



Accreditation and Recognition of the Joint Master Programs

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**ARACIS - The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher
Education,**

**The 2nd International Conference: Institutional Strategic Quality Management - ISQM2010
14 - 16 October 2010, Sinaia, Romania**



Introduction

- The European dimension of higher education after Bologna Declaration in June 1999.
- Development of joint degree programmes.
- In 2002 the Joint Masters Project was first proposed to the European Commission for Socrates programmes funding.



- The Bologna Process has increased the interest on these programmes among European and non European HEIs.
- Advantages for universities
- Recommendations issued at "Master degrees Conference", held in Helsinki , 2003
- According to ENQA, a joint degree is a degree awarded by the higher education institutions that offer a joint programme, attesting the successful completion of this joint programme.



- **ECA (European Consortium for Accreditation)**
- **ENIC-NARICs do not recognise qualifications awarded by a joint programme if that programme is not established or offered in accordance with the national legislation.**
- **Some institutions use joint programmes to escape national legislation.**



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- Romanian universities have to adapt to the new challenges.
- The paper summarises the results of the survey carried out by ARACIS on the situation of joint master degree programmes in Romania.
- The study has been conducted through a questionnaire.



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Situation in Romania

- ARACIS has performed a study, the first of this type in Romania on 110 universities. From these, 33 have responded to the questionnaire. Twenty have developed 64 joint master programmes.
- The data processed were obtained from a number of 79 questionnaires received, 38 were considered valid.



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Number of partnership

- **Collaboration with other universities: in home country – 6, abroad - 61 from 17 countries and 4 continents.**
- **Collaboration with business and professional associations - 34**

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What are the modalities of collaboration in the joint master programs in your university ?

- a) Collaboration with other universities in the country/ abroad
- c) Collaboration with business / professional associations
- c) Other ways of collaboration



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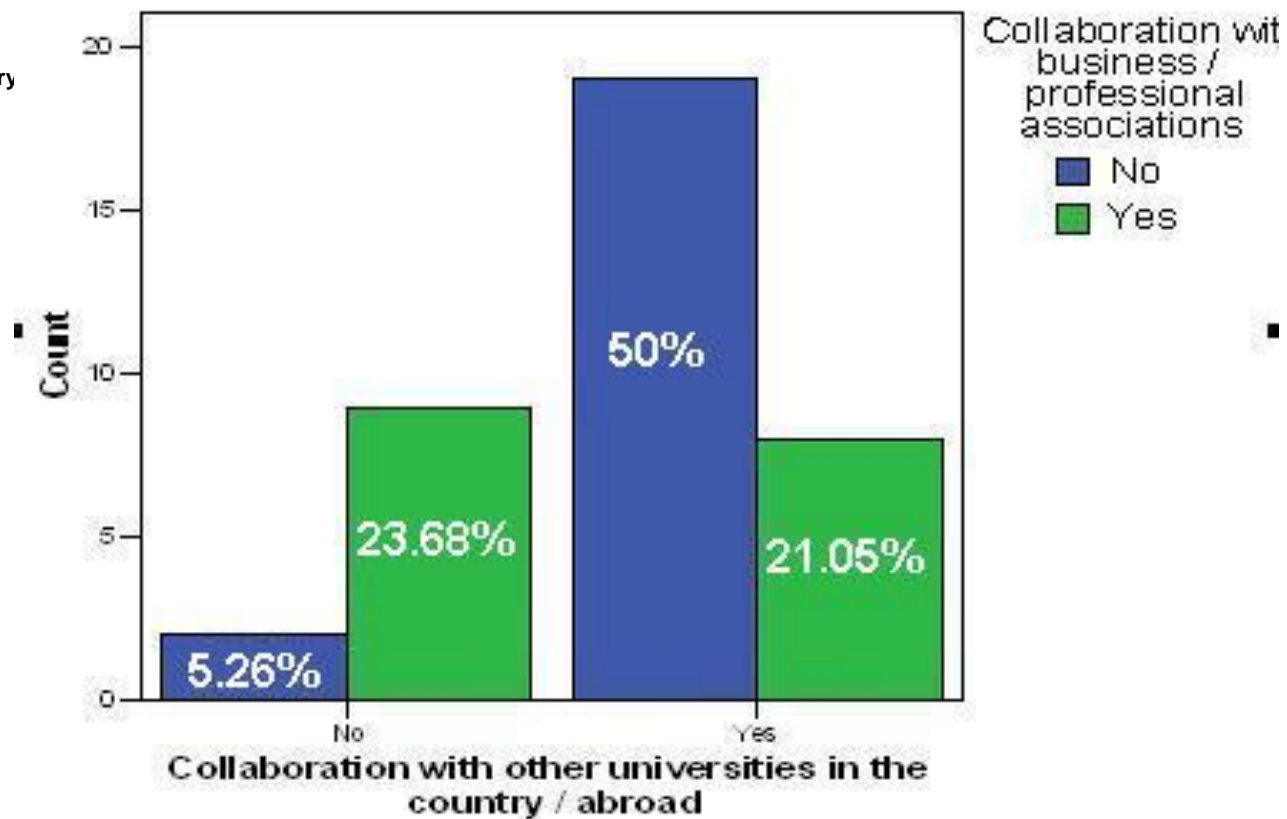
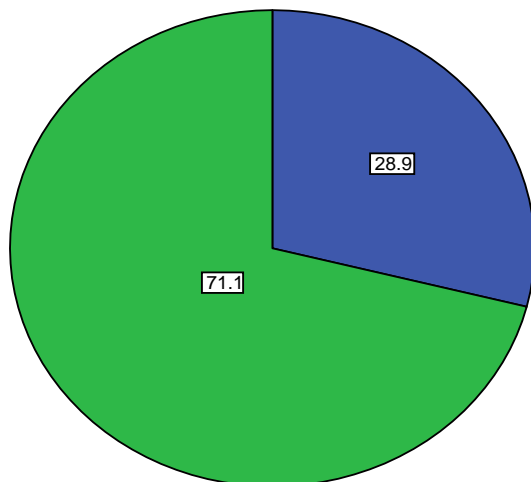
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Bar Chart

Collaboration with other universities in the country



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Admission to the master is by:

- a) College graduation mark
- b) College graduation mark + interview
- c) College graduation mark + written examination
- d) A written exam + interview



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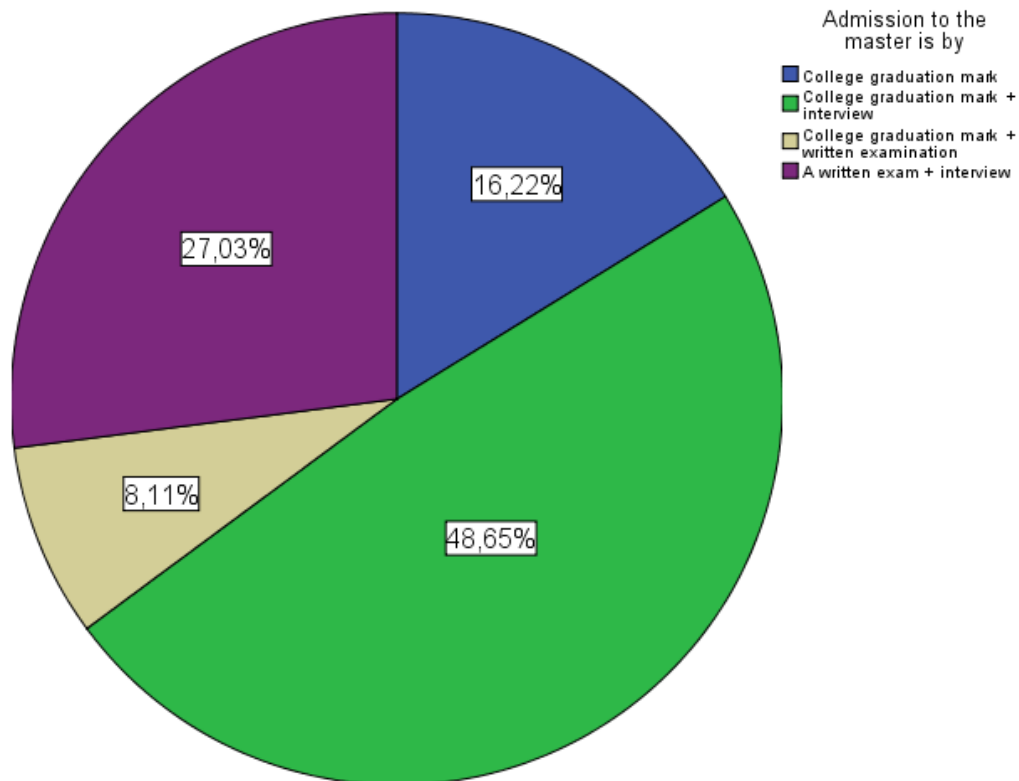


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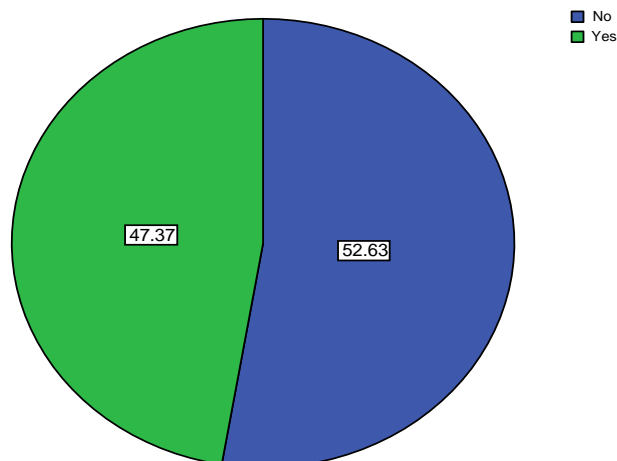


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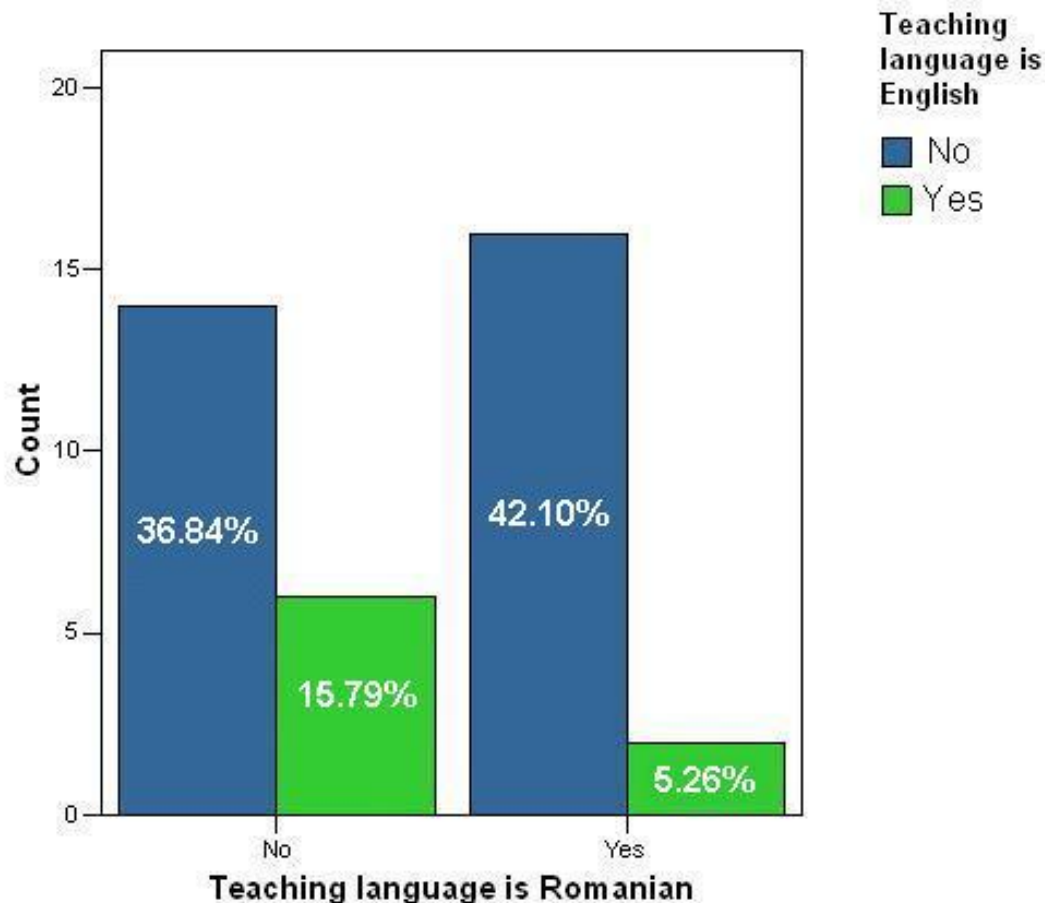
What is the teaching language courses at masters JOINT Programs:

- a) Teaching language is Romanian
- c) Teaching language is English
- c) Teaching language is the university partner's one
- d) Some courses in Romanian, some in English
- e) Some courses in Romanian other in partner university's language

Teaching language is Romanian



Bar Chart





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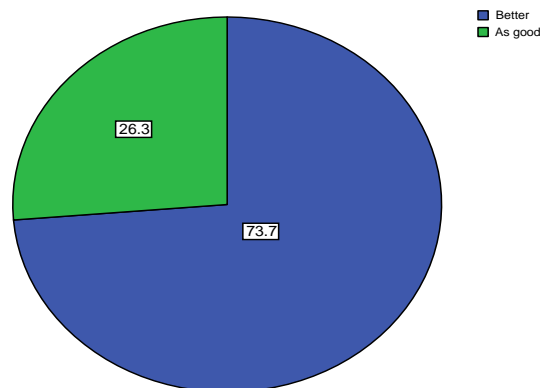


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The quality and effectiveness of joint master programmes

- a) Better than the simple/local master programs
- b) As good as the existing master programs;
- c) Less good than the existing master programs

The quality and effectiveness compared to other master programs is





What diploma/certification is offered by the joint master programs in your university

- a) One single diploma signed by both partners
- b) A double diploma from each of the partner universities;
- c) A diploma from your university;
- d) A diploma from the university partner.



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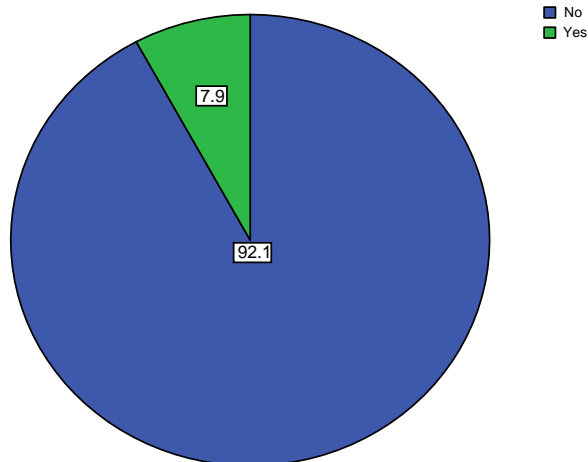


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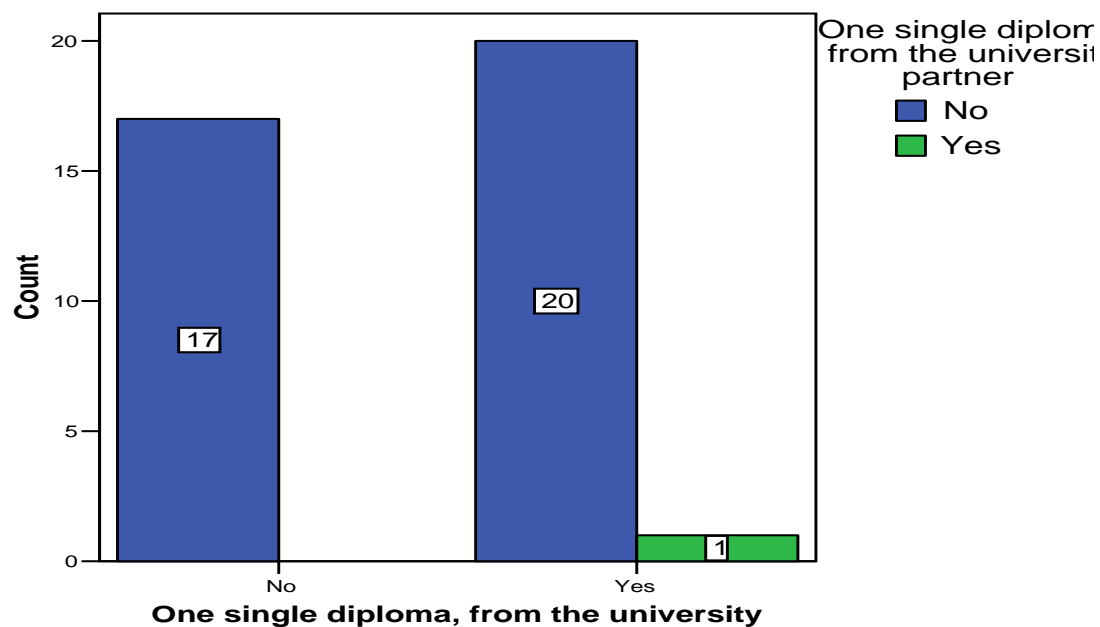
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One single diploma signed by both partners



Percentage of JMP offering one
single diploma signed by both partner:

Bar Chart





What kind of accreditation is given to the join master programs in your university ?

- a) Accredited in Romania and the country that includes the university partner;**
- b) Accredited only in Romania;**
- c) Accredited only in the partner country university;**
- d) Accredited by the university Senate if at least one master program in the relevant field has been accredited by ARACIS for that university;**
- e) These programs are not accredited;**
- f) Other accreditation. Please indicate which**



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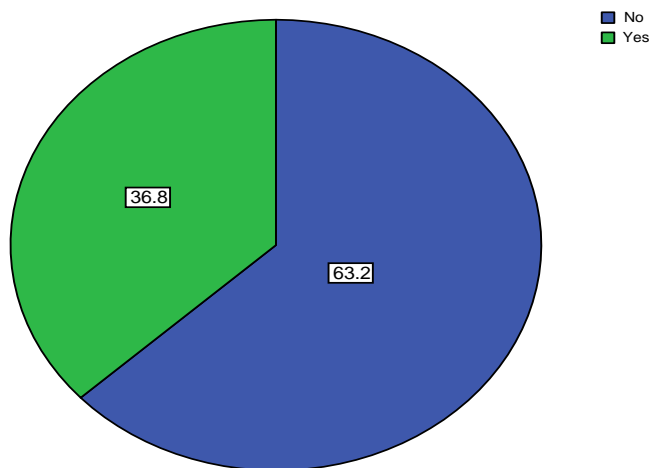
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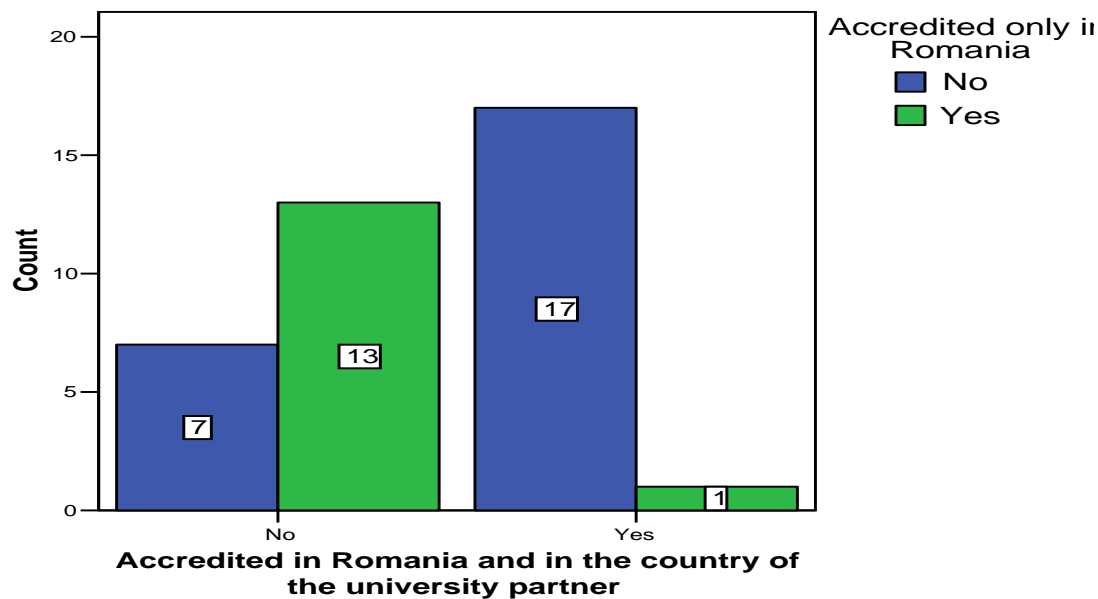
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Accredited only in Romania



Percentage of JMP
accredited only in
Romania

Bar Chart



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*The effects of these join master programs
organized in partnership with business and
professional associations on labor market*

- a) Hiring graduates during or after the program;
- b) Total or partial recognition for entry into professional associations;
- c) Traineeships during the development of the program.



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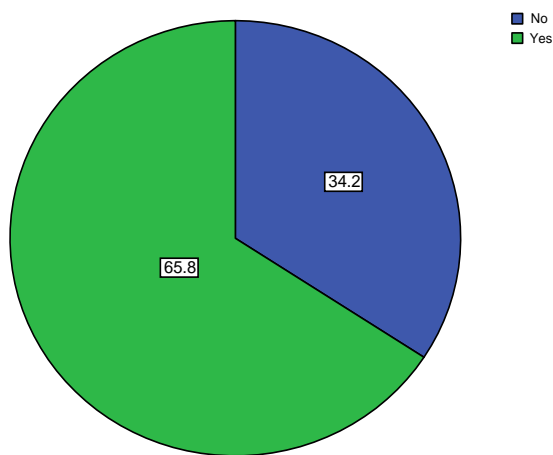
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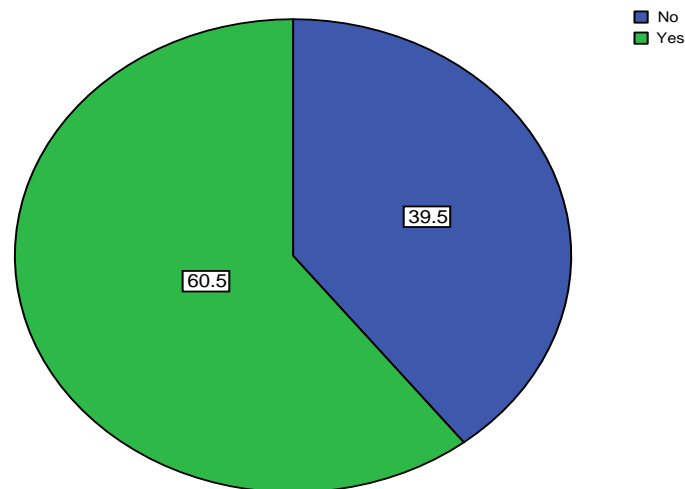


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Hiring graduates during or after the program



Traineeships during the development of the program



Hiring percentages during or after JMP (only for the
JMP developed with professional associations)

Percentage of traineeships during JMP
for entry in professional associations

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There are three questions with ‘free’ responses:

1. Formulate three strengths of the joint master programs in your vision.
2. Specify three weaknesses of the joint master programs in your vision.
3. Formulate three recommendations for joint master programs according to the following levels: university, faculty, joint master program



Advantages from bi or multiple diploma for:

- Students
- Employers

Disadvantages



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Conclusions and recommendations for joint master programs:

- Instruments to help further the internationalization of European higher education.
- Link between the recognition of qualifications and the quality assessment of higher education programs and institutions.
- Romania should review their legislation.



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Thank you for your attention

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