

The experience of the Swedish ENIC-NARIC office in dealing with fraudulent credentials and diploma mills

7th Prague Forum “Towards a Pan-European Platform on Ethics,
Transparency and Integrity in Education”

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Erik Johansson

”Wherever credentials are valued,
there is fraud.”

Noah, H.J. & Eckstein, M.A. (2001), *Fraud and Education: The Worm in the Apple*



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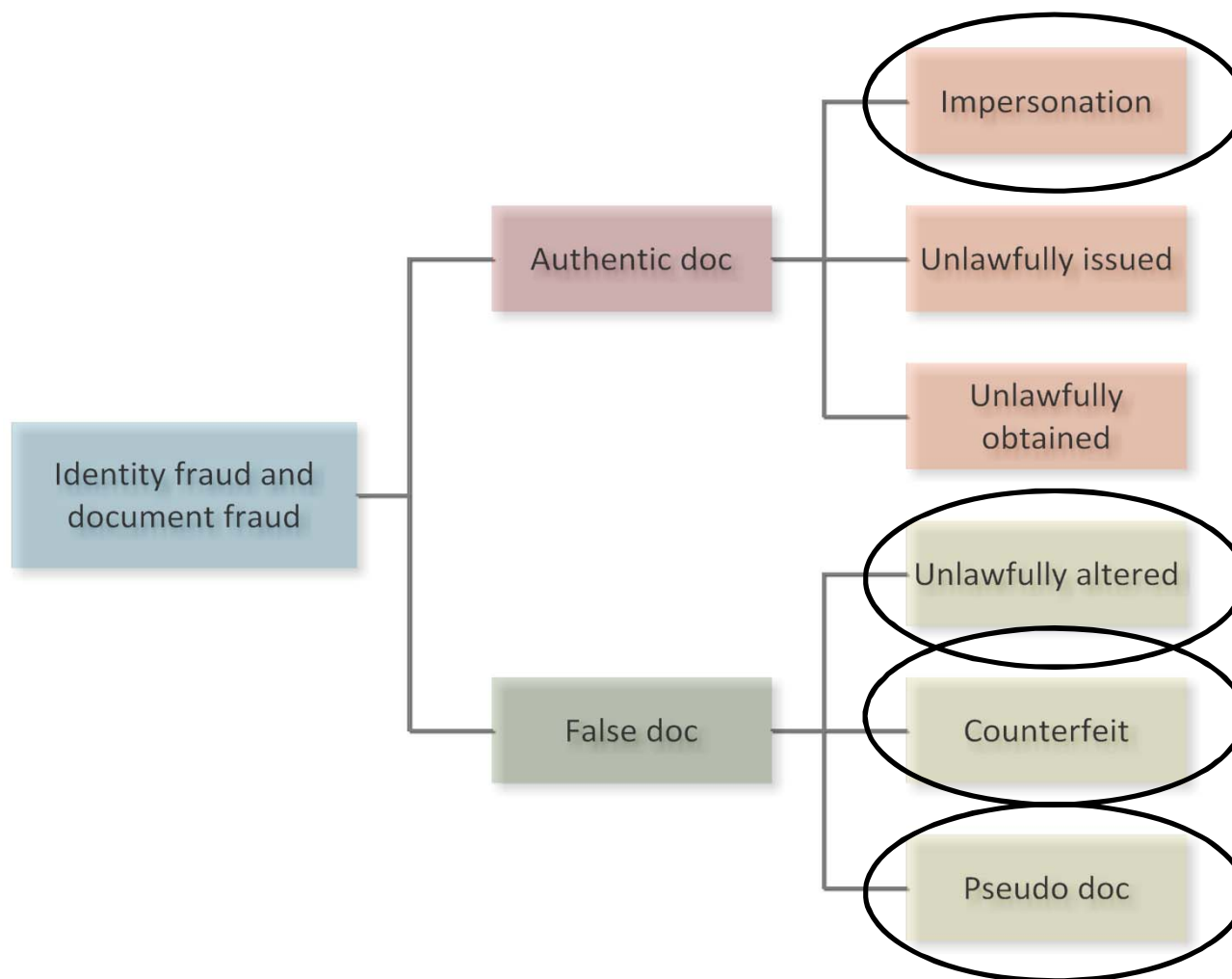
3 questions in recognition of foreign credentials

■ Is the institution and/or educational programme recognised/accredited?

■ Are the credentials authentic?

■ Do the credentials belong to the applicant?

Types of fraud



A holistic view on fraudulent credentials



The screenshot shows the homepage of a website for 'SUPERIOR FAKE DEGREE'. The header features the company logo, a navigation menu with links like 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', and 'SITEMAP', and a 'Leave A Message' button. A black oval highlights the top navigation area, including the logo and the text 'YOUR CHOICE FOR SUPERIOR PRINTING QUALITY'. Below the header is a blue navigation bar with links for 'OUR PRODUCTS', 'SAMPLES', 'SHIPPING AND POLICIES', 'DEGREE APPLICATION', 'CONTACT US', and 'ORDER NOW'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a 'Custom Request Form' with fields for 'Full Name', 'Email', and 'Message', and a 'Submit' button. The right column features a large banner with the text 'We Offer Fake Degrees and Diplomas' and an image of a gold chain and a document titled 'Doctor of Philosophy'. Below the banner is a section titled 'LEGAL, OFFICIAL DEGREES, DIPLOMAS' and a 'Welcome to Superior Fake Degree' message. A black oval highlights the 'Fake Passport' section, which includes a red wax seal and the text 'Over the years we have developed a true expertise in developing the highest quality custom replicated documents. Our expert printers have the experience and equipment to get the job done to the highest level of quality. Customer service and relationship building is another pillar in our philosophy, in that we strive to provide the most optimal level of customer service with the hopes that the customer will come back for future printing, copying and replicating business.'

SUPERIOR FAKE DEGREE

YOUR CHOICE FOR SUPERIOR PRINTING QUALITY

HOME / ABOUT US / SITEMAP

Leave A Message

Live Help Offline

powered by **Crafty Syntax**

OUR PRODUCTS | SAMPLES | SHIPPING AND POLICIES | DEGREE APPLICATION | CONTACT US | ORDER NOW

Custom Request Form

If you have a special request, please feel free to contact us

Full Name

Email

Message

Submit

We Offer Fake Degrees and Diplomas

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

the degree of

LEGAL, OFFICIAL DEGREES, DIPLOMAS

Welcome to Superior Fake Degree

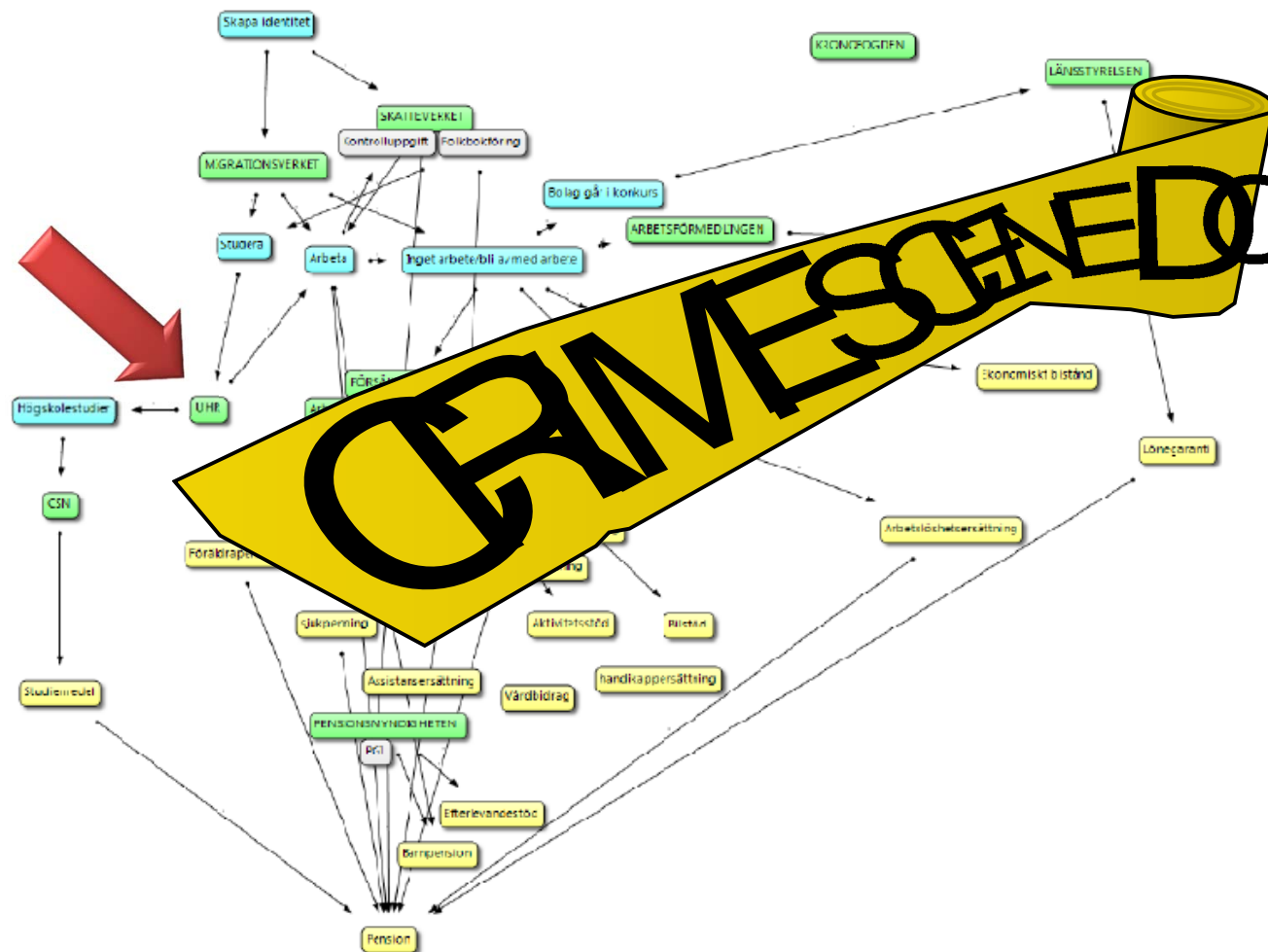
Fake Passport

Over the years we have developed a true expertise in developing the highest quality custom replicated documents. Our expert printers have the experience and equipment to get the job done to the highest level of quality. Customer service and relationship building is another pillar in our philosophy, in that we strive to provide the most optimal level of customer service with the hopes that the customer will come back for future printing, copying and replicating business.



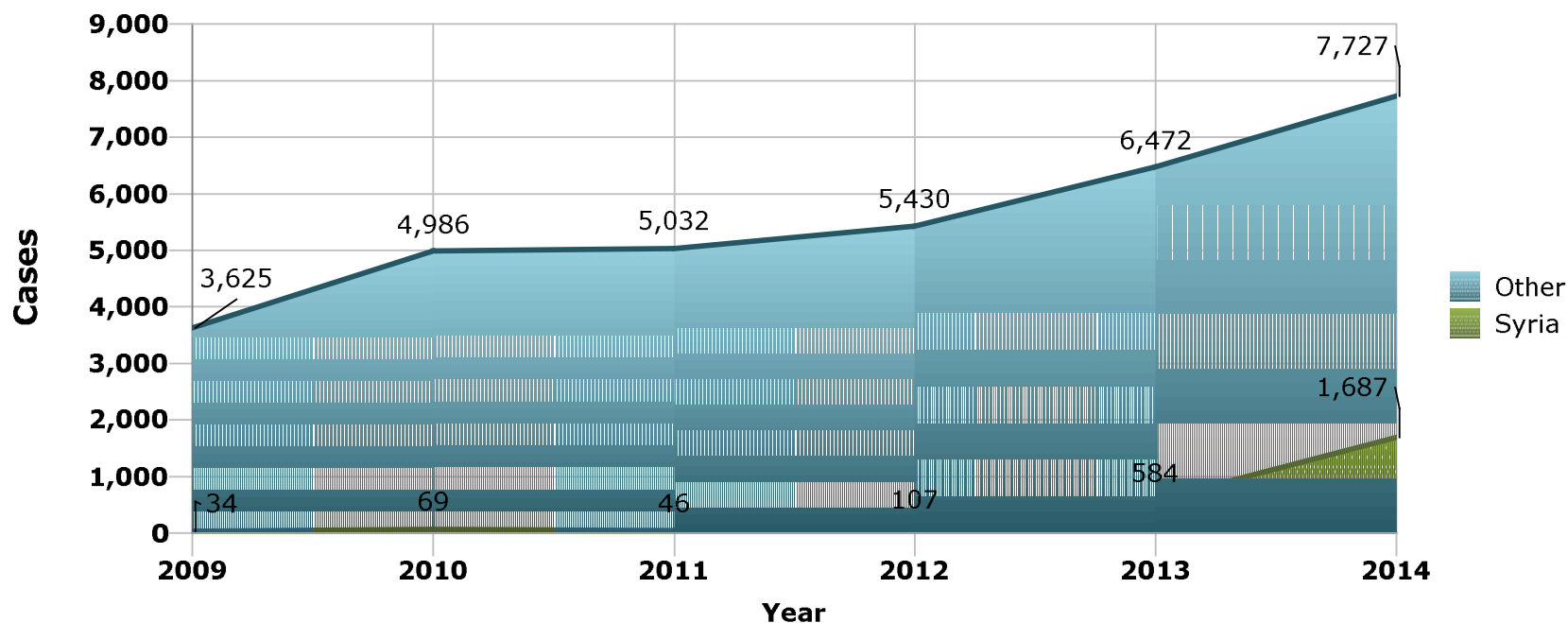
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Understanding your role in the universe



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The quality vs. quantity paradox



“Paper transcripts are an invitation to fraud.”

Andrew Hannah, Senior Associate and Acting Registrar, University of Chicago



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Best practices: Fraudulent credentials

- Report to the police.
- Establish policies and guidelines.
- Checking the authenticity of credentials as part of your work process.
- Rely on digital verification services as far as possible. Accept e-transcripts.
- Sign and implement the Groningen Declaration.
- Provide an online verification service for credentials.
- Co-operate with other organisations. Share.
- **Don't trust paper!**



Anti-fraud task force

The UHR Anti-Fraud Task Force is inter-departmental with members from the Dept. of Admissions and Student Information and the Dept. for Qualifications Recognition.

The mission of the task force is to develop methods and procedures to prevent forgeries in our assessment and admission process. It is, furthermore, the responsibility of the task force to monitor the matter of fraudulent credentials and increase the awareness of this issue within the agency.

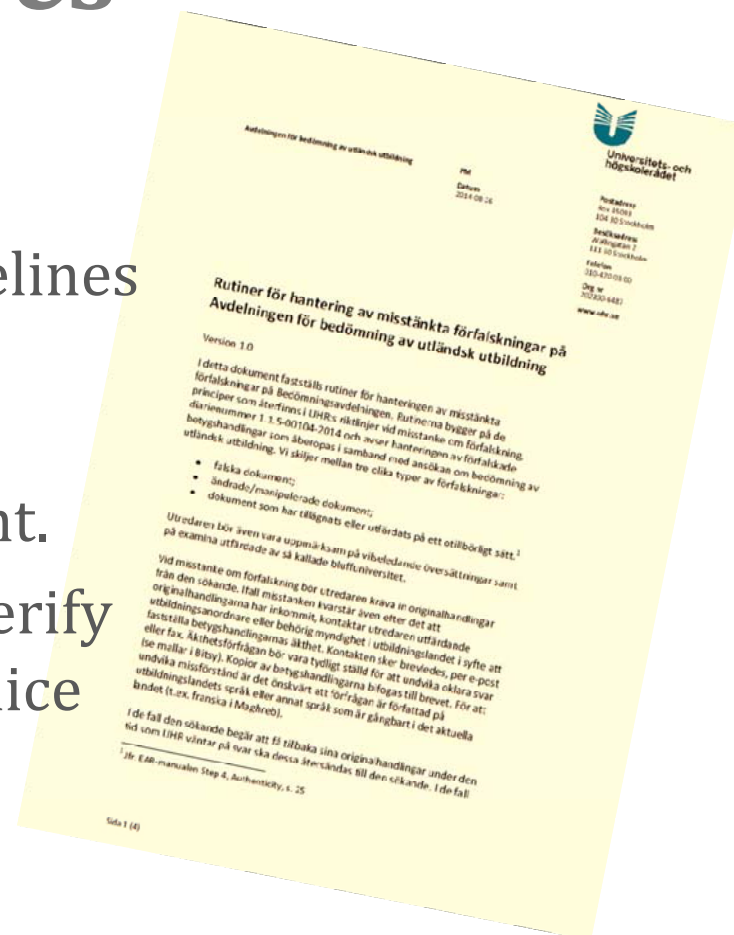
Counter fraud guidelines

1. Inter-departmental document.
2. Involved the senior legal advisor.
3. Refers to the Swedish Penal Code.
4. Signed by the Director General.




Counter fraud policy and procedures


1. Departmental document.
2. Refers to the Counter fraud guidelines and constitutes in effect an interpretation of the guidelines.
3. Definition of fraudulent document.
4. General information on how to verify credentials and when to file a police report.



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Verification à la Kiev



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Verification of documents about education

Details. You must enter the series number, name – with a capital letter, as in the document and initials (eg Petrenko AB), as apostofu use the symbol '. All parameters are required.
If you have any questions regarding inspection of documents, write an e-mail to verification@osvita.net

Attention! On the site you can verify educational documents, that were manufactured on the basis of photo-computer technology (plastic) and the diploma supplement of the european standard.
To verify samples of paper diplomas (in the form of books), student / pupils tickets and Diploma supplement of national sample, please contact your educational institution that issued these documents.

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Document number:

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Student and pupillary card

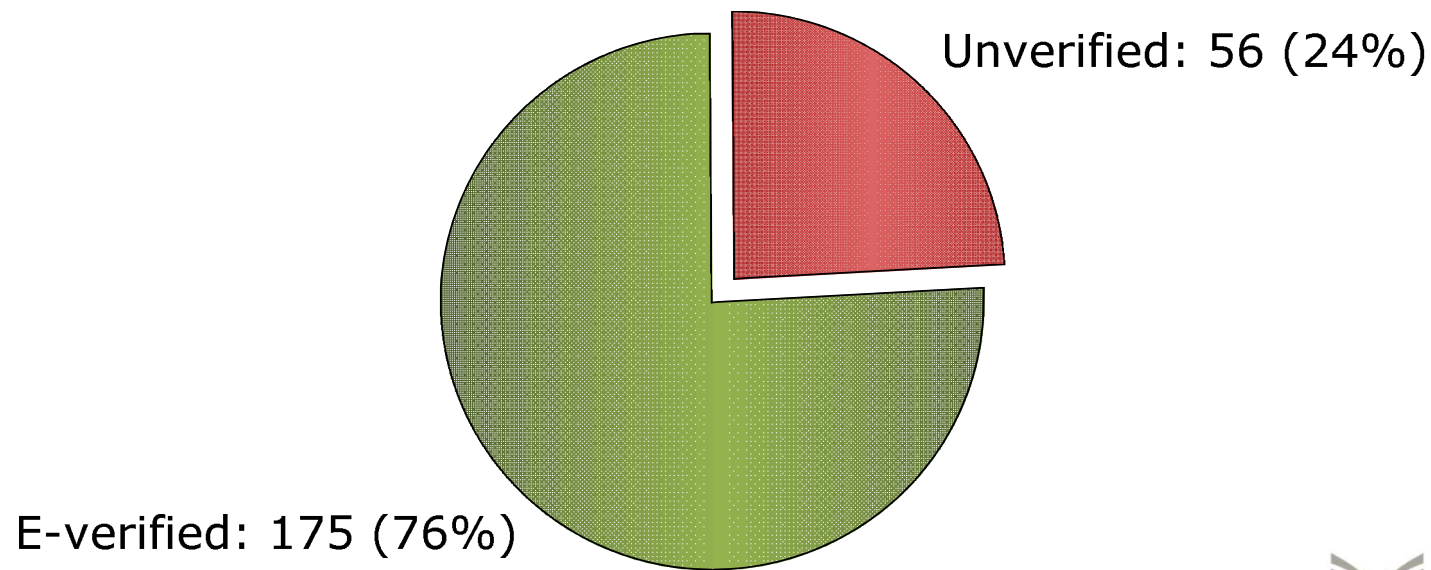


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Percentage of e-verified Ukrainian degrees 2014



E-transcripts etc.

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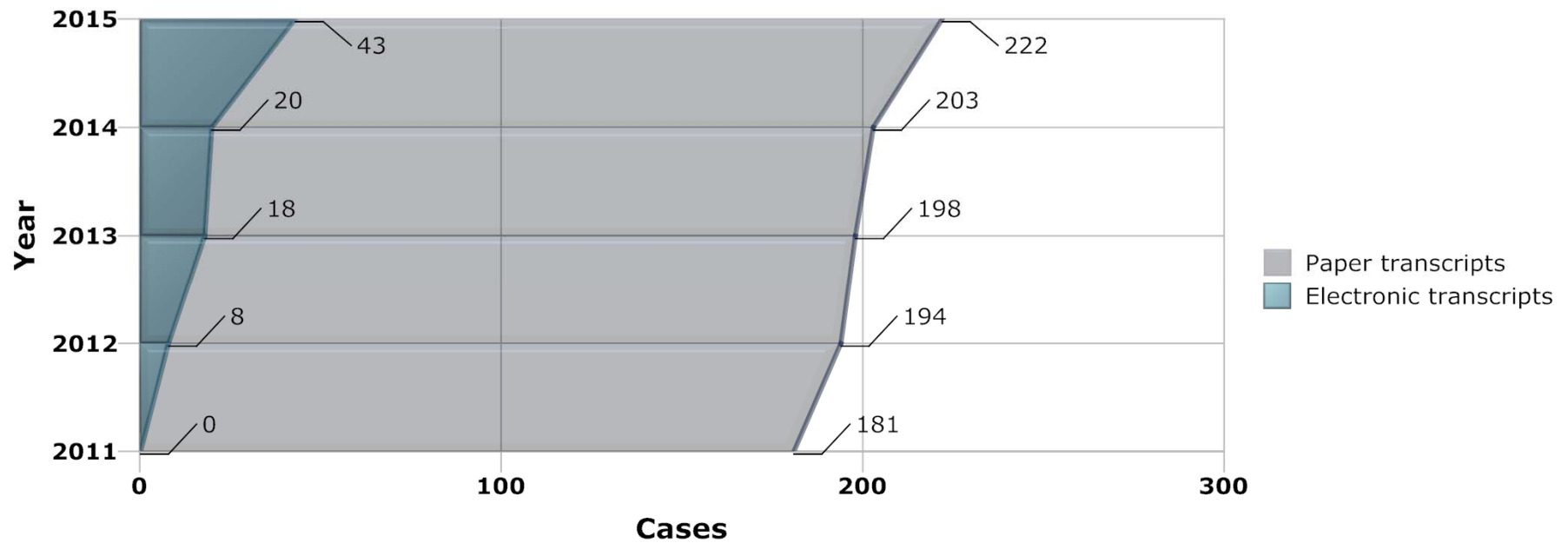
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STUDENT PRIVACY PLEDGE
SIGNATORY



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US E-transcripts 2011-2015



Best practices: Fake identities

- For evaluation statement: use names and DOB as indicated on the educational documents (not application form.)
- Avoid personal ID number, social security number, national/social insurance number etc. in the assessments.
- Avoid vouching for the applicant's identity. Don't turn your organisation into a laundromat for fake identities!

Afghanistan or “the beginning of beautiful friendship”

- Understanding with the Afghan Embassy since April 2015: Applicants are required to contact the embassy for verification of their ID and degree authenticity.
- The embassy checks the information against a database in Kabul. If there is a positive match, the degree is stamped and signed by the embassy. A certificate confirming the ID of the applicant is issued as well. The verified documents are then presented to us by the applicant.
- The embassy has provided us with samples of the stamps used on the documents and which signatures are to be expected. There are designated contact persons at the embassy that we can turn to if we have any questions.

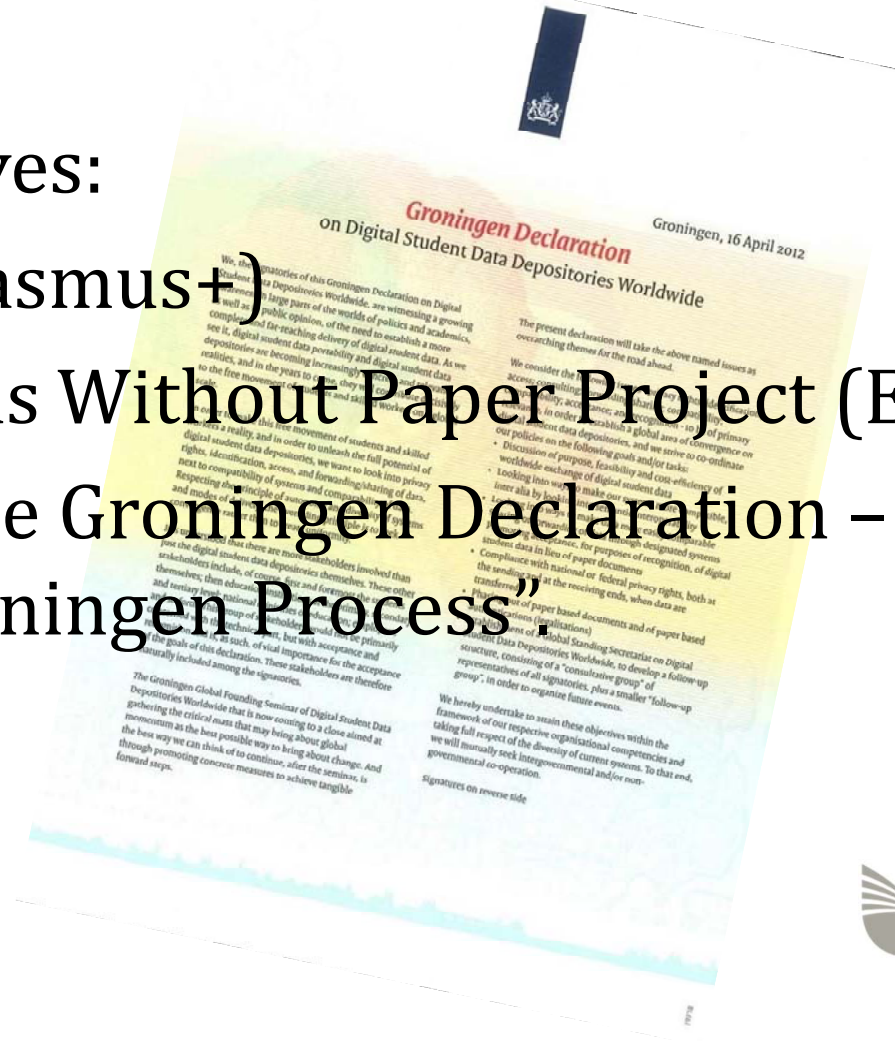


Best practices: Diploma mills

- Consider the media to be your ally.
- Information to the public is good. But it is not enough.
- Use existing legal instruments to combat diploma mills.
- Introduce laws that protect the terms “university” and “college” both in your own language and in translation. (UNESCO 2009 recommendations.)
- Introduce laws that ban the use of credentials from diploma mills on the labour market and for further studies.
- Publish white lists and black lists.

The next big thing

- EU alert mechanisms (Professional Qualifications Directive.)
- Erasmus initiatives:
 - EMREX (Erasmus+)
 - The Erasmus Without Paper Project (EWP)
- Implementing the Groningen Declaration – starting the “Groningen Process”



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“Security in electronic exchange outweighs all other benefits combined.”

Monterey Sims, Director of Document Processing, University of Phoenix

Thank you!

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