



REKTORU PADOME



POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE



*Online course catalogues and databases for
transparency and recognition 2 (OCTRA 2)
01.01.2023 – 31.12.2024*

Case study: country report of Bulgaria

Peer learning activity.

20 March 2024 -Warsaw, Poland and online

Co-funded by
the European Union:



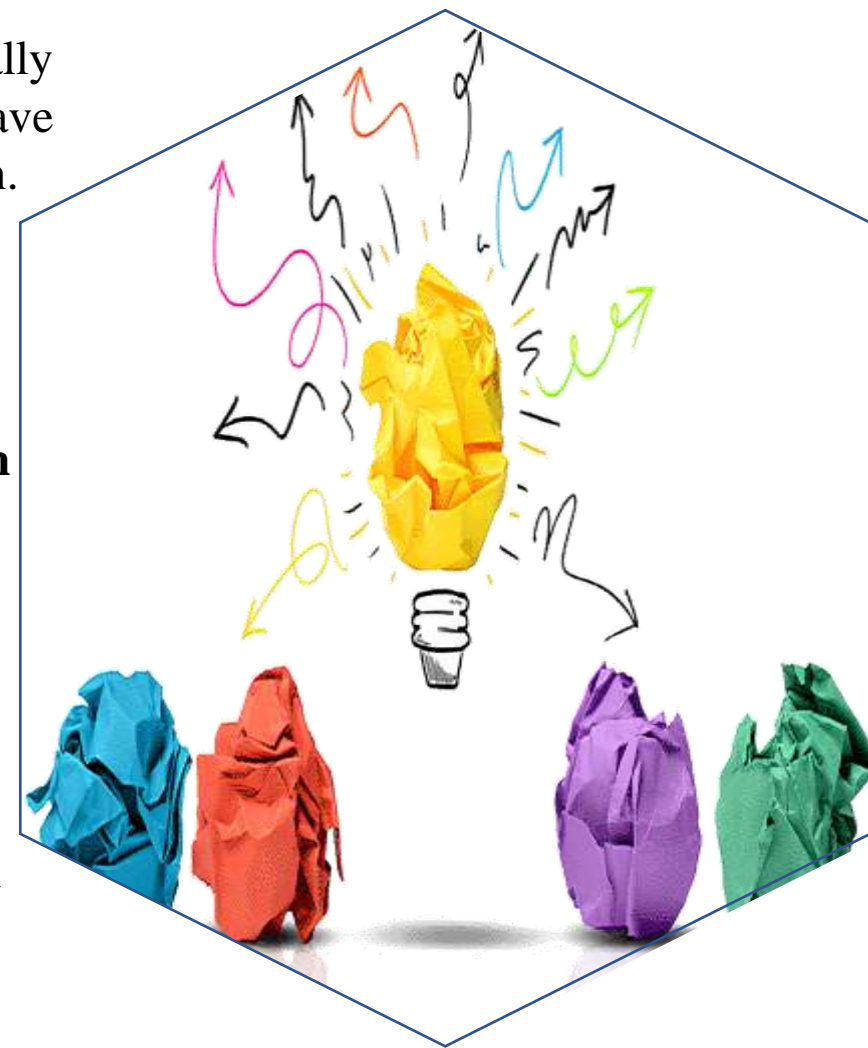
In terms of transparency and information provision, Micro-credentials are generally applicable as a emerging **new type of LLL small learning units**, which do have their place in National qualifications framework **if they lead to** a final qualification.

The National qualifications framework of Bulgaria is open to this emerging new category of LLL learning units just as any other.

The current national legislation of Bulgaria **in the field of higher education** does not distinguish the micro-credentials among other learning units.

Hence all national and Bologna principles and rules for higher education are applicable for micro-credentials and **first of all external quality assurance**.

The lack of specific national legislation could **serve as an advantage** in this respect, providing to HEIs as education providers the **opportunity** within their academic autonomy **to search their own pathways** to design and implement Micro-credentials in the context of their study programs and course catalogues.



Bulgarian HEIs-respondents



Initially seven Bulgarian universities were selected to be a representative sample for the country.



The selection was based on desk research and information available about **national and international initiatives and projects** in the field of micro-credentials.

Subsequently, an online Survey and Interview were made **available for all Bulgarian** universities to be filled out.

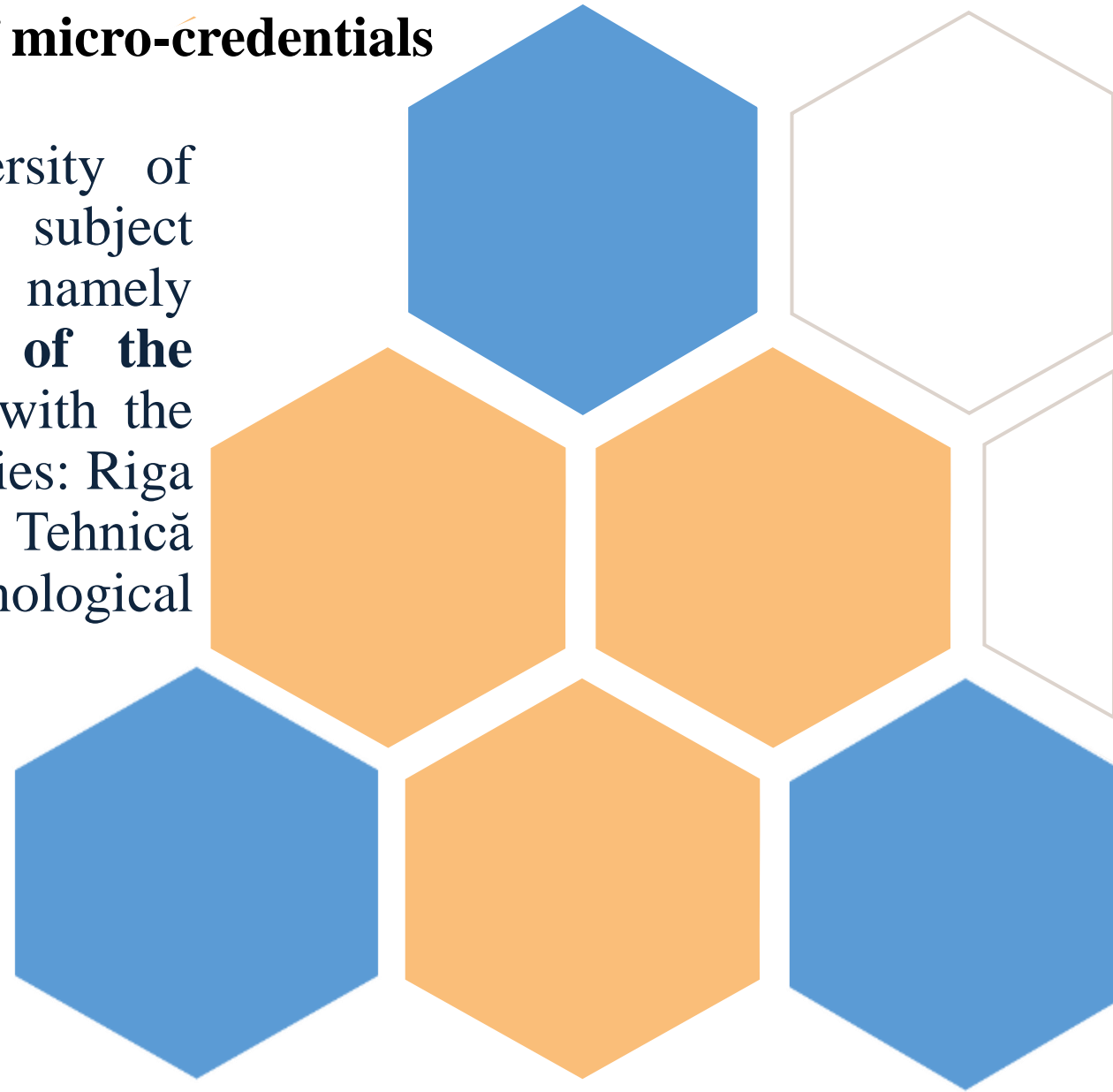
Thus **all 52 Bulgarian universities had the opportunity** to participate in the survey and the interview.

As a result there were total of **13 respondents to the Survey** and **10 respondents to the interview**.



Bulgarian universities, involved in international initiatives and projects in the field of micro-credentials

- One Bulgarian university (Technical University of Sofia) is involved in the micro-credentials subject within an international group of universities, namely together with the other **seven founders of the European University of Technology EUt+** with the following HEIs from the project partner countries: Riga Technical University (Latvia), Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and Technological University Dublin (Ireland).
- Another Bulgarian university (University of National and World Economy) is involved in the micro-credentials subject within the **alliance of leading European universities ENGAGE. EU.**



Results of the Interviews



St. St. Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo (VTU)



University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavsky" (SHU)



University of National and World Economy – Sofia (UNWE)



Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" (VFU)



Technical University – Sofia (TUS)



Trakia university, Bulgaria



University "Prof. D-R Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas



South-West University "Neofit Rilski"



Technical University of Varna



Vasil Levski National Military University



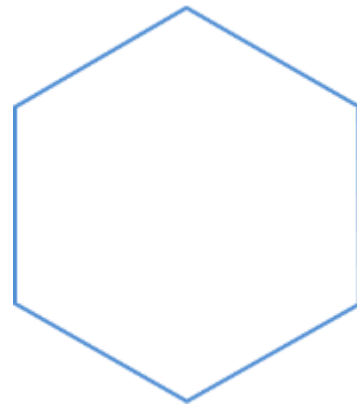
Technical University – Gabrovo (TUG)



University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT) -Sofia, Bulgaria

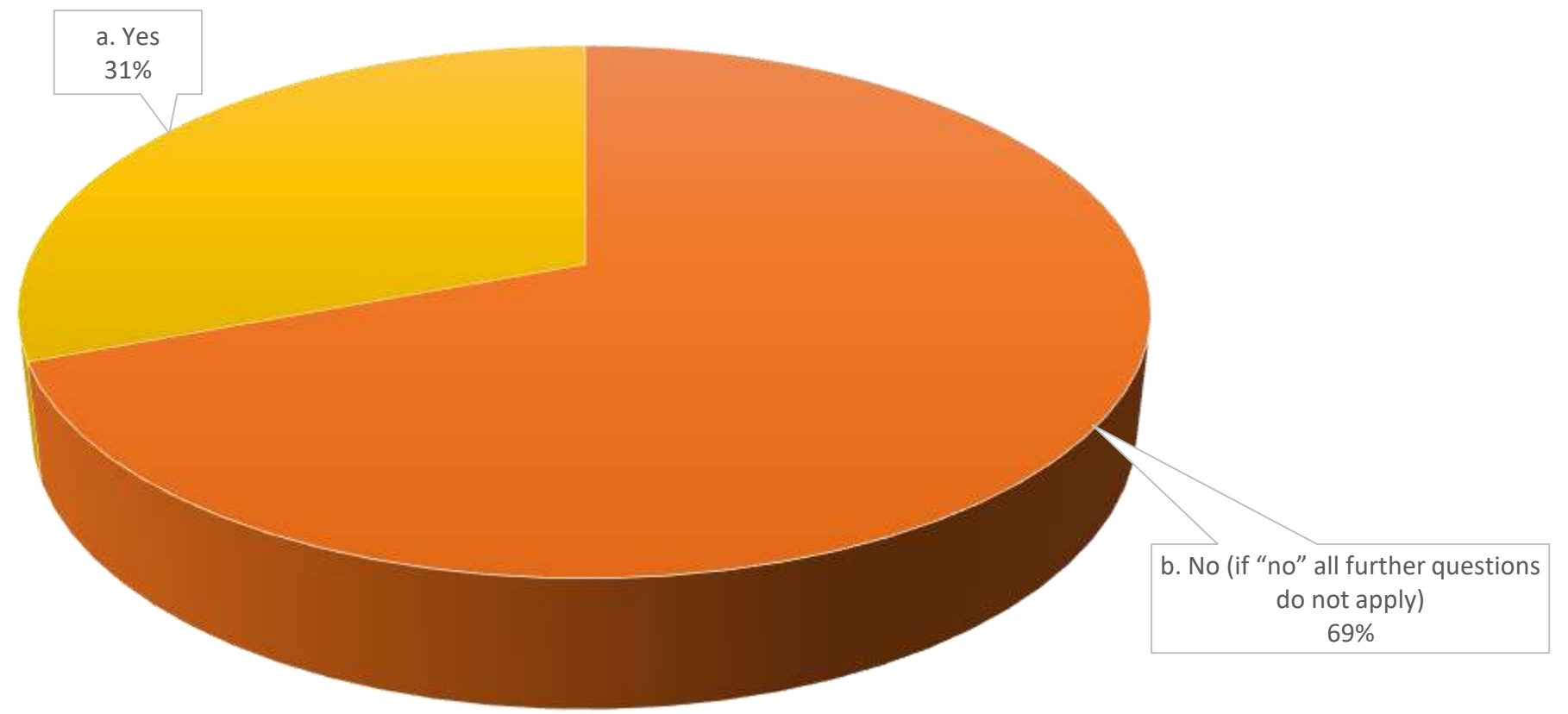


National Academy of Music - Sofia

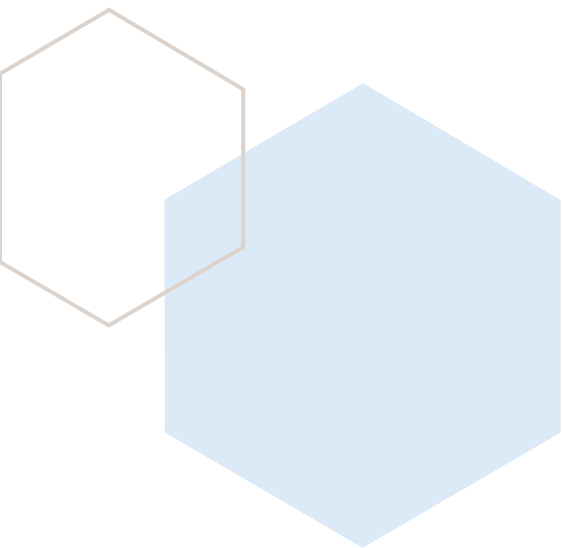
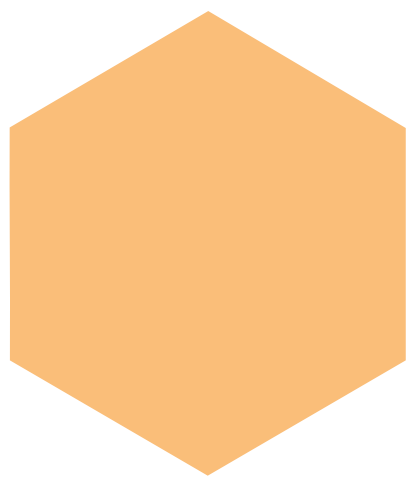


Results of the Surveys

Does your institution provide micro-credentials?

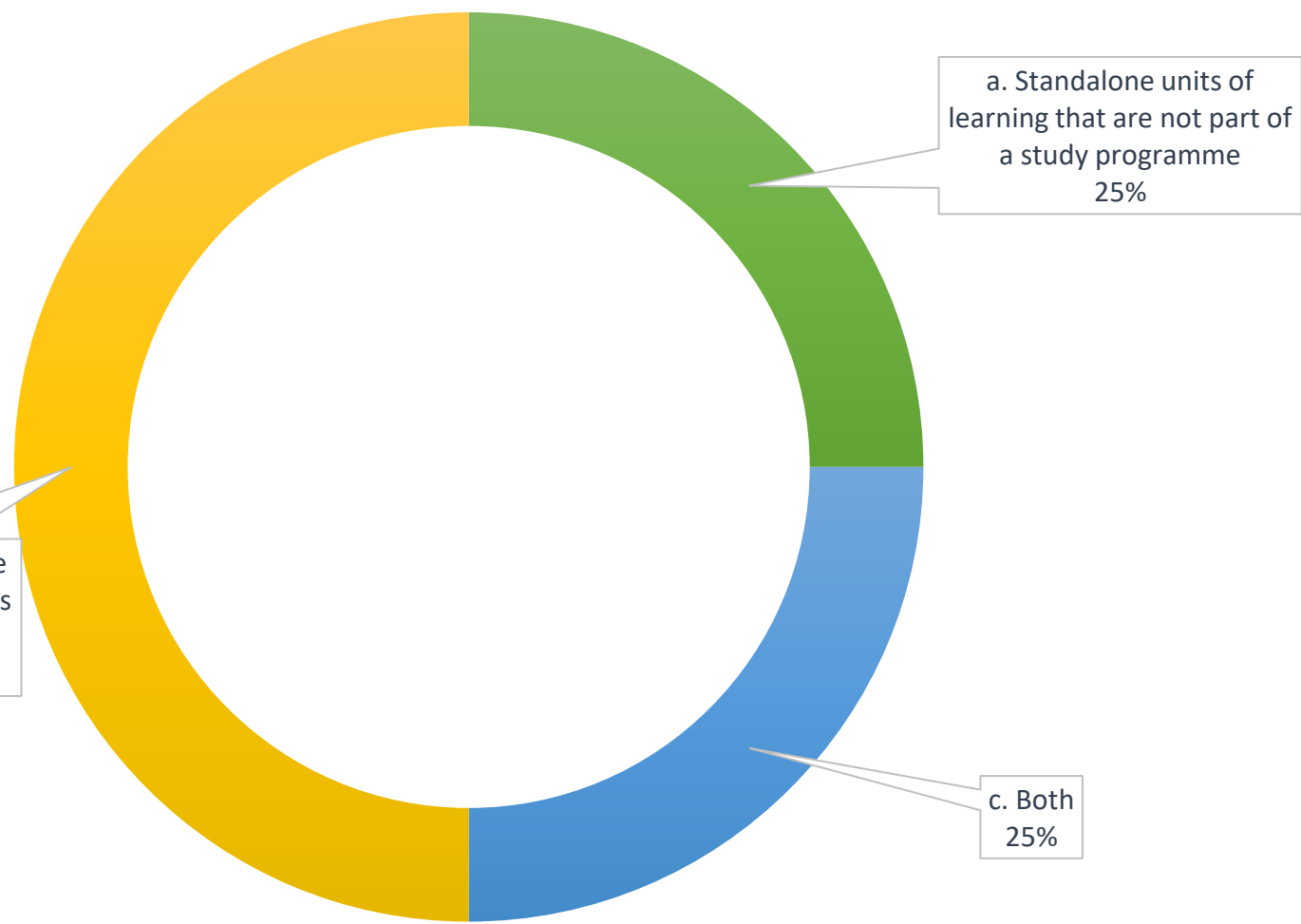
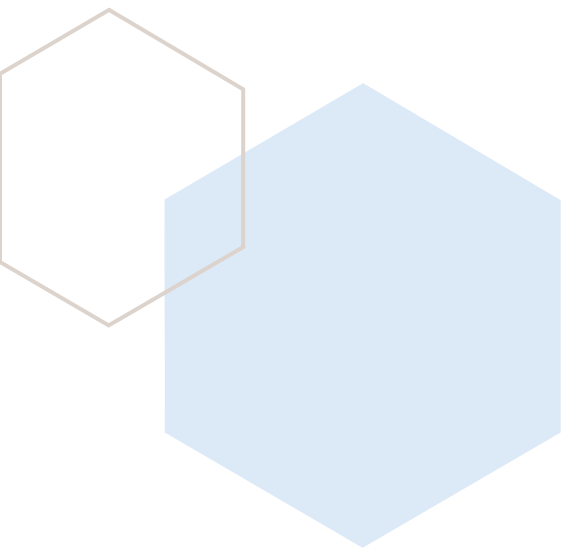
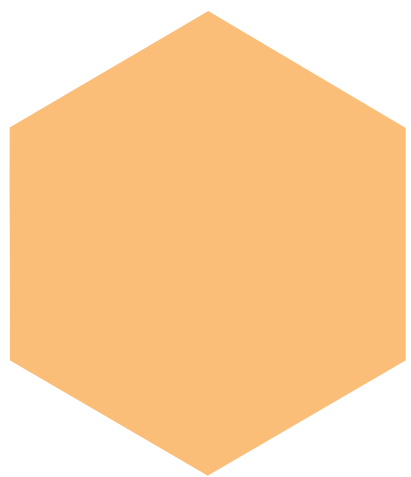


■ b. No (if "no" all further questions do not apply) ■ a. Yes

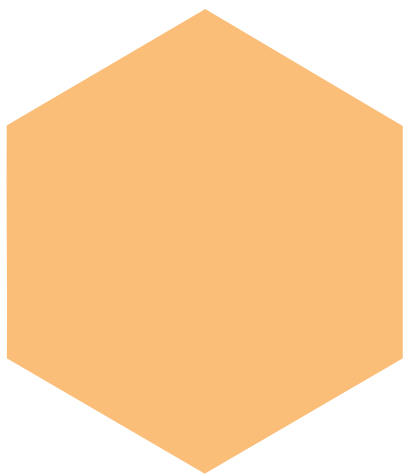


Question № 2

Are these micro-credentials/smaller volumes of learning:



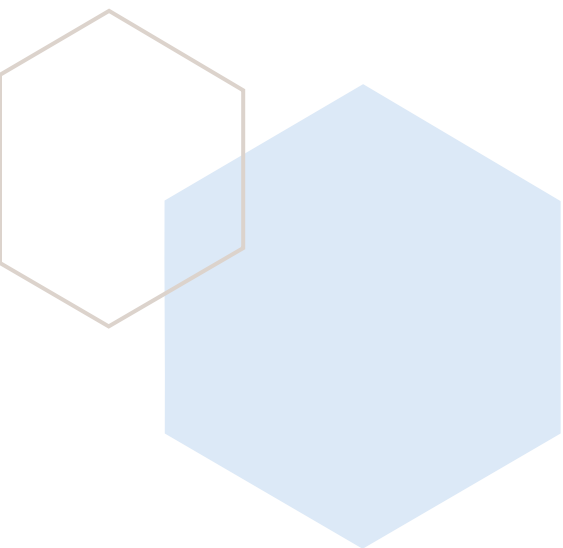
- a. Standalone units of learning that are not part of a study programme
- c. Both
- b. Part of study programme (courses, part of the courses etc.)



- Four of the responding universities replied to question № 3 **“Is the information of these learning opportunities available on your institution’s website?”** with “Yes” and one with „No“.

- Three of the universities (VTU, VFU and University "Prof. D-r Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas) responded to the question **“If information is available on outside information sources, does institutions webpage provide information on these learning opportunities?”** with “Yes, with short description and links”.

- Question № 4 **“If information is available on other information sources, please list them:”** was replied by the two responding universities answered referring to Social media and the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science.



Question № 5

Does institution's website provide information on:

Recognition of micro-credentials/ small volume of learning

University "Prof. D-r Assen Zlatarov" - Burgas

Stacking of micro-credentials/ small volume of learning

Combining micro-credentials/ small volume of learning

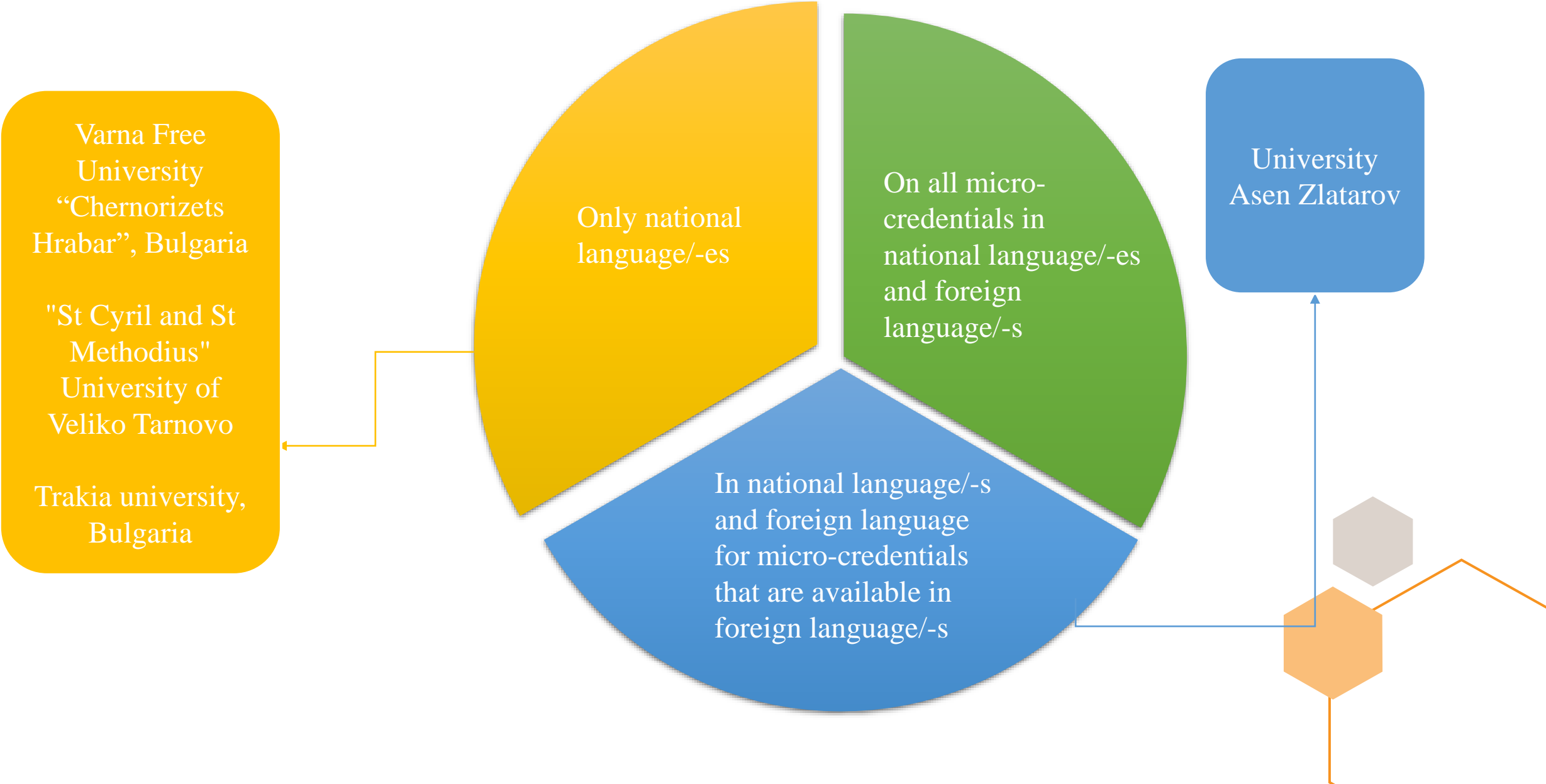
St. St. Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo

No information on recognition / stackability / combining micro-credentials is provided.

Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

Trakia University

Is information on micro-credentials provided:



Question № 7

“Is workloads measured in ECTS / other credit points?”

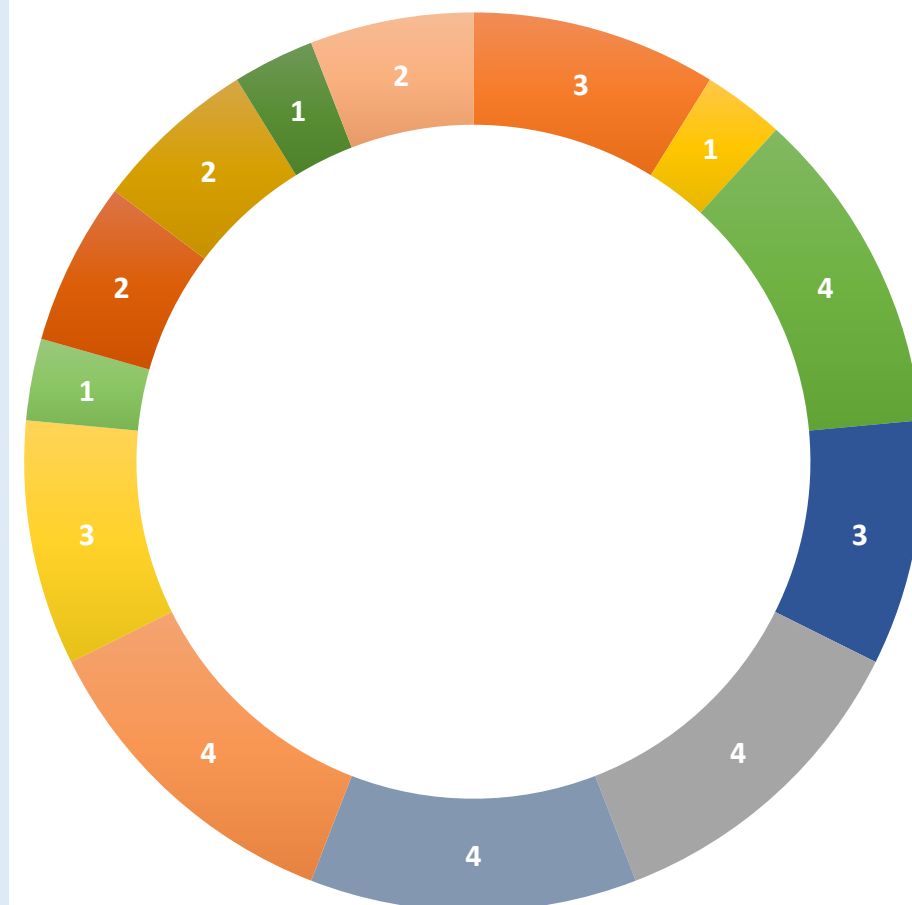
Three of the responding universities gave the same affirmative answer “Yes”.

The other two answered with “No”

The VFU specified its response with “Number of hours” referring to the national Regulation No. 21 Of September 30, 2004 on the Implementation of a System for the Accumulation and Transfer of Credits in Higher educational institutions” which specifies the credits in detail.

Question № 8 What Information is provided about micro-credentials?

- a. Title of the learning opportunity
- b. NQF/EQF level or Bologna cycle
- c. Short description
- d. ECTS / number of credits (if applicable)
- e. Learning outcomes
- f. Field(s) of study
- g. Specific admission requirements (if applicable)
- h. Mode of learning (in-person / online / blended)
- i. Assessment (if applicable)
- j. Grading scale (if applicable)
- k. Possibilities for further learning / combining / stacking
- l. Type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential / smaller unit of learning.
- Other



Conclusions

- The **main challenges** with implementation of micro-credentials are associated with the **challenges typical to all learning units generally**, especially the challenges with learning units of **international mobility within other European initiatives and programs** like „ERASMUS +“.
- Micro-credentials are great **opportunity for effective connecting** of HE learning **outcomes with market and social needs**. It is also an opportunity for HEIs to adopt and implement them within their academic autonomy or within national and international university networks.
- Micro-credentials are recognized as **beneficial for a wide range of stakeholders** as training opportunities that focus on **“in demand” workplace skills** which provide real-world learning experiences, **especially for emerging new skills, competencies and knowledge**.



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**Dearbhú Cáilíochta
agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann**
Quality and
Qualifications Ireland

Thank you for your attention

- ENIC-NARIC Bulgaria (NACID)
- website: <https://nacid.bg/en/>
- e-mail: naric@nacid.bg



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