

# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## Monitoring the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention



*Luca Lantero,  
President  
Lisbon Recognition  
Convention Committee*

**5<sup>th</sup> TPG B on LRC meeting, 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 2023**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



# Second monitoring report on the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Two monitoring exercises conducted so far...

## First analysis conducted from 2014 - 2015

Focused on the **10 main provisions** of the LRC:

- How they are regulated at national level;
- To what extent;
- How at national level they are going to be implemented

## Second analysis conducted from 2019 -2021

Focused on:

**Implementation** of three LRC principles;

**Two new additional sections:**

Automatic Recognition and Digital Solutions



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# First monitoring exercise – 2014/2016

22 questions on the 10 main LRC provisions for 50 respondents

1. Access to an Assessment
2. Criteria and procedures
3. Time limit
4. Right to appeal
5. Information on the Education System
6. Information on Higher Education Institutions
7. National Information Centre
8. Refugees' Qualifications
9. Resources to enable the National Information Centre to fulfil its functions
10. Substantial Difference



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Second monitoring exercise – 2019/2020

11 questions for 53 respondents (52 State Parties)

## 8 questions on 3 LRC principles

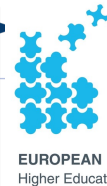
1. Right to appeal (Article III.5)
2. Information provision (Articles III.4; VIII.1; IX.2.2)
3. Transnational Education (Articles IV.9; VI.5)

## 3 questions on 2 additional topics

1. Automatic recognition
2. Digital solutions



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# MAIN SECTION:

1. Right to appeal
2. Information provision
3. Transnational education

- Comparative analysis 2016 – 2021
- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## ADDITIONAL SECTION:

- 4. Automatic recognition
- 5. Digital solution

- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

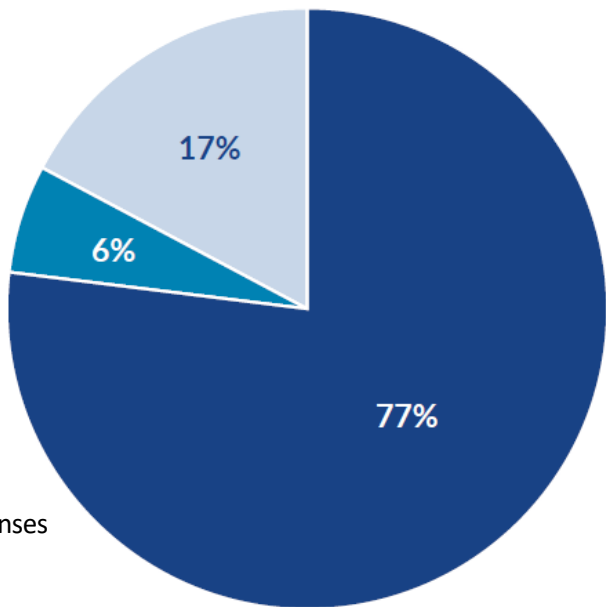
## PART 1. RIGHT TO APPEAL



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Right to appeal: “In case recognition is withheld, or if no decision is taken, is there a possibility for an applicant to appeal?”



Answered: 53 responses

Not answered: 0

- Regulated by specific national regulation
- Regulated by specific national regulation and internally by the competent recognition or assessment authorities
- Regulated only internally by the competent recognition or assessment authorities



Co-funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area



- Transparent, clear and accessible information in a widely spoken language provided by all competent authorities and institutions in charge of recognition procedures at national level
- Information on the right to appeal should be noted in the recognition statement
- HEIs institutional autonomy is not a limitation with regard to providing information for transparent appeal



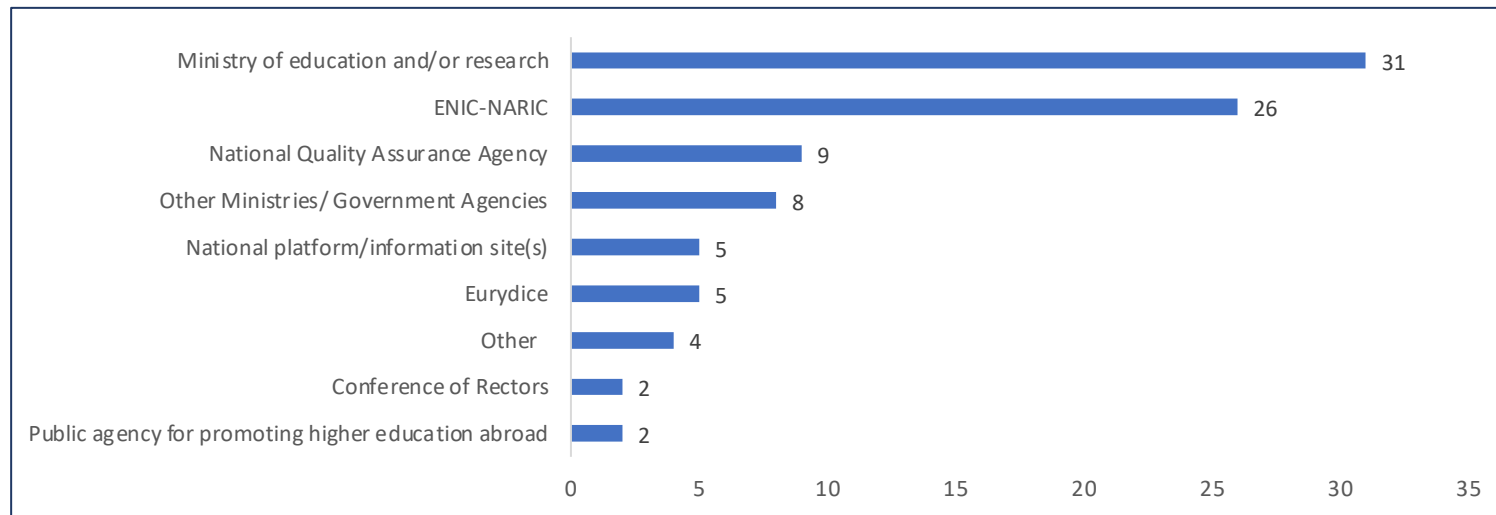
# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## PART 2. INFORMATION PROVISION



Co-funded by  
the European Union

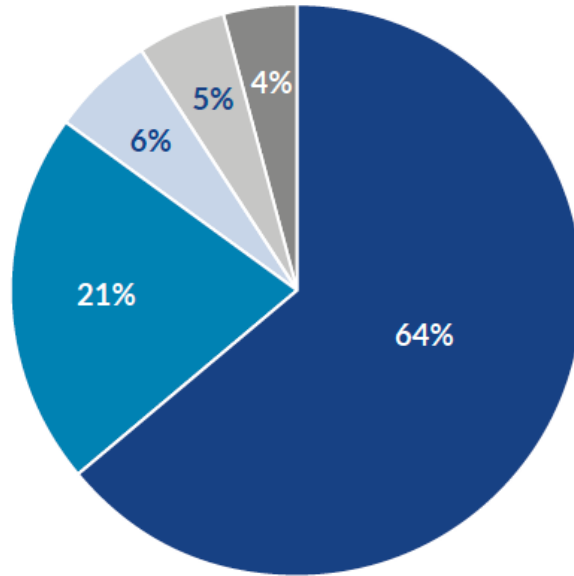
# Is the information on the national educational system available online?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Use of languages

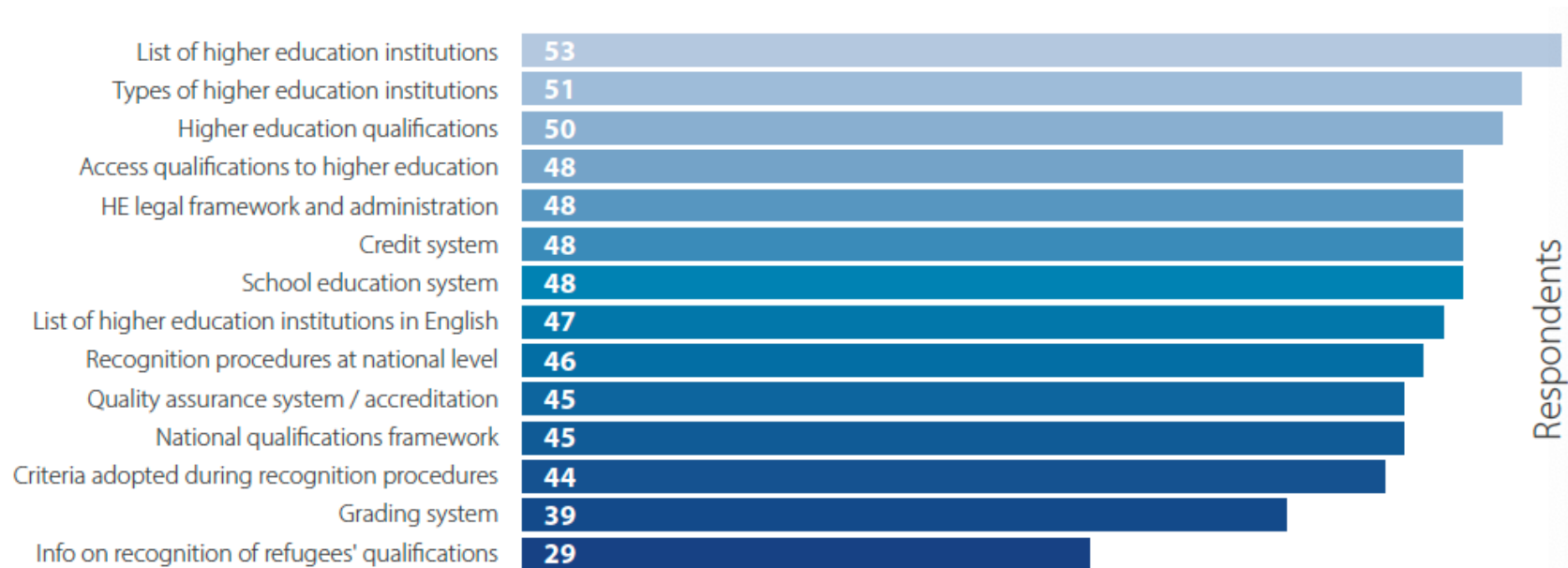


- English
- Official language(s)
- Official language(s), English
- Official language(s), English, Other language(s)
- Not specified



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Availability of online information

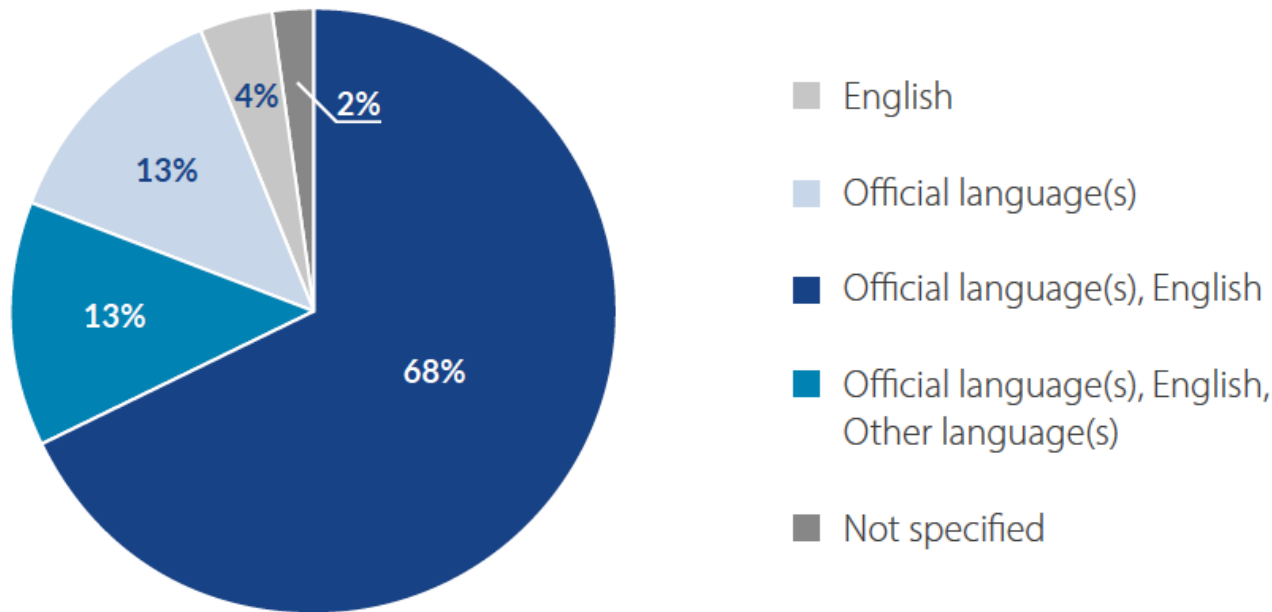


Co-funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area

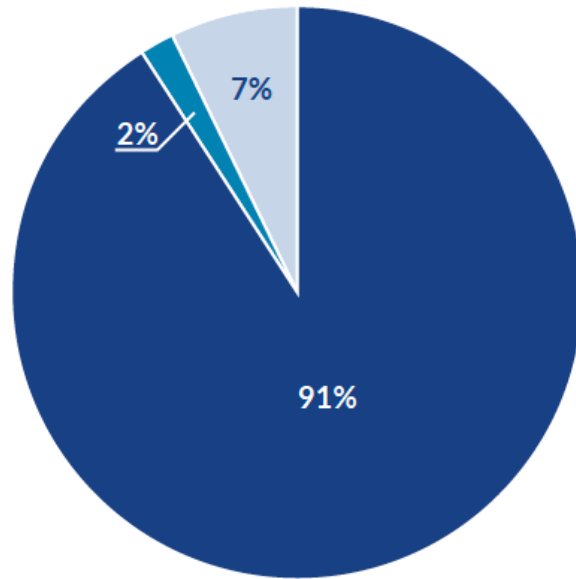
# Is the list of institutions that belong to the national higher education system published and available online?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Is the information on the programs provided by the recognized HEI which belong to the national higher education system published and available online?



- No list of higher education programmes by national authorities
- The list of higher education programmes available on the website(s) of national authorities
- Not specified

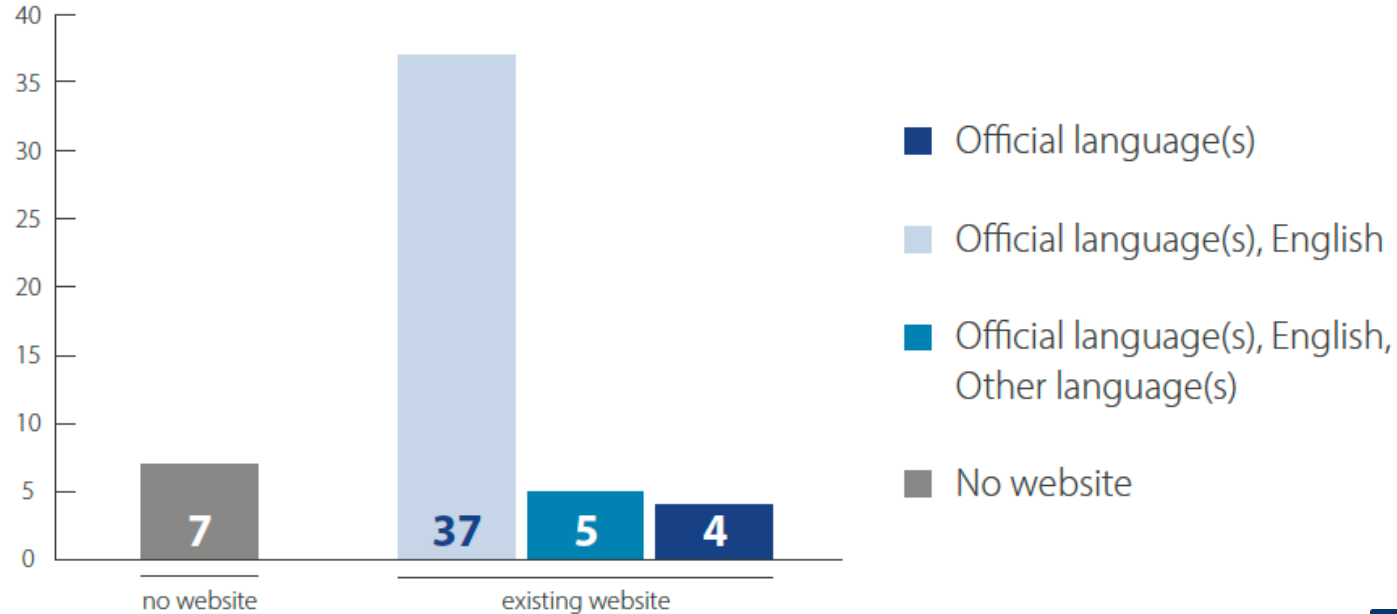


Co-funded by  
the European Union





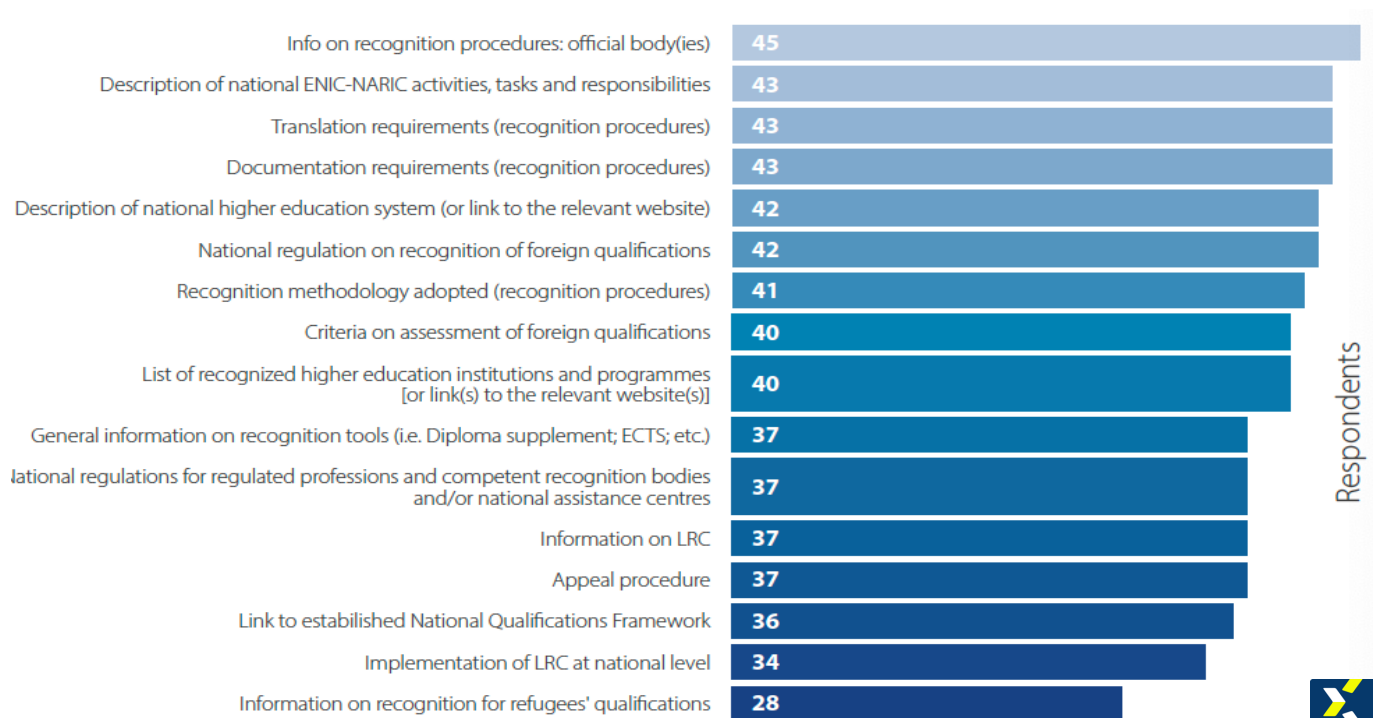
# Does the National Information Centre have a website?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Type of information published on the websites



Co-funded by  
the European Union



EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area

# Recommendations

- Information within a single information source or via a single entry point at national level and provided in a widely-spoken language, preferably English;
- information on where to find details on accredited study programmes at national level;
- clear, accessible and transparent dissemination of information by developing the financial capacity and strengthening the role of National Information Centres;
- information activities developed considering a national comprehensive strategy;;
- full implementation of *“Guidelines for national online information systems”*, adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee in 2019;
- pertinent and focused information on procedures for the recognition of refugees’ qualifications
- strengthen cooperation between LRCC Bureau and EB/NA



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## PART 3. TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Part 3. Transnational education

Data not available in 2016

### Monitoring exercise 2021

- Do you make the recognition of qualifications issued by foreign educational institutions operating in your territory contingent upon **specific requirements**?
- Is the list of your official TNE institutions operating in your country published and available?
- Is a list of your official TNE institutions operating abroad published and available?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Main Recommendations 1/2

- **update** of the “Revised Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education”;
- Relevance on **quality assurance** aspects of **programmes** and **institutions**, considering both **the awarding body** and the **institution administering studies**;
- higher education institutions and/or national authorities clearly provide **information related to quality assurance** aspects and all the other elements of the TNE qualification **that may differ from the national qualification**;



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Main Recommendations 2/2

- national authorities are invited to adopt every possible measure to eradicate all forms of mispractice within the TNE sector, such as Diploma Mills and fraudulent qualifications;
- **LRCC Bureau and EB/NAB should strengthen their cooperation** in line with their role and activities in order to provide pertinent and up-to-date information to each State Party.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## PART 4. AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# AR: modes of implementation

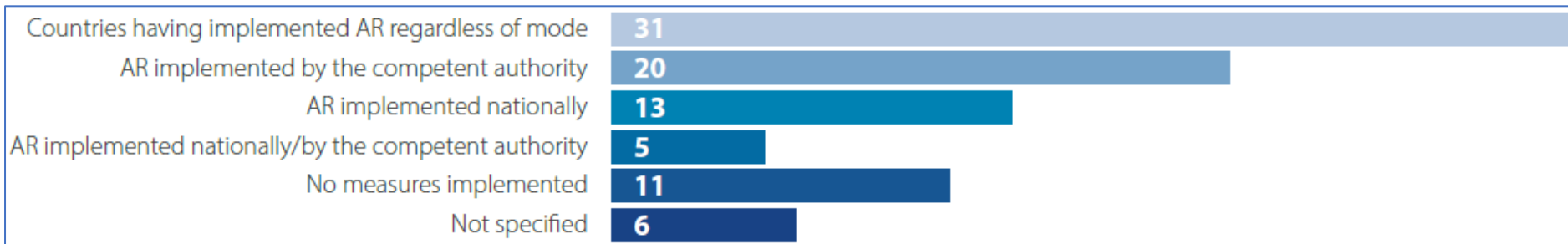
1. Legal bilateral and multilateral agreements
2. A legally binding unilateral list of degrees
3. Non-legal binding bilateral and multilateral agreements
4. De facto automatic recognition



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# AR: modes of implementation



Answered: 53 responses

Not answered: 0



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# AR Recommendations 1/2

- ✓ Full and fair implementation of all the LRC principles is the fundamental basis for any automatic recognition procedure
- ✓ The remaining 11 countries which have not implemented AR should examine the possibilities of implementing one of the modes of AR
- ✓ Countries should examine the possibility to expand the area for which AR is granted
- ✓ Countries and ENIC-Centres should ensure that AR is implemented nationally. AR applies to all recognition authorities



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# AR Recommendations 2/2

- ✓ Countries should disseminate information on AR to all national recognition authorities including the distinction between access and admission
- ✓ Recommendation to the LRCC Bureau to draft a subsidiary text on automatic recognition



Co-funded by  
the European Union



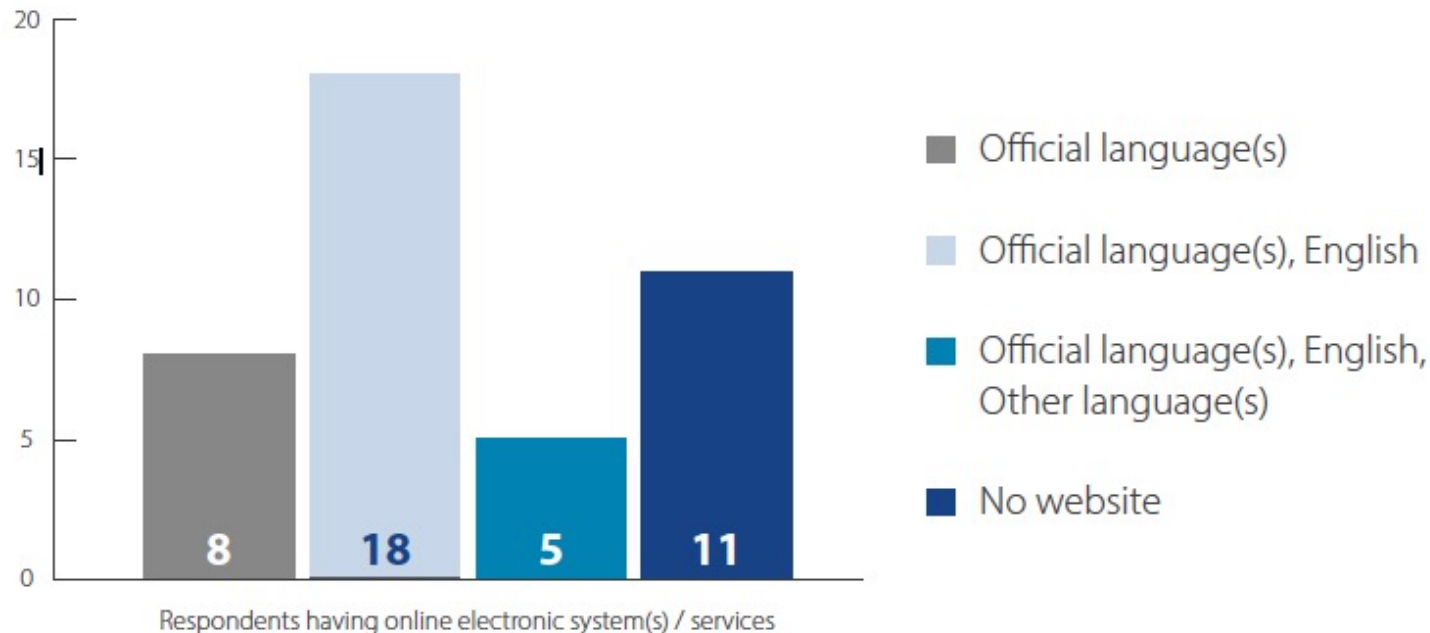
# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## PART 5. DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



Co-funded by  
the European Union

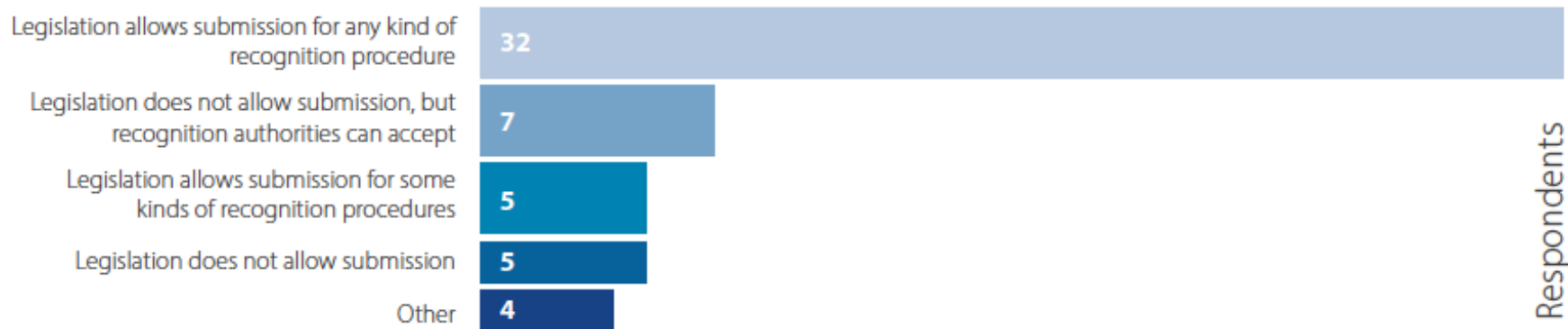
# QUESTION 10 – Does the National Information Centre have online electronic system(s)/solution(s)?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# QUESTION 11 – Does your national legislation allow for the presentation of virtual digital documentation during recognition procedures?



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Recommendations

- ✓ New subsidiary text of the LRC on digital solutions, taking into account the existing *Guidelines for national online information systems (June 2019)*
- ✓ encouraging different ways of implementing online digital solutions for recognition and use of appropriate resources
- ✓ open, accessible, interoperable and interconnected digital solutions adopted at national and institutional level
- ✓ digital solutions fully compliant with international standards for privacy and data protection
- ✓ digital strategies ensuring inclusivity of tools and interoperability of digital technologies developed by national authorities and higher education institutions
- ✓ digital ecosystem that respect the right to appeal and grant the possibility to review recognition decisions according to the outcome of the appeal procedure



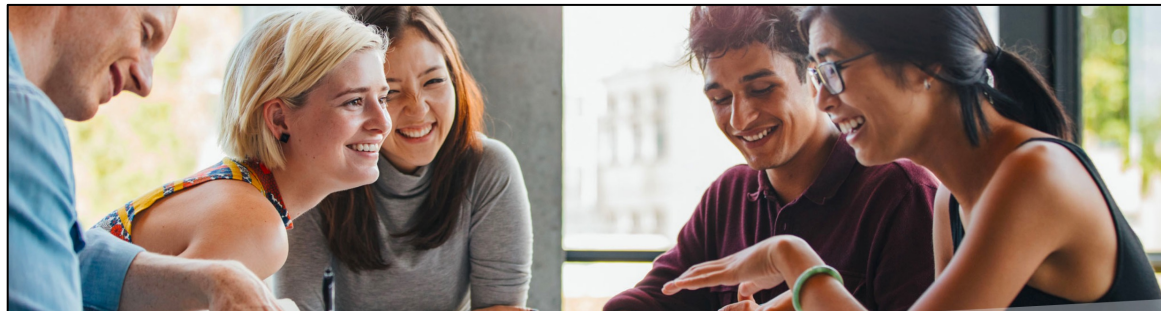
Co-funded by  
the European Union





# Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

## THANK YOU!



*Luca Lantero,  
President  
Lisbon Recognition  
Convention Committee*

**5<sup>th</sup> TPG B on LRC meeting, 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 2023**



Co-funded by  
the European Union