

Showcasing Results of the 2018 Survey on Digital Academic Records by AICE and AACRAO

April 2019

Aleks Morawski
Chairman of the Board of Directors
AICE

Melanie Gottlieb
Deputy Director
AACRAO



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.®
Setting the standard for credentials evaluation

Proud partners in research, policy,
and the alignment of standards

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO)

Areas represented within the university:

- Records & Academic Services
- Enrollment Management
- Domestic & International Admissions & Recruitment
- Transfer Admissions & Recruitment
- International Credential Evaluation

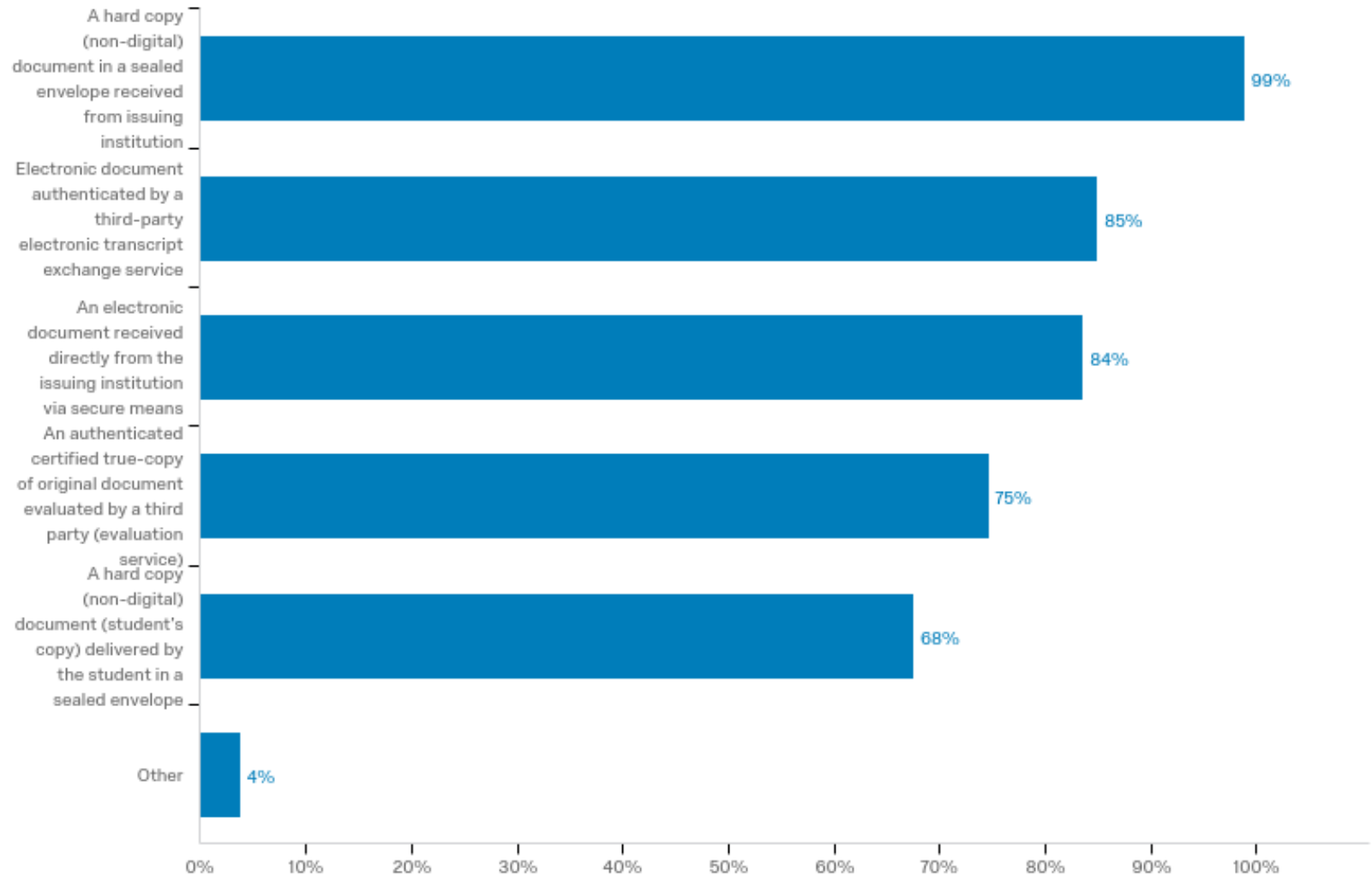


American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO)

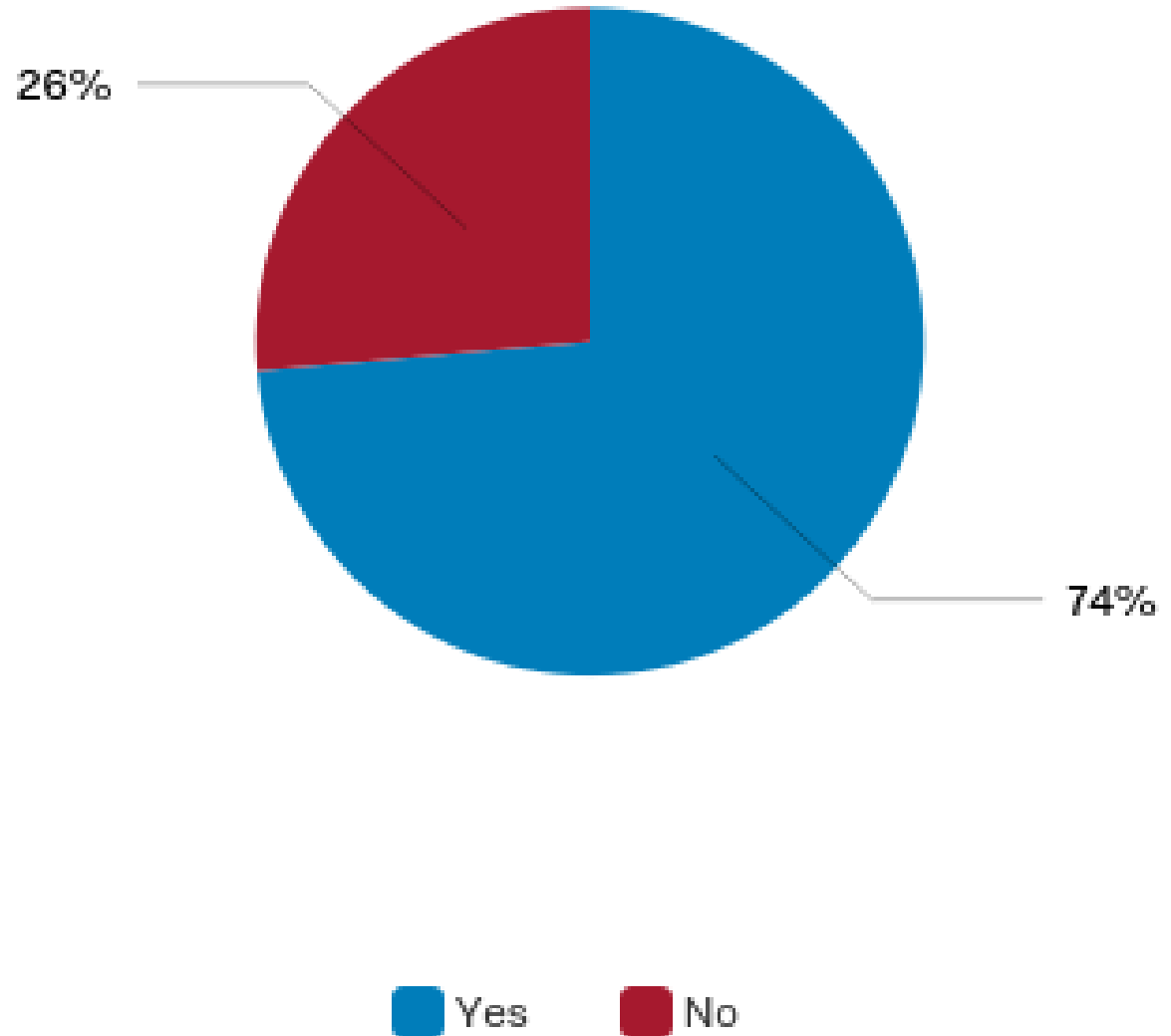
- 100+ years old
- 11,000+ *members*
- 2,600+ *institutions*
- 40+ *countries*



Definition of an official transcript



Does your institution accept scanned unofficial transcripts uploaded with application for a tentative admission decision?



Who ensures the requirements for official documents are met after admission?



Other Responses

- *Financial Aid Office*
- *Office of Education Abroad*
- *International Students Office*
- *Admission Counselor*
- *Advisor*

■ Admissions Office (42%) ■ Registrar's Office (46%) ■ Academic Department (2%)

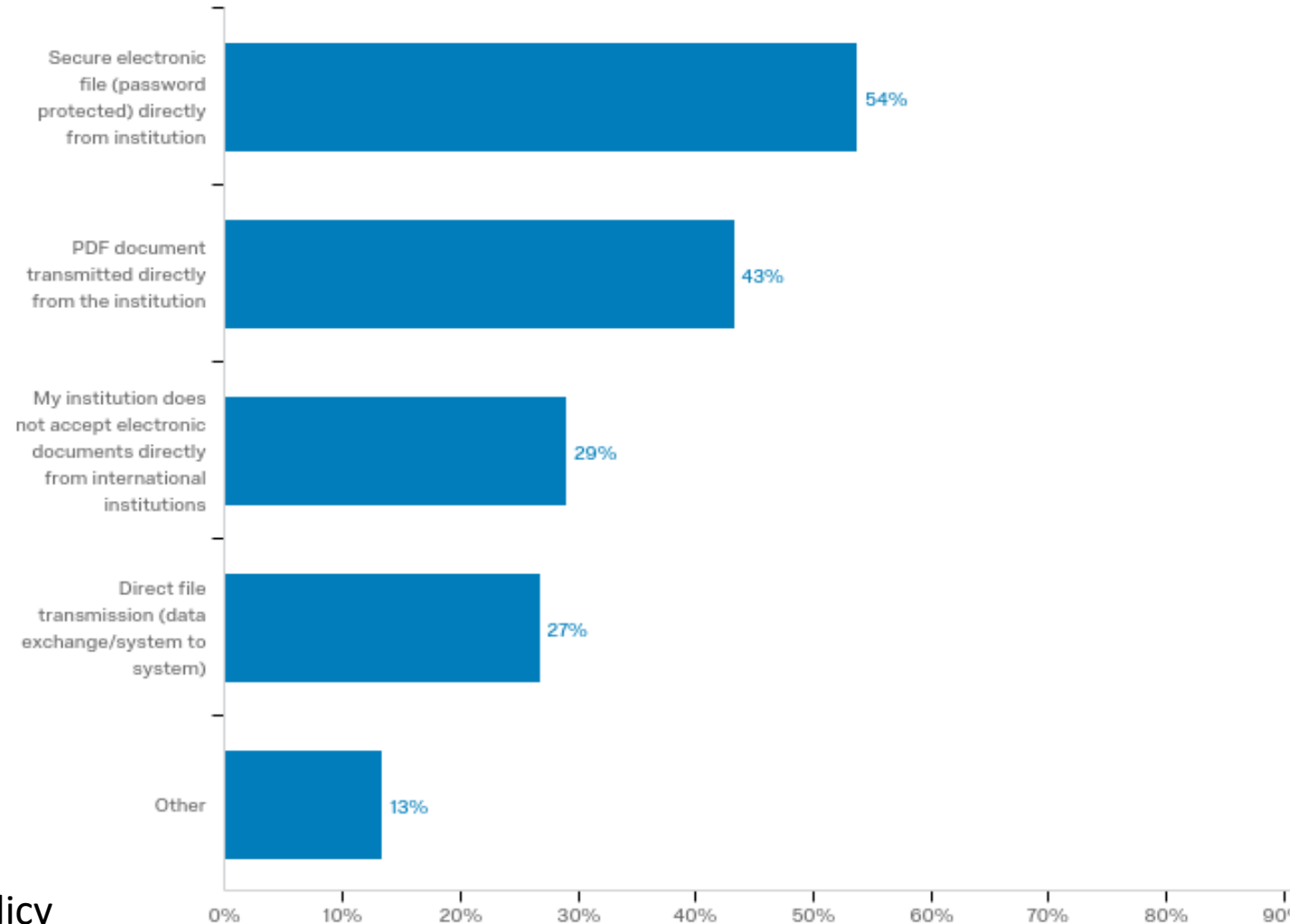
■ College of Graduate Studies (5%) ■ Office of Student Affairs (1%) ■ Dean's Office (1%)

■ Vice President/Provost's Office (0%) ■ Other: please specify (2%)

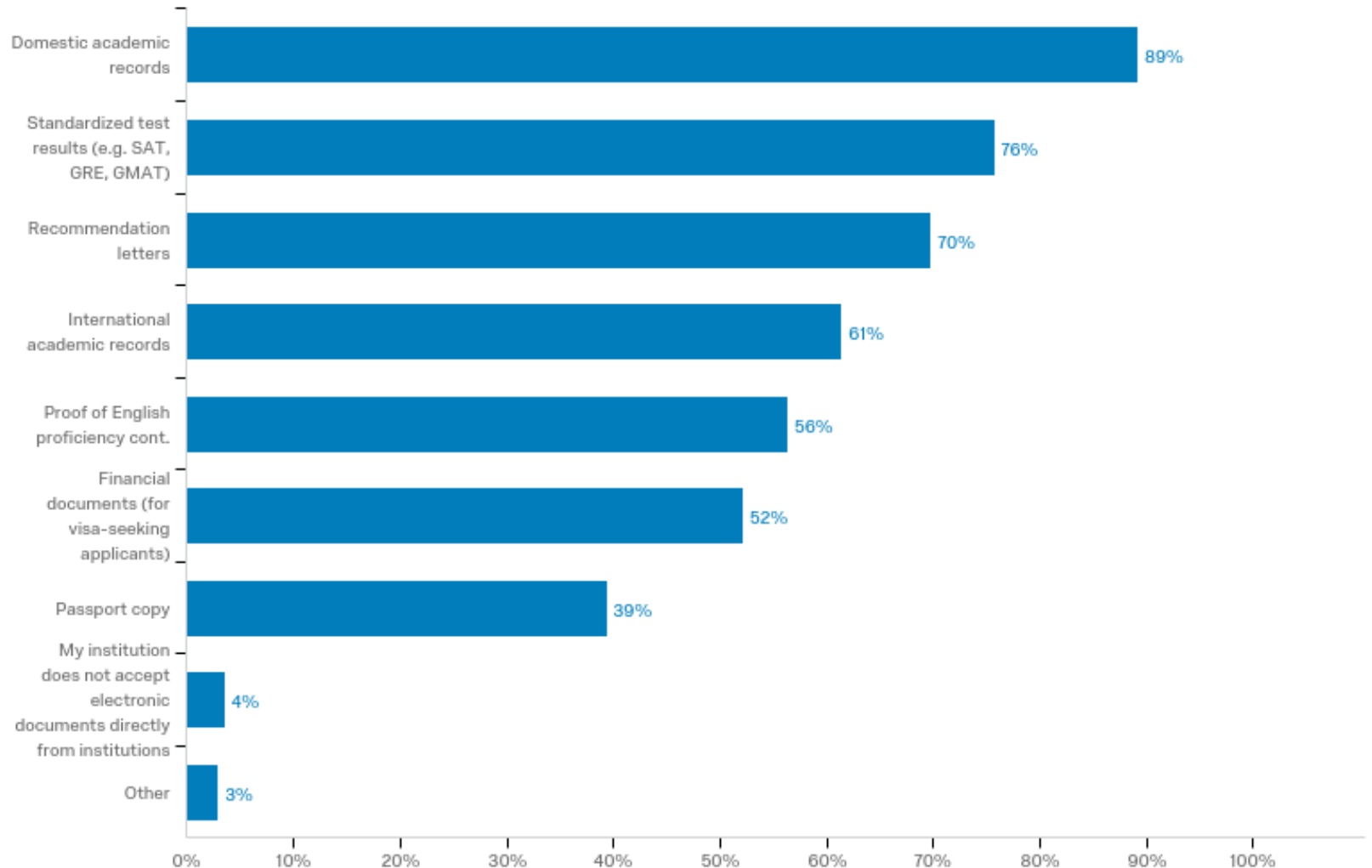
How does your institution accept electronic documents from international institutions ?

Top Other Responses:

- Through an evaluation service
- From the translation service
- PDF from approved partner or third party
- Not sure/not common enough to have a policy



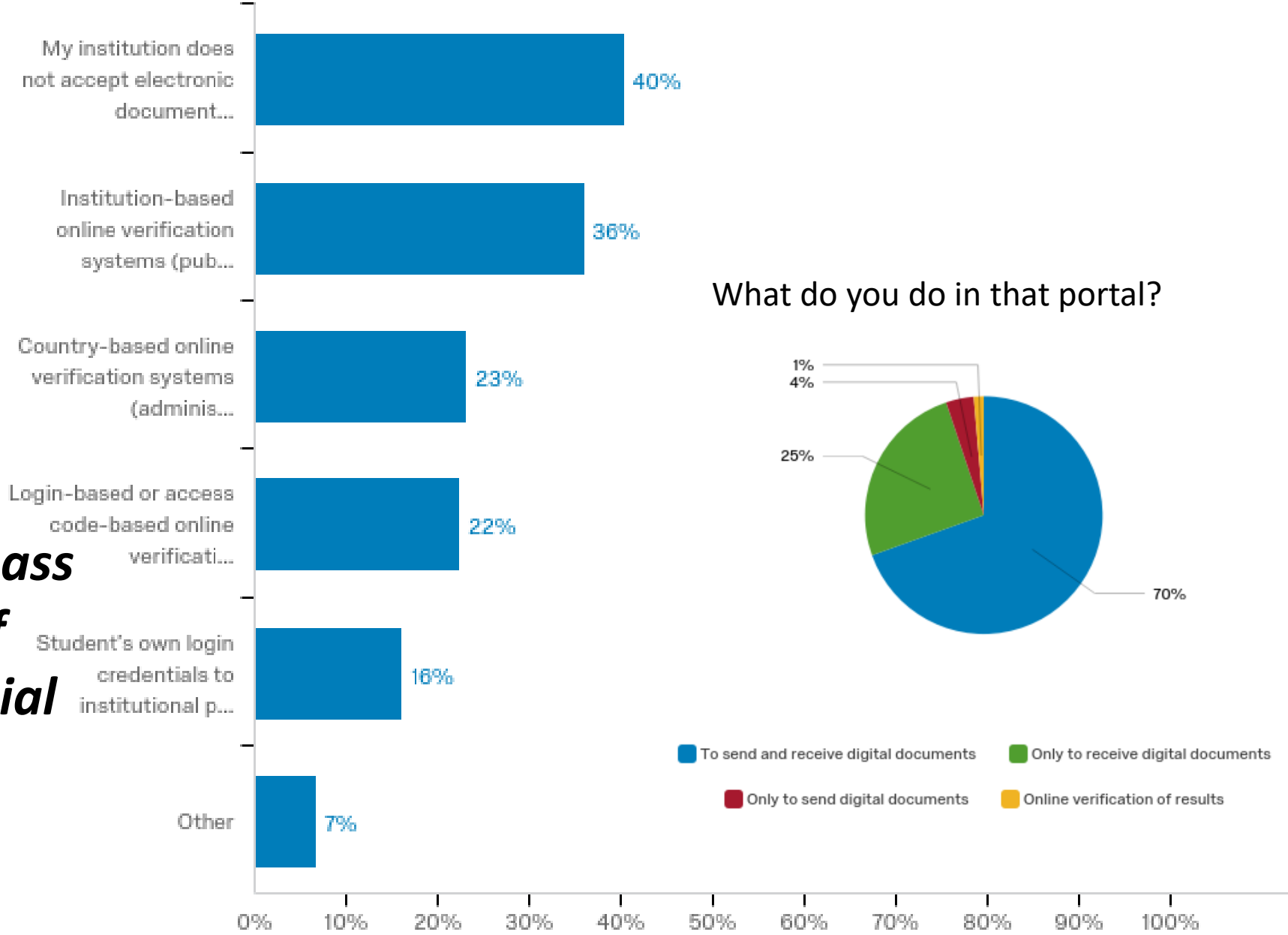
Which documents does your institution accept electronically?



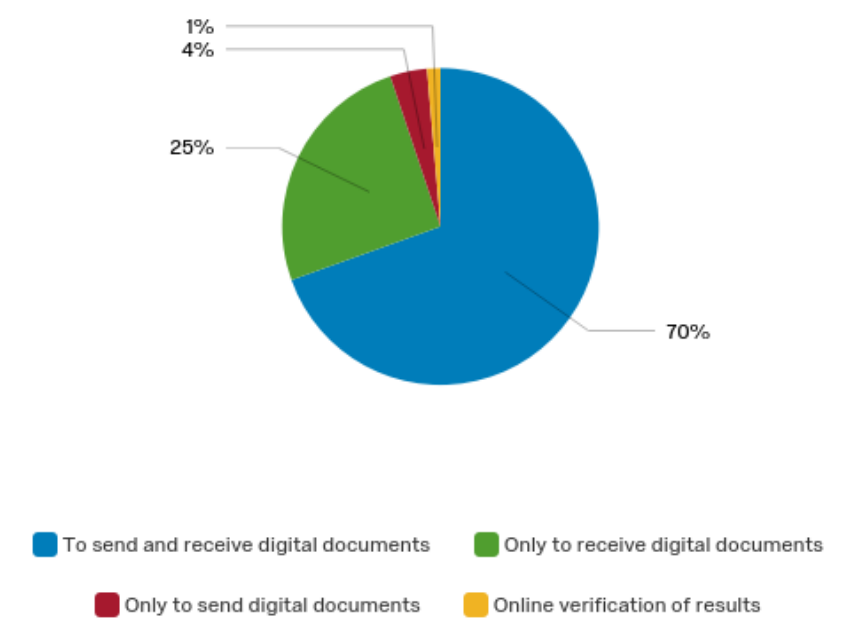
Popular “other” responses:

- resume, application, enrollment agreements, financial aid documents
- Residency documentation. Student must have Driver's License to authenticate him/herself.
- Immunizations
- Evaluations completed by members of NACES for international transcripts
- COMLEX and USMLE results directly from original source
- accept all electronically but must submit originals before admission

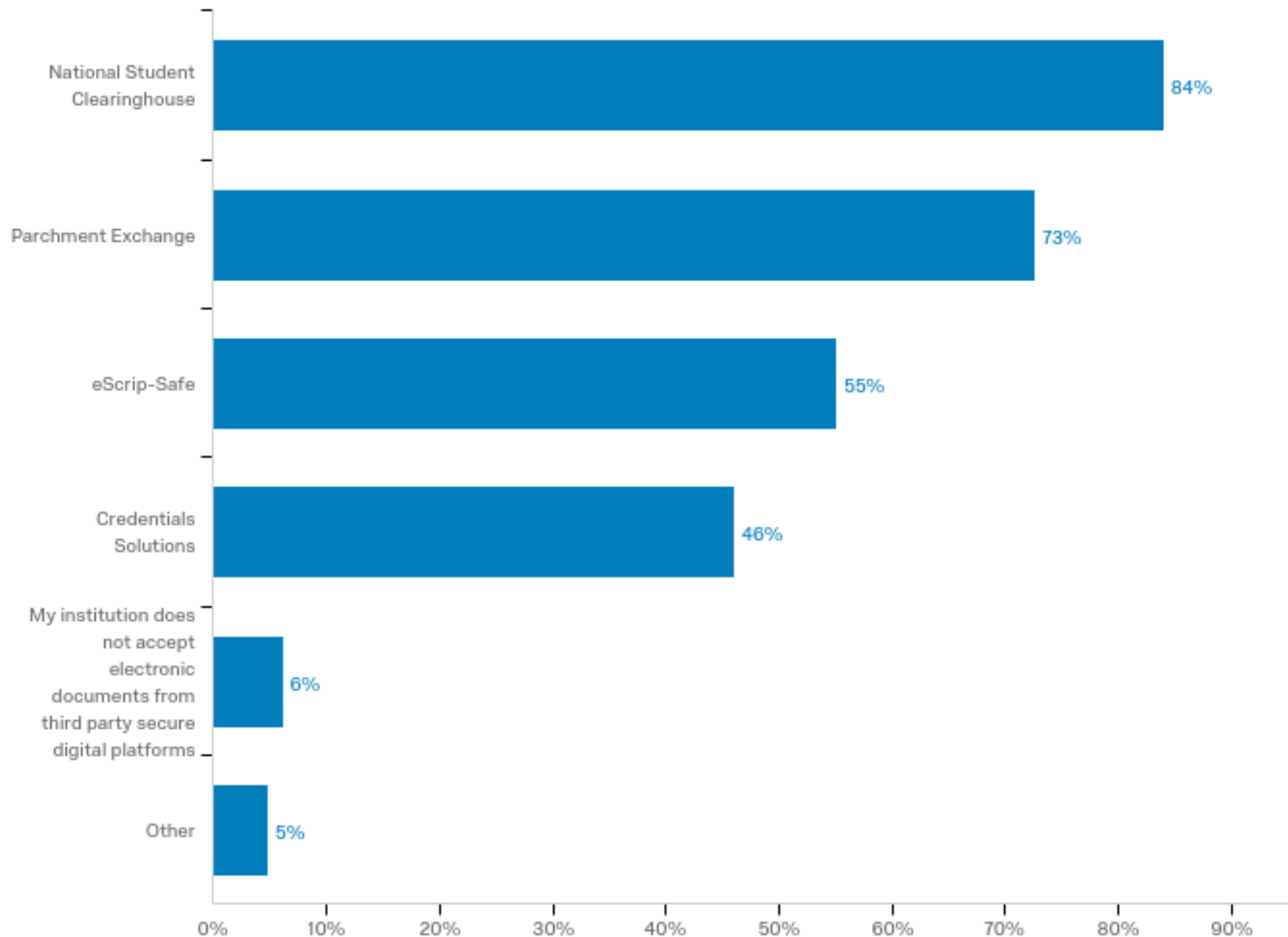
What type(s) of online verification portals does your institution use to supplement or bypass the requirement of submission of official documents ?



What do you do in that portal?



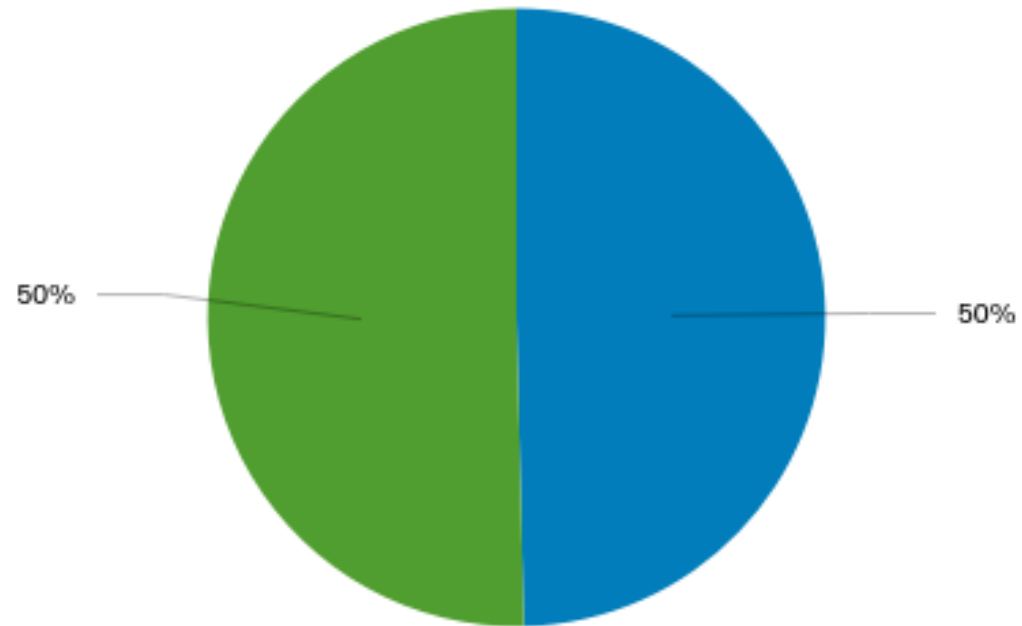
Does your institution use any of the following third party secure digital platforms ?



***Popular “other”
responses:***

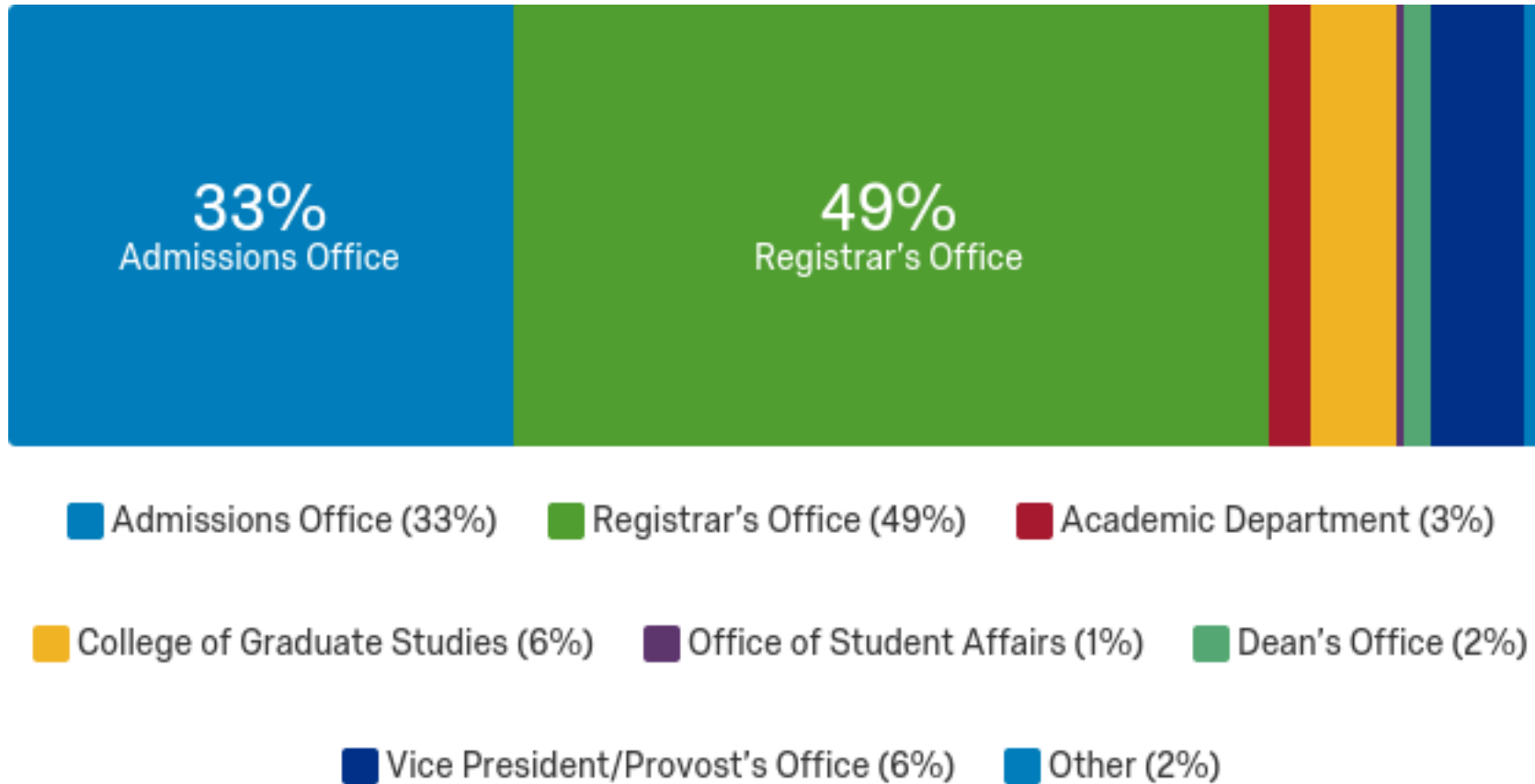
- eScripsafe
- WES
- InCred
- SPEEDE
- NeedMyTranscript
- Joint Service Transcripts
- FASTER (FL service)
- Scribble
- eTranscripts California
- IERF
- JST
- Diploma Sender

Does your institution also require official documents from the issuing institution?



■ Yes ■ No

What office is responsible for the policy on accepting digital academic records?



Popular other responses:

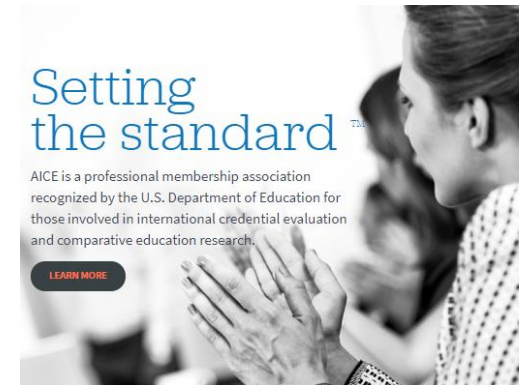
- Admission and Registrar's office are together
- Office of International Education
- Human Resources
- Ministry of Education
- International office in conjunction with the General Counsel's Office
- Compliance Office
- International Students Office

- Established 1998
- Dedicate to promoting standards of excellence in international credential evaluation
- Recognized by US Department of Education, US Department of State, NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- AICE is a proud signatory of the Groningen Declaration Network
 - 10 Endorsed Member Evaluation Services
 - 11 Affiliates (universities and institutions)

www.aice-eval.org



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.®
Setting the standard for credentials evaluation





AICE 2019 Los Angeles Symposium

- Existing Digital Platforms
- Digital Platforms set up by Universities and Third-Party Providers
- Digital Platforms set up by Governments

- Roundtable Discussions – What is an Official Document?

2019 AICE Symposium Report will be available in May 2019 at:

<http://aice-eval.org/research/>

Module 1 – Introduction to Existing Digital Academic Records, Practices & Systems (Legacy Systems)



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.

Moderator: Alexander Agafanov, PhD (Globe Language Services)
Panelists: Annetta Stroud (AACRAO)
Robert Watkins (University of Texas, Austin)

“I’d rather see the official or original documents scanned rather than a digital document. Still not totally ready to trust digital docs from other countries. An exception is CHESSIC and CDGDC (China) but they come through National Student Clearing House. We want the transcript and digital verification.”

“US & Canada have developed a secure enough digital shared platform. However, the same cannot be said for international systems.”

“TOEFL is an example along with GRE that come to us electronically. We don’t want it in paper form and by mail. Transcripts are a different story.”

“Pros concerning digital transcripts are clear, digitalization is happening and it drives the decision making. The cons are the everchanging costs, upgrading the system, efficiency (a lot of the digital systems are not efficient yet).”

Module 2 – Digital Platforms set up by Universities and Third-Party Providers

Moderator: Alex Popovski (Ucredo)

Panelists: Plixenia Tohaneanu (University of Idaho)

Michael Hovland (University of Iowa)

Michael Sessa (PESC)

Institutional Perspectives:

- University of Idaho: Require a student-centered approach
Consider endorsements and existing partnerships
Commitment to existing privacy regulations
Transparency
Consider collaborative initiatives (HEAR, MyeQuals)
Requires consistent, diligent monitoring



Institutional Perspectives (continued)

- University of Iowa:

- Challenges with accepting digital transcripts:

- Data matching = The ability to capture the required data and import into home system
 - What matters?
 - Are high-stakes processes for low-stakes data appropriate?
 - Standardization by individual institutions, or preferably a few data providers
 - Standardization Working Group organized at NACAC 2016-2017, now adopted by PESC

PESC = PostSecondary Electronic Standards Council

- Three pillars of PESC:

- Access (Authentication and ID Management)

- Transport (Data Exchange & Collection)

- Data (Standard data and Exchange Transactions)



- PESC promotes maturation starting with developing an awareness of the need for standardization to usage, implementation, and a seal of approval
- Development of the PESC Approved Standard – guarantees that data in one technology is equal in value and integrity to the same PESC Approved Standard in another technology
 - EDI ≠ XML but = integrity

www.pesc.org



Module 3: Digital Platforms set up by Governments

Moderator: Alan A. Saidi (ACEI)
Panelists: Alexander Burlakov (Ukraine)
Chiara Finocchietti (CIMEA – Italy)
William Paver, Ph.D. (FCSA)
Emily Tse (IERF)

Motivations for governments to digitize documents:

Regulation of qualifications and functional outcomes of education

Offered through bodies that oversee education sector

Trustworthy, but present other challenges:

Limited data sets

Restricted access

Content (extent of academic record varies)



Ukraine

2011 – January 1, 2019

The Ministry of Education and Science
of Ukraine



State Enterprise 'Inforesurs'



The Unified State Electronic Education
Database

The Unified State Electronic Education Database

780 institutions of higher education and **706** separate structural subdivisions of organizations, which provide higher education

1026 institutions of vocational education and **53** separate structural subdivisions of organizations, which provide vocational education

270 other institutions, which provide vocational education or vocational training;

343 departments for management of education.

- Ukrainian only but within one year it will be in English.
- Academic documents issued in 2000 and later
- Plans are underway to digitize more documents and connect with more institutions.
- At this time the Database is for verification purposes only.



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.

Italy - CIMEA – Information Center on Mobility and Academic Equivalencies

Italy, via CIMEA is the first country to adopt blockchain technology with launching of the *Diplome* certification service

diplome



SIMPLE, SECURE, CERTIFIED

Benefits:

- Secure cryptographic key access

- Multi-dot recording

- In compliance with GDPR

- Accessible to refugees or those with limited documents

Decentralized, Transparent, Certified, and Unchangeable



Credential Evaluator's Perspective

Two types of government-sponsored programs:

- Direct Government and Ministerial Providers
- Government-appointed providers

Benefits:

- Removal of barriers
- Ease
- Efficiency
- Automatic layer of authentication

Challenges:

- Cost
- Limited Data
- Ease of use and site stability
- Publicity / notoriety
- Decentralization



Roundtable Key takeaways:

- What is an official credential?
 - Six tables, six different definitions
 - Example: “Authentic transcripts/credentials issued or attested by a regionally-accredited institution with granting authority, enclosed in a sealed envelope, with the institution’s official stamp and/or appropriate signature on the back flap.”
- Authentic versus Official
 - “Authentic transcripts do not need to be official, but all official transcripts must be authentic.”



Association of International
Credential Evaluators, Inc.

Questions?

Thank You

Aleks Morawski

Director of Evaluation
Services, Scholaro Inc.

morawski@scholaro.com

Chair, Association of
International Credential
Evaluators (AICE)

Melanie Gottlieb

Deputy Director, AACRAO

gottlieb@aacrao.org

A copy of this presentation is available at www.scholaro.com/presentations