

The Teaching & Fitting of RGP Lenses in Educational Institutions across the European Community

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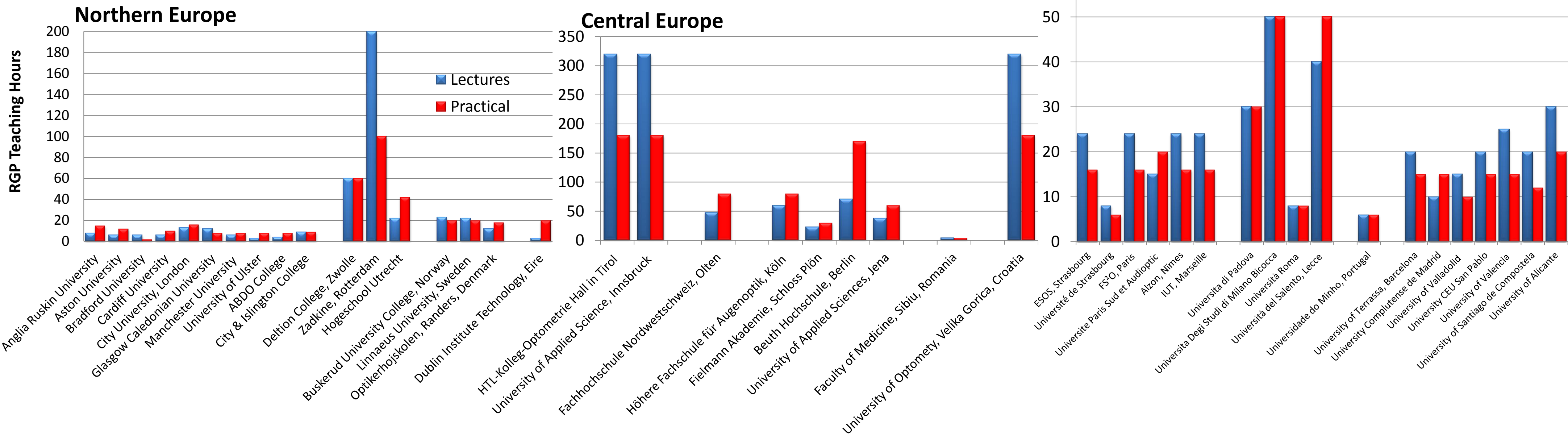
The indicator is RGP fitting as a subject taught at undergraduate level has been downgraded in some institutions. The argument for less RGP education is that teaching should reflect what is being fitted in the market place; but is that in the patients' interest?

In 2012 data on RGP teaching & fitting was collected from 15 countries & 50 institutions via members of IACLE.

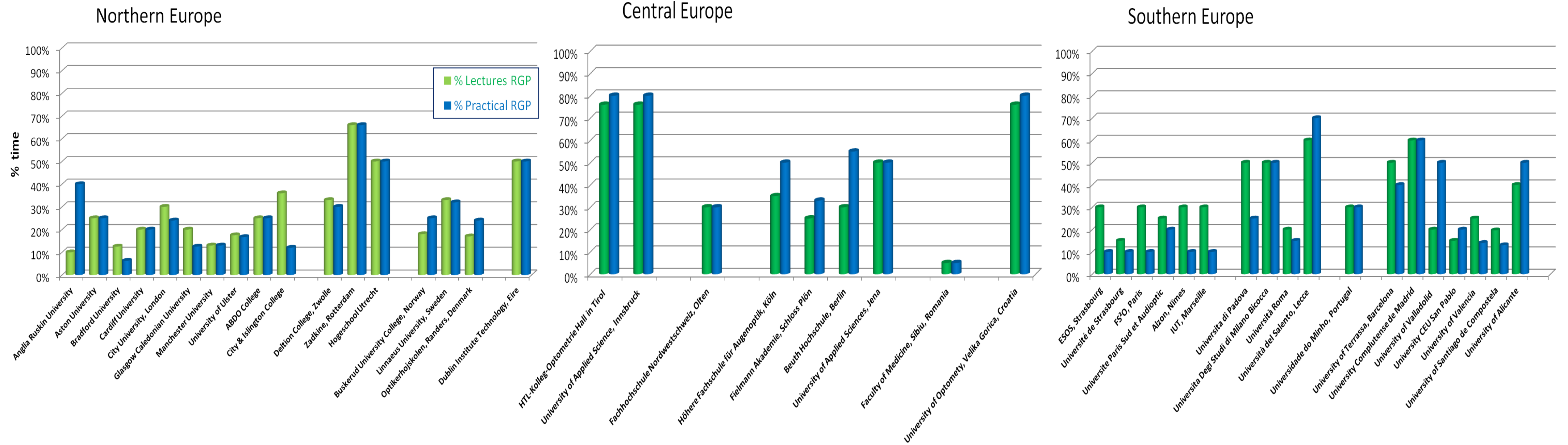
The data includes both basic & advance level information depending on the 'undergraduate' course.

Institutions were grouped into Northern, Central & Southern Europe as these areas had common experiences.

Total Hours of RGP Teaching

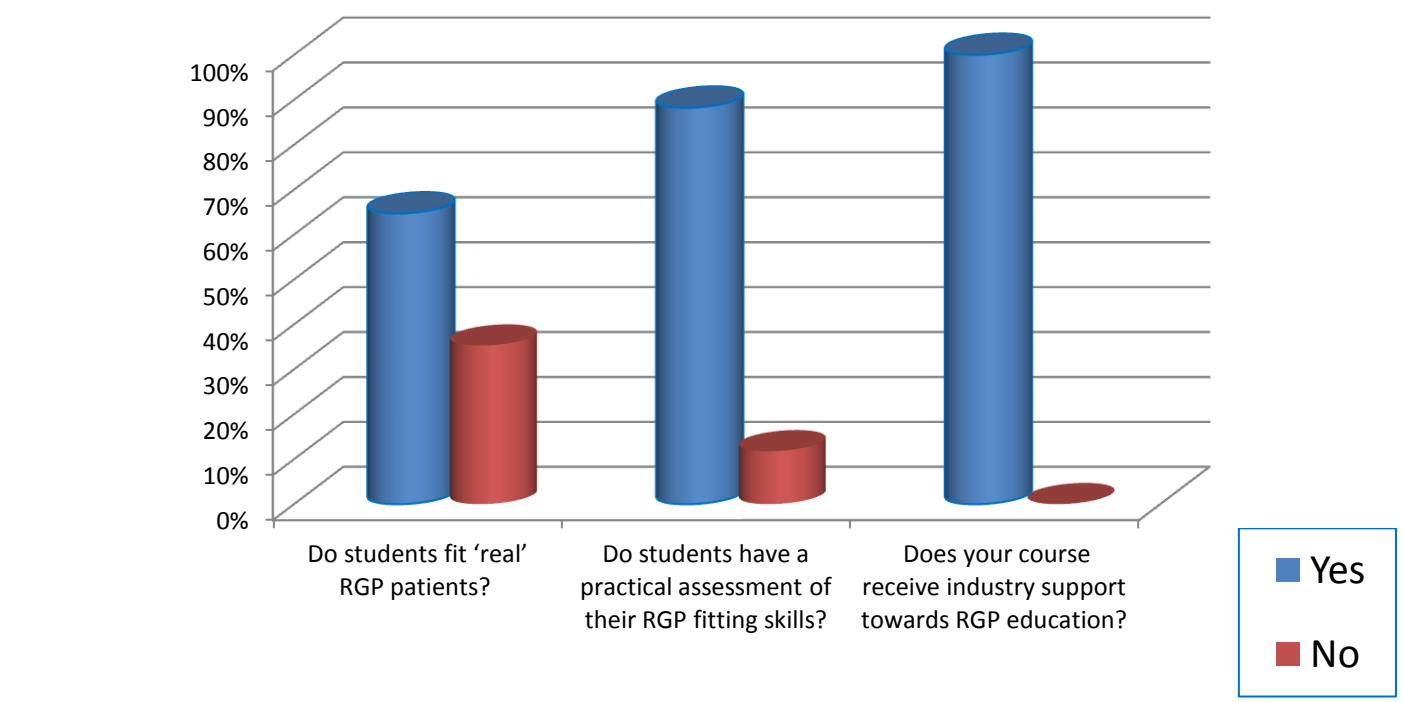


% of RGP teaching of overall CL course

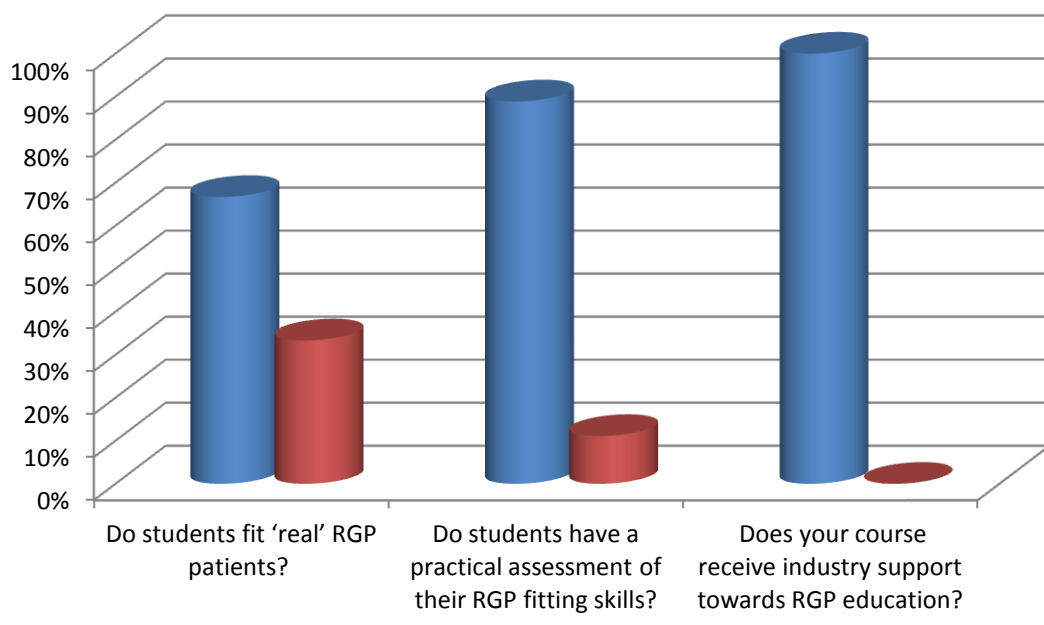


Students Fit 'Real Patients' & Practical Assessment?

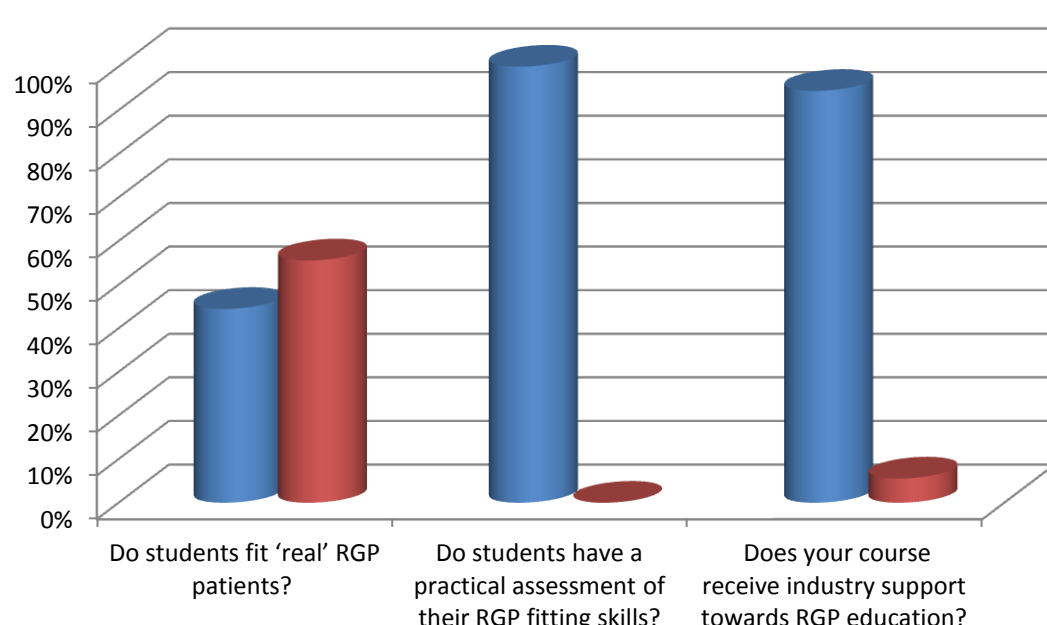
NORTHERN EUROPE



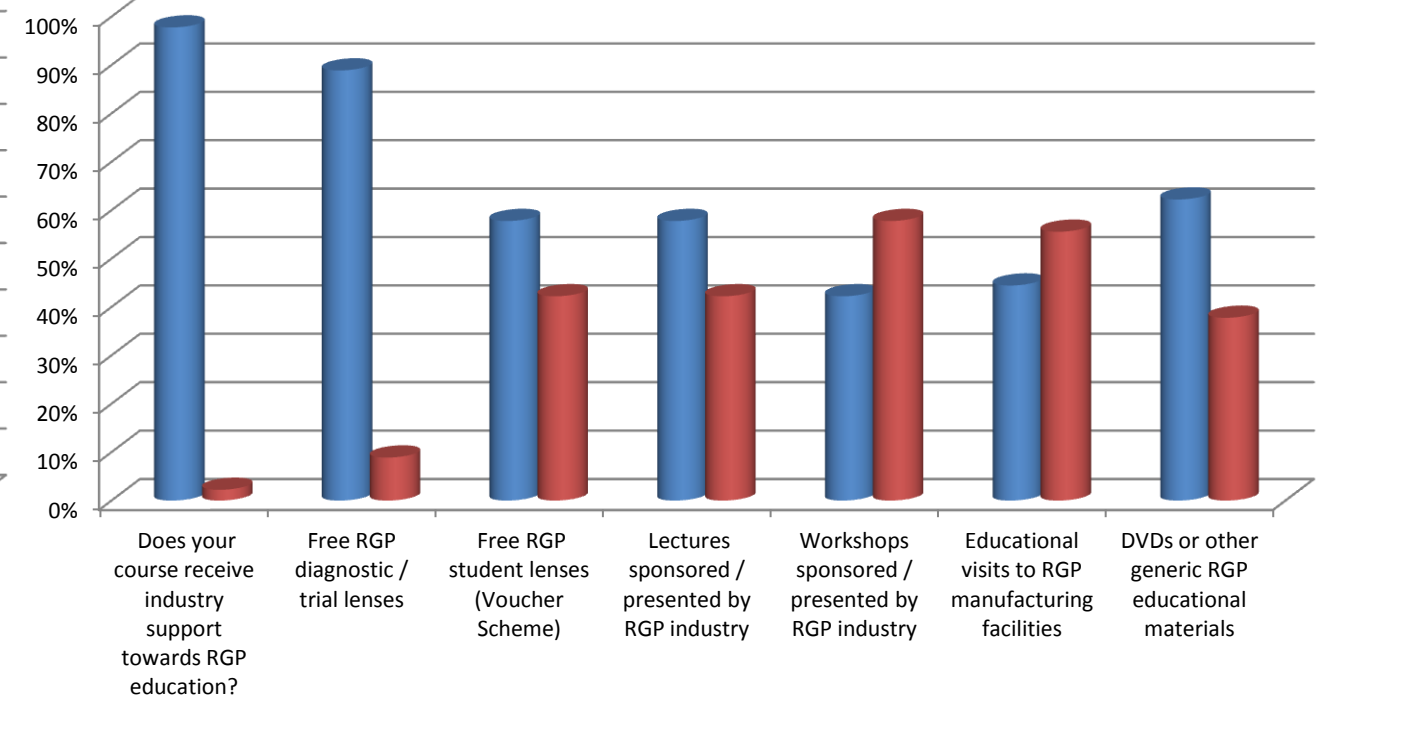
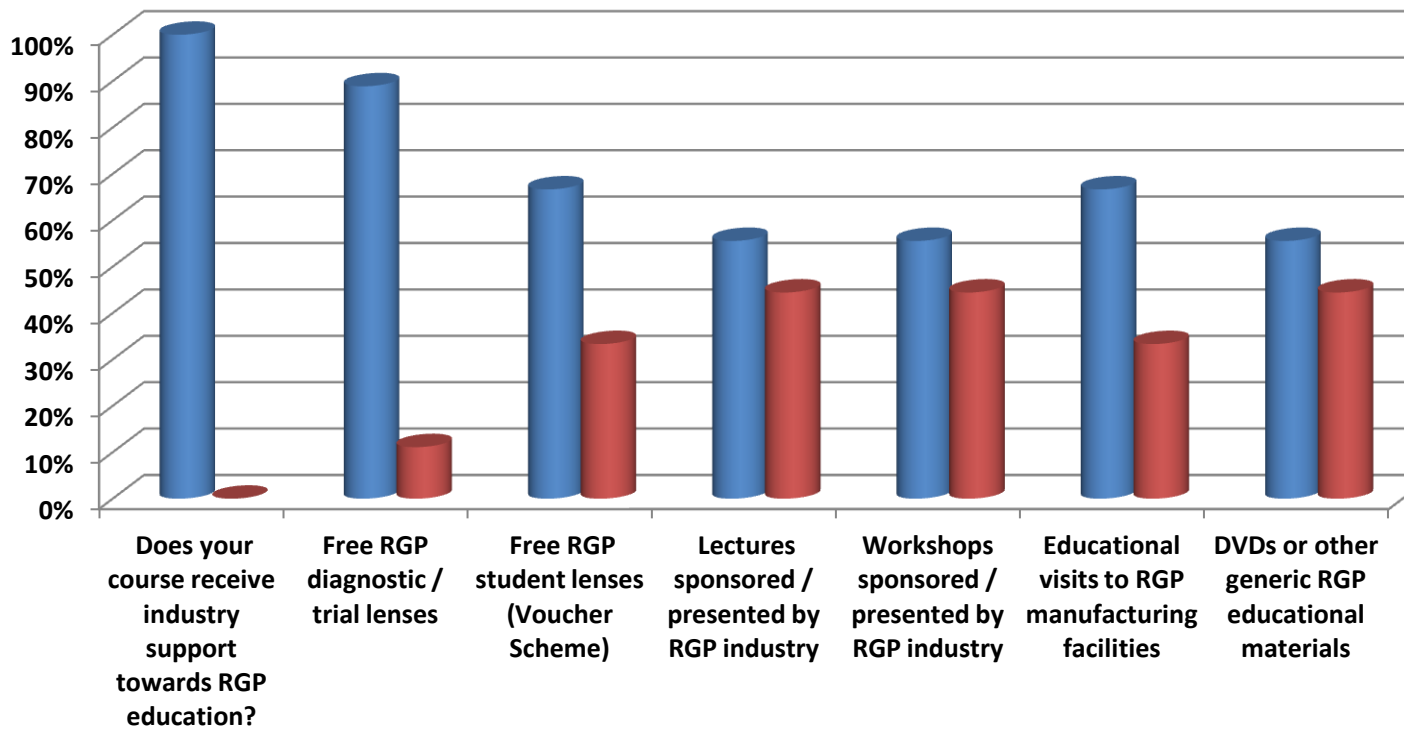
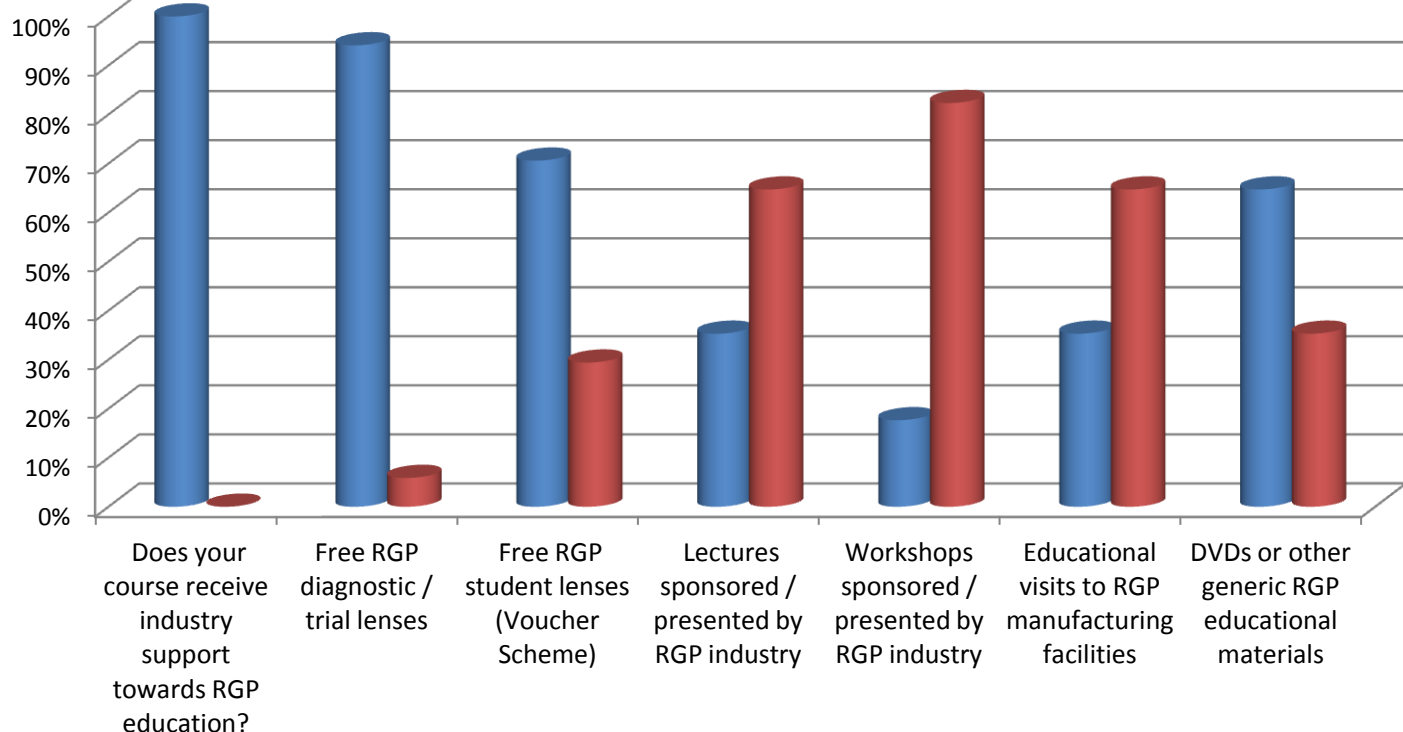
CENTRAL EUROPE



SOUTHERN EUROPE



Industry Support



Time Dedicated to RGP's since 2007

Increased : 11 institutions

Remained the same : 35 institutions

Decreased : 2 institutions

BUT will this change when the current educators leave/retire & the next generation take over?

CONCLUSIONS

- Feedback was positive for RGP education across the teaching institutions
- Require to raise importance in Eastern Europe & support growth in Southern Europe
- Differences existed not only across Europe but even within countries!
 - Contact with "real patients"& practical assessment of skills varied
- RGP Education should not be diminished even if market share has levelled off
- Continued promotion of importance of RGP fitting as a 'basic skill' is crucial