

CEEPUS programme: awareness and experience



Research method

- Online questionnaire
 - CEEPUS programme contact persons (128)
 - foreign relations department staff (66)
 - authorised, but not partner, universities (17)
- Invitation sent to 211 contacts
- Data collection took place in October 2019
- 106 respondents involved
- → approx. 50% response rate
- Completed questionnaires: 91

Research objective

To discover the positive and negative aspects of the CEEPUS programme

To map out experience

- with the CEEPUS programme compared to other programmes
- with implementing CEEPUS projects in terms of their administrative complexity
- with its benefits for individual target groups
- With the individual activities in the CEEPUS programme



Main Findings

The CEEPUS programme is exceptional primarily because of its:

- interesting regional focus, cooperating with central and eastern European countries
- administrative simplicity and digitalisation
- flexibility – different types of placements, of different lengths

Other advantages:

- option of becoming a freemover
- cooperation with others in the same field through thematic networks (including at a scientific level)
- option of summer schools

Main disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme:

- insufficient financing in certain countries
- smaller choice of destinations than the Erasmus+ programme
- lower awareness of the programme



Main Findings

Greatest benefits the programme offers to schools:

- establishing contacts for cooperation
- promoting the school, improving its visibility
- sharing information and examples of good practice between schools

Most beneficial programme activities:

- learning mobility of academic staff
- semester placements for students
- short placements for students

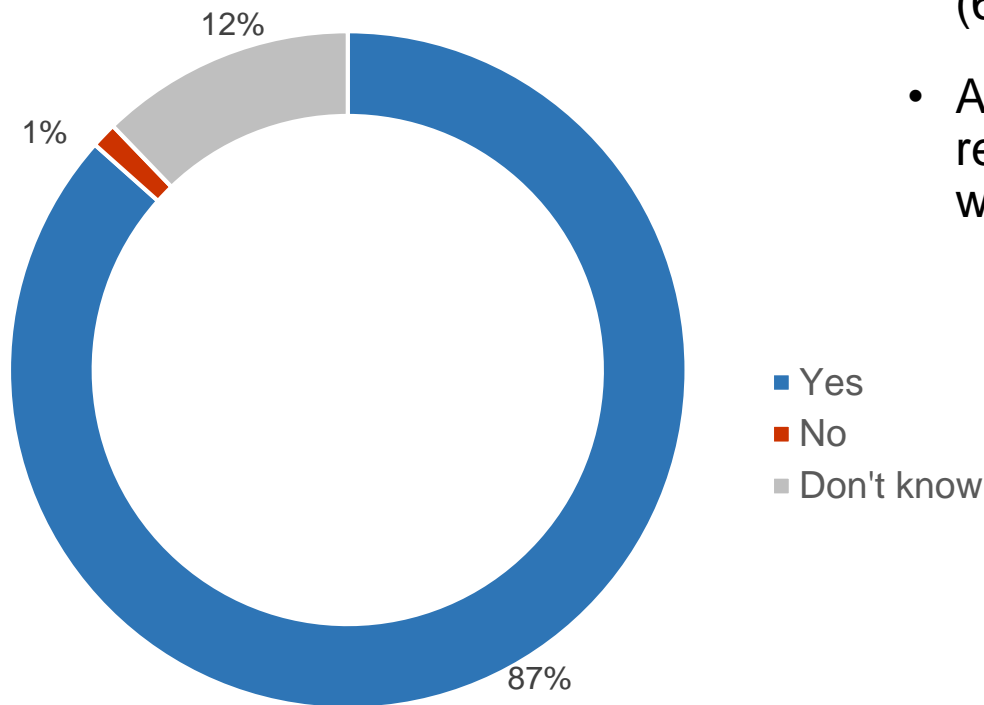
Most important aspects of the programme:

- fast process for approving placement applications only one semester in advance
- on-line system for submitting and approving applications for those interested in placements
- selection from options offered by partner schools



Interest in future involvement in the CEEPUS programme

“Does your school anticipate joining the CEEPUS programme in the future?”



- The vast majority of the 82 respondents are planning to continue with the programme (64x) or to rejoin it (7x)
- A smaller section of the respondents does not yet know whether to join in future (10x)



Results broken down by target group

I. CONTACT PERSONS (p. 8 – 24)

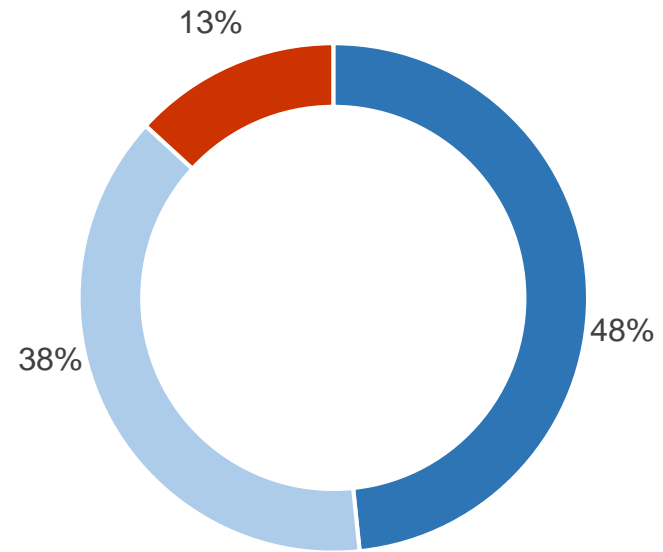
CEEPUS compared to other programmes
Benefits of the CEEPUS programme
Evaluation of the CEEPUS programme

II. FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF (p. 25 – 38)

CEEPUS compared to other programmes
Benefits of the CEEPUS programme
Evaluation of the CEEPUS programme

III. NOT YET INVOLVED (p. 39 – 43)

“Have you ever managed a CEEPUS programme?”



- Yes, as contact person for a university network
- Yes, as a foreign relations department staff member
- No



I. CONTACT PERSONS

44 contact persons for the CEEPUS programme



CEEPUS compared to other programmes



“What in your opinion are the advantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to Erasmus+?”

Total of 15 responses

- **Simpler administration, online tools (9x)**
- **Flexibility (8x)**
 - Possibility of shorter study placements
 - Choice of any months in the year
 - Possibility of longer trips for academics compared to the Erasmus+ programme
 - Month-long internships for PhD students
 - Financing based on the number of days – including weekends
- **Financing (3x)**
 - Higher financial support for most destinations
 - Option of applying for a contribution to excursions
- **Involvement of countries outside Erasmus+ (2x)**
- **Other benefits:**
 - Payment in the form of a scholarship
 - Later deadline than Erasmus+
 - Clarity in terms of contact persons at a national and international level
 - Excellent website containing all the information
 - Possibility of more intensive and longer-term cooperation with colleagues



Contact persons

“What in your opinion are the disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to Erasmus+?”

Total of 15 responses

- **Financing (10x)**
 - The scholarship is not sufficient for certain countries (4x)
 - There is no option for funding joint international programmes
 - Differing rules
 - The need to apply for trips a year in advance → less efficient budget management
 - Problems with payment of scholarships (Bosnia, Macedonia, Slovenia)
 - Administrative complexity of scholarships (teacher for Slovenia)
 - Financial support is not paid in advance
- **Smaller choice of countries (4x)**
 - Less choice → less interest
 - Students are more attracted to western Europe
- **Monthly allocation system (3x)**
 - Uncertainty as to the number of months and where it will be allocated
 - The minimum length should be one semester for bachelor and master programmes
- **Other disadvantages:**
 - Lack of clarity in the CEEPUS website
 - Less awareness amongst university staff
 - For incoming teaching staff, the scholarship depends on the number of days of the placement
 - Some lectures are not very high quality



Contact persons

Comparison with other programmes

n=4

“In your opinion, is the CEEPUS programme exceptional in any way compared to this programme or these programmes?”

- Freemovers

“In your opinion, what advantages does the CEEPUS programme have over other exchange programmes?”

- Simple administration
- High level of flexibility
- More types of placement supported

“In your opinion, what disadvantages does the CEEPUS programme have compared to other exchange programmes?”

- Smaller target group
- It can no longer compete with other types of placement currently available
- In certain countries, the funding does not cover all the costs



“Do you find anything special about the CEEPUS programme?”

Total of 37 responses

- **Geographical focus (13x)**
 - Involvement of countries outside the EU
 - Greater cooperation with central and eastern European universities
- **Flexibility (11x)**
 - Possibility of going on different types of placement of different duration
 - Possibility of organising an individualised programme for the placement
 - Inclusion in the network facilitates establishing cooperation with other suitable partners
- **Simplicity (7x)**
 - Administration
 - Login via an online-system
 - Documents are on-line and transparent
- **Cooperation and support (6x)**
 - Continuous support from the DZS
 - Support not only in the form of funding, but also, for example, providing insurance or accommodation
 - Relatively permanent network of partner universities, enabling deeper cooperation
 - Support for cooperation in science and research
 - Possibility of visiting specialised centres
- **There is nothing special about the programme (3x)**



“What, in your opinion, are the general advantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

Total of 38 responses

- Simplicity (20x)
- Flexibility (15x)
- Cooperation (8x)
- Geographic focus (8x)
- Adequate financing (4x)



“What, in your opinion, are the general disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

Total of 36 responses

- Financing (10x)
- Insufficient programme options (8x)
- Complex administration (6x)
- The programme is not very well-known (4x)
- Website opacity (4x)
- No disadvantages (4x)

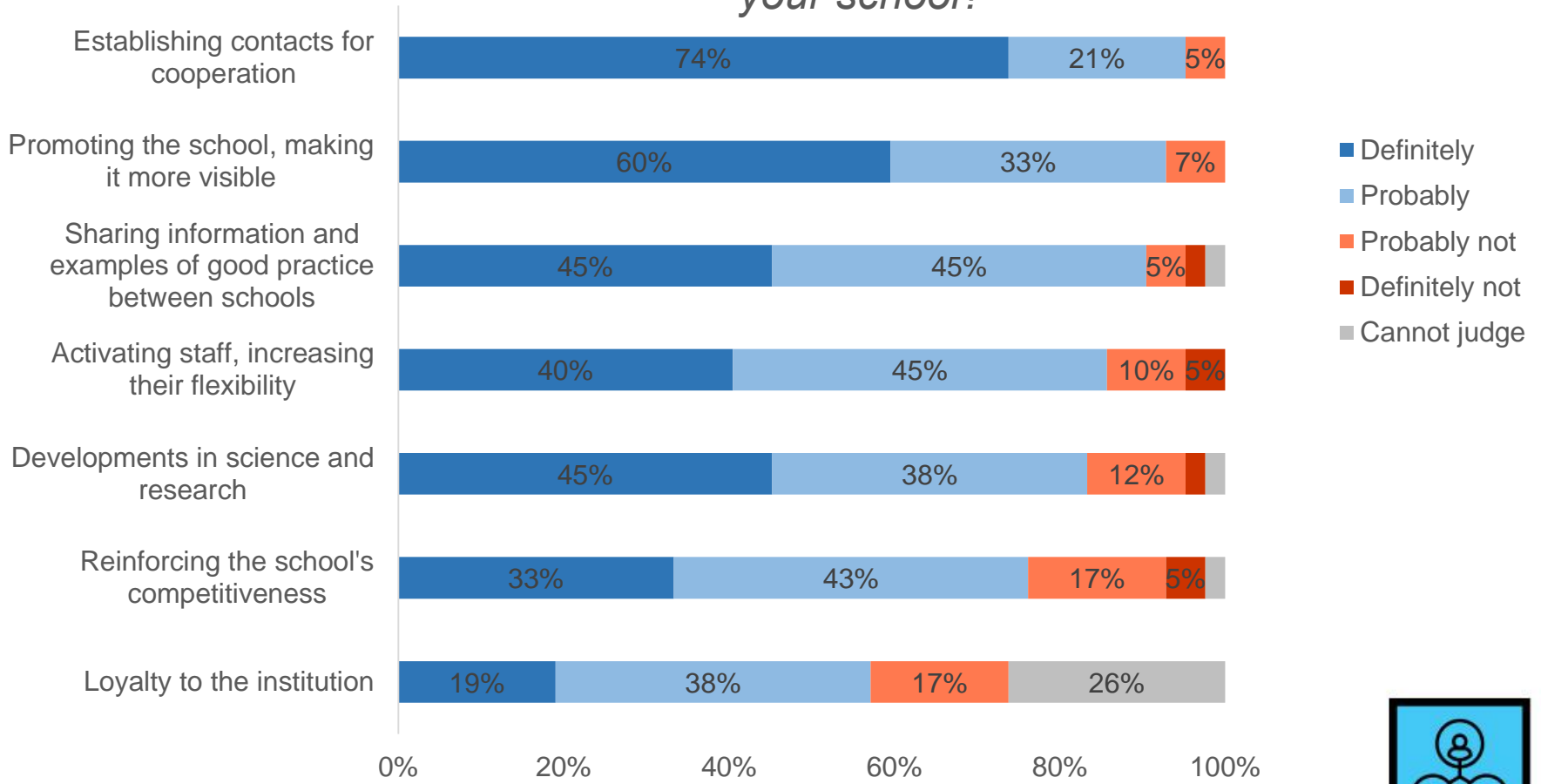


Benefits of the CEEPUS programme



Benefits for schools

“What, in your opinion are the benefits of the CEEPUS programme for your school?”

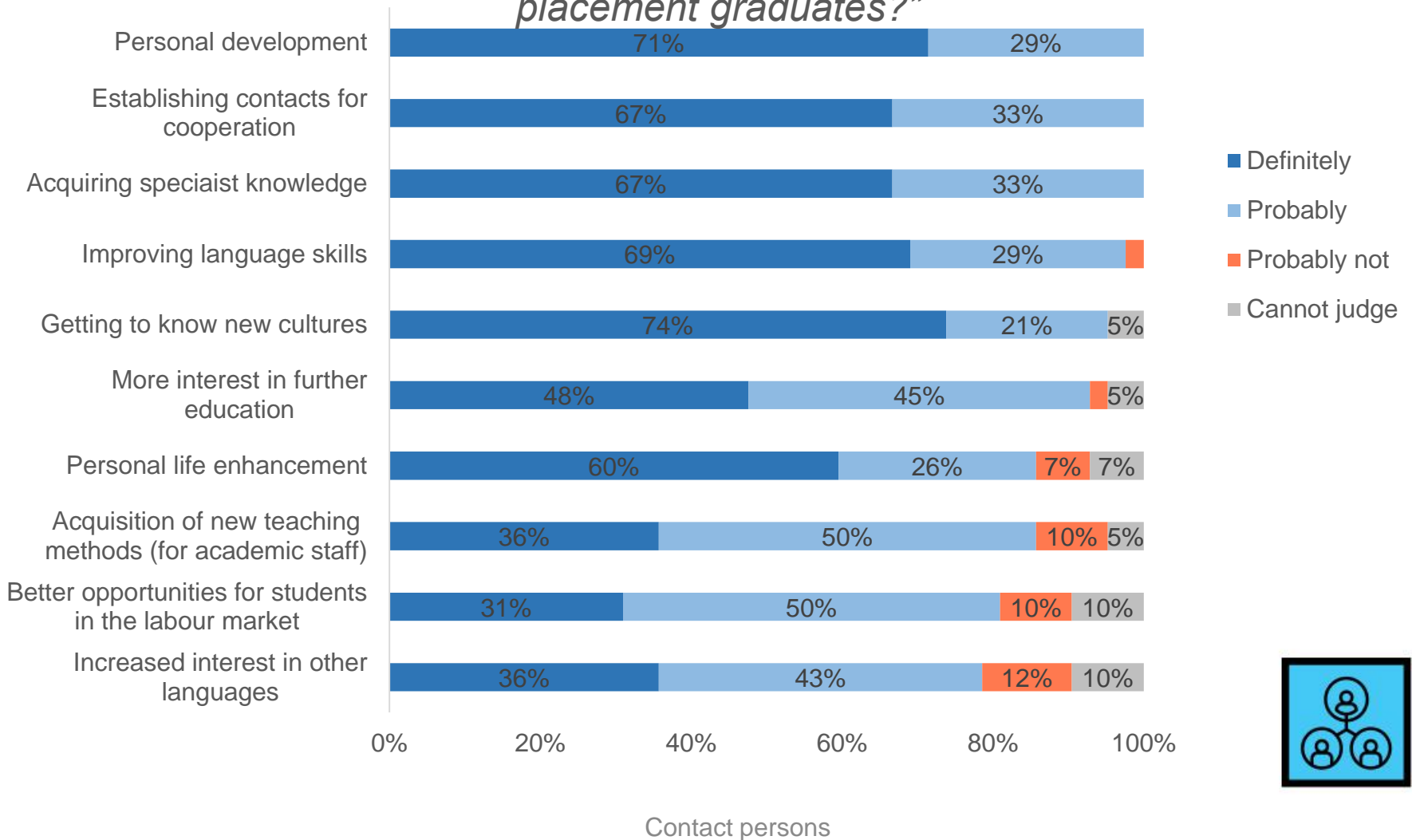


Contact persons



Benefits for graduates

“What, in your opinion, are the benefits of the CEEPUS programme for placement graduates?”



Other benefits

Other benefits for schools

n=5

“It provides opportunities for students and teachers to expand their professional experience.”

“Simply creating friendly professional relationships between people and schools.”

“It offers different options to Erasmus and is more flexible.”

“Promotes closer bilateral cooperation.”

Other benefits for graduates

n=6

- **Publications, conferences**
- **Sharing “good practices”**

“Just like any active placement abroad, it brings experience and personal enrichment.”

“Students have the opportunity to improve their knowledge of “neighbouring” people, cultures and countries.”

“The possibility to work abroad on a degree-level or doctoral thesis.”

“Students who have completed a CEEPUS internship are more active in their further studies and are interested in other study opportunities abroad. They also have better opportunities on the job market.”

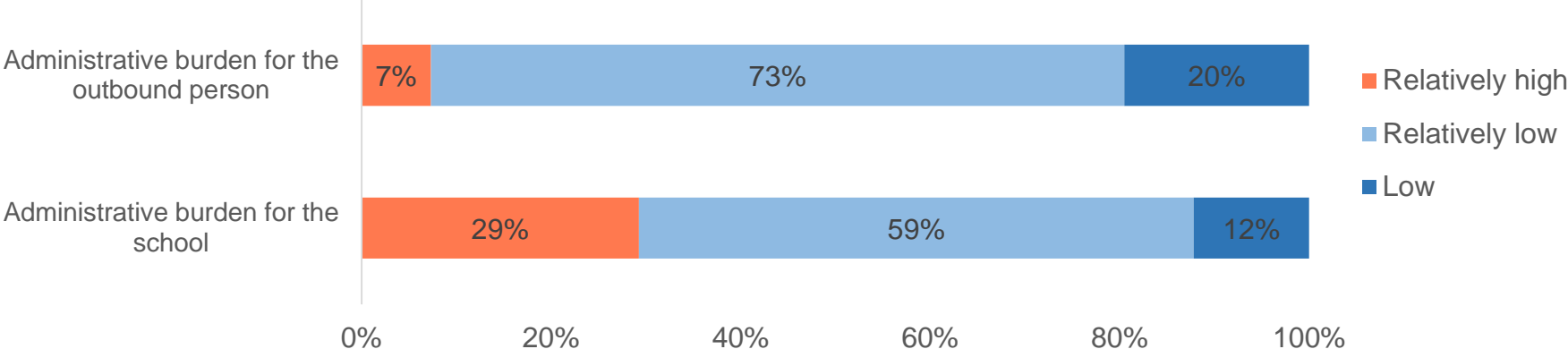


Evaluating the CEEPUS programme

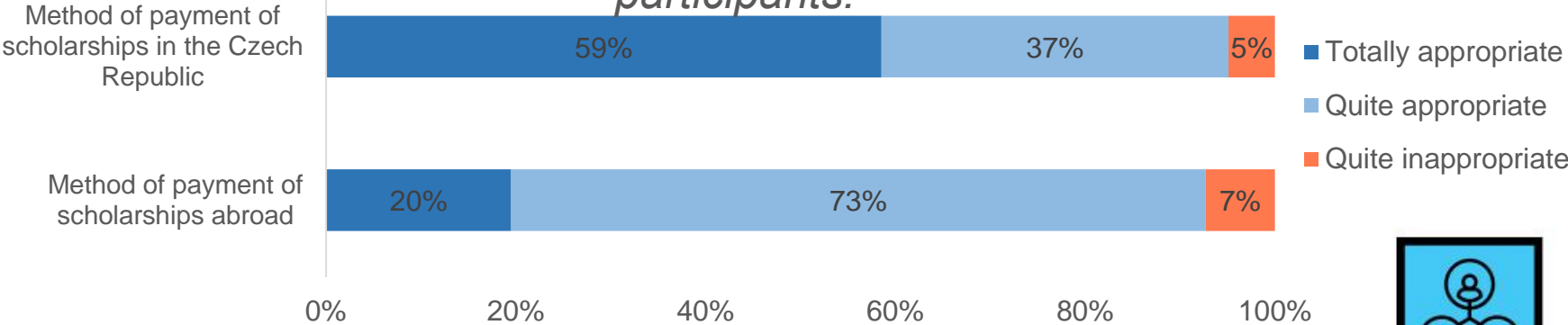


Evaluating administration and finances

“Please evaluate the level of the administrative burden.”



“Please evaluate the method of payment of funds to participants.”



Contact persons

“What improvements could be made to the programme in future to make it appear ideal to you?”

Total of 34 responses

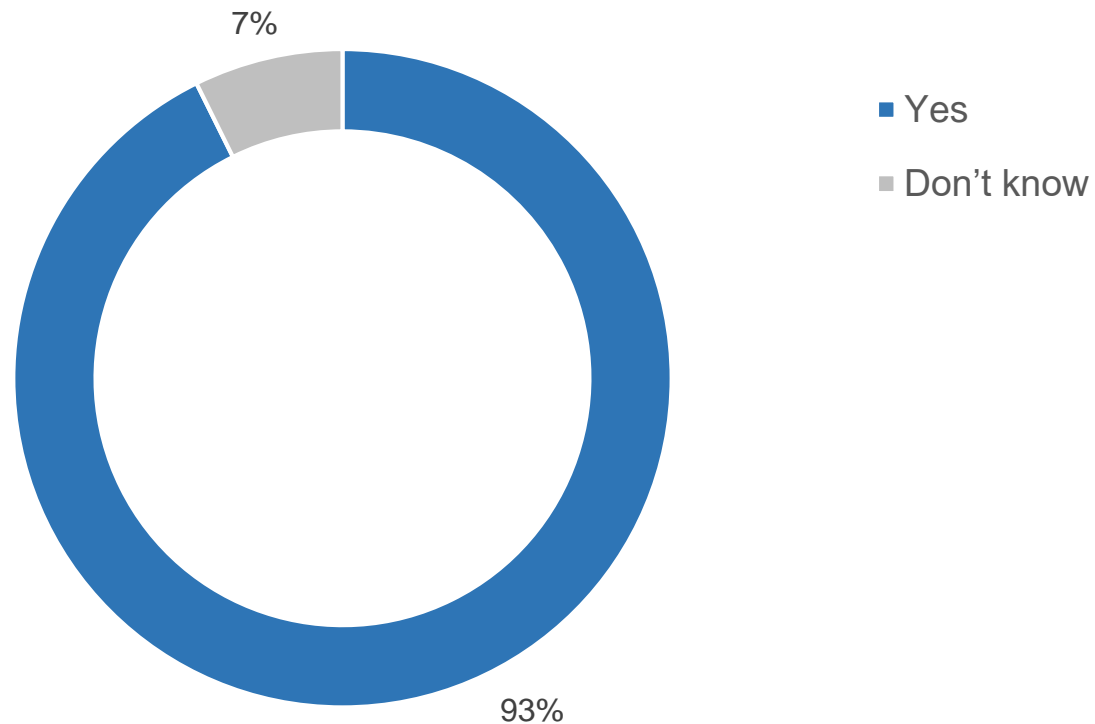
- **Financing**
 - Unify rules across countries (6x)
 - Increase scholarships / grants (4x)
- **Expand existing options (7x)**
 - Increase the number of: placements, existing activities, potential destinations, freemover activities
 - Introduce: financing of joint scientific projects, practical internships, trips within the country, posting of “our foreigners” to their country of origin, trips outside university semesters and teaching periods
- **Information**
 - Improve the “ceepus.info” portal(4x)
 - Raise general awareness of the programme and of the options available to students (3x)
- **Reduce the administrative burden (4x)**



Contact persons

Future plans

“Does your school expect to continue its involvement in the CEEPUS programme in the future?”



Contact persons



“Do you have any other observations or comments about the programme?”

Total of 8 responses

- **Positive**

“The CEEPUS programme is an extremely good alternative to the Erasmus+ programme. Both programmes complement each other well, because each has different strengths.”

“It is a different programme to Erasmus and Erasmus+, please don’t cancel it!”

“An excellent programme, which works well and is very useful for both students and staff.”

- **Negative**

“The contact person has no financial motivation from the project, their activities on behalf of their other outgoing colleagues and their students are to some extent purely charitable acts.”

“Occasional efforts to misuse scholarships for incoming staff.”

“Major differences in the quality of accommodation in different countries.”

- **Suggestions for the future**

“One-day per diem (scholarship) rates for incoming staff should be maintained.”

“I would want more detailed specifications of what students arriving for summer courses (outside the normal university semesters) will be expected to do.”



Contact persons

II. FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF

35 staff members



CEEPUS compared to other programmes



“What in your opinion are the advantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to Erasmus+?”

Total of 29 responses

- Simpler administration, online tools (15x)
- Short stays, summer schools (8x)
- Financing (6x)
- Destination options
 - Involvement of countries outside Erasmus+ (4x)
 - Possibility of going “anywhere” as a freemover (2x)

- Other advantages:

“Greater flexibility in the number of months/days of scholarship offered for academic staff and students.”

“Managed and approved by the national office.”

“Fantastic support from the DZS.”

“Networks focused on specific fields, resulting in closer and more targeted collaboration.”

“Contact persons are from the same field, resulting in greater compatibility of stays with the field of study/learning.”

“Later deadlines for nominations to partner universities.”

“More chance of success.”

“Monthly internships.”



“What in your opinion are the disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to Erasmus+?”

Total of 29 responses

- **More restricted range of offers**
 - Smaller choice of destinations (8x)
 - More restricted choice based on topic/field (2x)
- **Financing**
 - Less financial support (8x)
- **Information**
 - Less awareness of the programme (5x)
 - Unattractive and unclear website (2x)
- **Complex administration (3x)**
- **Complicated accounting (3x)**
- **Other disadvantages:**

“Less flexibility for departures and arrivals, more regulated numbers of exchanges, a certain uncertainty concerning the possibility of departure/arrival, lower number of months/days for departure.”

“Conflict between university nomination deadlines x deadlines for applying for a CEEPUS grant x the length of the visa process.”

“Management and reporting is only carried out by individual faculties, outdated registration system.”



“Do you find anything special about the CEEPUS programme compared with this programme or these programmes?”
Total of 20 responses

- Simple administration, everything online (9x)
- Regional and topical focus (3x)

“Direct contact to the National Programme Office = immediate assistance in resolving a given problem.”

“Enables students to travel to and study at selected universities even if they cannot participate in the Erasmus+ programme.”

“Enables travel to any destination under the Freemover programme, provided the university agrees.”

“Higher grants, possibility of shorter placements.”



Comparison with other programmes

“In your opinion, what are the advantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to other exchange programmes?” (n=22)

- Simple administration, digitalisation (11x)
- Possibility of shorter placements (6x)
- Choice of destinations + freemover (4x)
- Thematic networks

“In your opinion, what are the disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme compared to other exchange programmes?” (n=23)

- Financing (12x)
 - Low financial support in certain countries
 - Different rules in different countries
 - No remuneration for administrators
 - Participants do not receive the grants directly
- Choice of destinations (6x)
 - Not attractive
 - Small number of countries
- Other disadvantages:
 - Low level of awareness of the programme (4x)
 - Website
 - Thematic networks are limiting

“When students arrive under the Freemover programme, more activity is required of them, which, from the perspective of an administrator, I do not see as a disadvantage.”



Positives and negatives: in general

“Do you find anything exceptional about the CEEPUS programme?”

(n=8)

- Simple administration, online tools
- Different duration of placements, possibility of short exchanges
- Freemover mobility, exchanges outside the EU

“What in your opinion are the general advantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

(n=7)

- Simple administration, online tools

“What in your opinion are the general disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

(n=6)

- Less financial support
- Website

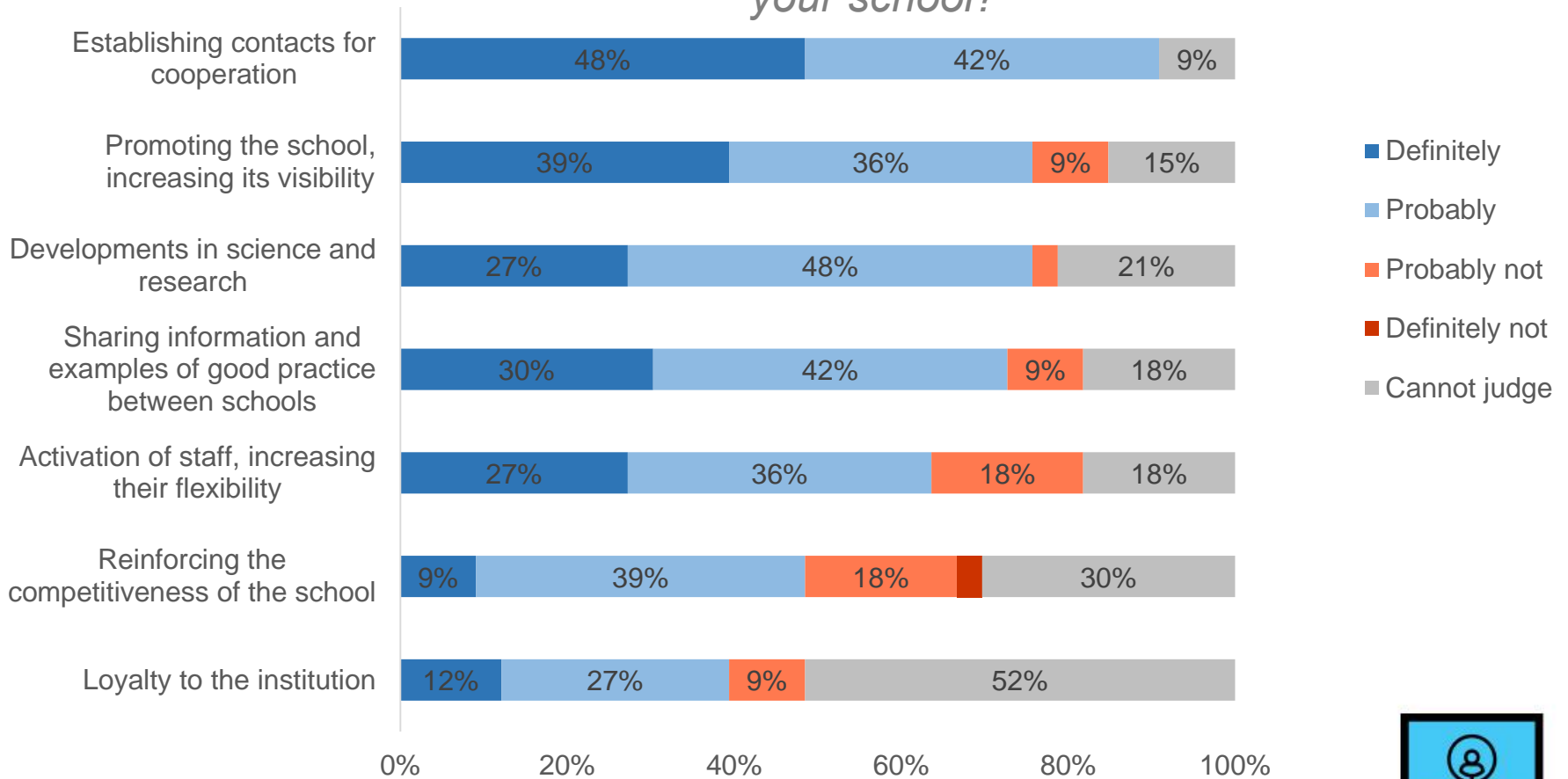


Benefits of the CEEPUS programme



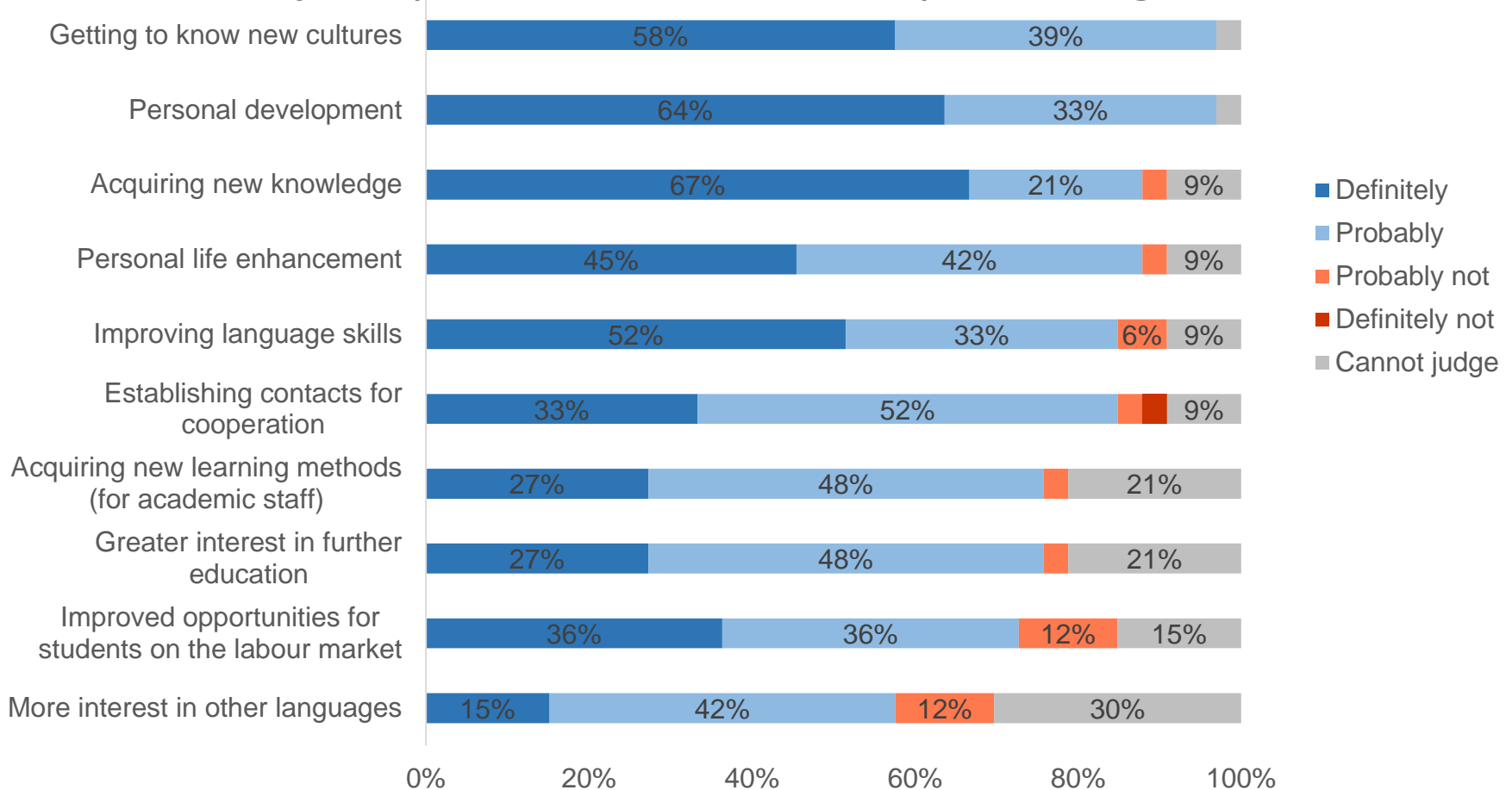
Benefits for schools

“What, in your opinion, are the benefits of the CEEPUS programme for your school?”



Benefits for graduates

“What, in your opinion, are the benefits for placement graduates?”

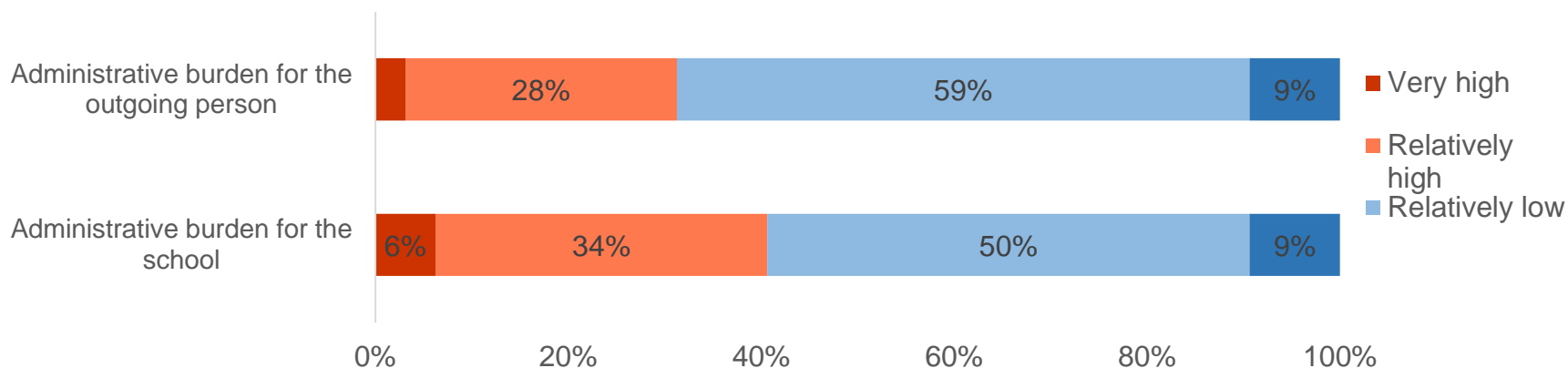


Evaluating the CEEPUS programme

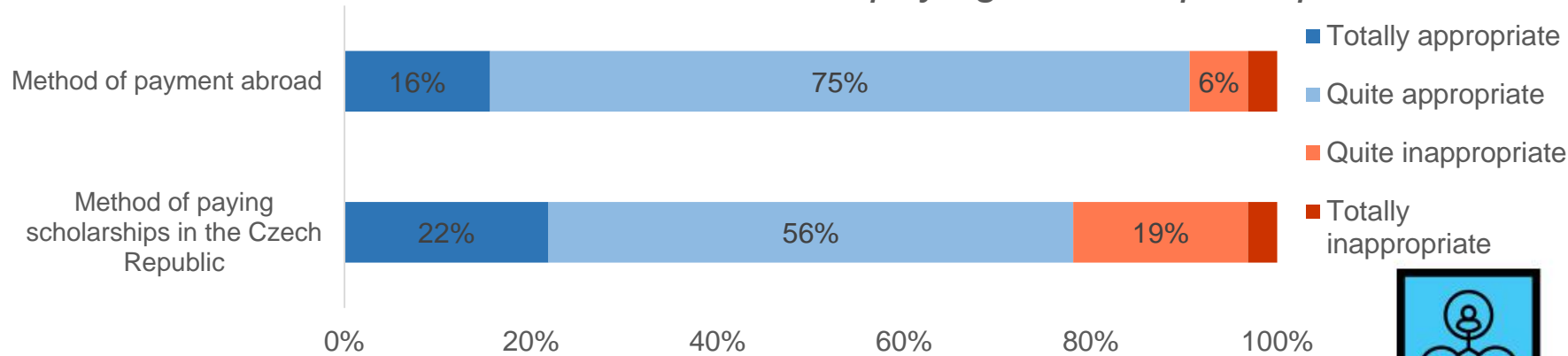


Evaluating administration and finance

"Please evaluate the administrative burden"



"Please evaluate the method of paying funds to participants."



“What improvements could be made to the programme in future to make it appear ideal to you?”

Total of 23 responses

- **Financing**
 - Increase scholarships/grants (8x)
 - Send money directly to participants' accounts (3x)
 - Unify payment rules across all countries (2x)
 - Simplify the system for paying travel expenses (2x)
- **Reduce red tape (4x)**
- **Other proposals:**
 - Greater programme promotion (3x)
 - Improve the website (3x)
 - Expand the range of countries on offer (2x)

“Make a video describing how to submit an application “step by step”.”

“Update the CEEPUS database, it could be more interesting.”

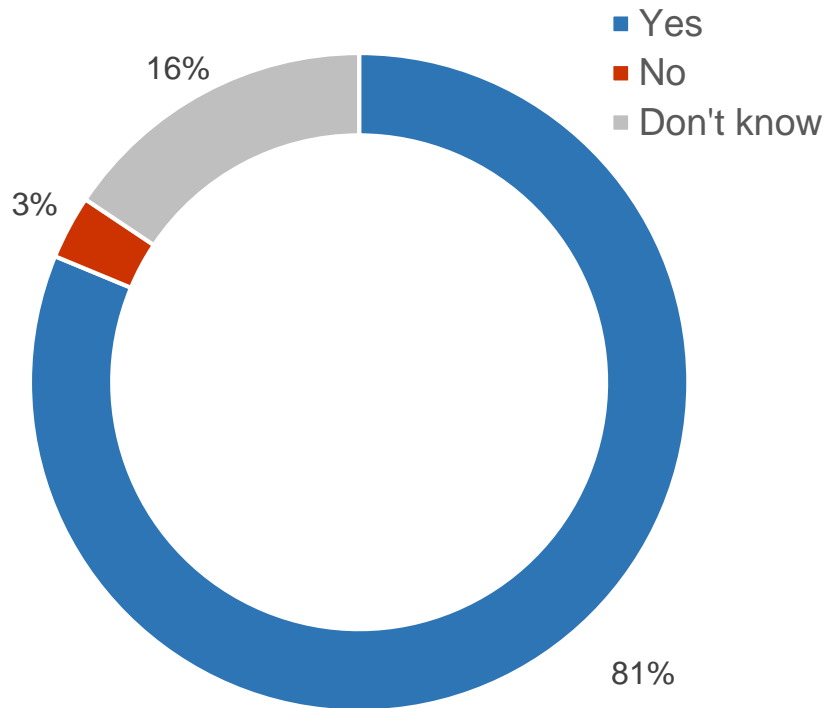
“Options for student internships have insufficient take-up.”

“Thank you for the advice and support of the national agency!”



Future plans

“Does your school expect to continue its involvement in the CEEPUS programme in the future?”



III. NOT YET INVOLVED

12 respondents



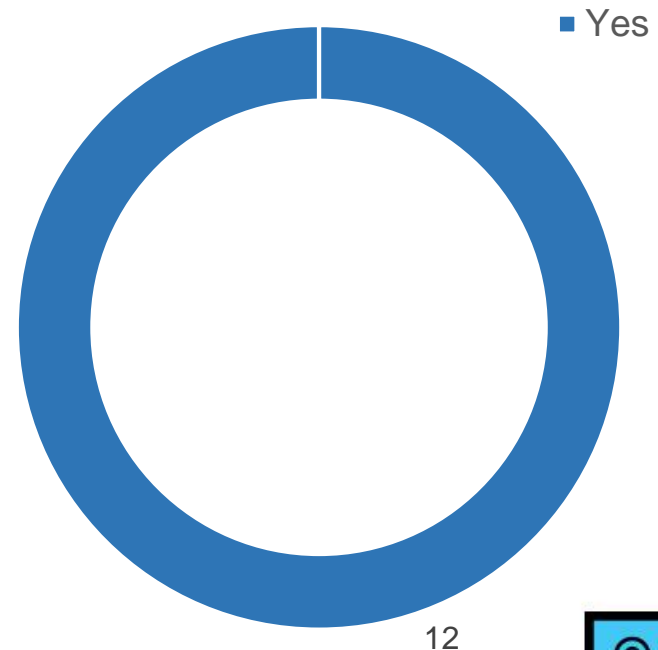
Not involved

Introductory information on the respondents

“What is your position in the school?”

“Do you know the CEEPUS programme?”

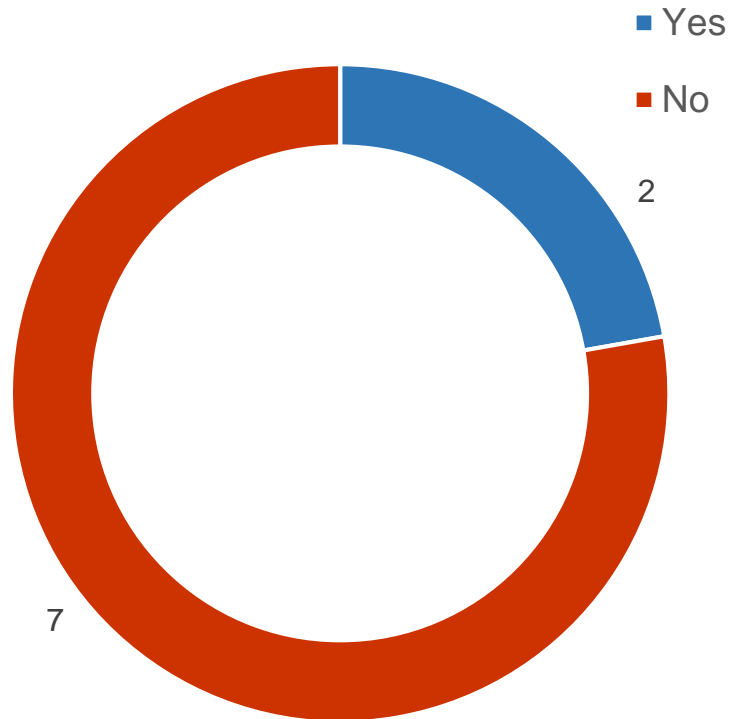
- Coordinator for incoming exchange students
- Coordinator for foreign placements
- Department of External Relations
- Vice Dean
- Vice Rector
- Vice Rector for Strategy
- Vice Rector for Foreign Relations
- Foreign Relations Officer
- External and International Relations Officer
- Head of Department, Associate Professor
- Foreign lecturer



Not involved

Reasons for not being involved

“Do you know any reasons why your school has never been involved with the CEEPUS programme?”



Yes – reasons:

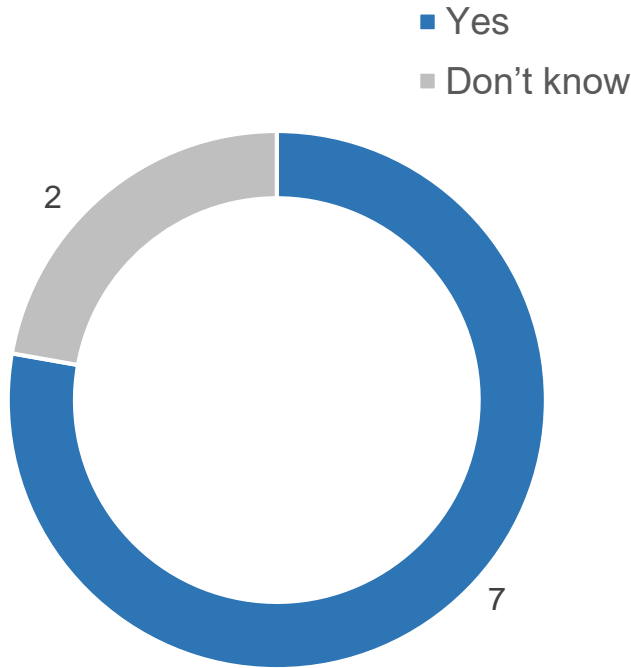
- Capacity of the foreign relations department
- (Lack of) interest from other units



Not involved

Future plans

“Does your school expect to continue its involvement in the CEEPUS programme in the future?”



“In your view, what benefits might the programme have (whether for schools, for the participants, or for you personally)?”

“Financial support for projects, international cooperation.”

“The experience gained is certainly an advantage.”

“Definitely, increasing the internationalisation of universities.”

“Creating personal ties for the future preparation of research projects.”



Not involved

Advantages and Disadvantages

“In your opinion, what are the general advantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

“In your opinion, what are the general disadvantages of the CEEPUS programme?”

“Administratively uncomplicated support for placements and the establishment of informal relationships.”

“Possibility of placements in countries other than those covered by Erasmus.”

“Possibility of obtaining scholarships for foreign students.”

“Acquiring experience.”

“Financing.”

“A lot of red tape, lengthy process for project implementation.”

“More demanding preparation.”



Thank you for your interest

www.dzs.cz

www.naerasmusplus.cz

