



Workshop Grading

Speakers:

Raimonda Markeviciene, Head of International Office, Vilnius University

or

Fredrik De Decker, Head International Relations Office, Ghent University

Robert Wagenaar, Dutch BE, University of Groningen

Facilitator: Fred Jonker, Dutch BE, Wageningen University Research

29 May 2018





Program workshop Grading

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ General introduction
- ❖ Setting the scene with some statements
- ❖ From policy to practice:
 - 11.00 Raimonda Markeviciene (Lithuania) or
 - 14.00 Frederik de Decker (Flanders/Belgium)
 - Robert Wagenaar (Netherlands)



Program workshop Grading

- ❖ Discussion → Possible topics:
 - ❖ Student perspective versus institution perspective
 - ❖ Multiple grading tables
 - ❖ Egracons added value or not?
 - ❖ Free set up reference groups or not?
 - ❖ All institutions a grading table, realistic or utopia?
- ❖ Summarize discussion / Conclusions

General Introduction

Grading has been part of ECTS from its very start in 1989.

- ❖ Grading scale based on combination of numerical and qualitative definitions (1991-2004)
- ❖ Grading scale limited to numerical definitions (2004)
- ❖ Grading table based on statistical grade distribution (2009)
- ❖ Grading table integral part ECTS: ECTS Users Guide 2015
- ❖ Currently part of the ECHE (2014-now)



General Introduction

Workshop is not about:

- ❖ Defining reference groups
- ❖ Technical implementation

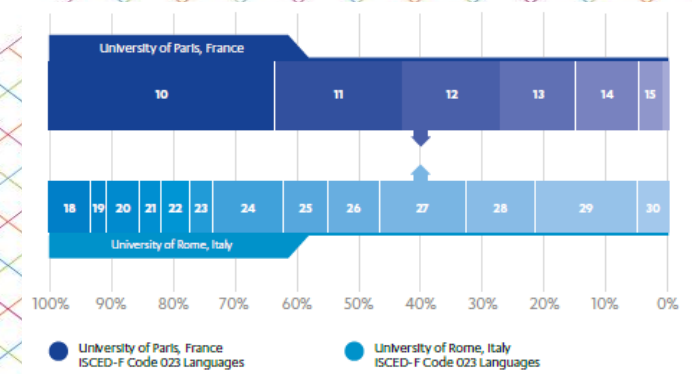
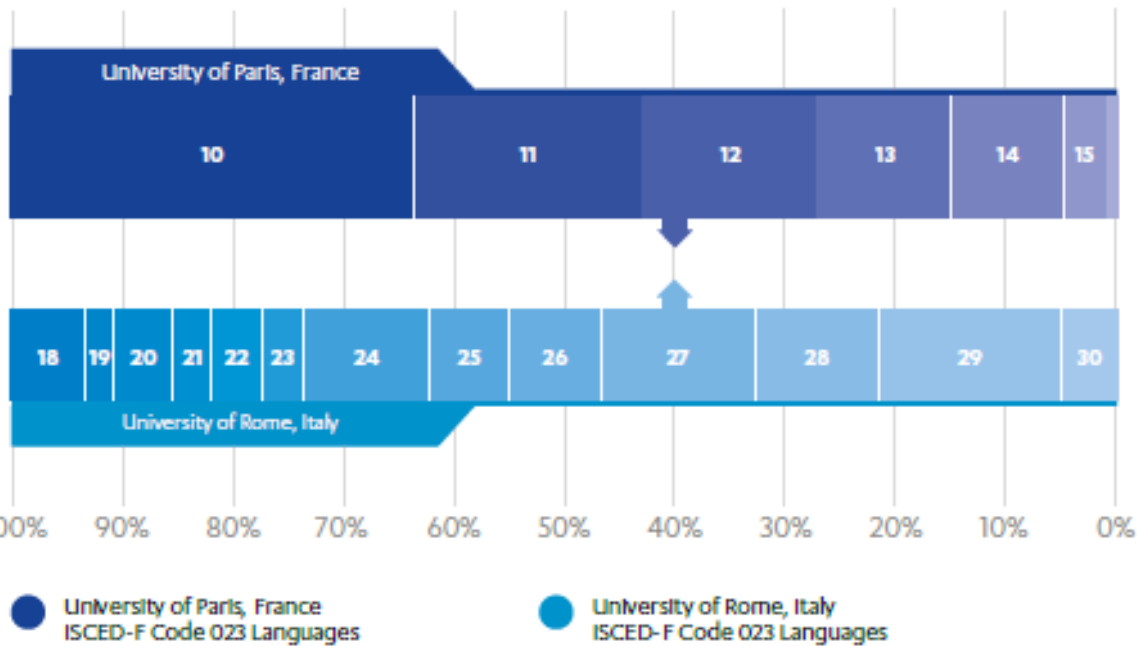
Workshop is about:

- ❖ Institutional policies
- ❖ Best practices
- ❖ Different choices/options/approaches
- ❖ Future developments



Setting the scene

Which grade system is 'better'?



Accept differences in grading culture



Setting the scene

All grades of exchange periods should be converted



Appeal Case

- ❖ Exchange period (Dutch student in the UK) was rewarded as an exemption.
- ❖ Student appeals to receive a converted mark.

Exam committees argumentation:

- ❖ Provided information is not sufficient to convert the grade.
- ❖ Examiner doesn't work for the home institution
- ❖ Exemption is the best alternative

Students argumentation:

- ❖ No request for an exemption, so impossible grade the course like this
- ❖ Recalls on the ECTS agreements and addresses that a grading table should be used
- ❖ Home institution agreed with exchange and thereby should also convert the grade



Appeal Case

- ❖ Appeal committee declares the appeal to be well founded
- ❖ Student has to receive a grade

Appeal committees argumentation:

- ❖ There is no legal ground for an exemption
- ❖ Exam committee didn't contact the host institution to resolve the unclarity in the transcript of records
- ❖ An adviser demonstrates how to convert the grades based on the provided information from the host institution
- ❖ Student has an interest by receiving a grade for a possible cum laude



Setting the scene

'Easy courses' should be converted different than 'difficult courses'

Tempting, but we shouldn't mix up the different tools.
Permission for exchange is in advanced based on learning outcomes.
Grading is afterwards based on the grading table.



From policy to practice

Workshop 11.00:

Raimonda Markeviciene, Head of International Office, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Workshop 14.00:

Frederik De Decker, Head International Relations Office, Ghent University, Belgium



From policy to practice

Robert Wagenaar, Dutch BE, University of Groningen, the Netherlands



Discussion topics

Student perspective versus institution perspective

- Institution point of view
- Student point of view
- Implications on cum laude calculations



Discussion topics

Multiple grading tables

- Convert grades into local system
- Remain original grade and include additional grading table
- Implications on cum laude calculations



Discussion topics

- ❖ Egracons added value or not?
- Large database with grading tables
- Grading tables of same ISCED code are merged
- Grading tables on ISCED code level or program level?
- Only temporally necessary? → Until all institutions deliver their own grading tables...



Discussion topics

Should every institution remain free in the set up of the reference group?

- Yes, because...
- No, because...



Discussion topics

All institutions a grading table, realistic or an utopia?

- Yes, because...
- No, because...



Summarize discussion/conclusions