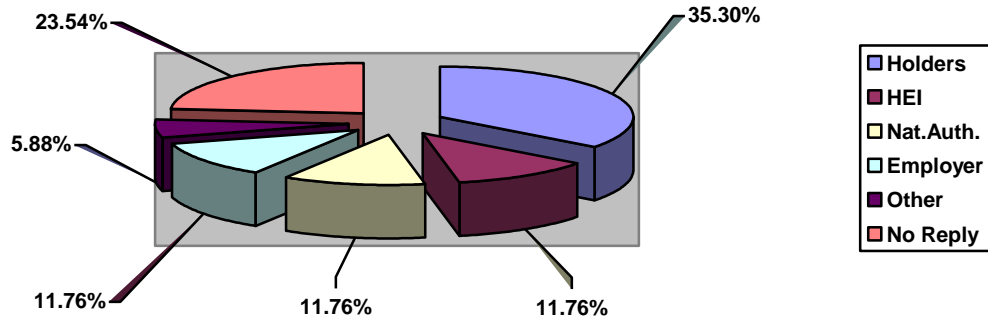
15 – Have you ever been contacted for the evaluation of an EM joint/double/multiple degree?

• Yes	5	29.41%
• No(If no, go to question 18)	9	52.94%
• No reply	3	17.65%



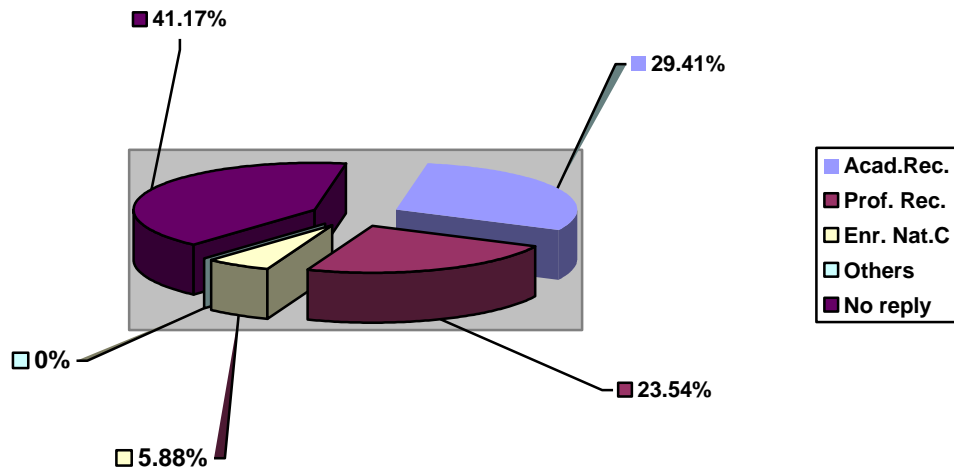
Q 16 – If yes, by: (Multiple answers allowed)

• Holders of the degree	6	35.30%
• HEI	2	11.76%
• National authority	2	11.76%
• Employer	2	11.76%
• Other:	1	5.88%
• No reply	4	23.54%



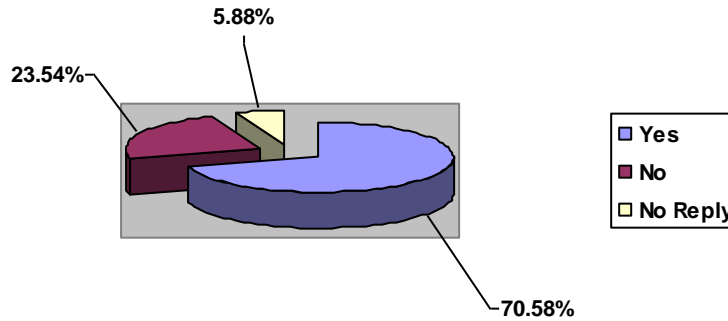
Q 17 – If yes, for which purpose? (Multiple answers allowed)

• Academic recognition	5	29.41%
• Professional recognition	4	23.54%
• Enrolment in a national course	1	5.88%
• Other:	0	0.00%
• No reply	7	41.17%



Q 18 – Would it be useful for your staff to be trained about EM Programme?

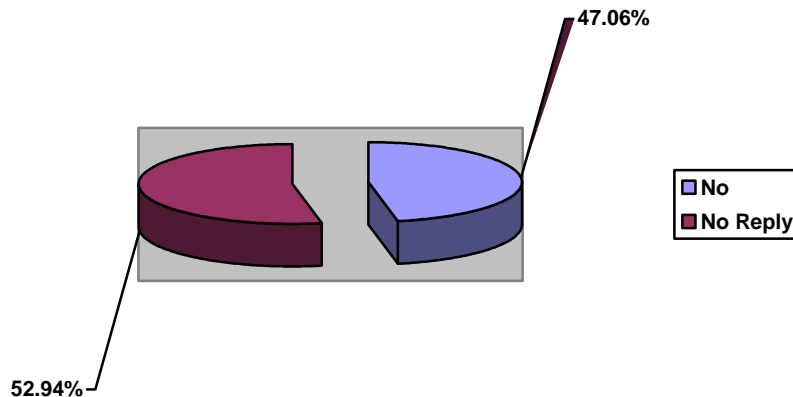
• Yes	12	70.58%
• No	4	23.54%
• No reply	1	5.88%



Q 19 – Could you suggest any specific actions to improve the cooperation between EM Programme and the network of ENIC/MERIC centres? (Max 3 topics)

Q 20 – Do you have any case studies about recognition issues from EM Programmes that could be relevant in order to reinforce the cooperation between EMNS and ENIC/MERIC centres? (Max 3 topics)

• No	8	47.06%
• No reply	9	52.94%



Comments Added by repodents

- **Armenia: Armenia's involvement in EM programme (all actions) had not been significant therefore there was no need for any monitoring. But our centre has planned some small study regarding joint-programmes which will include EM programme.**
- **Croatia: Evaluation of the usefulness of learning outcomes and competences for international recognition.**

Conclusions

The replies in the above questionnaire need to be studied further and deeper to provide some useful proposals to the European fora at the best interest of the hundreds of students that are moving around the globe to enhance their studies and to learn more about the different countries of the world.

We believe that these findings may serve as a spur for future studies and also as an instrument to work more closely with the Erasmus Mundus National Structure through the ENIC and MERIC network and vice versa.

This study also highlights the fact that immediate and serious measures need to be taken to revamp the MERIC Network. Unfortunately according to the findings underpinned in this study the issue of Erasmus Mundus Programmes is almost invisible or unheard of.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank the 17 Centres that found the time to respond to this questionnaire and those who were looking forward for these findings.

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