

Background

- Commitment of Vietnam to open up education service:** According to Vietnam commitment upon accession to WTO, all four modes of delivery for education service (limited to technical, natural sciences and technology, business administration and business studies, economics, accounting, international law and language training fields) are allowed (WTO).
- Ambitious plan for human resources:** Vietnam strategy for developing human resource for the period 2011-2020 set the objective of doubling the number of tertiary education students and highly-qualified workforce in 2020 (Prime Minister).
- Big demand for higher education:** every year, there are more than 900,000 high-school leaver while local universities and colleges accept roughly 500,000 (MOET).
- Perceived quality of Vietnam higher education:** Vietnam higher education is criticized for its quality (see for example Tu Uyen, 2011).
- Transnational education (TNE) is booming in Vietnam:** Recent statistics shows that the number of TNE programs registered with Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training has increased from 119 programs of last year to 173 programs of this year (VIED).

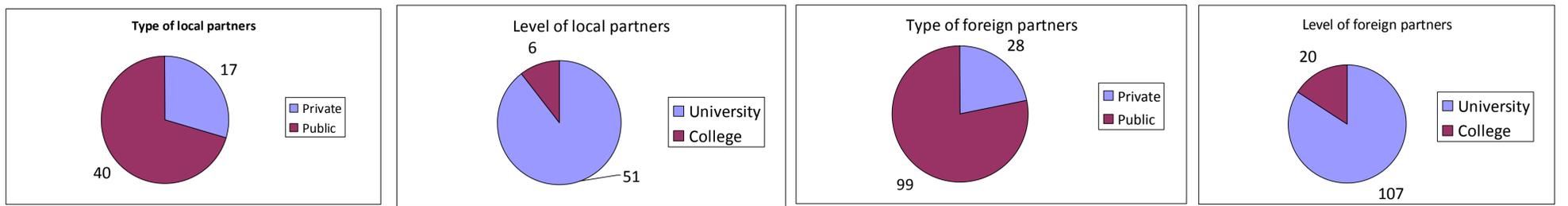
Purpose of study

- to identify the patterns of partnership for TNE programs in Vietnam context.
- to analyze the motivation and imperative forces behind local universities move for TNE partnership.
- To examine the expectation and perception of benefits received by the stakeholders from the partnership.

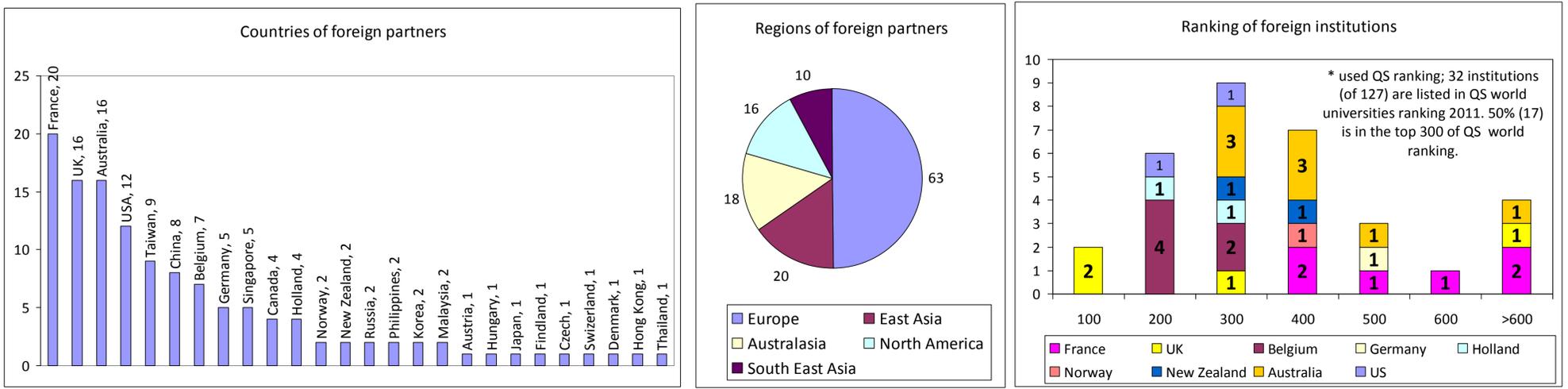
Methodology

- TNE programs under study are those by MOET website. The list of approved TNE programs are obtained from MOET website (VIED).
- TNE programs that are run by national and regional universities as well as those offered on branch campuses of foreign training institutions are not included in the study.
- Data is collected from MOET official website, local and foreign institutions' website.
- The research was conducted through mixed methods of documentary review, questionnaire surveys, and a focus group discussion.

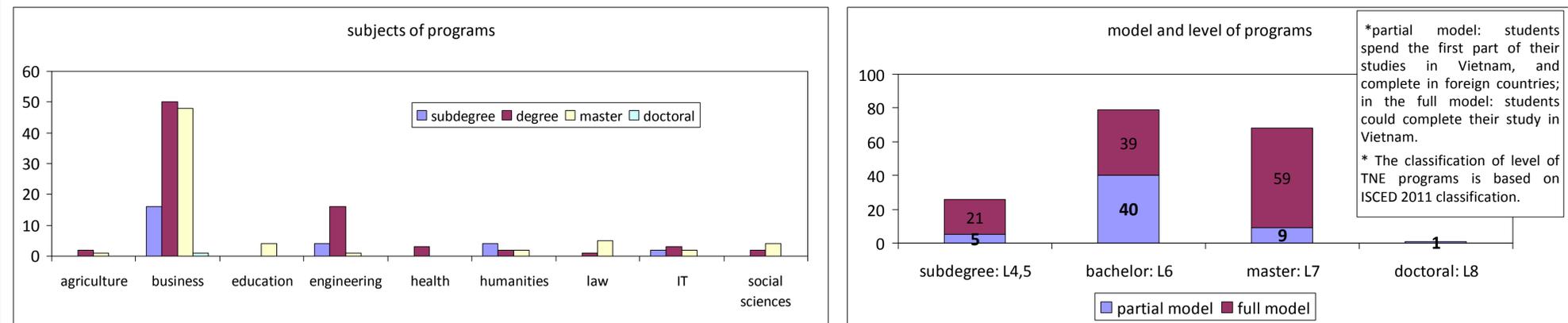
Partner institutions



Foreign partners



Programmes



Discussion

- The list of countries-providers are diversified. Among them there are which includes countries, that are usually classified as importer of TNE. This fact suggests the openness and acceptance of the market to TNE.
- Most of TNE programs focus on business area. This is probably due to the high demand of the market. Although the main motivation of Vietnam policy for TNE is capacity-building, the facts indicate the main motivation for providing TNE by local institutions is revenue-driven.
- TNE is quite new for Vietnam with a majority of universities having 1 or 2 programmes.
- Rise in number of TNE, and the presence of institution with several TNE suggest TNE has provided the results the partners wanted.

- In comparison with other countries in the region such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Philippines, Vietnam is quite active as TNE importer.
- Vietnamese public universities are very active in providing TNE programs.
- Most of TNE foreign partners are English-speaking countries. In line with other countries in the region, UK, USA, and Australia are among the largest countries-providers in Vietnam. It is also in hand with the fact that these countries have the largest number of Vietnamese students studying in.
- In contrast with other countries, France is the largest provider in terms of the number of provided programs. This fact could be explained by the history connection between the two countries.
- If using QS ranking as sign of quality, Vietnam has attracted quite a number of good universities. This certainly supports the motivation for capacity-building.

References

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Concluding Remark

- Number of TNE will continue to grow • There are a lot of opportunities for TNE • The expectation of partners in TNE has been met.