



Bologna Process Implementation Report 2024

Trends and developments: key commitments

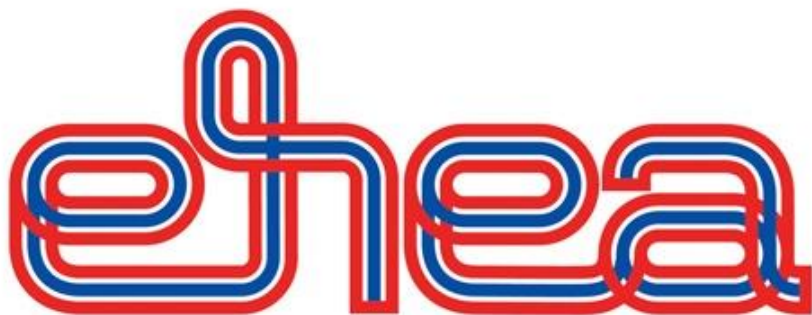
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The European Higher Education Area in 2024

*Bologna Process
Implementation Report*



About the report

- Focus on implementation of EHEA policies
- Quantitative and qualitative data collected 2023
- 6 chapters:
 - Key Data EHEA
 - **Key Commitments: (Degree Structures, Recognition and QA)**
 - Fundamental Values
 - Social Dimension
 - Learning and Teaching
 - Mobility and internationalisation



Key contextual data

- 11% increase in student enrolment 2016 – 2021 (reaching 33 million students)
- 60% of students are enrolled in first-cycle (bachelor) programmes
- Smaller increase in academic staff
- Public investment in higher education relatively low (1% GDP)

Key Commitments: progress since TPGs

Degree structures

New Composite Indicator

>90% of first-cycle programmes comply with agreed ECTS workload for the first cycle (at least 180 ECTS)

>90% of second-cycle programmes comply with agreed ECTS workload for the second cycle (between 60-120 ECTS)

<20% of students are enrolled in integrated/long programmes

There are no programmes outside the Bologna degree structure, other than integrated programmes

Implementation of agreed degree structures

All commitments



11 systems

23 systems



5 systems

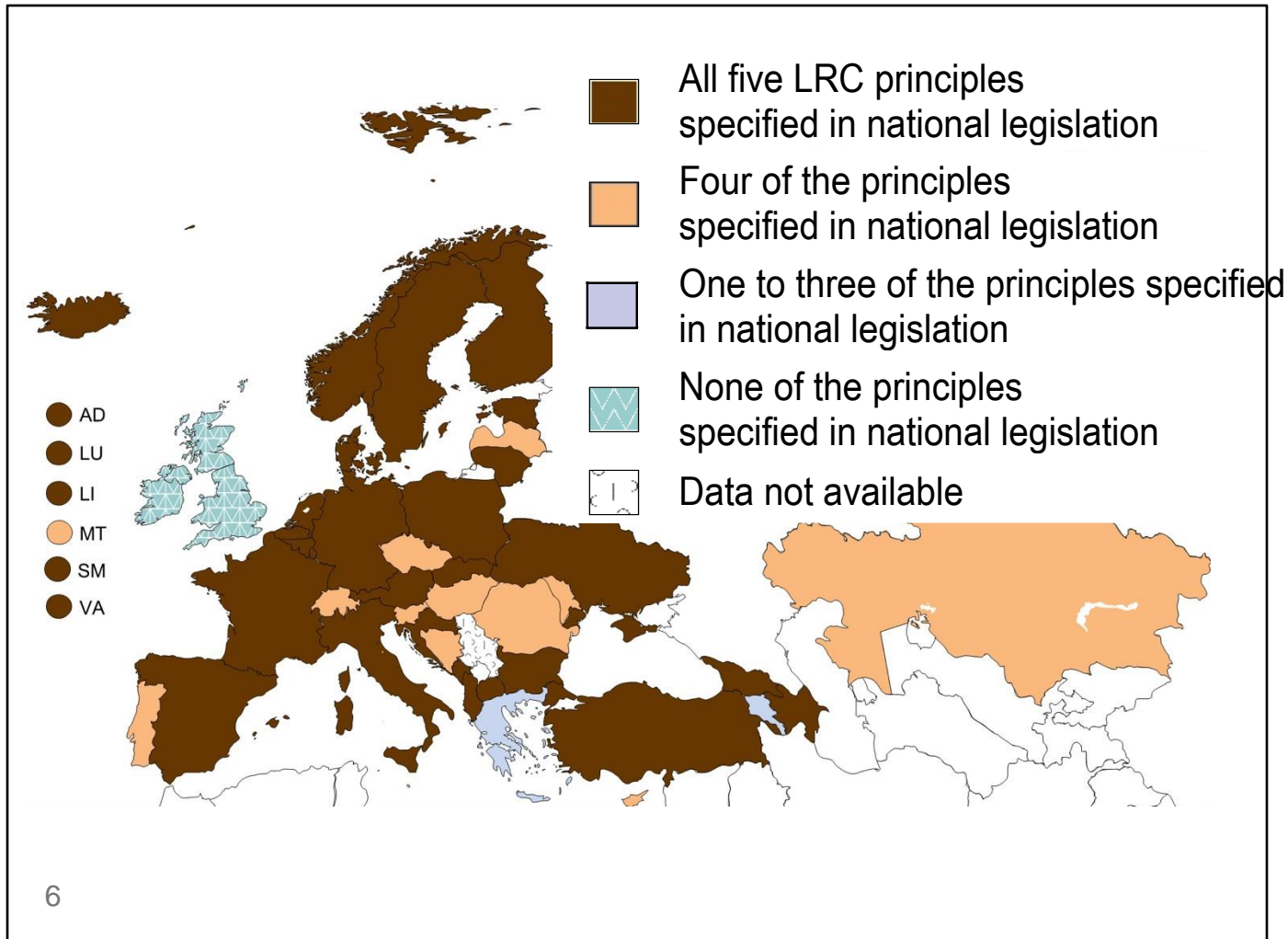


2 systems

- All countries have introduced 3 cycles
- But not (yet) fully harmonised

Key Commitments: progress since TPGs






Recognition: Lisbon Recognition Convention



5 Principles:

- 1) applicants have right to **fair assessment**;
- 2) recognition if no **substantial differences** can be proven;
- 3) legislation encourages comparing of learning outcomes rather than programme contents;
- 4) in cases of negative decisions the recognition authority demonstrates substantial difference;
- 5) applicant's right to appeal

Lisbon Recognition Convention

		2024	2020	2018
All principles		31	23	18
4 principles		12	21	21
1 -3 principles		3	4	6
0 principles		2	2	3
		1		

System-level automatic recognition

For all EHEA

19 systems







For some systems

16 systems

No automatic recognition

13 systems

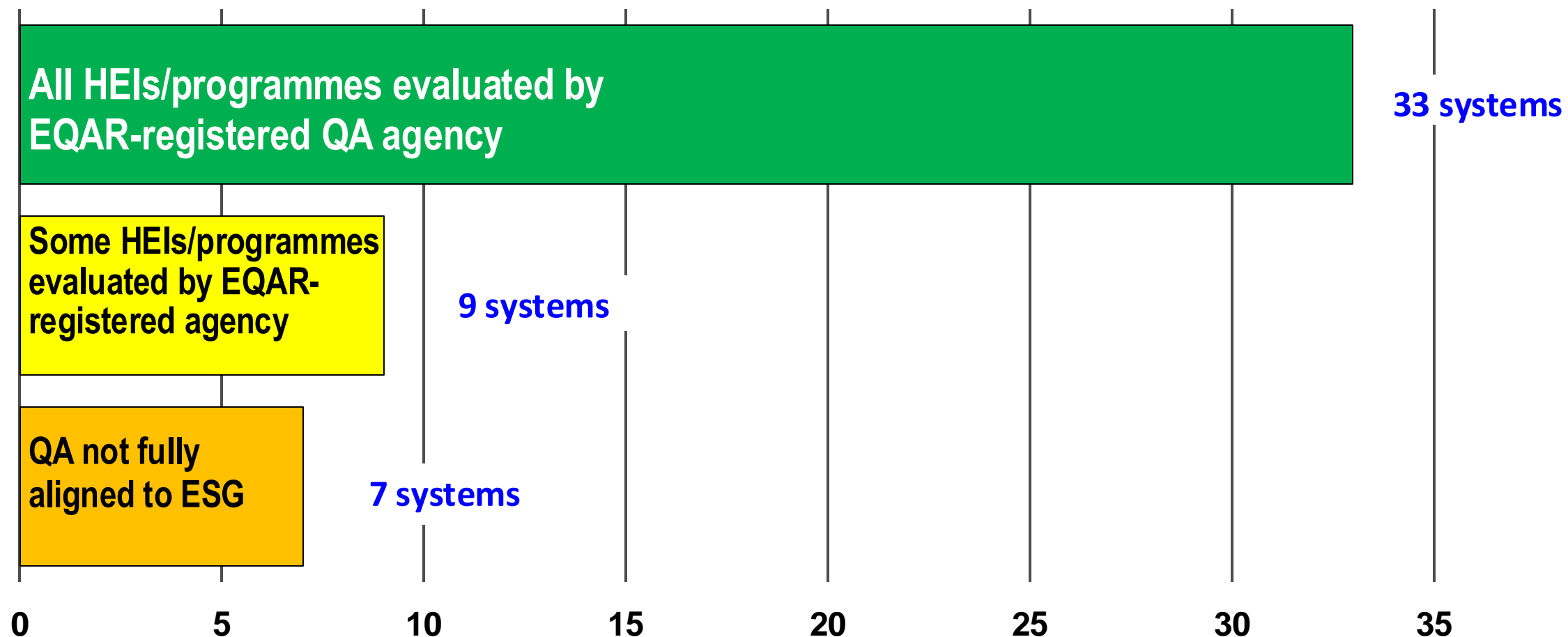
Automatic Recognition

	2024	2020	2018
 19 systems		10	5
		7	8
 16 systems		9	2
		21	29
 13 systems		3	6
 N/A 1 systems			

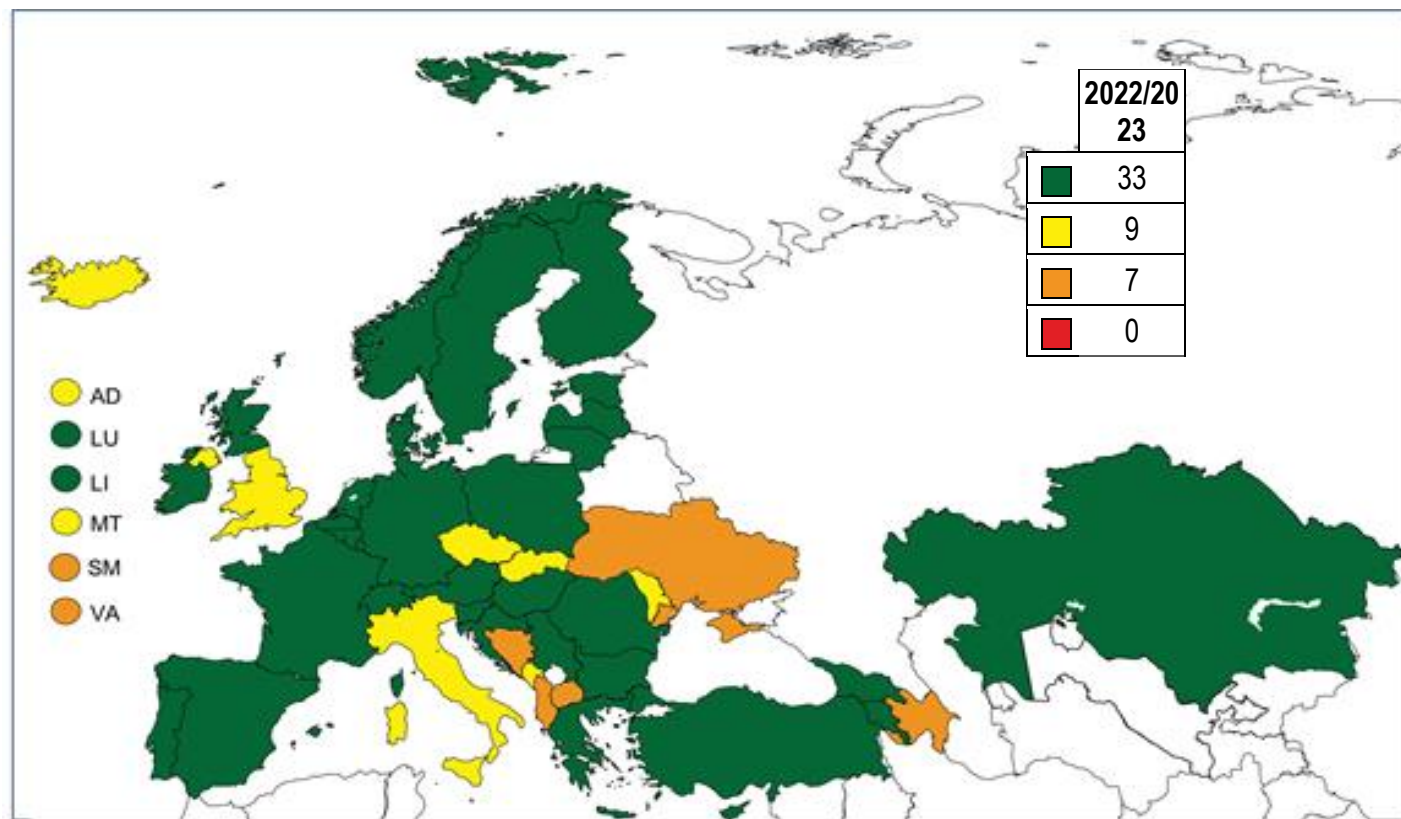
The rise of Quality Assurance

- Before Bologna, a handful of countries had quality assurance systems
- Today, all countries...
- QA has evolved within Bologna
- 2005 European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
- 2008 EQAR established (as register of ESG compliant QA agencies)
- 2015 Revision of ESGs

2024 report: alignment with ESGs



2024 Report: alignment with ESGs



Compared to 2020 report, 3 systems moved to dark green).

Compared to 2018 report, 9 systems have moved to dark green

Other QA Issues

- Student participation fine in most systems, but about 12 systems where there is no progress for several years...
- Possibility for cross border QA is improving, but
- Many countries still restrict use of European Approach for QA of joint programmes

Reflections

- Impact of TPGs difficult to assess, as many other factors in play
- But since TPGs, implementation has improved
- But more needs to be done, and asap....
- ESG will remain the cornerstone for future QA developments
- Many challenges to the higher education sector
- Important period of QA / ESG development taking place

Thank you!

The European Higher Education Area in 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report

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