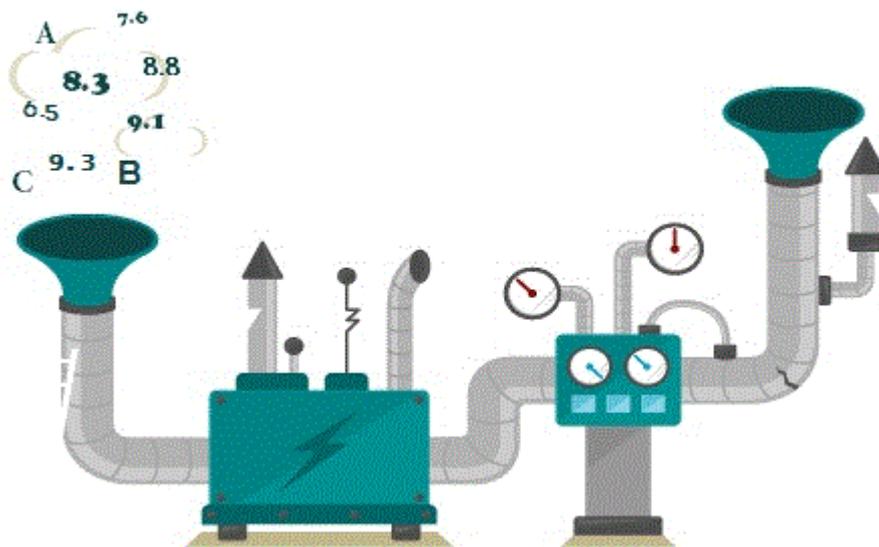


***Workshop 17:
Grade conversion
made easy:
mastering Egracons
and the ECTS***

**EAIE – September 2016
Liverpool**

<http://egracons.eu>





Egracons Grade Conversion Tool

1. Introduction

Welcome

Chair: Rafael de Paz, Universidad de Leon, Spain

Speakers:

- **Valère Meus**, Ghent University, Belgium
- **Anthony Vickers**, University of Essex, United Kingdom



Egracons Grade Conversion Tool

Workshop structure

1. Introduction, history and reasons for action

Rafael de Paz

2. Steps towards the production of Institutional Grading Tables

Valere Meus

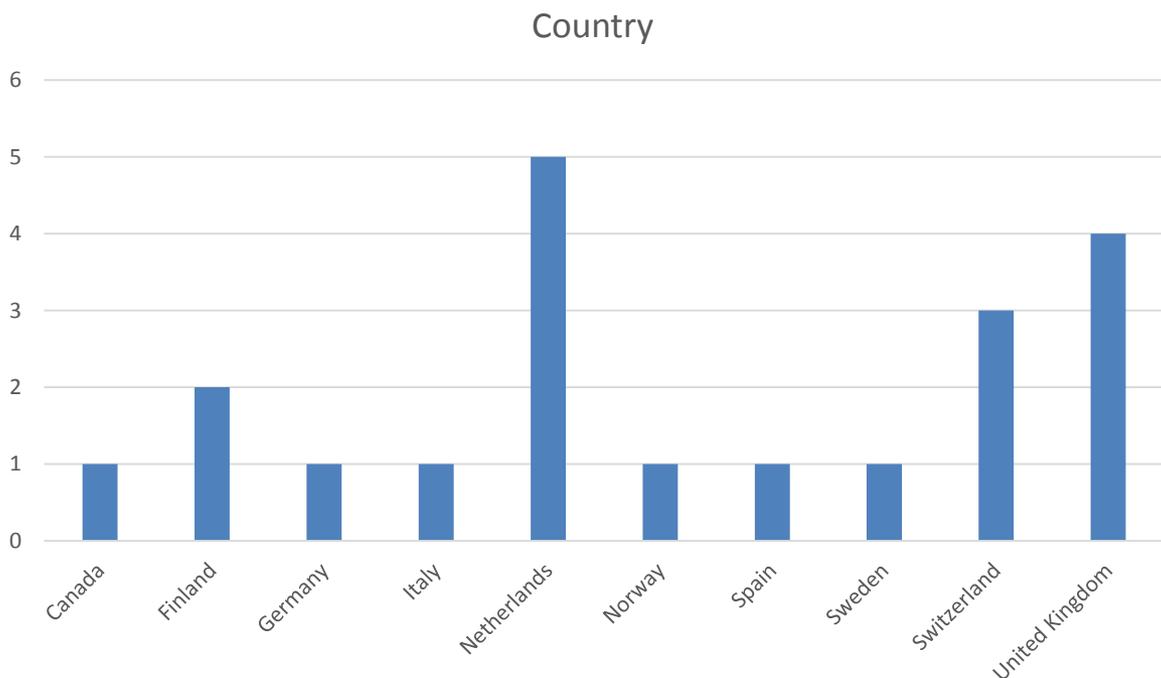
3. Using the Egracons Tool

Anthony Vickers



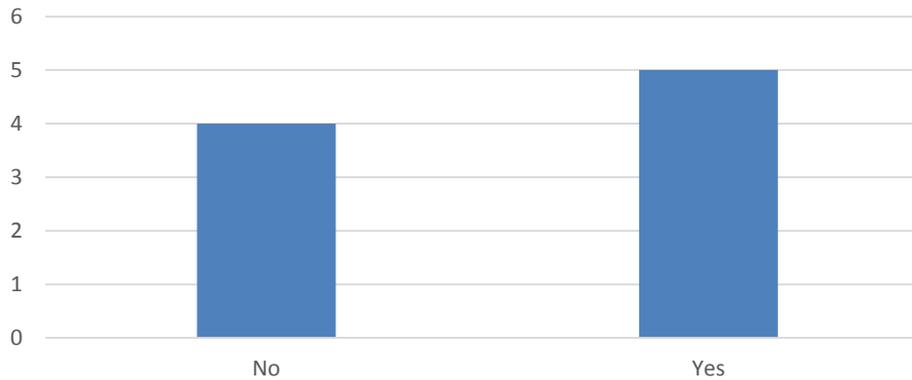
Egracons Grade Conversion Tool

The Audience: 21 participants (01/09/2016)

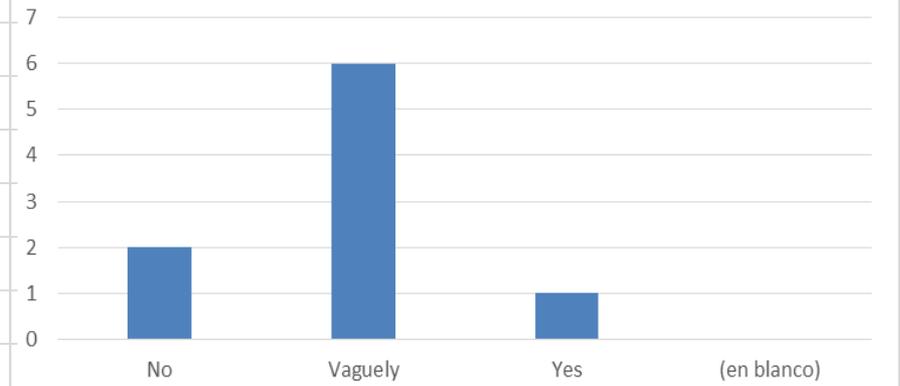


- Academic Registrar
- Admission officer
- Erasmus Coordinator
- International Relations Manager
- Associate Dean

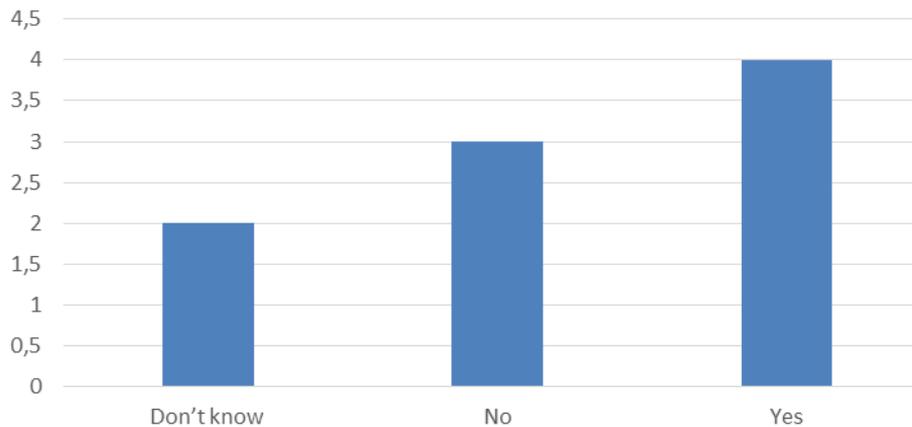
Does your institution use institution-wide grade conversion rules for outgoing exchange students?



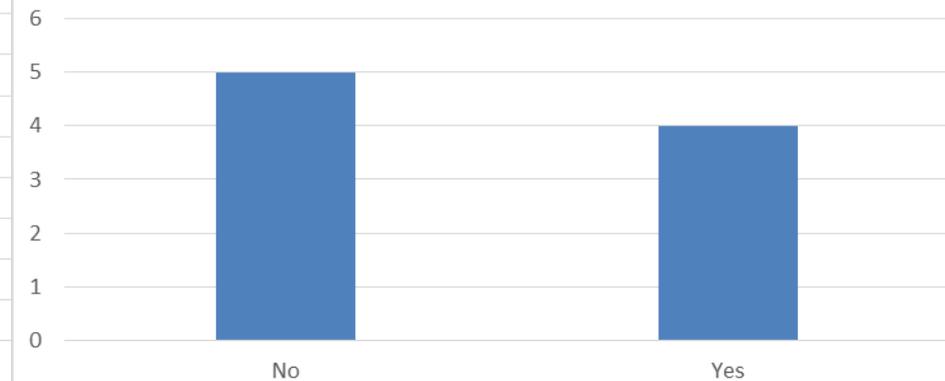
Do you understand the methodology behind grade distribution tables as explained in the 2015 ECTS users' guide?



Is there a difference in grading practice or culture between departments or faculties?



Is there room for personal interpretation and/or adjustment of grades in the process of grade conversion?



Grading scales and cultures in Europe

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|--------|----|--------------------|
| Italy | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 30 cum laude |
| Belgium | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| Netherlands | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| Spain | 5,00 - 5,49 | 5,50 - 5,99 | 6,00 - 6,49 | 6,50 - 6,99 | 7,00 - 7,49 | 7,50 - 7,99 | 8,00 - 8,49 | 8,50 - 8,99 | 9,00 - 9,49 | 9,50 - 10,0 | | | | |
| Norway | E | D | C | B | A | | | | | | | | | |
| UK | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-89 | 90-94 | 95-100 | | |
| Germany | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | |



EGRACONS

The Country Reports

- Description of existing grading systems in Europe
- So far 30 countries included
- Includes visual representation of grading scales
- We intend to cover all EHEA countries
- To be supplemented with Institutional Reports

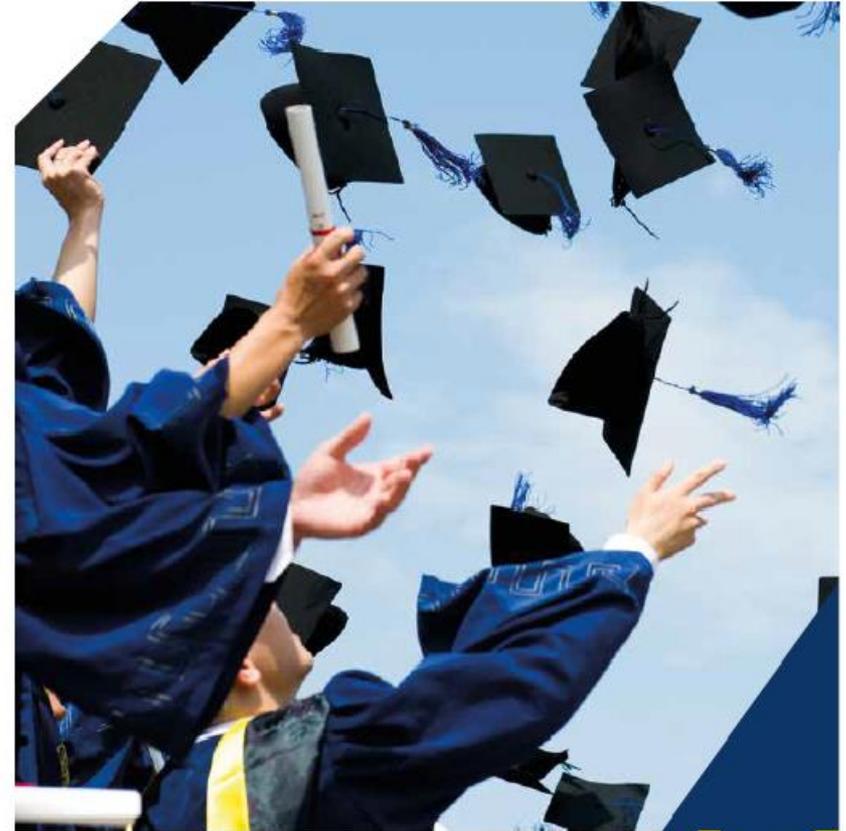
See: <http://egracons.eu/page/country-reports>



| | | Ireland | | Latvia | Luxembourg | Italy | |
|---------------------------|------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------|----------------|------|
| | | Medicine and Health Sciences | Other Courses | University College of Dublin | | | |
| Passing Grades | | | | | | 30 e lode / 31 | |
| | | | A+ | 4.2 | | | 30 |
| | | | A | 4.0 | | 20 | 29 |
| | | | A- | 3.8 | | 19 | 28 |
| | | | B+ | 3.6 | | 18 | 27 |
| | | | B | 3.4 | | 17 | 26 |
| | | 100% | B- | 3.2 | 10 | 16 | 25 |
| | 100% | 90% | C+ | 3.0 | 9 | 15 | 24 |
| | 90% | 80% | C | 2.8 | 8 | 14 | 23 |
| | 80% | 70% | C- | 2.6 | 7 | 13 | 22 |
| 70% | 60% | D+ | 2.4 | 6 | 12 | 21 | |
| 60% | 50% | D | 2.2 | 5 | 11 | 20 | |
| 50% | 40% | D- | 2.0 | 4 | 10 | 19 | |
| Failing Grades | 40% | 30% | E | 1.6 | 3 | 9 | Fail |
| | 30% | 20% | F | 1.0 | 2 | 8 | |
| | 20% | 10% | G | 0.4 | 1 | 7 | |
| | 10% | 0% | | | | 6 | |
| | 0% | | | | | 5 | |
| | | | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | 3 | | |
| | | | | | 2 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 0 | | |

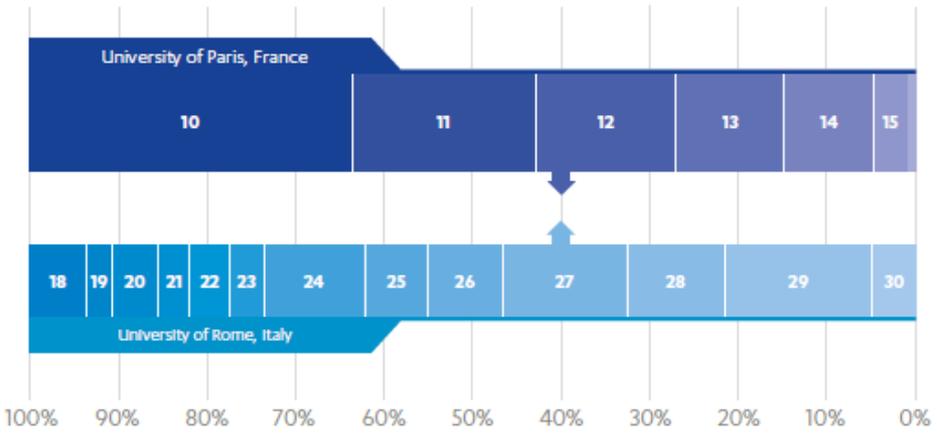
With

1. Version 05/2015 (the earlier was released in 2009)
2. Chapter 4 “Mobility and Credit Recognition” **requests** the production of Grade Distribution tables
3. Replaces and **abolishes** ECTS grading scale of ABCDE
4. **Proposes** examples of Grading Tables
5. **Mentions** “Egracons” as a practical example for implementation



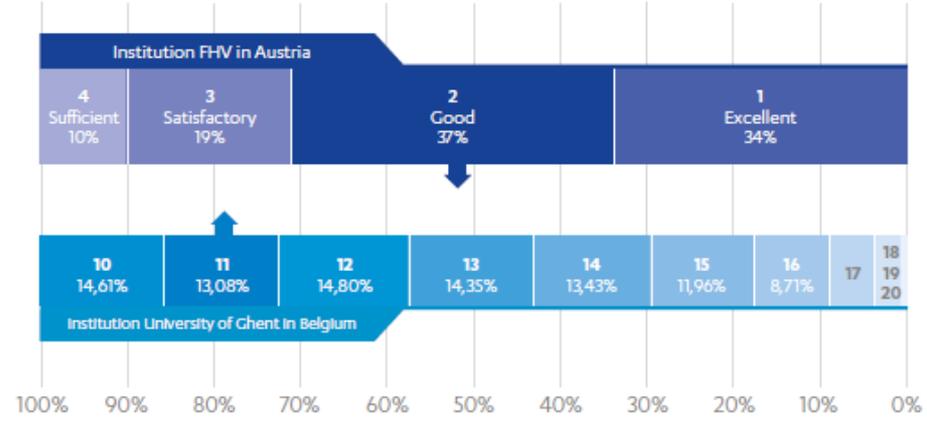
Annex 2

Examples: grade conversion



● University of Paris, France
ISCED-F Code 023 Languages

● University of Rome, Italy
ISCED-F Code 023 Languages



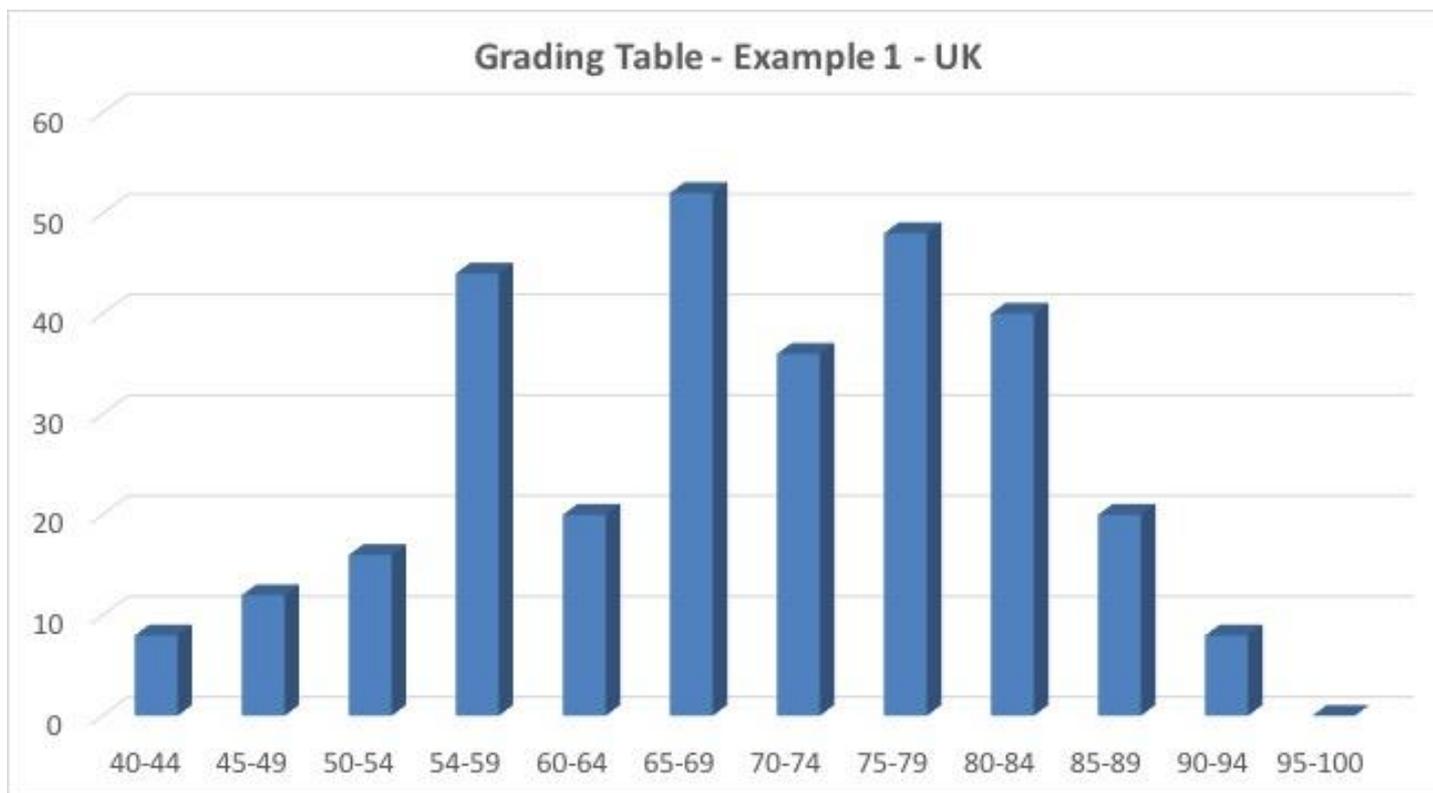
● Institution FHV in Austria
ISCED-F Code 071 Engineering and engineering trades

● Institution University of Ghent in Belgium
ISCED-F Code 071 Engineering and engineering trades

| | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| 17 | 5,15% | 19 | 1,10% |
| 18 | 2,55% | 20 | 0,26% |

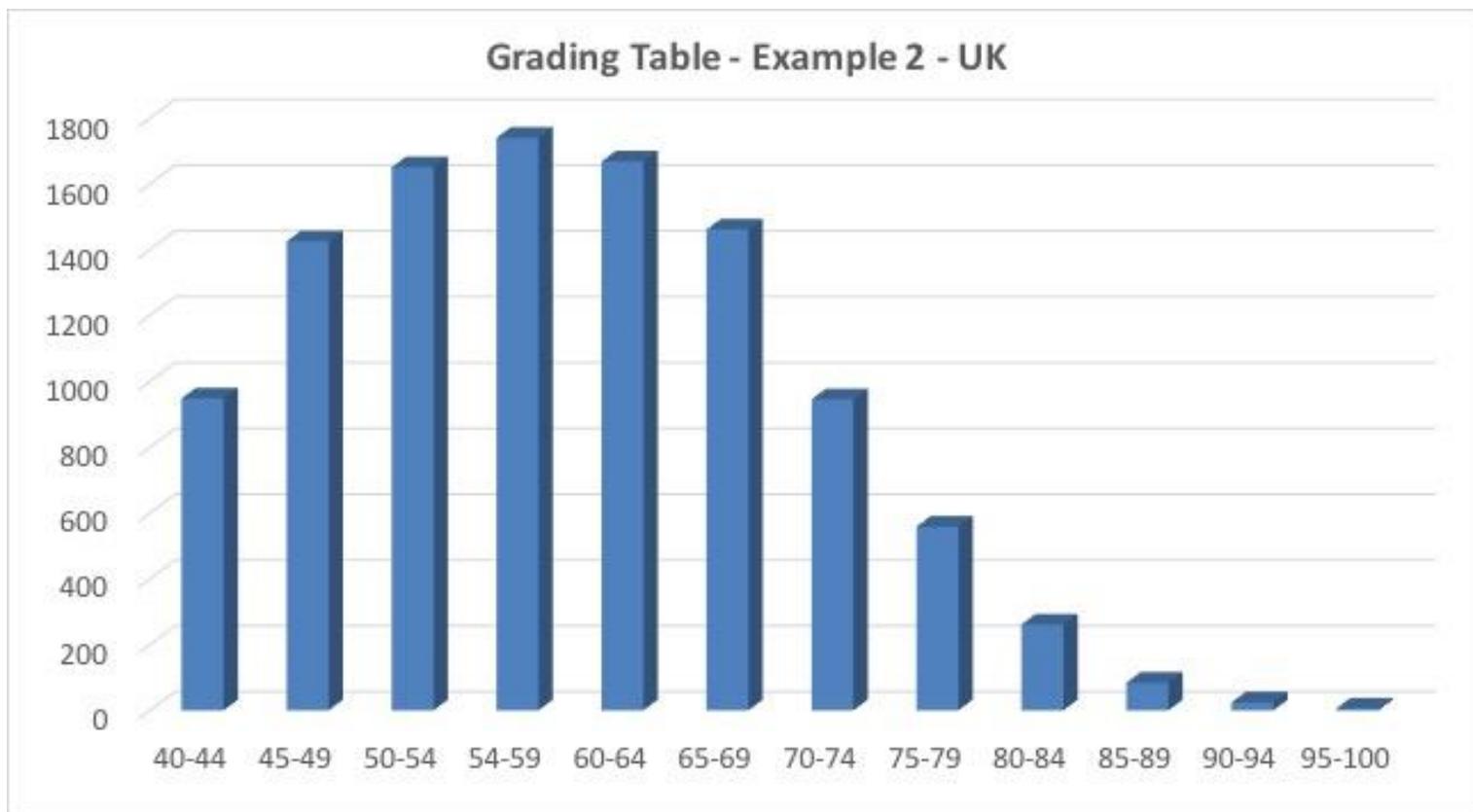


Grade Distribution Examples



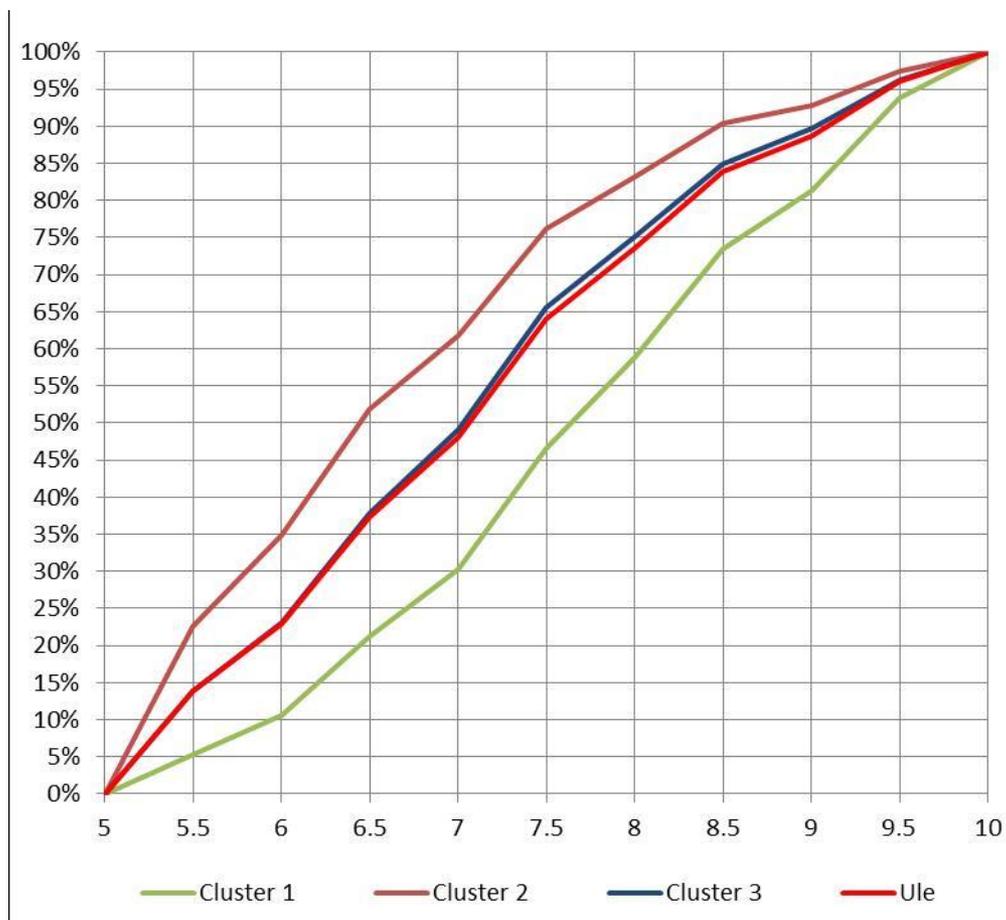


Grade Distribution Examples





Grade Distribution Examples



The Egracons project website: <http://egracons.eu/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Egracons project website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, NEWS & EVENTS, HOW TO JOIN?, and CONTACT US. The Egracons logo is prominently displayed on the left. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Working for a reliable Grade Conversion System" and a description of the EGRACONS tool. A "Learn more" button is visible. To the right, there is a section titled "Call for Grading Tables for Online Grade Conversion Tool" with a sub-headline "The Egracons Tool has already proved its worth." Below this, there are two news items under the heading "News and Events": "Call for Grading Tables for Online Grade Conversion Tool" and "EGRACONS WORKSHOP AT EAIE CONFERENCE 2016 IN LIVERPOOL". On the right side, there is a section for the "EGRACONS newsletter" with a sign-up form including an "E-mail" field and a "Subscribe" button. A "more" button is located at the bottom of the news section.

egracons
EUROPEAN GRADE CONVERSION SYSTEM

HOME ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS HOW TO JOIN? CONTACT US

Working for a reliable
Grade Conversion System

The EGRACONS tool is a free, user-friendly web-based tool for grade conversion available to all European HEIs (and beyond) who supply their degree grade distribution tables. It enables a transparent interpretation of student achievements abroad. **Check out a short video.**

[Learn more](#)

egracons
EUROPEAN GRADE CONVERSION SYSTEM

Call for Grading Tables for Online Grade Conversion Tool
The Egracons Tool has already proved its worth.

News and Events

Call for Grading Tables for Online Grade Conversion Tool
The Egracons Tool has already proved its worth. The online grade conversion tool is now fully functional and available to universities from all over Europe provided the institutions send their grading tables according to the template available on the website. After the...

EGRACONS WORKSHOP AT EAIE CONFERENCE 2016 IN LIVERPOOL
The Egracons Project is organising a workshop "Grade Conversion Made Easy: Egracons and the ECTS" during the EAIE Conference 2016 in Liverpool. This workshop will help you understand the principles and practicalities of grade conversion so that you can convert...

[more](#)

EGRACONS newsletter

Stay informed on our latest news!

E-mail *

[Subscribe](#)

The Egracons Website: <http://egracons.eu/>

- What info does it provide?
 - News and events
 - About the tool (various subitems)
 - How to join? (including instructions and templates, help, ...)
 - Contact form and newsletter



Egracons Conversion Tool

What is the Egracons Tool?

- A web application that allows participating institutions to convert student grades obtained abroad
- Participating institutions must provide grading tables to use the tool
- Grade conversion can happen only between a host institution and the home institution



Egracons Conversion Tool

What it is NOT

A tool that

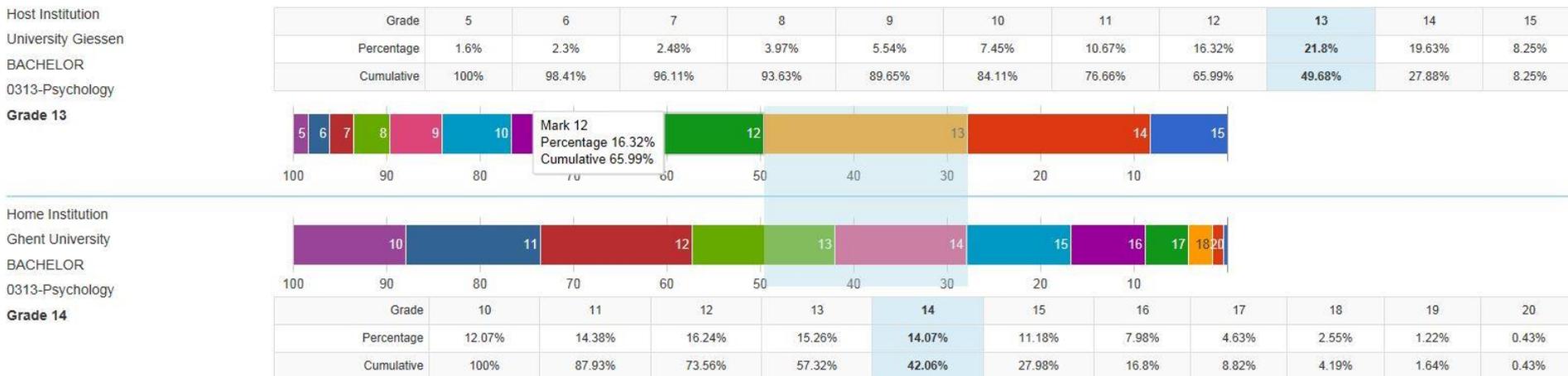
- substitutes the institution's Student Information System or other Erasmus tools
- will convert degree results (cf. GPA)
- that converts the results of your own students to the system of another HEI
- A database that keeps track of all conversions, storing their history



EGRACONS

Conversion: graphical representation in Egracons

Grading Distributions Comparison



Close



Egracons Conversion Tool

2 The Institutional Move

- Reasons for action
 - Fairness
 - Transparency
 - Removing obstacles to mobility
 - Outstanding students
 - Engaging partners into the task
 - Still a lot of confusion and randomness in conversion
 - ECTS scale (A B C D E) no longer used
 - Grade distribution is now the norm (see ECTS users' guide)
 - Diploma supplement should have grade distribution (table 4.4)



Egracons Conversion Tool

- The Top-Down approach: who takes the decision and how can we get it implemented?
 - Data generally centrally stored
 - Single Academic coordinators unable to act individually
 - Students can oppose as the tool works in both directions
 - The institution is generally internationally exposed as one single and coordinated unit. Quality is assessed at institutional rather than at Faculty level



Egracons Conversion Tool

Top down approach: implementation is problematic

- Institution (rector) should make decision, but is not always in the know
- Database specialists: query is easy but they need to be convinced/given the order
- Users are IROs and professors: lowest in chain of command



Egracons Conversion Tool

- a Top-Down approach has higher chances:
 - If the traditional and the new conversion system coexist
 - If the central structure is given a say at institutional quality assurance
 - If all stakeholders are well informed



Egracons Conversion Tool

Convincing partners

- EC has sent a [letter](#) to National Agencies but HEIs decide individually
- Innovation takes time
- Every HEI needs to contact its partners
- Should be a factor of quality assurance



Egracons Conversion Tool

3 The production of grading tables

- How to obtain the data?
- ISCED codes
- Templates for the data
- The query
- Mistakes and misunderstandings
- Limitations of conversion



Egracons Conversion Tool

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 attached)
- They enter/copy these grading tables into the Egracons template and send it to us
- 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



Egracons Conversion Tool

Query versus dedicated template

- How to make the query: detailed [instructions](#)
- Manual Entry (no ISCED Codes in database) vs. Copy and Paste
- One grading scale or more?
- How many grades allowed in a scale?
- Academic years covered
- Translation of degree titles (optional)
- Statistical relevance
- [Practical example](#)



Egracons Conversion Tool

Common mistakes and misunderstandings

- Numbers vs percentages
- No empty fields or rounded figures
- ISCED codes: only 4 digits
- Total number = sum of all grades



Egracons Conversion Tool

Practical example

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| INSTITUTION NAME (in English) | Ghent University | | |
| INSTITUTION NAME (in local language) | Universiteit GENT | | |
| ABBREVIATION | UGENT | | |
| ERASMUS CODE | B GENT01 | | |
| COUNTRY CODE | BE | | |
| CITY (in English) | GENT | | |
| CITY (in local language) | GHENT | | |
| Academic years considered - From /to | 2012-2013 | 2015-2016 | |
| START DATE (of data period to be processed) | | 2012 | 10 |
| END DATE (of data period to be processed) | | 2016 | 08 |
| GRADING TABLE | Grading Scale Number -> 1 | | <i>If more than 1 scale copy and add this line just below</i> |
| Row Number | CYCLE (MA or BA) | DEGREE TITLE | DEGREE TITLE IN ENGLISH |
| 1 | BA | Bachelor of Science in de geologie | Bachelor of Science in Geology |
| 2 | MA | Master of Science in Geology | Master of Science in Geology |
| 3 | BA | Bachelor of Arts in de taal- en letterkunde | Bachelor of Science in linguistics and literature |
| 4 | MA | Master of Arts in de taal- en letterkunde | Master of Science in linguistics and literature |
| 5 | BA | Bachelor of Science in de Ingenieurswetenschappen | Bachelor of Science in Engineering |
| TEMPLATE_END DO NOT INSERT LINES BELOW - DO NOT DELETE THIS LINE - DO NOT MODIFY CONTENT IN BOLD | | | |
| INSTRUCTION = WHERE TO FIND INSTRUCTIONS for this Grading Table Template worksheet | | | |



Egracons Conversion Tool

Practical example

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|----|
| | | e.g. from 2012-2013 2014-2015 (= 3 academic years) | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 08 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <i>* From the lowest grade to the highest, lowest grade left. Specify each grade</i> | | | | | | | | |
| just before TEMPLATE_END a. | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| ISCED | TOTAL_MARKS | | | | | | | | | |
| 0532 | 930 | 71 | 103 | 126 | 147 | 158 | 152 | 100 | 49 | 1 |
| 0533 | 970 | 41 | 76 | 100 | 133 | 162 | 202 | 119 | 89 | 3 |
| 0232 | 9967 | 870 | 984 | 1350 | 1576 | 1688 | 1434 | 1100 | 583 | 28 |
| 0232 | 3509 | 182 | 186 | 335 | 420 | 585 | 616 | 567 | 359 | 18 |
| 0718 | 2781 | 328 | 312 | 352 | 348 | 352 | 368 | 284 | 206 | 13 |



Egracons Conversion Tool

ISCED Codes

- Four digits required for EGRACONS (eg 0215, 0912, 0715 but also 0288)
- Use xxx8 or xxx9 if needed
- How to assign codes?
- Some codes are close but still different
 - 0231 Language Acquisition
 - 0232 Literature and linguistics
- Interdisciplinary
 - 1/3 Theology (0221), 1/3 History (0222), 1/3 Philosophy (0223)
 - Combines to 0288
 - 2/3 Theology (0221), 1/6 History (0222), 1/6 Philosophy (0223)
 - Combines to 0221
 - 2/5 Engineering (071), 3/10 Business (041), 3/10 Languages (023)
 - Combines to 0788 (interdisciplinary)
- Aggregating at different levels: degree, study field vs. institutional
- Alphabetical [checklist](#) published by UNESCO



Egracons Conversion Tool

4 The Egracons Tool

- Concept and Functionality
- User roles
- Single vs Transcript conversion
- Representation of distribution tables



Egracons Conversion Tool

Concept and functionality

- Concept: The tool should enable the conversion of grades from host to home grades in a simple and easy to use way.
- Functionality
 - Authentication through login
 - Grading table upload
 - Single grade conversion
 - Transcript conversion from host transcript



Egracons Conversion Tool

Egracons User Roles

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Converter | Performs the grading conversion for a HEI |
| 2. Uploader | Uploads the HEI's grading table to the Tool |
| 3. Local Administrator | Manages the users for a single institution |
| 4. 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
 - The tool is not open to students, only to personnel



Egracons Conversion Tool

Converter

Performs grading conversions of grades obtained abroad to local grades either in single or multiple mode for his/her own institution.

Several *Converters* can be appointed for the same institution.

User Interface functions:

1. Grade Conversion
2. 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



Egracons Conversion Tool

Uploader

Manages the grading tables for one's own institution and uploads the tables.

Several *Uploaders* 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 *not active* only when another table is activated.

* Limited to one's own institution



Egracons Conversion Tool

Local Administrator

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

User Interface functions:

1. Users (view, reset password, authorize modify, delete)*
2. Logs (view)*

* Limited to one's own institution



Egracons Conversion Tool

Super Administrator

Has the authority to manage all users, and has to authorize the Local Administrators.

User Interface functions:

1. Users (view, reset password, authorize, modify, delete)
2. Institution (view, add, modify, delete)
3. Logs (view, delete)
4. Grading Tables (view, download)



Egracons Conversion Tool

Single versus Transcript conversion

- Single conversion = conversion of just one grade
- Transcript conversion = conversion of all the grades on the same ToR (from host university) of one student
- Transcript can be exported in one file
- Demo



Egracons Conversion Tool

Representation of distribution

- numerical: 83(11)5 (shortened notation)
- graphical:

EGRACONS

by EGRACONS - <http://egracons.eu>

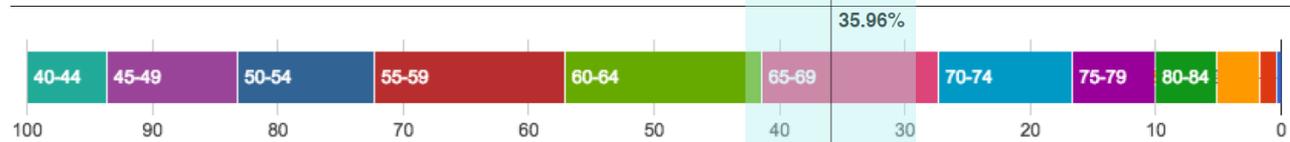
Grade Conversion

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Host Institution: Ghent University |
| Discipline: BACHELOR - 0311-Economics |
| Awarded grade: 14 |

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Home Institution: University of Essex |
| Discipline: BACHELOR - 0311-Economics |
| Suggested result grade: 65-69 |

Host Institution - Ghent University - BACHELOR - 0311-Economics

| Grade | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Percentage | 14.72% | 13.62% | 14.72% | 14.21% | 13.54% | 12.10% | 8.21% | 5.84% | 2.12% | 0.85% | 0.09% |
| Cumulative | 100.00% | 85.28% | 71.66% | 56.94% | 42.72% | 29.19% | 17.09% | 8.88% | 3.05% | 0.93% | 0.09% |



Home Institution - University of Essex - BACHELOR - 0311-Economics

| Grade | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-89 | 90-94 | 95-100 |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Percentage | 6.40% | 10.42% | 10.84% | 15.24% | 15.69% | 14.09% | 10.66% | 6.57% | 5.00% | 3.36% | 1.33% | 0.42% |
| Cumulative | 100.00% | 93.60% | 83.19% | 72.35% | 57.11% | 41.42% | 27.33% | 16.67% | 10.10% | 5.10% | 1.75% | 0.42% |



Egracons Conversion Tool

5 Exporting the data

- Detailed conversion can be saved as pdf
- Transcript conversion: whole TORs can be saved in Excel



Egracons Conversion Tool

6 Conclusions

- Tool is easy to use but needs more tables
- Partners need convincing
- Feedback needed



Egracons Conversion Tool

7 The future?

- Grading tables needed
- Continued support
- Erasmus without paper
- Future developments:
 - National Grading Tables
 - Final degree results (GPA)
- Further information



EGRACONS

What next?



- Provide us with grading tables: see <http://egracons.eu/page/grading-table-instructions-and-template>
- We will activate your institution, upload the tables (the first time!) and give you access (after registration)



EGRACONS

Further information



- Website: <http://egracons.eu/>
- List of HEIs in Egracons (60+ at the moment):
<https://tool.egracons.eu/content/registered-institutions>
- Tool registration: <https://tool.egracons.eu/>
- Demo video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpPanS-PQmg>



EGRACONS Web references

<http://egracons.eu/>

(website)

<https://tool.egracons.eu/>

(tool, registration and login required)

<http://egracons.eu/page/country-reports>

(country reports)

<http://egracons.eu/page/grading-table-instructions-and-template>

(how to join?)

http://egracons.eu/sites/default/files/Grading_Table_General_Intro_2016%2007%2028_0.docx

(general introduction)

<http://egracons.eu/page/videos-and-demos>

(Egracons video AND DEMOS)

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I101940>

(European Commission video on grading tables)

http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/publications/2015/ects-users-guide_en.pdf

(ECTS Users' guide, see 4.3 and 4.4 and Annex 2)

http://ec.europa.eu/education/ects/users-guide/index_en.htm

(ECTS Users' Guide website)

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-f-detailed-field-descriptions-en.pdf>

(detailed ISCED codes)

<https://tool.egracons.eu/content/registered-institutions>

(List of Egracons participants – document available upon request)

valere.meus@ugent.be (Central contact)



Thank you!



www.egracons.eu

Contact: Valère Meus
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Project Partners



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



University of Essex



UNIL | Université de Lausanne



In collaboration with



NTNU
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



university of
 groningen



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN



With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union