Project on Academic Integrity in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkey

ETINED 3rd Plenary Session
29th November 2019

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Project on Academic Integrity in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkey

- Commissioned and funded by Council of Europe
  - Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED)
- Project team:
  - Mendel University in Brno (Czechia)
  - Coventry University (UK)
- Project period: September 2018–November 2019
- www.plagiarism.cz/paickt

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Preceding Projects

IPPHEAE

- Impact of Policies for Plagiarism in Higher Education Across Europe
- www.plagiarism.cz/ippheae
- 2010—2013

SEEPPAI

- South East European Project on Policies for Academic Integrity
- www.plagiarism.cz/seeppai
- 2016—2017

Country Managers

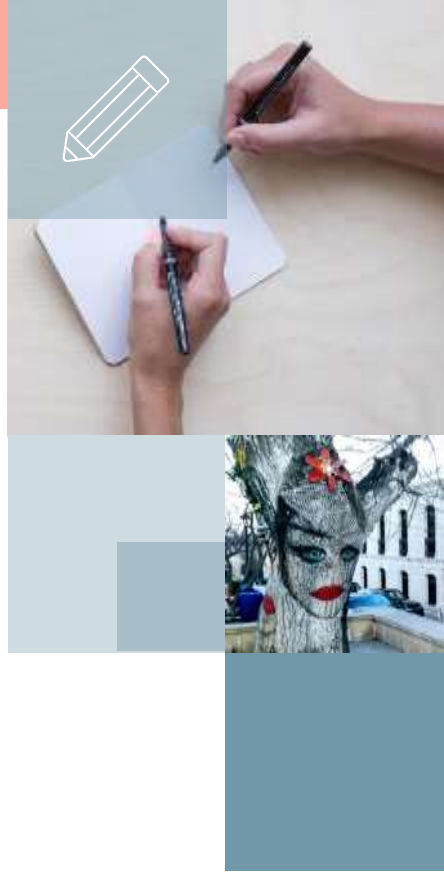
- Mkrtich Tonoyan (Armenia)
- Vafa Kazdal (Azerbaijan)
- Giga Khositashvili (Georgia)
- Dilbar Gimranova (Kazakhstan)
- Salim Razı (Turkey)

Responsibilities

- Documentary sources and background information
- Translations
- Survey dissemination
- Organisation of the meetings
- Feedback on the report
- …

Objectives

- To identify and **analyze policies and practices** regarding plagiarism and academic integrity
- To identify **gaps, challenges, good practice examples** and success stories
- To sketch **guidelines for promoting capacity building** in higher education institutions



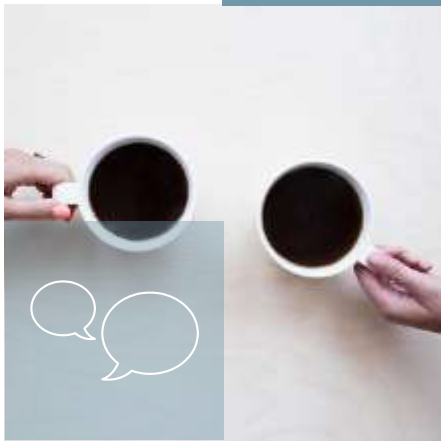
Target Groups

Higher education students

Senior management

Teaching staff

National policymakers



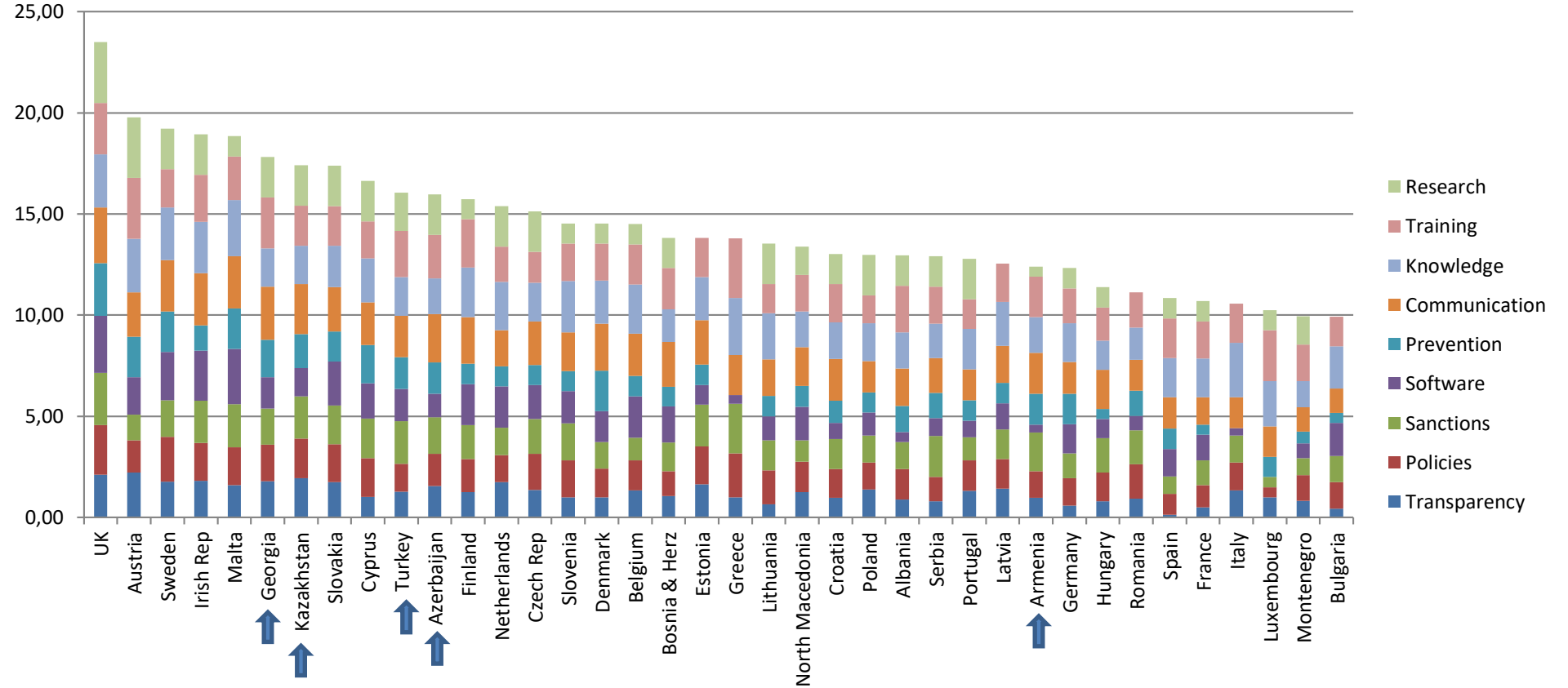
Data Collection

- Review of national policies and documents
- Online surveys
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Management
- Face-to-face meetings
  - Focus groups with students
  - Interviews and discussions with teachers
  - Interviews with management

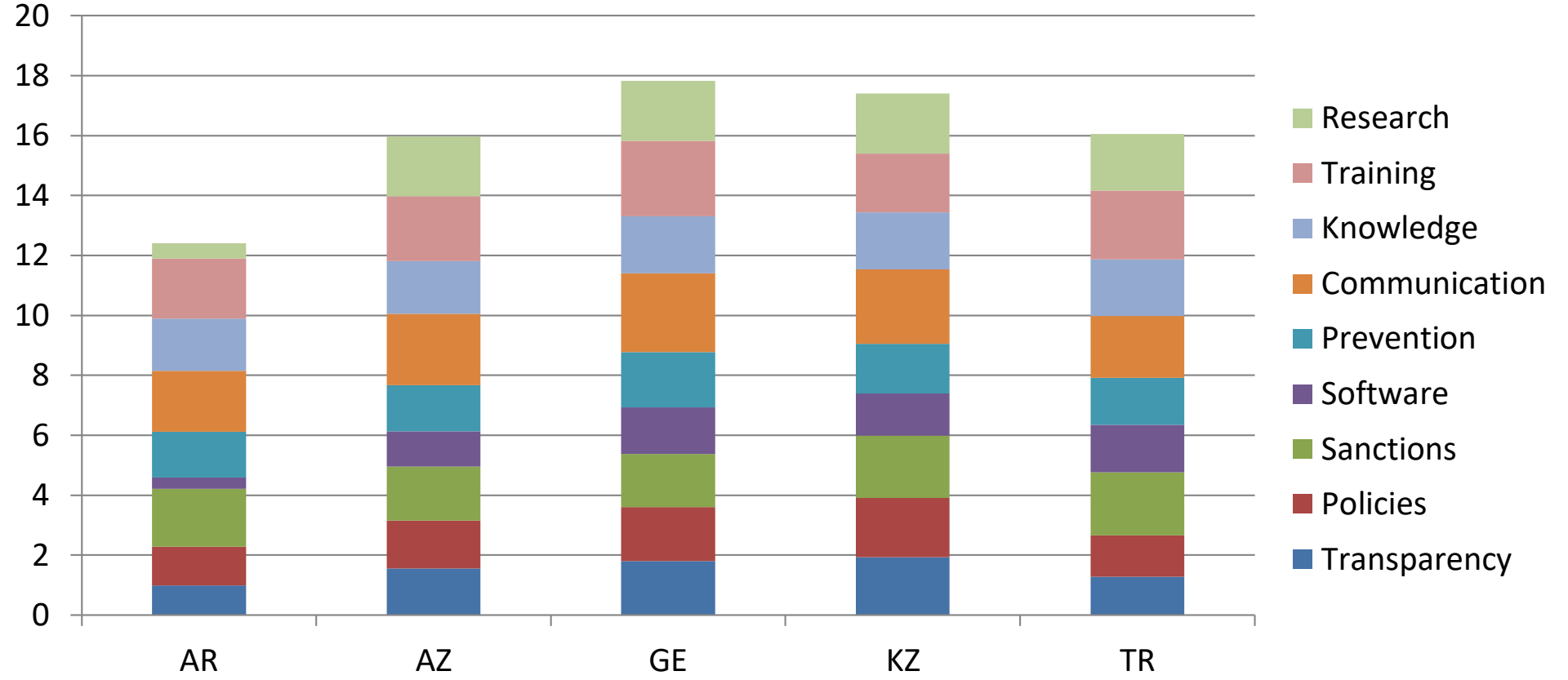
Academic Integrity Maturity Model

- Inspiration from Carnegie Mellon's Capability Maturity Model (CMMI)
- Categories:
  - Transparency, Policies, Sanctions, Software, Prevention, Communication, Knowledge, Training, Research
  - Several pieces of evidence are combined to create the values
- Glendinning, 2017

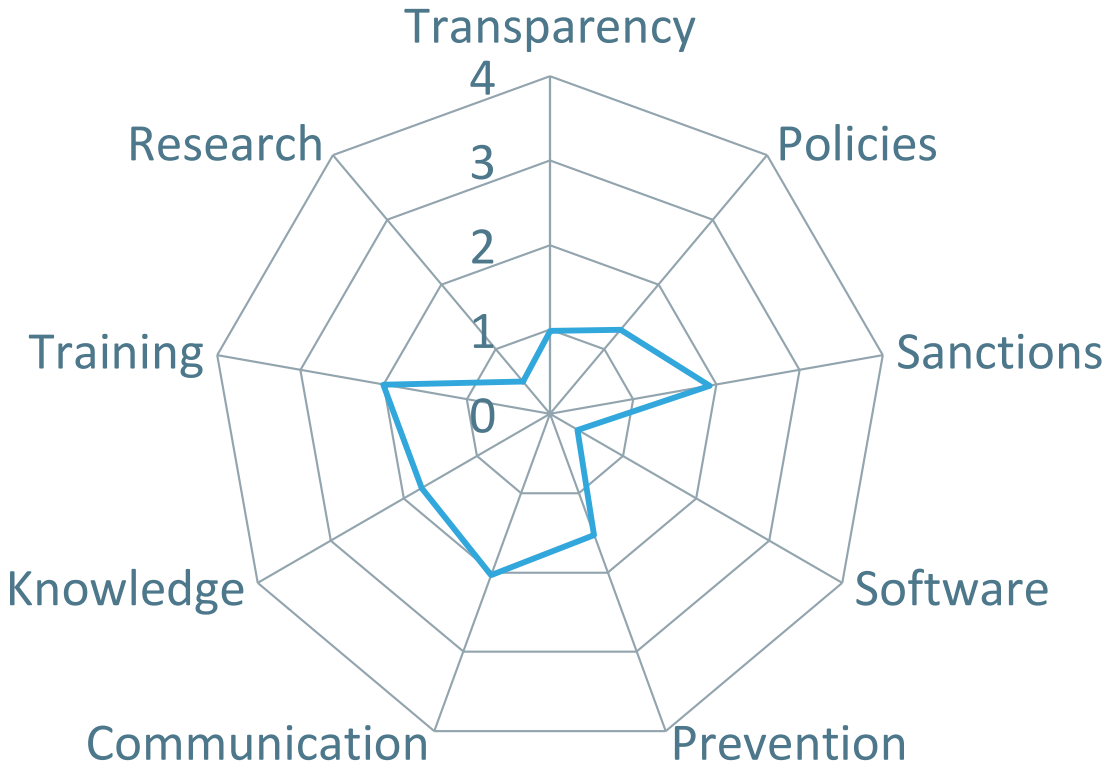
Academic Integrity Maturity Model



Academic Integrity Maturity Model



AIMM: **Armenia**



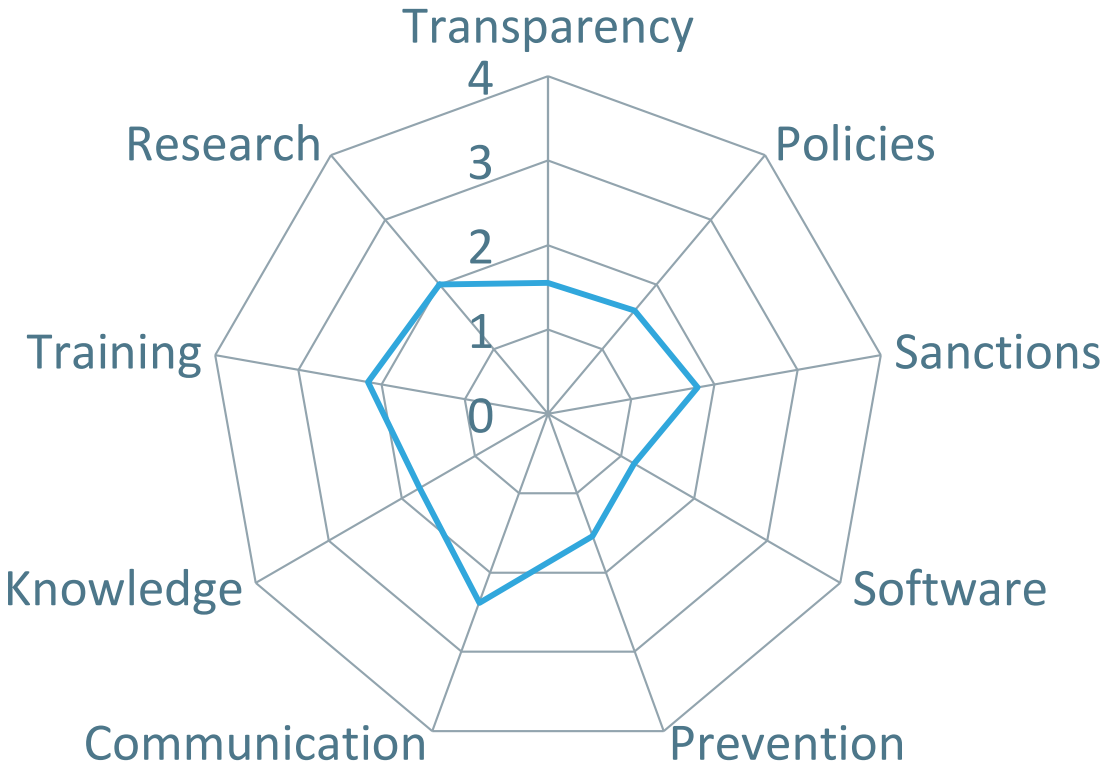
Examples of Good Practices

- Obligatory training = “attestation” for teachers
  - Every five years
  - Is she/he “competent for the position occupied”?
  - Unfortunately, academic integrity is not included
  - By *Law of the Republic of Armenia on General Education*
- New law dealing with contract cheating

Institutional Good Practices

- One small private university:
  - Quality assurance center
  - External proctors on exams,…
  - Students:
    - “We are like a family here.”
    - “Our teachers would recognize when we plagiarize.”

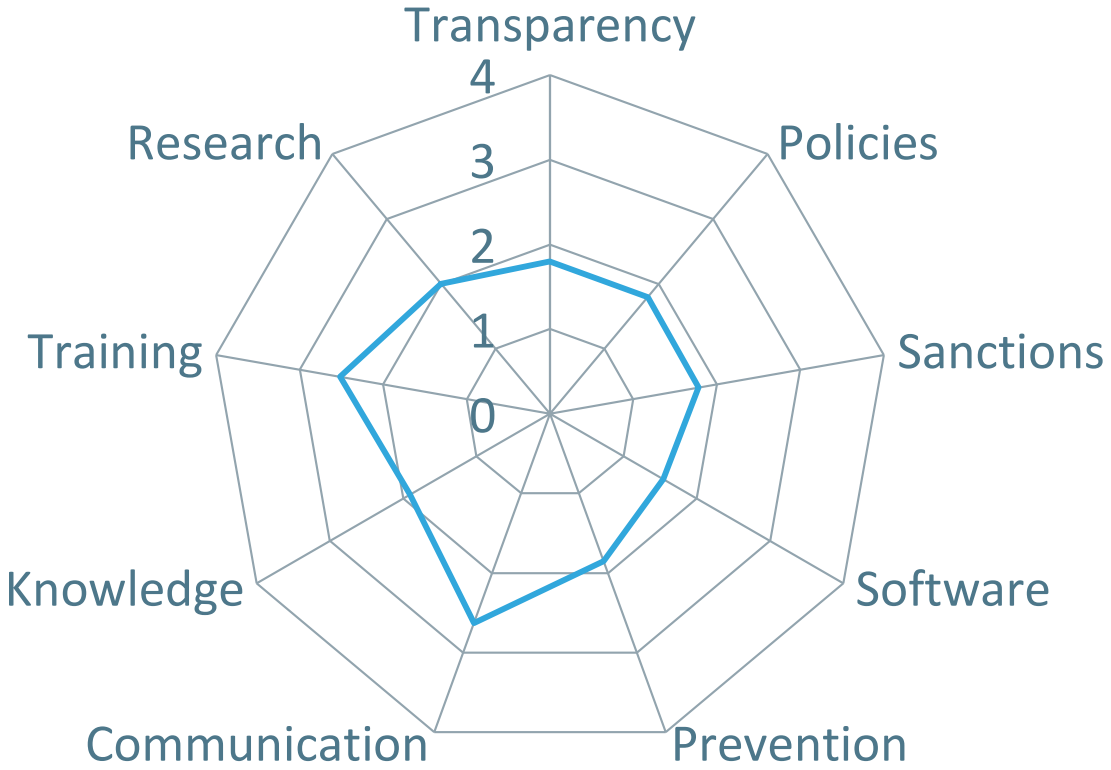
AIMM: **Azerbaijan**



Examples of Good Practices

- One visited university has a **Honour Code**
  - The Honour Code procedure commands respect of students
  - Attention to low-performing students
- International projects
  - E.g. EQAC – Establishment of quality assurance centres

AIMM: **Georgia**



Examples of Good Practices

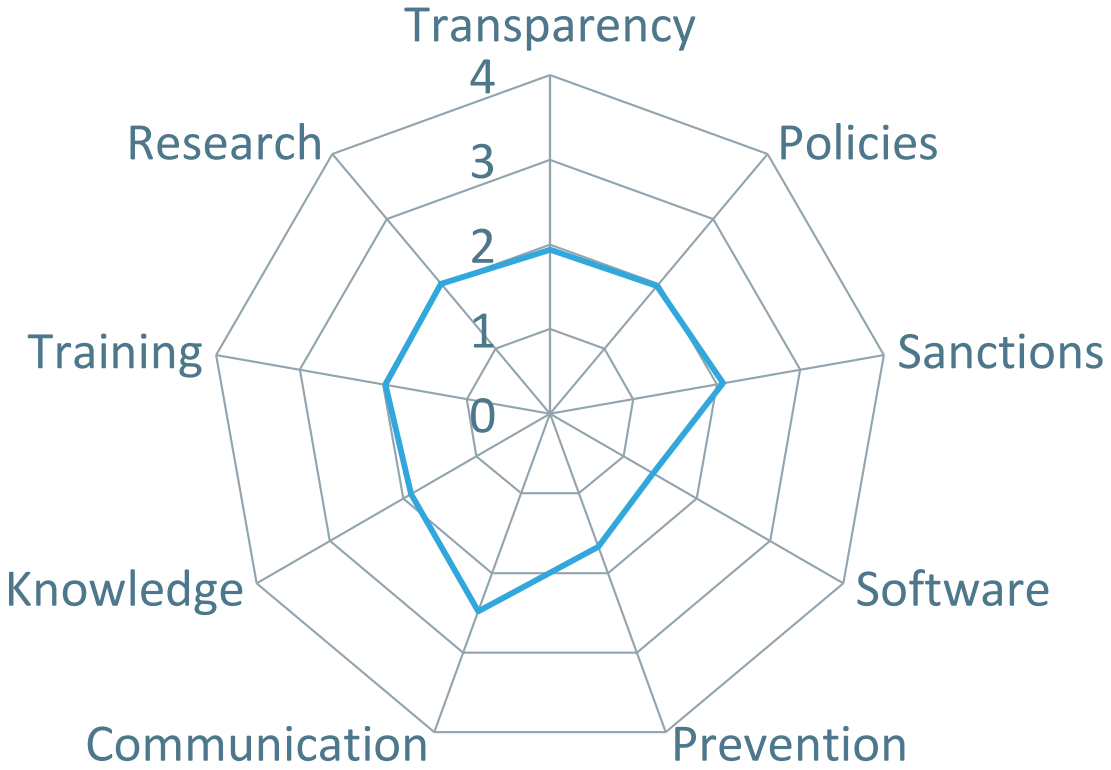
"Academic Integrity for Quality Teaching and Learning in Higher Educational Institutions in Georgia (INTEGRITY)" project

- Erasmus+ Capacity Building
- 13 universities + Ministry of Education + National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement
- 4 EU universities from EU: Dublin City University, University of Vienna, University of Uppsala, Roehampton University
- Aim: to develop an academic integrity culture at each university
  - + awareness raising
- Faculty and admin staff training in effective assessment strategies; text-matching software

Examples of Good Practices

- Law of Georgia on Higher Education:
  - Universities has to *“approve institution’s internal regulations, the rules and basic principles of the Code of Ethics and disciplinary responsibility”*
  - Universities should have a code of ethics for students
  - But plagiarism and/or academic integrity not defined
- At several universities: centers for academic writing
  - Up to 37 employees

AIMM: **Kazakhstan**



Examples of Good Practices

- Annual Conference on Academic Integrity
- Ministry of education requires the universities to:
  - follow academic integrity principles
  - have academic integrity policies
- Two independent academic accreditation agencies
  - Accredited by the EU
  - Most Kazakhstan universities

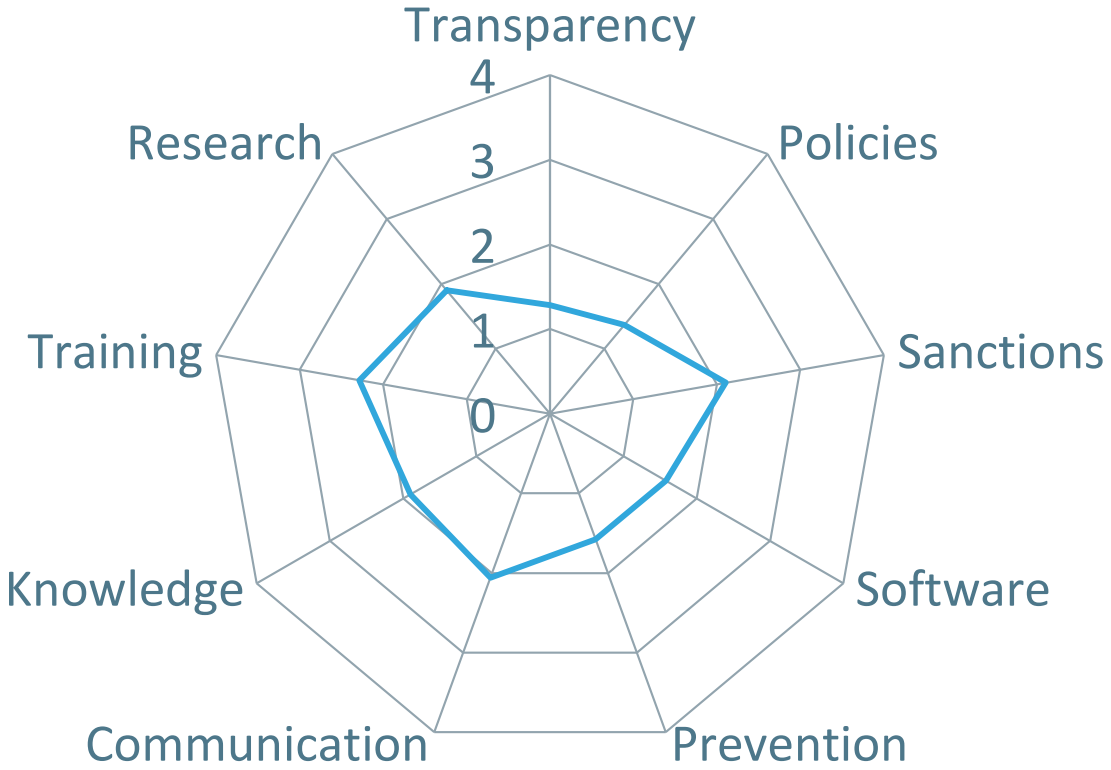
Examples of Good Practices

- **Academic Integrity League**
  - Since August 2018
  - 11 members, 16 candidate universities
  - Standards of academic integrity binding on members
  - Sharing good practices
  - Aim for transparency by collecting and sharing data on academic integrity violations and student assessment

Institutional Good Practices

- Electronic system for step-by-step submissions
  - Prevention of contract cheating
- Students support webpage
  - Space for students‘ questions
  - Answered by dedicated academic staff
  - Prevention of rumours and seeking support outside the university

AIMM: **Turkey**


Transparency
4
3
2
1
0
Policies
Sanctions
Software
Prevention
Communication
Knowledge
Training
Research

Examples of Good Practices

- The Council of Higher Education in Turkey:
  - *"Ethical Code of Conduct for Higher Education Institutions"* (2014)
  - *"Instructions for the Ethics of Scientific Research and Publication in Higher Education Institutions"*
  - *"Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive"*
  - Regulation on dealing with plagiarism incidents in postgraduate theses

Examples of Good Practices

- Events on academic integrity and plagiarism
  - 4th International Conference *Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond* (2018)
  - Nationwide annual academic integrity seminars
  - …
- Text-matching software
  - Mandatory for theses at post-graduate level
  - National system

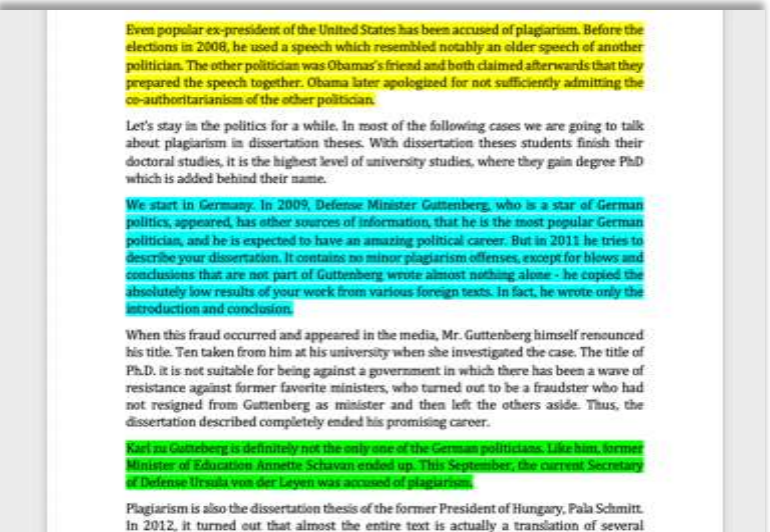
Institutional Good Practices

- A week on plagiarism prevention for new students
- Good practices in preventing contract cheating:
  - Conduct peer reviews of each other's draft assignments
  - "*Professors check student's work throughout the whole process of writing*"
  - One-to-one viva where students defend their work
- An institutional Centre for Academic Integrity

Student‘s decision on scenarios of potential plagiarism:

If 40% of student’s work was copied word for word…

A) … with no quotations



Even popular ex-president of the United States has been accused of plagiarism. Before the elections in 2008, he used a speech which resembled notably an older speech of another politician. The other politician was Obamas's friend and both claimed afterwards that they prepared the speech together. Obama later apologized for not sufficiently admitting the co-authoritarianism of the other politician.

Let's stay in the politics for a while. In most of the following cases we are going to talk about plagiarism in dissertation theses. With dissertation theses students finish their doctoral studies, it is the highest level of university studies, where they gain degree PhD which is added behind their name.

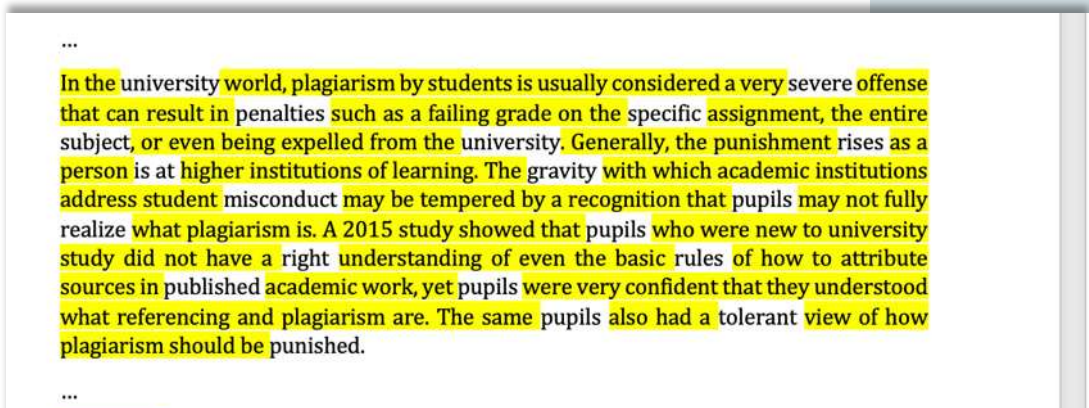
We start in Germany. In 2009, Defense Minister Guttenberg, who is a star of German politics, appeared, has other sources of information, that he is the most popular German politician, and he is expected to have an amazing political career. But in 2011 he tries to describe your dissertation. It contains no minor plagiarism offenses, except for blows and conclusions that are not part of Guttenberg wrote almost nothing alone - he copied the absolutely low results of your work from various foreign texts. In fact, he wrote only the introduction and conclusion.

When this fraud occurred and appeared in the media, Mr. Guttenberg himself renounced his title. Ten taken from him at his university when she investigated the case. The title of Ph.D. it is not suitable for being against a government in which there has been a wave of resistance against former favorite ministers, who turned out to be a fraudster who had not resigned from Guttenberg as minister and then left the others aside. Thus, the dissertation described completely ended his promising career.

Karl zu Guttenberg is definitely not the only one of the German politicians. Like him, former Minister of Education Annette Schavan ended up. This September, the current Secretary of Defense Ursula von der Leyen was accused of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is also the dissertation thesis of the former President of Hungary, Pala Schmitt. In 2012, it turned out that almost the entire text is actually a translation of several

D) … with some words changed with no quotations, references or in text citations



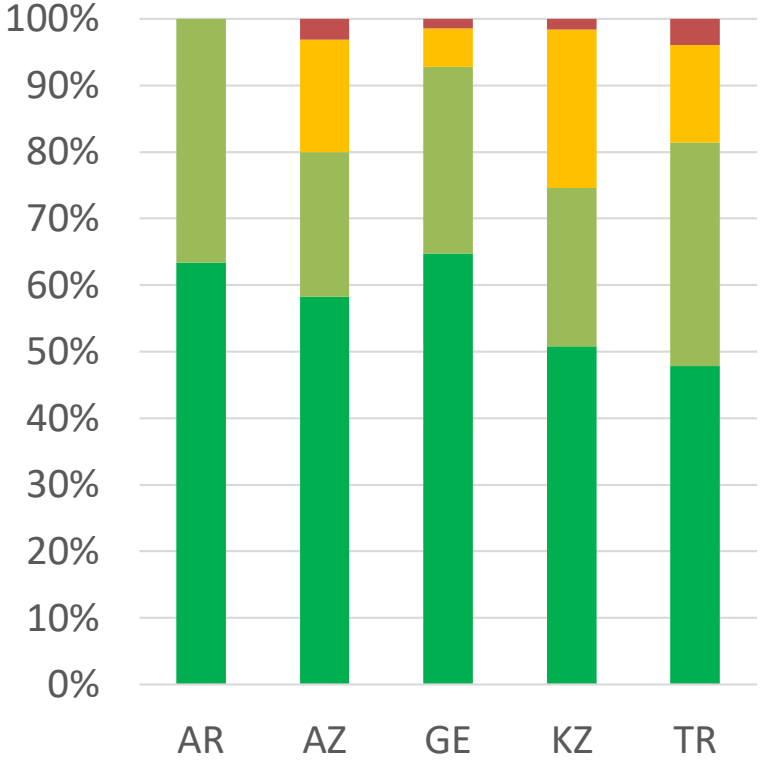
…

In the university world, plagiarism by students is usually considered a very severe offense that can result in penalties such as a failing grade on the specific assignment, the entire subject, or even being expelled from the university. Generally, the punishment rises as a person is at higher institutions of learning. The gravity with which academic institutions address student misconduct may be tempered by a recognition that pupils may not fully realize what plagiarism is. A 2015 study showed that pupils who were new to university study did not have a right understanding of even the basic rules of how to attribute sources in published academic work, yet pupils were very confident that they understood what referencing and plagiarism are. The same pupils also had a tolerant view of how plagiarism should be punished.

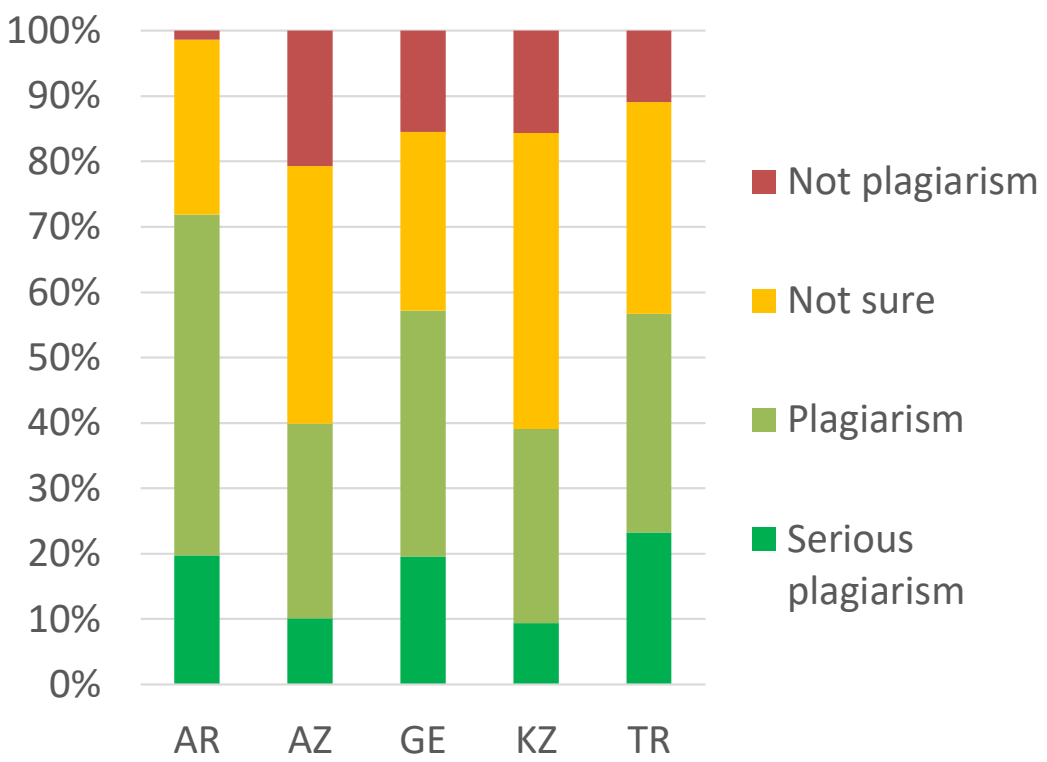
…

40% of student's work copied word for word…

… with no quotations

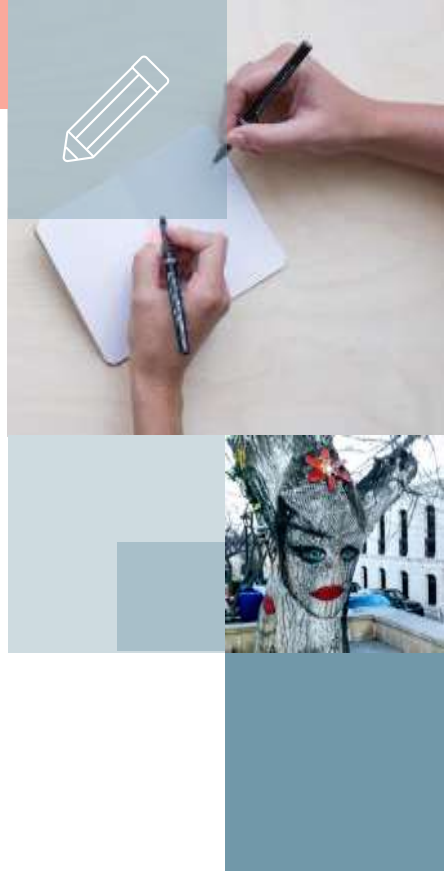


… with some words changed

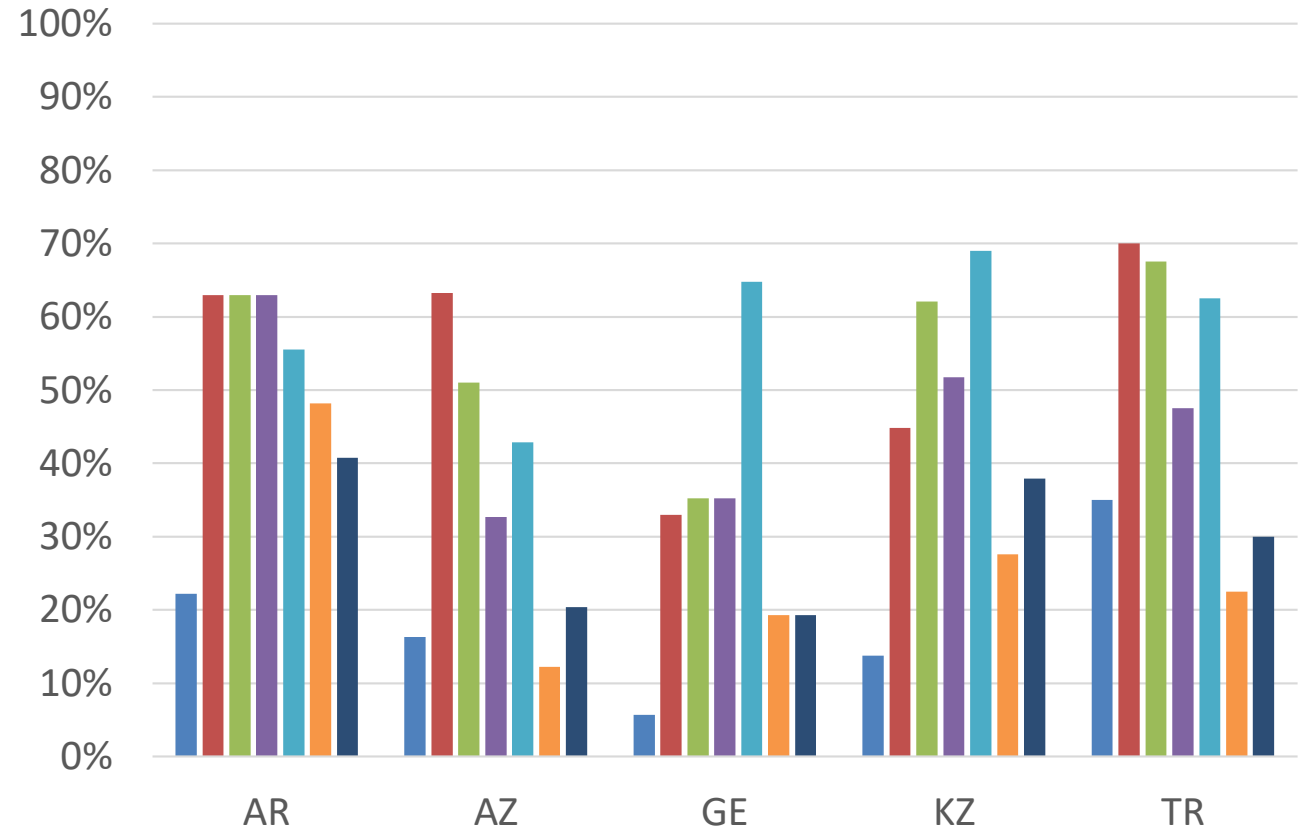


General Recommendations: Transparency

- Role models of integrity and transparency
- Capacity-building projects with national and international partners
- Transparency and fairness in dealing with academic misconduct
  - Strong sanctions for corruption

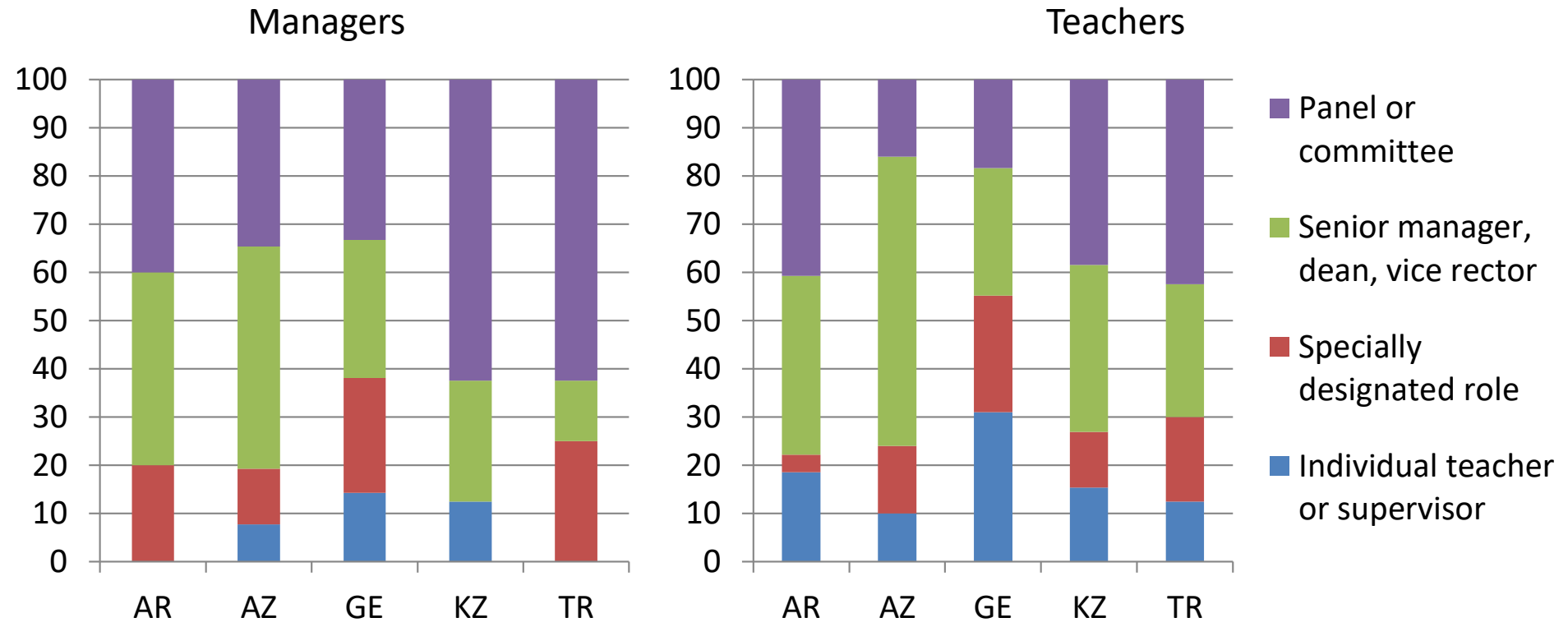


Teachers: Plagiarism in an Assignment

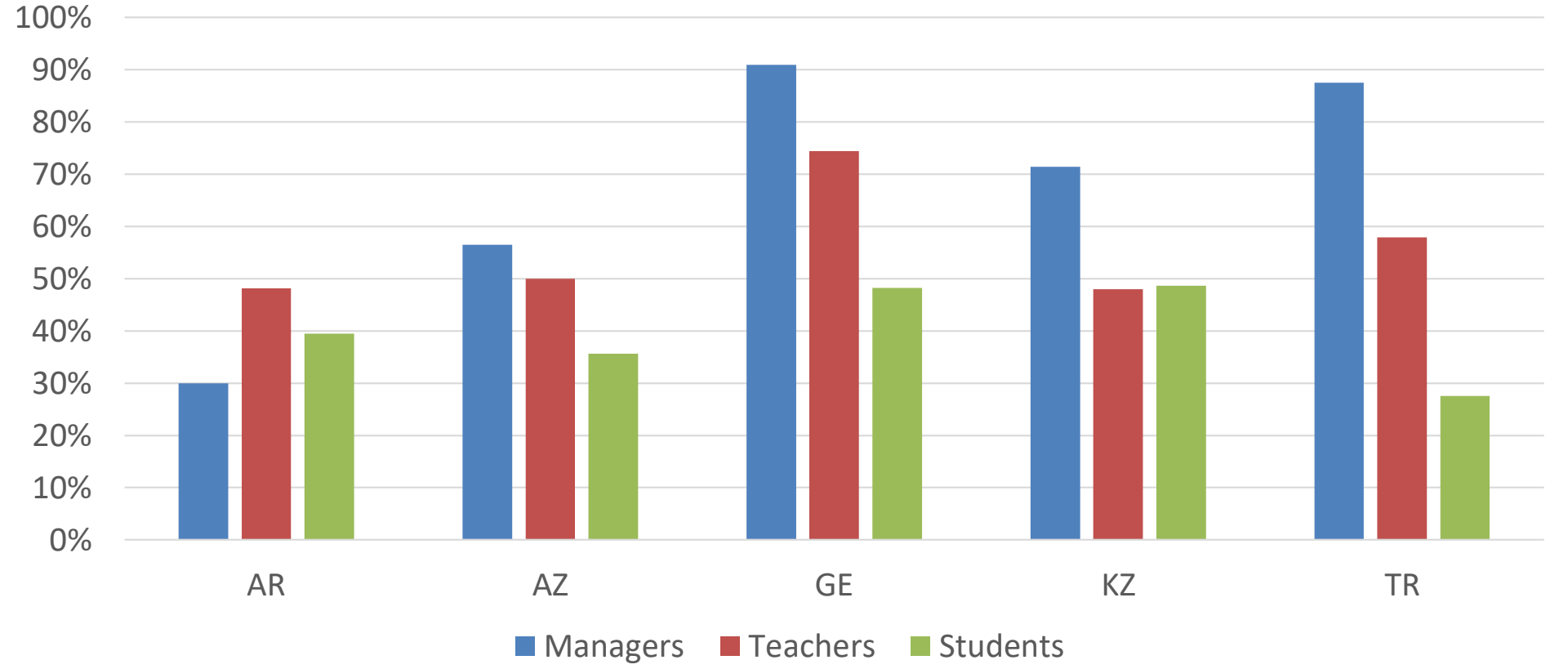


- No action would be taken
- Verbal warning
- Required to re write it
- Required to complete a new assignment
- Zero mark for the work
- Repeat the module or subject
- Fail the module or subject

Who decides on the penalty applied to students for exam cheating?



Students receive training in academic writing and avoidance of plagiarism.



General Recommendations: Education Quality

- Regular audits for policies on academic integrity
- Regular training for teachers and students
- Understand student needs and motivation
- The role of assessment design as a tool for assuring both quality and integrity
- National digital language corpus of academic sources
  - for reference purposes
  - for use by **text-matching software**
    - Create wisely the policies for its use and do not rely on percentages!

What leads students to decide to plagiarise?

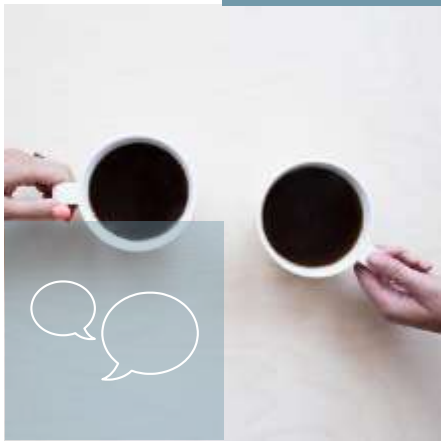
AR
No risk
Cut&paste is easy
Laziness

AZ
Too difficult assignments
Task beyond ability
Teacher don‘t care

GE
Laziness
Task beyond their abilty
Cut&paste is easy

KZ
Too difficult assignments
Run out of time
Laziness

TR
Don't want to learn
Cut&paste is easy
No risk



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References

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- Armenian law on education (translation) - http://www.translation-centre.am/pdf/Translat/HH_orenk/Education/HO_160_N_General_Edu_en.pdf
- Georgian Erasmus+ National Office - http://erasmusplus.org.ge/en/Home
- Kazakhstan Academic Integrity League
- The Council of Higher Education in Turkey
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