

# Enhancing learning and teaching at European higher education institutions

Michael Gaebel

First European Learning and Teaching Forum  
28 September 2017

## Learning & teaching

- Growing emphasis on learning & teaching
- How do the European universities approach the L&T development? How can they be best supported?
- How can a “European Dimension” contribute?
- What can EUA do?

## TREND 2018

- Focus: institutional developments in learning and teaching
- Follow-up on TRENDS 2015 - longitudinal data
- Institutional leadership (for the entire institution)
- 303 responses - 43 European higher education systems
- Publication: spring 2018



# High levels of convergence

## Institutional development

- Increased attention to L&T throughout the institution (92%)
- L&T strategy (86%)
- Central unit for L&T (65%)

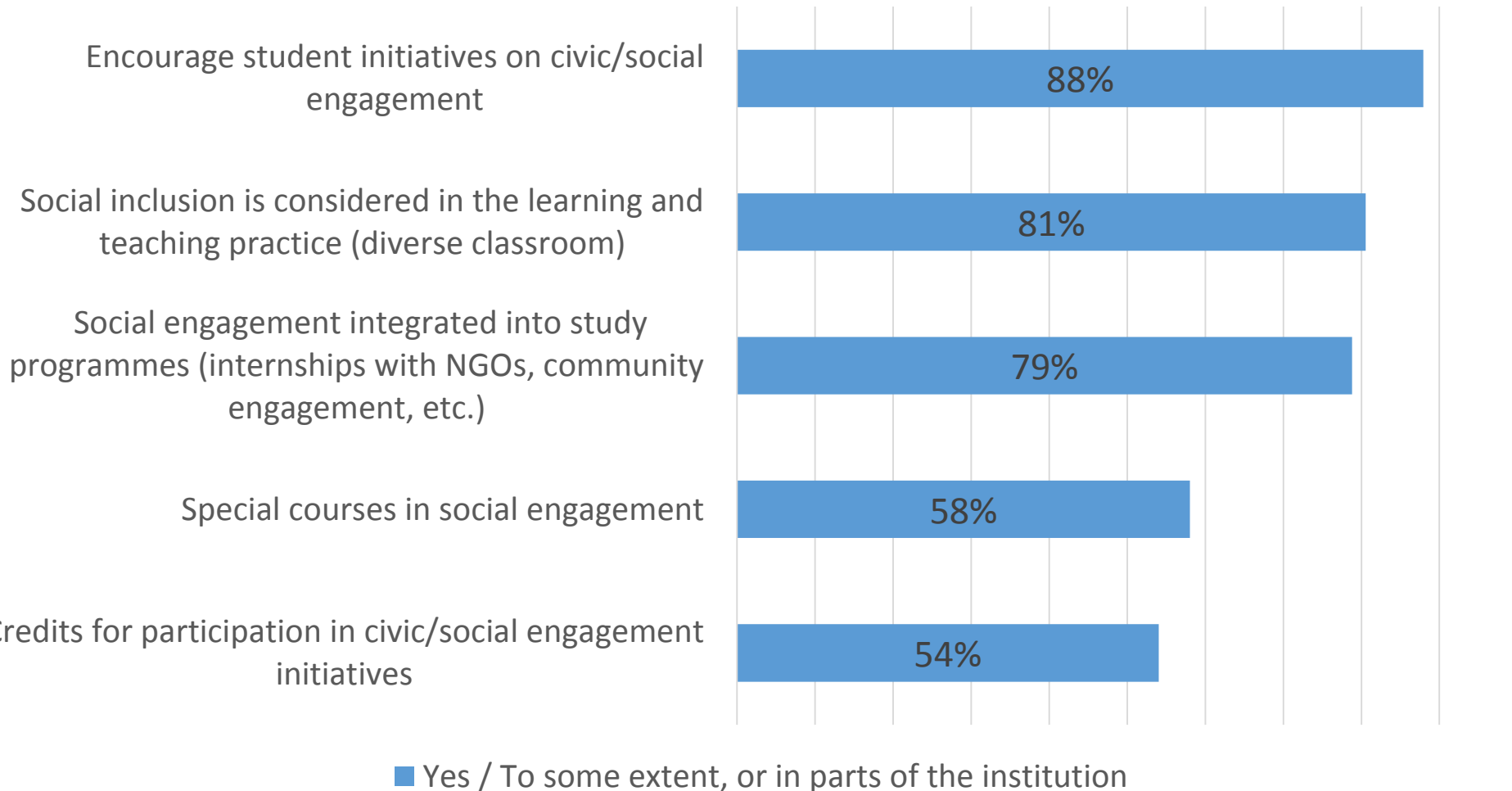
\*yes/yes to some extent

## Pressures

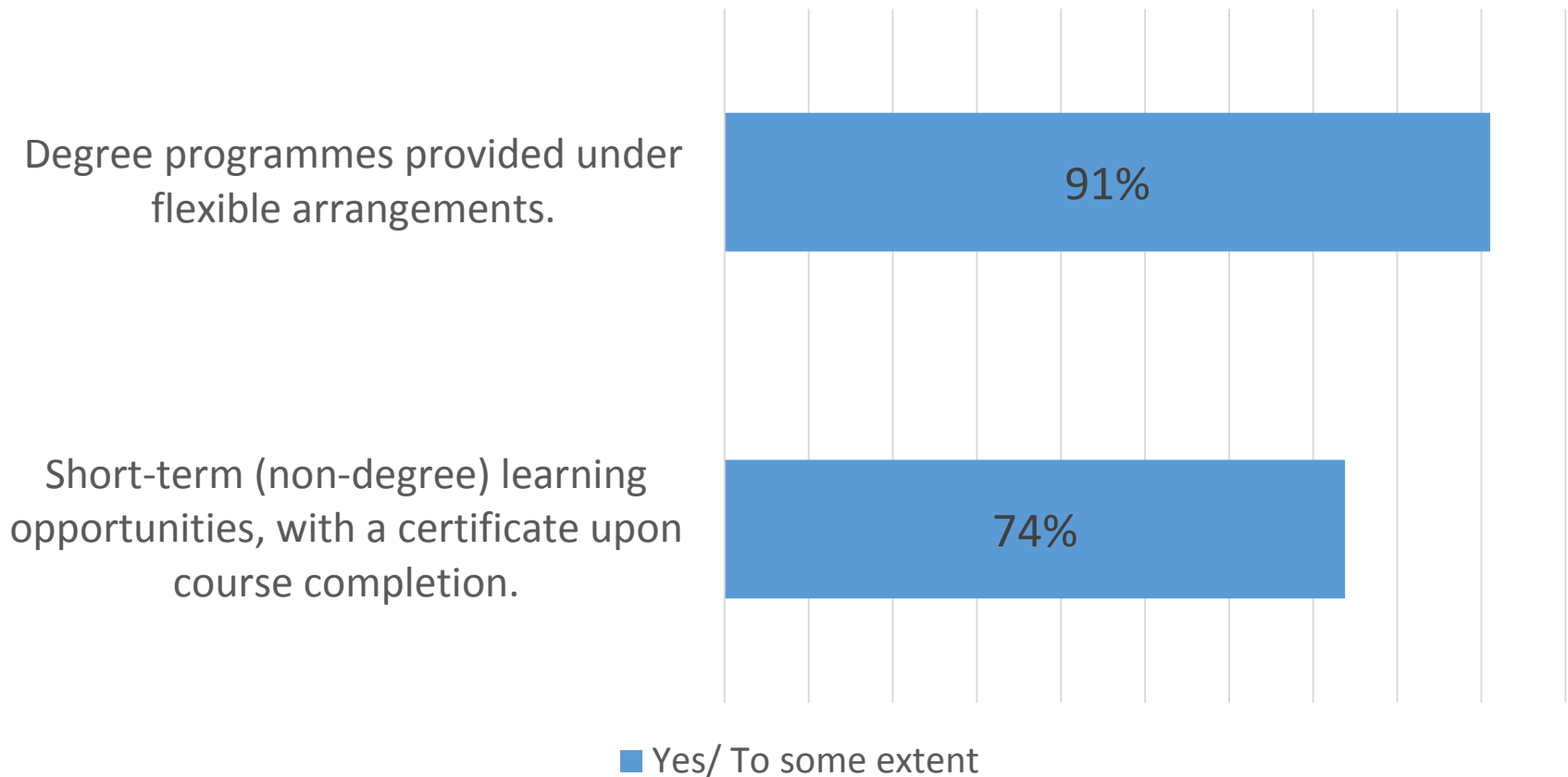
- Recent/ ongoing national reform (74%)
- Increased expectations from employers/ professional sector (83%)
- Increased students' expectations towards teachers (91%)
- Increasing diversity of the study body (85%)

# Social inclusion & engagement

## Impact of inclusiveness and social engagement on learning and teaching



## Increased demand for flexible provision



## Digital learning

Increased acceptance, more strategic	<b>90%</b>
Boasted education provision	62%
Blended learning	36% fully 51% to some extent

# Changing approaches in L&T

## Flipped classrooms

- 15% very useful
- 39% to some extent
- 13% does not work

## Problem-based learning

- 43% works well
- 44% to some extent
- 4% no use

## Research on L&T

- 67%
- Central structure 27.1%
- Learning analytics 12.9%



## Staff enhancement

Recognition of good teaching (e.g. awards, career development, incentives)

- 66%

Voluntary courses

- 77% in place - 13% planned

Compulsory courses

- 37% in place - 17% planned

Training on learning outcomes

- For all - 25%
- New teachers only - 12.3%
- On request only - 39%

# Strong emphasis on external collaboration

## On teaching enhancement

- none (10%)
- national initiatives (54.8 %)
- international initiatives (52.8%)
- university networks (43.2%)
- individual partner institutions (42.6%)
- commercial providers (12.5%)

## On L&T in general

- employers (90%)
- local community (88%)
- primary & secondary schools (87%),
- vocational institutions (73%)
- International staff & student exchanges (96%)

# Collaboration on L&T within the institution

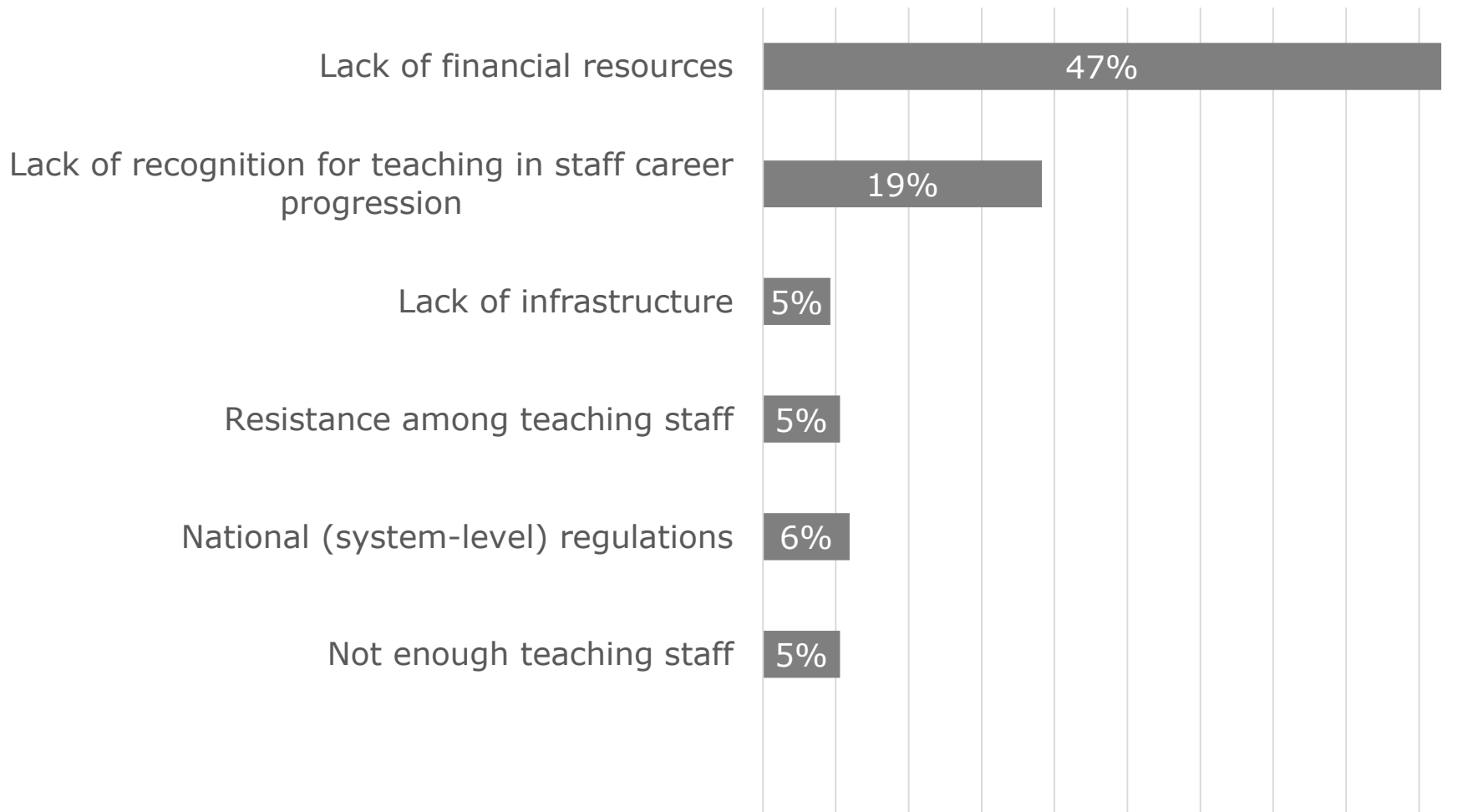
## Encouraging and supporting exchange and collaboration among teachers on pedagogical practices



# Concluding points

- Data on institutional developments: convergence / trends
  - ✓ social inclusion/ engagement, flexible learning offer, digital learning, teaching enhancement
- Institutional level: capacity for change
  - ✓ Collaboration within the institution: role of leadership, organisation
  - ✓ New and changing roles of staff
  - ✓ Overall implications for the institution and its mission
- Exchange & collaboration crucial for L&T development
  - ✓ Exchanges /projects among institutions & national initiatives
  - ✓ Erasmus+, Bologna Process, university associations
- Key challenge
  - ✓ Institutional & policy attention to the education mission

## Top obstacles for L&T



## European Forum For Enhanced Collaboration in Teaching

- Erasmus K3 project, Dec. 2015 - Nov. 2018
- Teaching staff development/teaching enhancement AND institutional strategy
- Assessing the feasibility of a European-level structure for supporting the enhancement of university teachers
- 12 partners: universities, university networks, stakeholder associations



# Project consortium: partners and friends



## Teaching prizes/ awards

1/3 of institutions awards teaching prizes

- 43.8% very positive
- 53.8% to some extent



# European Principles for Enhancement of L&T

- developed in European cooperation
- What are they good for?
  - ✓ non-prescriptive
  - ✓ “underpin the need to re-emphasize the education mission”
  - ✓ consensus
  - ✓ starting point for joint work - institutional, national, European levels
- Approaches on how to use them
  - ✓ Guiding questions
  - ✓ Strategy development

[http://www.eua.be/Libraries/publications-homepage-list/web\\_effect-principles-one-pager.pdf?sfvrsn=4](http://www.eua.be/Libraries/publications-homepage-list/web_effect-principles-one-pager.pdf?sfvrsn=4)

# European Learning & Teaching Forum



Regular  
event



Exchange  
&  
networking



Build the  
community



Starting  
point for  
other  
initiatives

