

ACADEMIC CORRUPTION

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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Institute
for Educational Planning

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CHEA International Quality Group
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Introduction: few challenges

- Pressure on resources combined with more financial autonomy
- From 28 M students in 1970 to 262 M in 2025
- From traditional HE institutions towards private, extra-mural, distance, e-education, etc.
- 3.6 million students enrolled in transnational education

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“All dishonest acts perpetrated in the academic environment by institutional administrators, lecturers and teachers, students and other stakeholders in the academic sector or educational institutions that have adverse effects on the academic goals of the institutions”

(Ademola and al., 2012)

Diploma and accreditation mills

Diploma mills

- ❑ **Diploma mills:** mostly online entities that offer substandard or bogus degrees in exchange for payment
- ❑ **Forgeries:** companies producing fake certificates in the names of genuine, respected institutions
- ❑ **Visa factories:** substandard institutions promising visas to overseas students

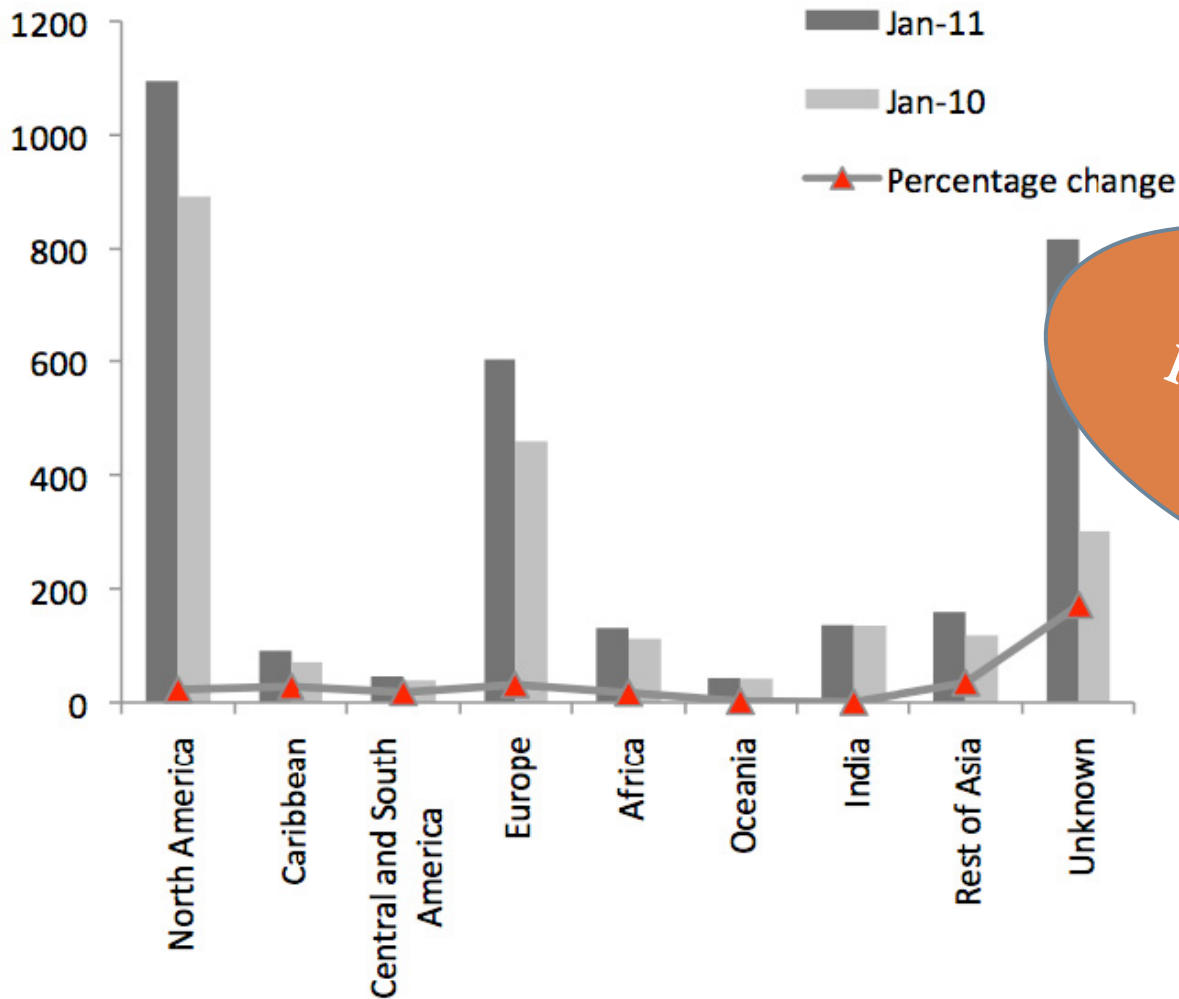
Accreditation mills

Accreditation mills:
bogus accreditation
agency not recognized
by the authority
responsible for
governing education in
its country of provision

“If a diploma mill’s Web site is hosted at the same IP address as the Web site of the organization it claims to be accredited by, you can be pretty sure that accreditation agency was fabricated by the operators of the bogus university”

(Cohen and Winch, 2011)

Diploma mills on the rise



2 500 bogus institutions globally

Source: Verifile Accredibase 2011

Explored solutions

- Create tools for identification of degree mills
- Use evidence of quality provided by competent authorities
- Encourage providers to avoid funding of degree mills
- Inform the public about degree mills
- Pursue legal action against degree mills
- Focus on cross-boarder degree mills operation

(CHEA UNESCO, 2009)

Academic corruption in “regular” universities

Academic corruption and QA

Financing

Facilities

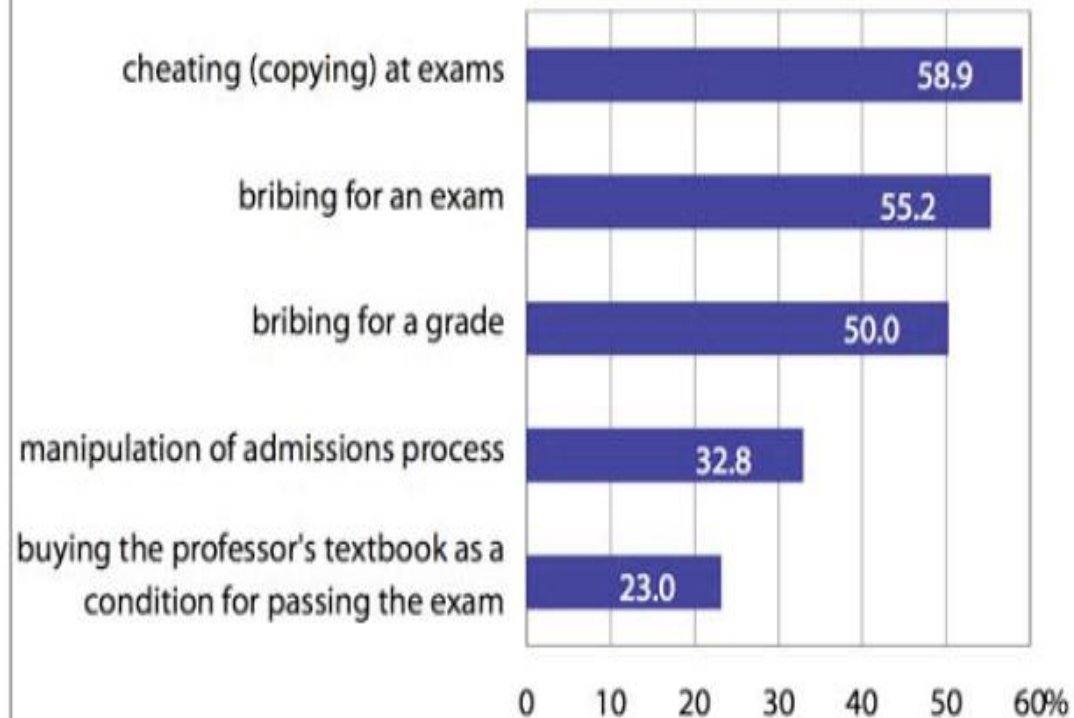
Academic
staff

Admission
process

Manipulation of admission process

Moldova

% of students reporting that the following situations occur frequently or very frequently in their university



Academic corruption and QA



What can be done?

What can be done?

1. Strengthen national capacities

2. List “red flags”

3. Pilot HEIs integrity reviews

4. Promote university report cards

5. Share innovative use of ICTs to address fraud

6. Encourage the adoption of Chart of Ethics

7. Develop anti-corruption student networks

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