

## THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP WERE:

- Develop the state-of-the-art of the discipline in Europe and other countries: comparative analysis of the study plans in each country (within Europe, and other countries, to enhance dialogue between higher education institutions, exchange ideas and information and obtaining a general panorama)
- Adoption of the ECTS, and implementation of the Diploma Supplement, to promote transparency, and facilitate mobility and recognition of study periods abroad
- Elaborate a core curriculum of the discipline, with a European dimension, in order to organise diversity, rather than eliminate it.
- Move towards the adoption of a 2-tier degree system

One year after the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the EEGECS thematic network (December, 2002) the Working Group had a total of 36 members representing 27 institutions from 20 European countries. The initial number of members before the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly was 17 and the actual number of members is 39.

## SURVEY FOR EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS (2003-2004)

The first task to accomplish was the making of a questionnaire for Higher Education institutions in Europe. The questions included in this survey were determined to obtain information related to the objectives of our area of action (adoption of ECTS, implementation of Diploma Supplement, adoption of a 2-tier degree system, state-of-the-art of our disciplines in Europe, etc).

<p><b>9. Duration of the programme :</b></p> <p>If you selected "others", please specify which:</p>	<p><b>SEMESTERS</b> (click the correct one)</p>
<p><b>10. Is there any requirement to enter the study programme?</b></p> <p>If yes, please indicate shortly these requirements:</p>	<p><b>YES</b> (click the correct one)</p>
<p><b>11. Has your institution adopted (or is your institution planning to adopt) a Diploma Supplement?</b></p> <p>If YES please attach a sample document to the questionnaire</p>	<p><b>YES</b> (click the correct one)</p> <p><b>I attach it</b> (click the correct one)</p>
<p><b>12. If the curriculum is available on the Web, please specify the address of the site.</b></p> <p>If the information is available in other format (for example .doc), please attach it to this survey.</p>	<p><b>It is in the following one:</b> (click the correct one)</p> <p>http://</p>

Please, answer the next questions if the required information is not included in the homepage or document asked in the previous question.

<p><b>13. Is the programme offering courses (or subjects) taught in other language(s)?</b></p> <p>If yes, please indicate which courses and in which language(s):</p>	
<p><b>14. Are compulsory practical trainings (provided by external institutions) included in the programme?</b></p> <p>If yes, specify the duration and at which stage (when)</p>	<p><b>YES</b> (click the correct one)</p>

One of the pages of the interactive questionnaire for European Institutions

## NATIONAL REPORTS ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN GEODETIC ENGINEERING, CARTOGRAPHY AND SURVEYING

The main objectives of these reports are to include:

- Graphical and brief presentation of the study plans described in the questionnaire
- Complementary information not included in the questionnaire
- Brief presentation of institutions that did not participate in the survey

Later, this initiative was also extended to countries in other continents, translating the questionnaire also to Spanish language in interest of facilitating the participation of Latin-American countries in this survey. At present there is a total of 20 national reports from European countries and 11 from countries out of Europe.

## THE FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP

Two main activities can be proposed as main directions of our future work:

- Organization of a new survey that let us document the changes made in European Higher Education during the last three years, along the process of implementation of the Bologna Agreement. The results of this new survey allow us to compare the actual situation with the state-of-the-art in our fields in 2003-2004.

- Reading the original objectives determined in 2002, the Working Group was not able to accomplish only one of them, drawn as follows: *Elaborate a core curriculum of the discipline, with a European dimension, in order to organise diversity, rather than eliminate it.* All the tasks filled by the Working Group were (as objective 1 expressed) addressed to *develop the state-of-the-art of the discipline in Europe...by comparative analysis of the study plans in each country (within Europe, and other countries, to enhance dialogue between higher education institutions, exchange ideas and information and obtaining a general panorama).* Namely our tasks were planned to find the common points of our degrees being respectful of our diversity.

After five years of activities within the network, exchanging opinions and experiences with numerous colleagues, who represented their higher educational institutions from different regions of Europe, it is compulsory to ask: **is the elaboration of a general core curriculum the only one solution to organise diversity in our degrees, rather than eliminate it?**

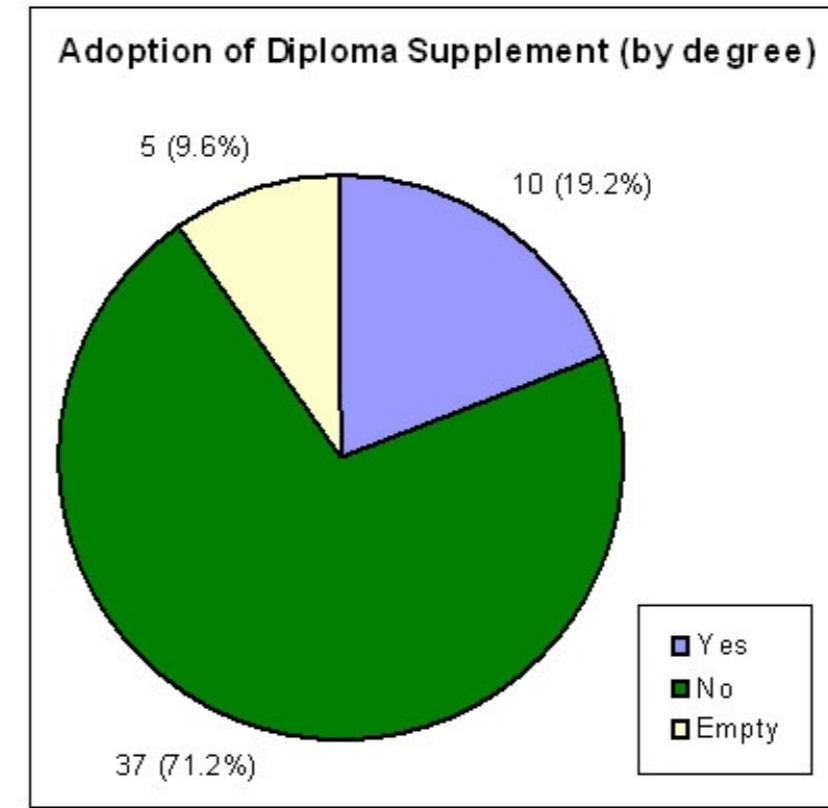
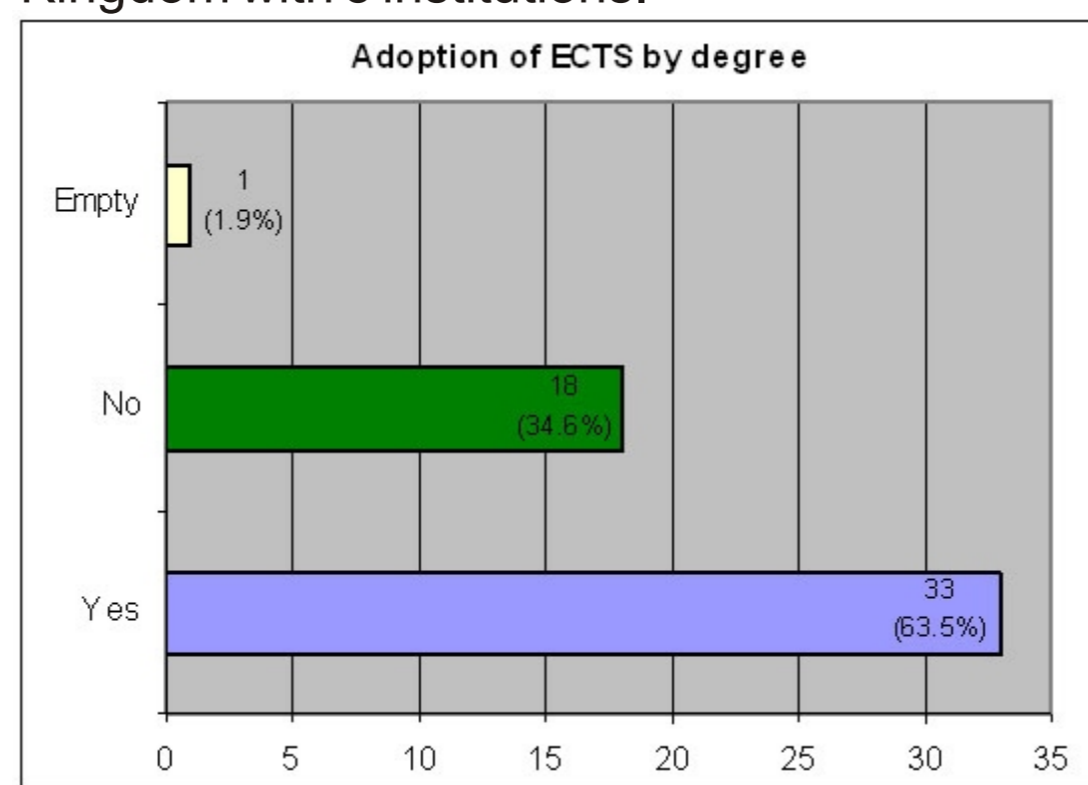
Possible solutions to organize our diversity should be based on the compatibility (common points) of our core curricula. Compatibility is a concept used successfully to assure the exchange of students between European higher education institutions (ERASMUS, SOCRATES program). Starting from the compatibility could be created a document containing, e.g. recommendations on the frame of different groups of themes that at present are organized by subjects in the respective core curricula of European institutions. These recommendations are oriented to give information about the themes that should be taught within a specialization (the term subject is intentionally not used, because the same theme can be taught in subjects with different titles). The next period of activities, based on the results reached during the last years, can be addressed to agree a consensus and to elaborate this document, determining its detailed content.



Website of the Working Group

## RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Between March and December of 2003 arrived a total of 52 answers from 44 higher education institutions in 17 European countries (Figure 5). From the total of participants that answered the survey, 33 institutions are EEGECS members and the rest of the answers are from institutions no members of the thematic network. The countries with a major number of participant institutions were Germany and Spain, with answers received from 10 and 9 higher education institutions respectively, followed by United Kingdom with 5 institutions.

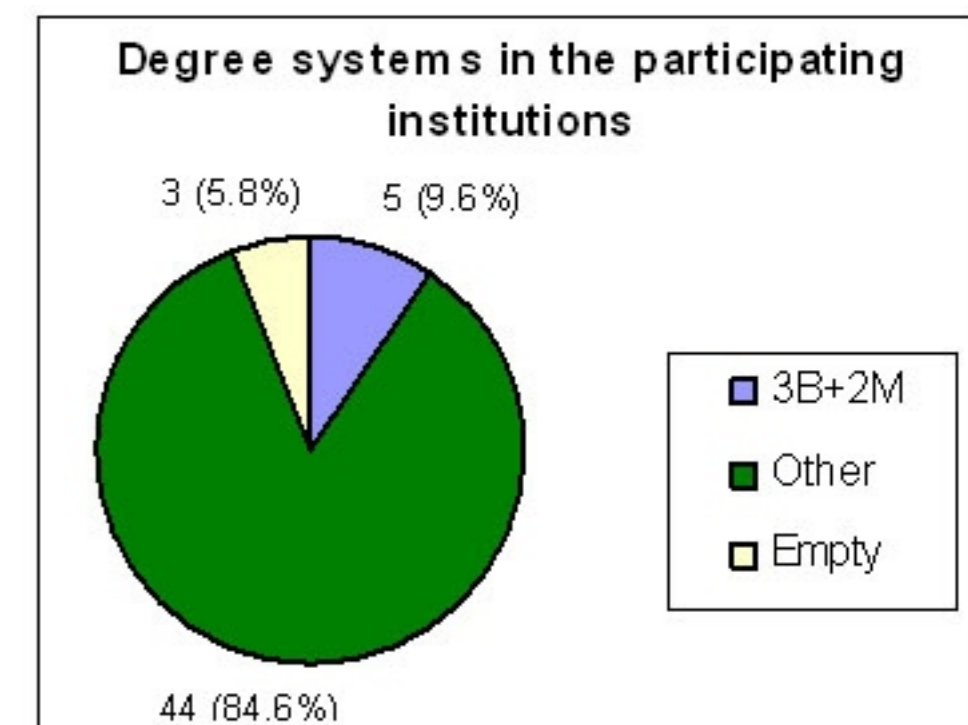
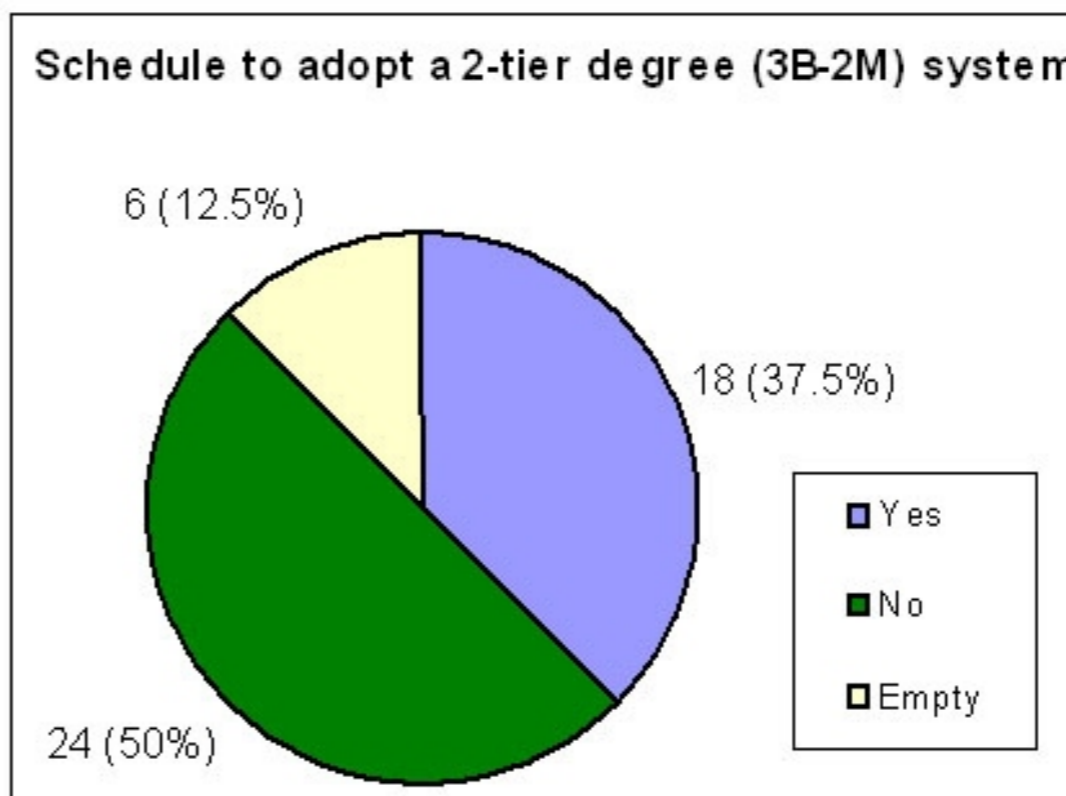


Geographical distribution of institutions that participated in the survey (2004/02)

## SURVEY FOR INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER CONTINENTS

The main aim of this survey was to acquire a wider spectrum of information about the degrees related to our specializations all over the world and having the opportunity to know their experience on this field.

A total of 25 institutions from 11 countries sent their answers, that can be downloaded from the WG website.



## MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The Working Group 1 organized two meetings apart from those held in occasion of the EEGECS General Assemblies. The first one was organized in the University Eotvos Lorand in Budapest, Hungary in December 4-5, 2003. The main task of this meeting was the discussion about the content of the questionnaire for European Institutions and the possible structure of the national reports.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held in Antwerpen, Belgium between September 10 and 11 of 2004. In this meeting were presented the themes discussed during the Steering Committee Meeting in May of that year. The work plan accorded during the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly was also analyzed, together with tasks related to the organization of the International Survey.

Working Group 1 also participated actively in all the General Assemblies organized within EEGECS (Valencia 2003 and 2004, Dublin 2005 and Gent 2007) and in others meetings or congresses as ASITA (Catania 2005), TechnoForum TN (Brussels, 2005, 2006, 2007) and Enice'07 (Madrid, 2007).