



# Working Group on Social Dimension meeting



*24 April 2023*

# QA-FIT project (2022-2024)

## Partners

- ▶ **ENQA**–European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Belgium
- ▶ **ESU**–European Students' Union, Belgium
- ▶ **EUA**–European University Association, Belgium
- ▶ **EURASHE**–European Association of Institutions in Higher Education, Belgium
- ▶ **EQAR**–European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education, Belgium
- ▶ **ANOSR**–National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania, Romania
- ▶ **FINEEC**–Finnish Education Evaluation Centre, Finland
- ▶ **IUA**–Irish Universities Association, Ireland
- ▶ **MOESGE** (associate partner) –Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Georgia

## Aim

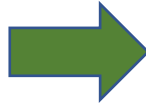
- ▶ **Gather comprehensive evidence and reflect if and how the current EHEA framework of the ESG is implemented and needs to adapt**
  - ▶ conduct a comprehensive mapping exercise of the state of play of internal and external quality assurance in the EHEA;
  - ▶ take a critical look at the ESG and see how they have been adapted to different contexts;
  - ▶ explore how quality assurance activities are addressing recent and emerging developments in higher education including activities that go beyond the focus of the ESG and that use innovative approaches, and
  - ▶ gather perspectives on the future of quality assurance in the EHEA.

# QA-FIT project (2022-2024)

## Main activities

### ▼ **Surveys to**

- ▼ Quality assurance agencies
- ▼ Ministries
- ▼ Higher education institutions
- ▼ National student unions &
- ▼ Student QA Pool members



will feed in a series of **6 papers and webinars**

- ▼ **Five focus groups** to discuss in detail some of the matters arising from the surveys
- ▼ **A final publication** and **policy recommendations**
- ▼ **A final conference** organised in Brussels
- ▼ At EHEA level, the project findings will feed directly into the discussions leading up to the next Bologna Process Ministerial Conference in 2024 and, if appropriate, into the drafting of the 2024 Tirana Communiqué.

# QA-FIT survey

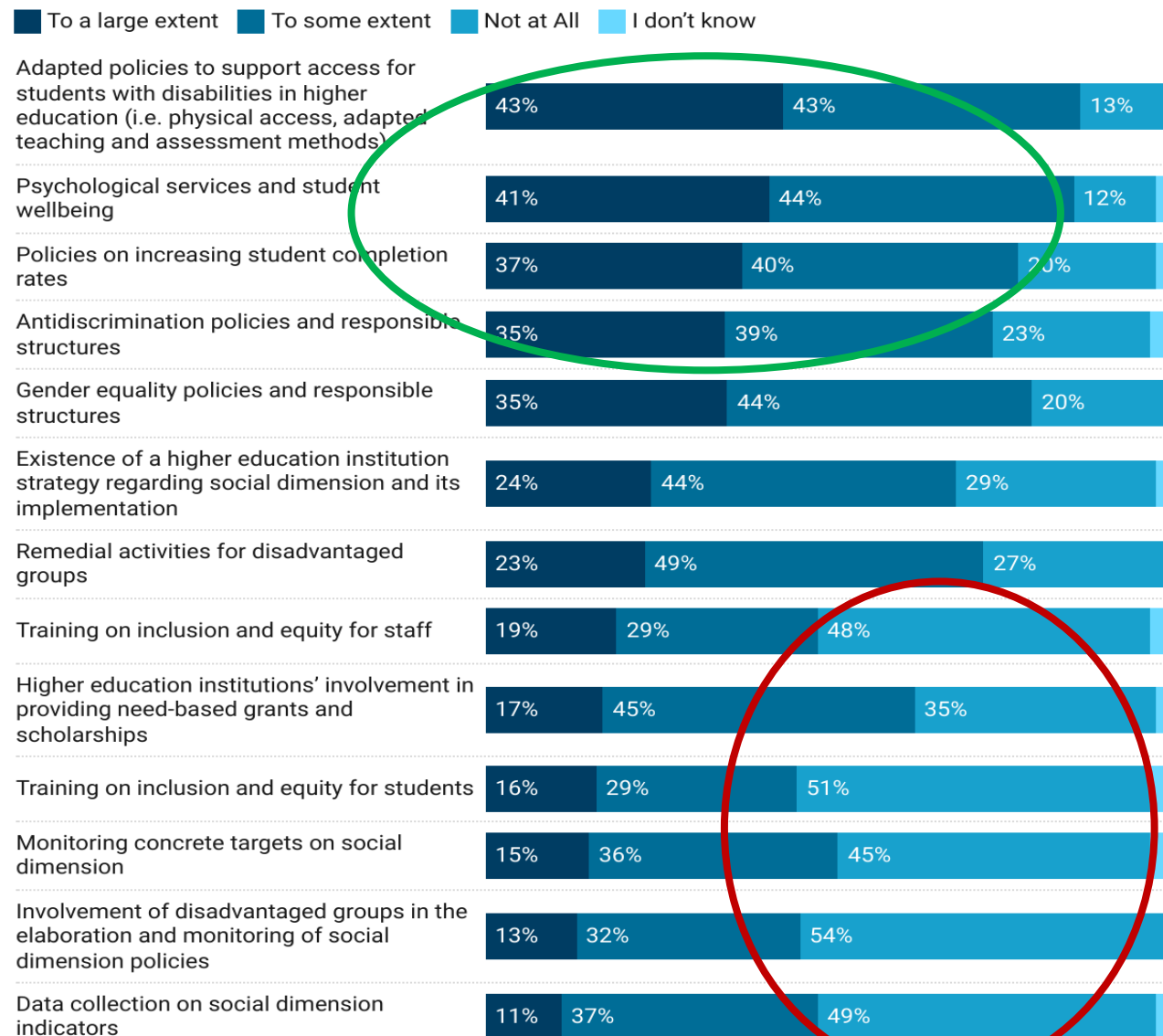
## General information

- ▶ 45 EHEA countries from 46 systems
- ▶ 76 QA agencies
- ▶ 59 QA agencies (78%) activate only in the EHEA
- ▶ 62 agencies (82%) act under a national/system-level legal framework
- ▶ Besides being QA agencies, they also have various other roles
- ▶ Most of them cover HE sector (75 → 99%); usually they cover 2 or more sectors

# QA-FIT survey

## Social dimension – state of play

- ▼ Social dimension is an area covered by 85% of the agencies to a large or some extent when evaluating the internal quality assurance system
- ▼ 15% agencies do not cover this area
- ▼ Most covered:
  - ▼ Adapted policies to support access for students with disabilities
  - ▼ Psychological services and student wellbeing
  - ▼ Policies on increasing student completion rates
- ▼ Least covered
  - ▼ Training on inclusion and equity for students and staff
  - ▼ Monitoring concrete targets on SD
  - ▼ Involvement of disadvantaged groups in the elaboration and monitoring of SD policies
  - ▼ Data collection on social dimension indicators



*To what extent are the following aspects of social dimension covered by the external quality assurance procedures of your agency?*

Chart: ENQA • Source: QA-FIT • Created with Datawrapper

# QA-FIT survey

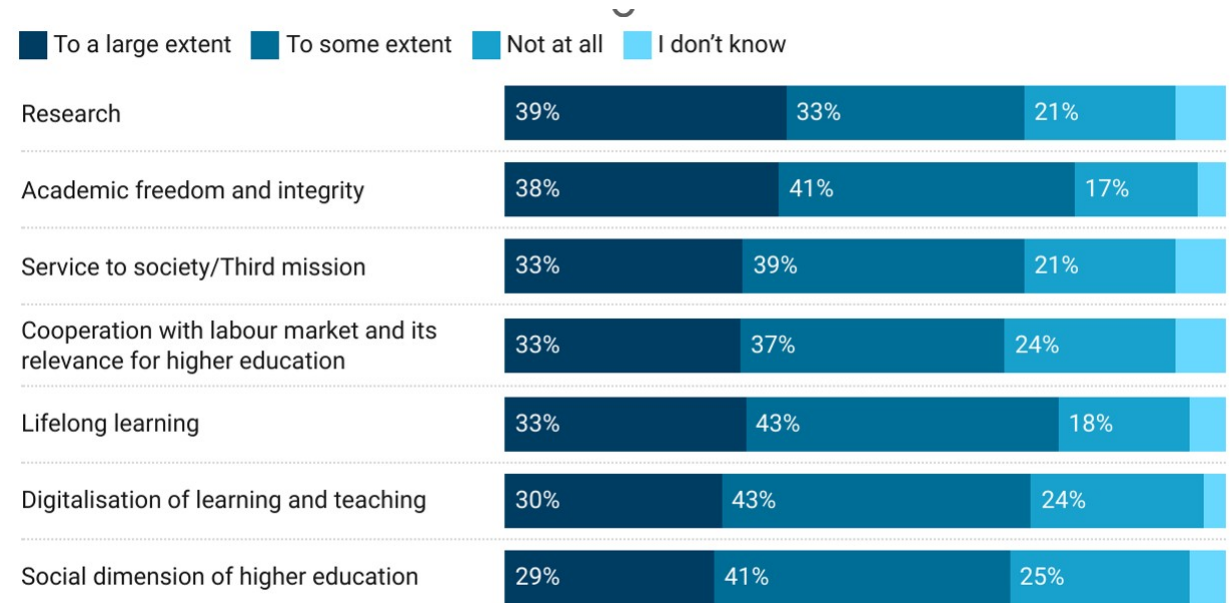
Social dimension – other bodies that evaluate the social dimension

- ▶ Ministry or other government body
- ▶ Higher education institutions themselves
- ▶ No other body is doing it
- ▶ Not applicable for a number of agencies as they are not tied to any specific national system

# QA-FIT survey

## Social dimension – ESG

► If the scope of the ESG Part 1 were to be expanded, what should it cover in more detail?



# Higher Education Institutions and Social Dimension

Data from the QA-FIT survey to HEIs



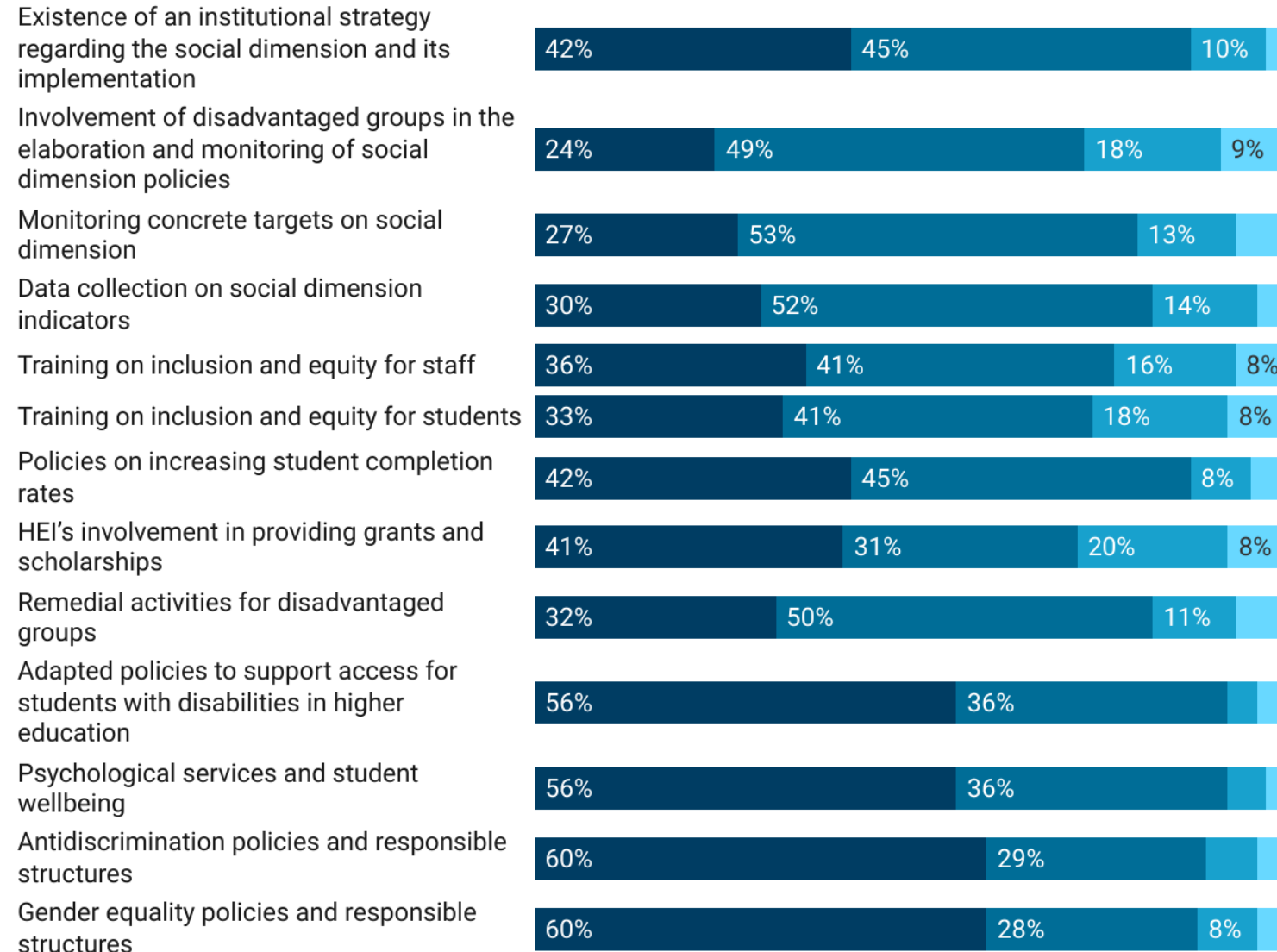


## Data received:

- ▼ 260 valid responses;
- ▼ respondents are universities (71%), universities of applied sciences (19%), and other higher education institutions;
- ▼ 150 responding institutions are members of a university alliance (almost 58%);
- ▼ responses received from almost all countries of the EHEA (41) but coverage is uneven;
- ▼ examples: 24 valid responses from Lithuania, 22 from Georgia, 21 from Finland, 14 from Spain, 11 from Germany, no responses from France, Albania, Hungary, Malta, etc.

# To what extent are the following indicators on social dimension covered by the internal quality assurance procedures of your institution?

To a large extent
  To some extent
  Not at all
  I don't know



According to survey respondents:

- ▶ internal quality assurance procedures **cover all indicators on social dimension to a large or to some extent;**
- ▶ in comparison with fundamental values, **internal QA is less involved in the evaluation of social dimension;**
- ▶ 71% of respondents indicated that **external quality assurance in the respective education system evaluates the social dimension.**

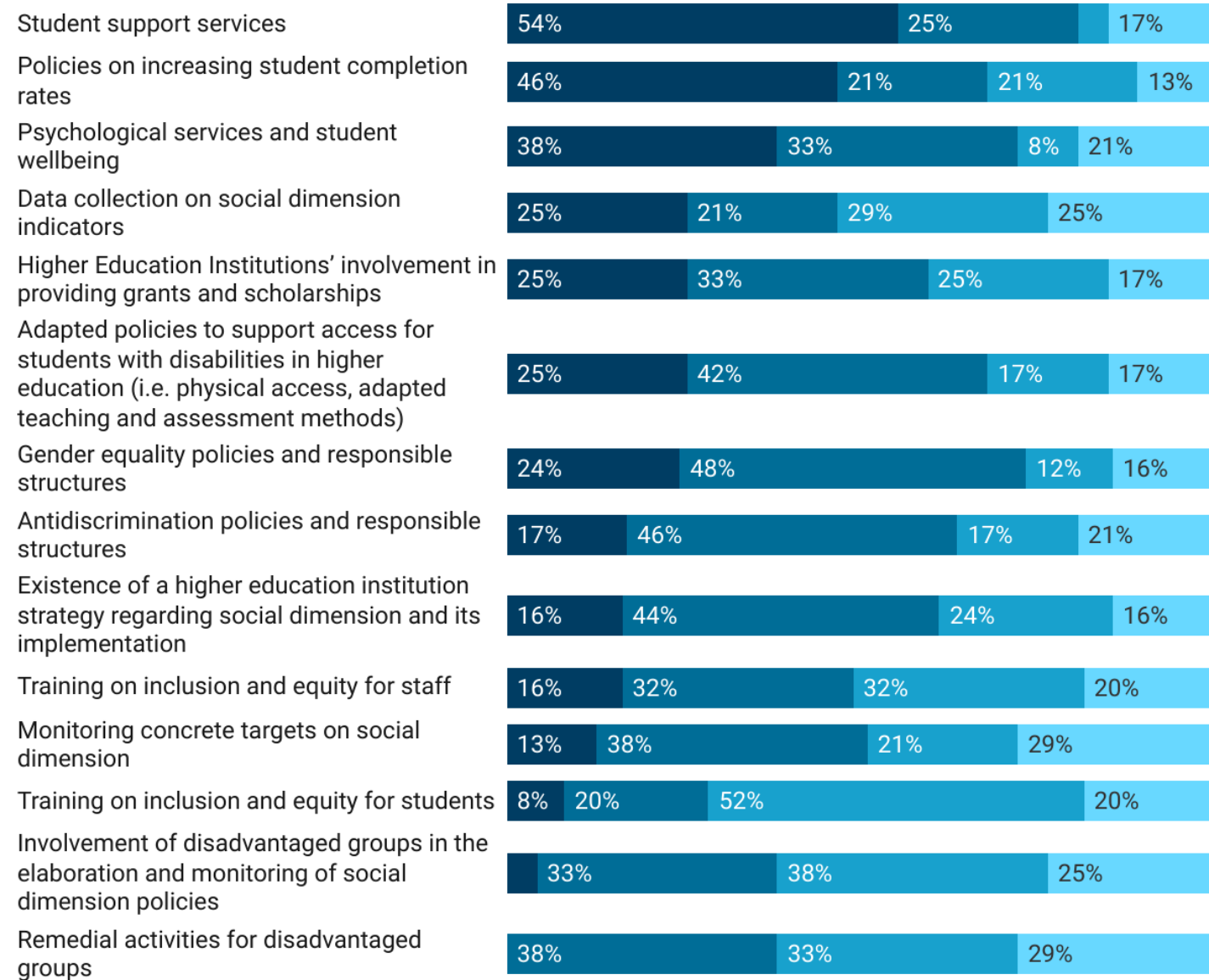
# **National Unions of Students and Social Dimension**

**Data from the QA-FIT survey to NUSes**



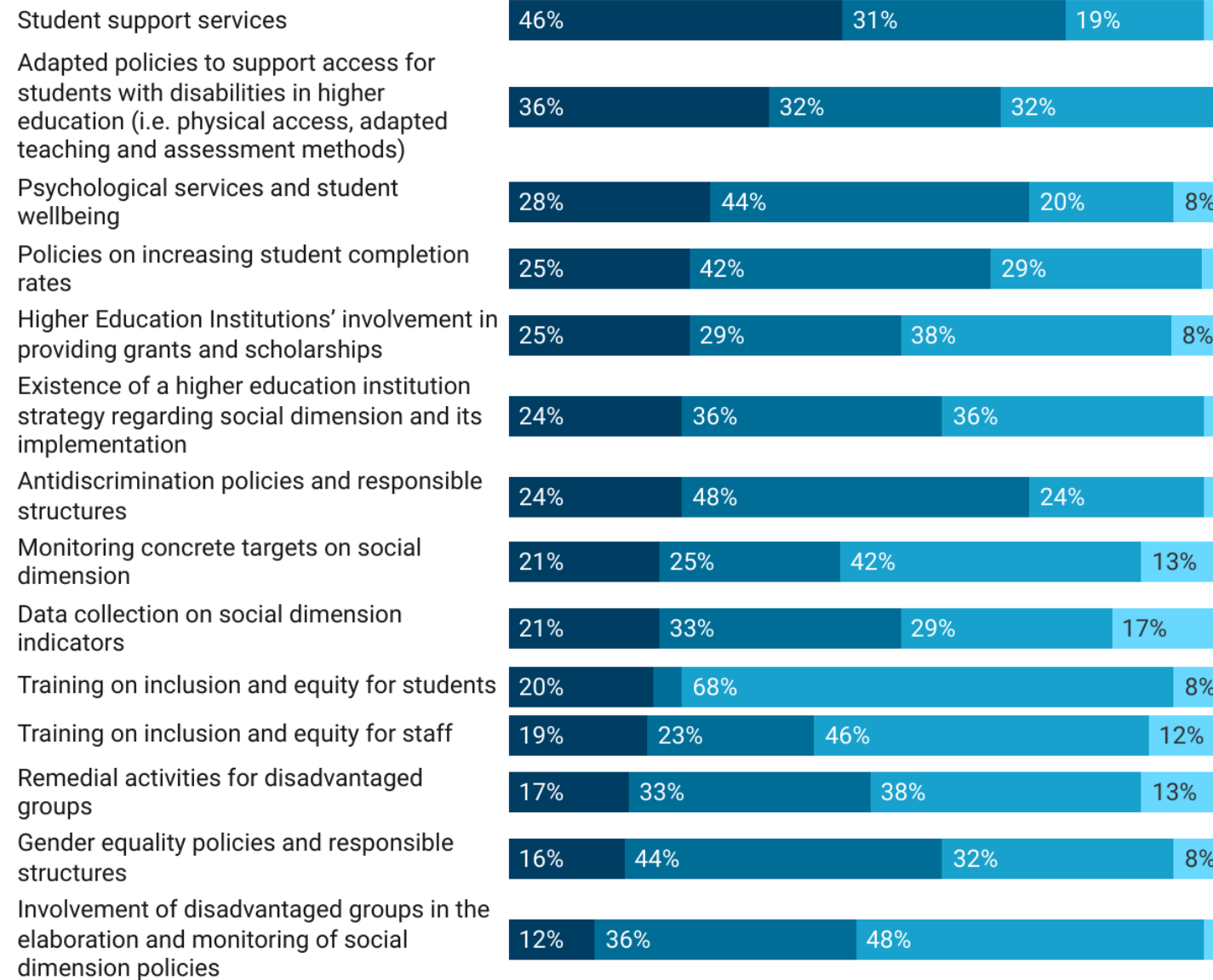
To what extent are the following aspects of social dimension covered by the internal quality assurance procedures in your country?

To a large extent
  To some extent
  Not at all
  I don't know



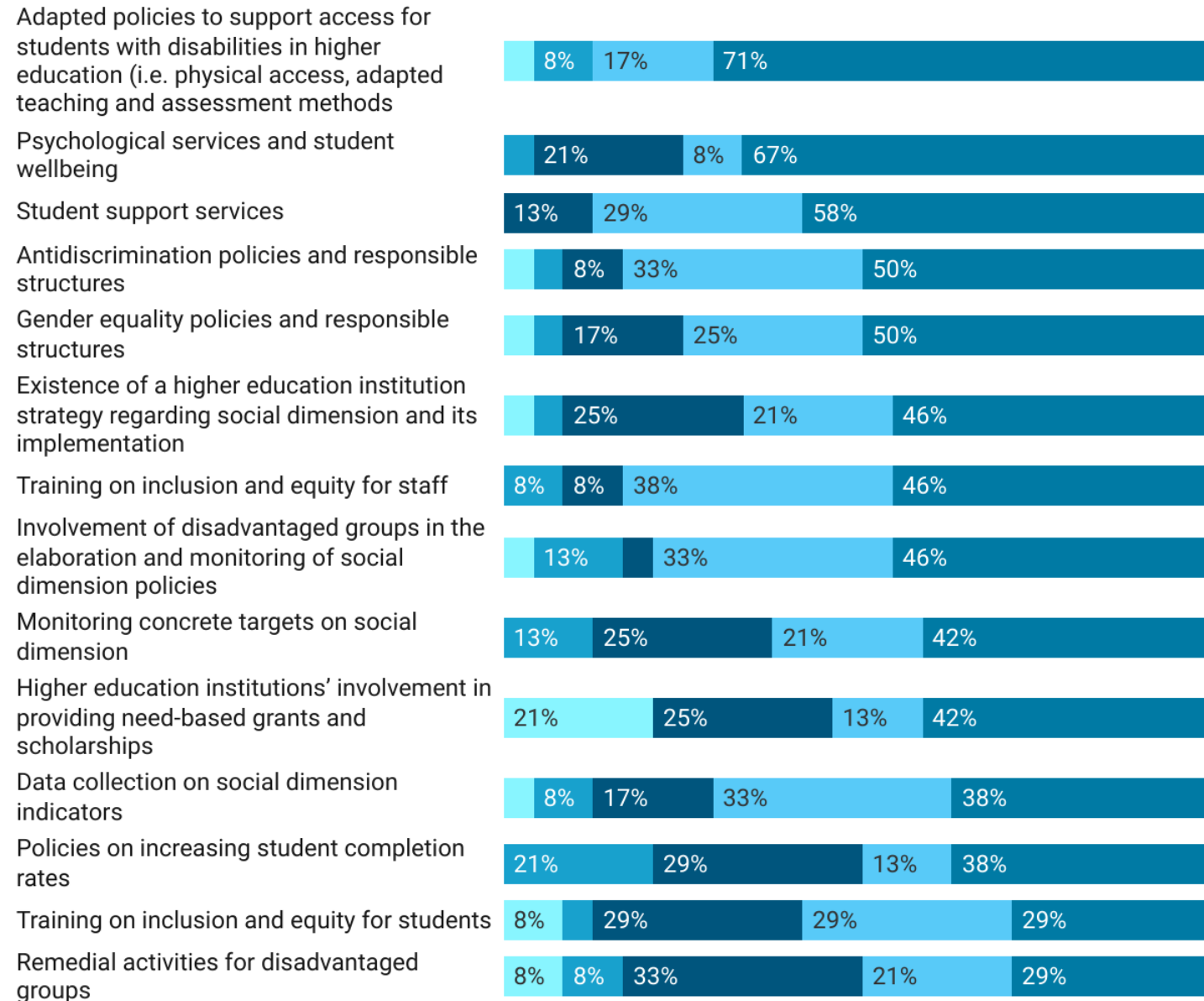
To what extent are the following aspects of social dimension covered by the external quality assurance procedures in your country?

To a large extent
  To some extent
  Not at all
  I don't know



## How important is it that the following aspects on social dimension are used for External QA?

Not important
Slightly important
Somewhat important
Fairly important
Very important





If the scope of the ESG Part 1 were to be expanded, what should it cover in more detail?

To a large extent
  To some extent
  Not at all
  I don't know

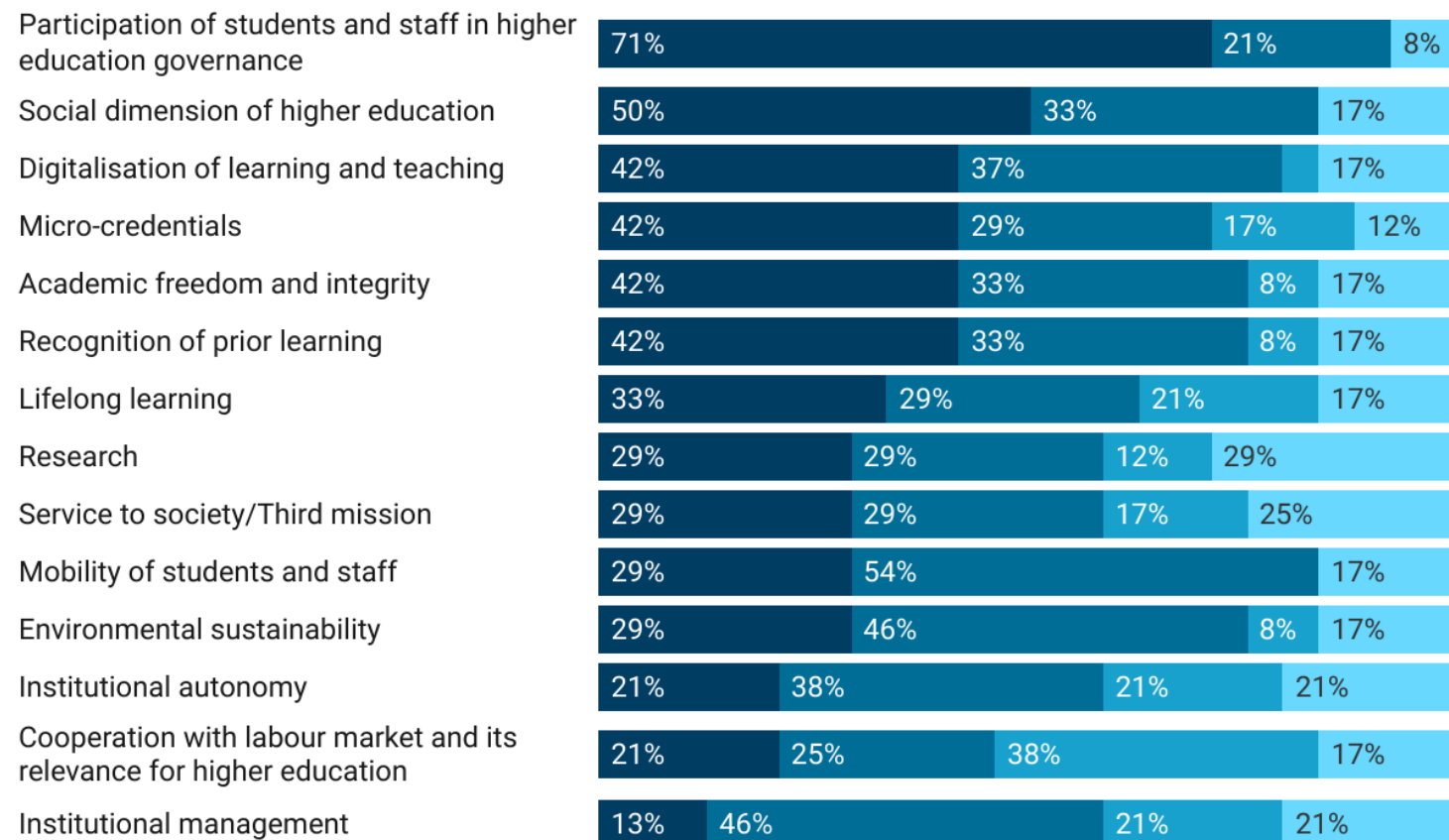


Chart: ESU-NUSes • Source: QA FIT • Created with Datawrapper

# **Ministries and Social Dimension**

**Data from the QA-FIT survey to Ministries**

- 33 out of 36 respondents were EQAR members (at the time of the survey)
- Representing 78% of the HE systems in EHEA
- most of the respondents have between 4 and 20 years of experience (85% of respondents)
- almost half of them have between 10 to 20 years of experience (47% of respondents)

## How familiar are you with the ESG

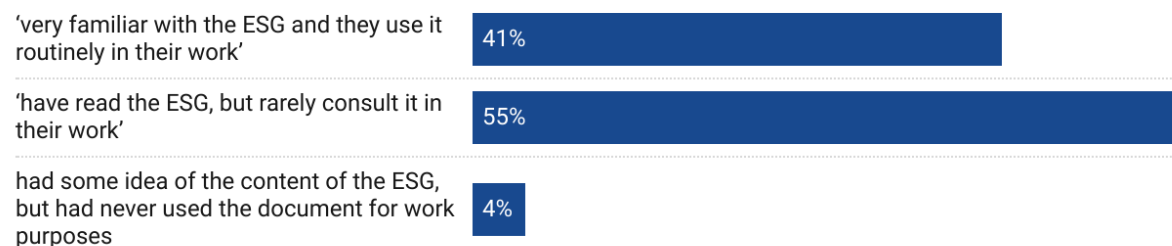
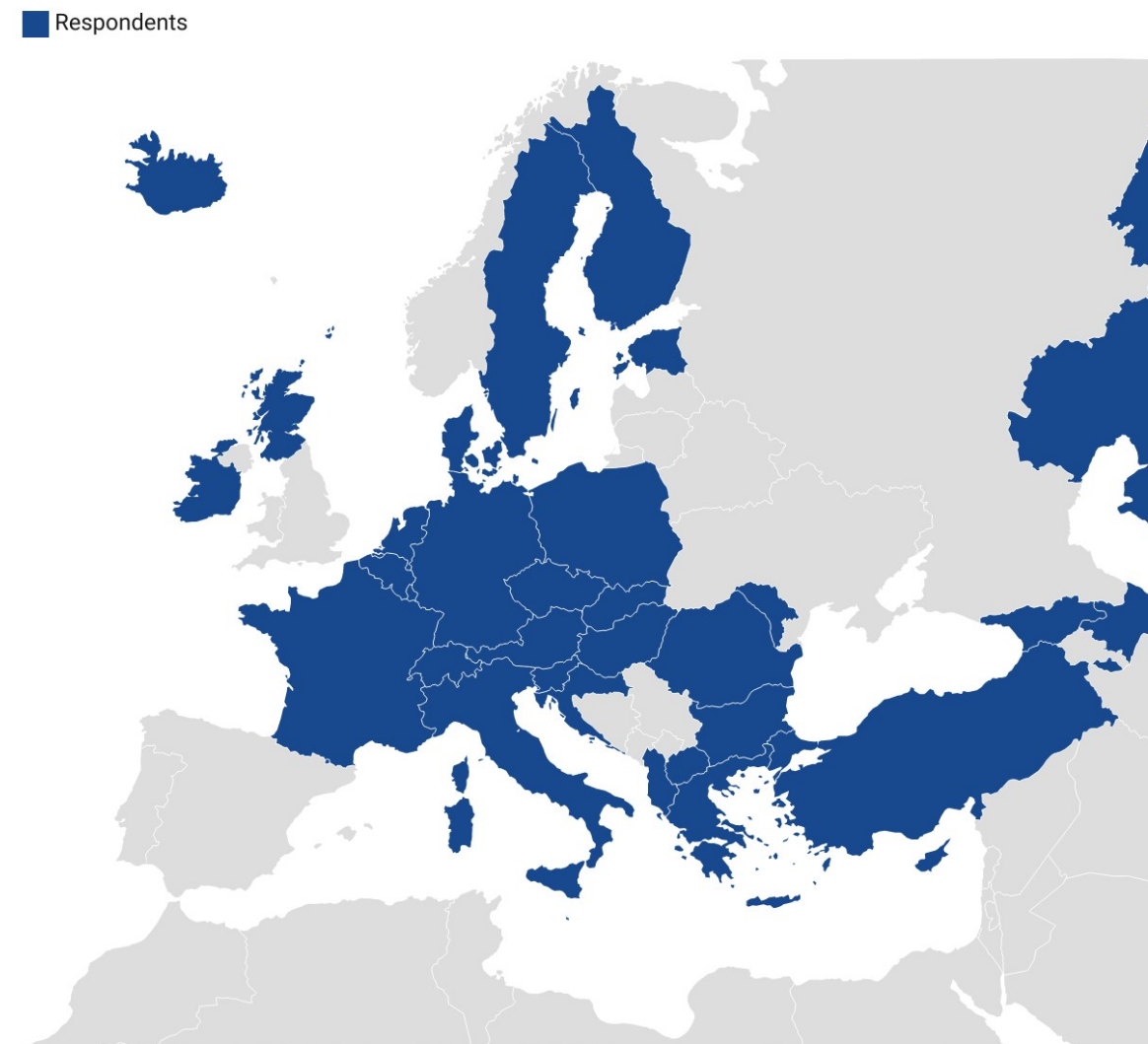


Chart: EQAR • Source: QA-FIT • Created with Datawrapper

## QA FIT Survey - Ministry



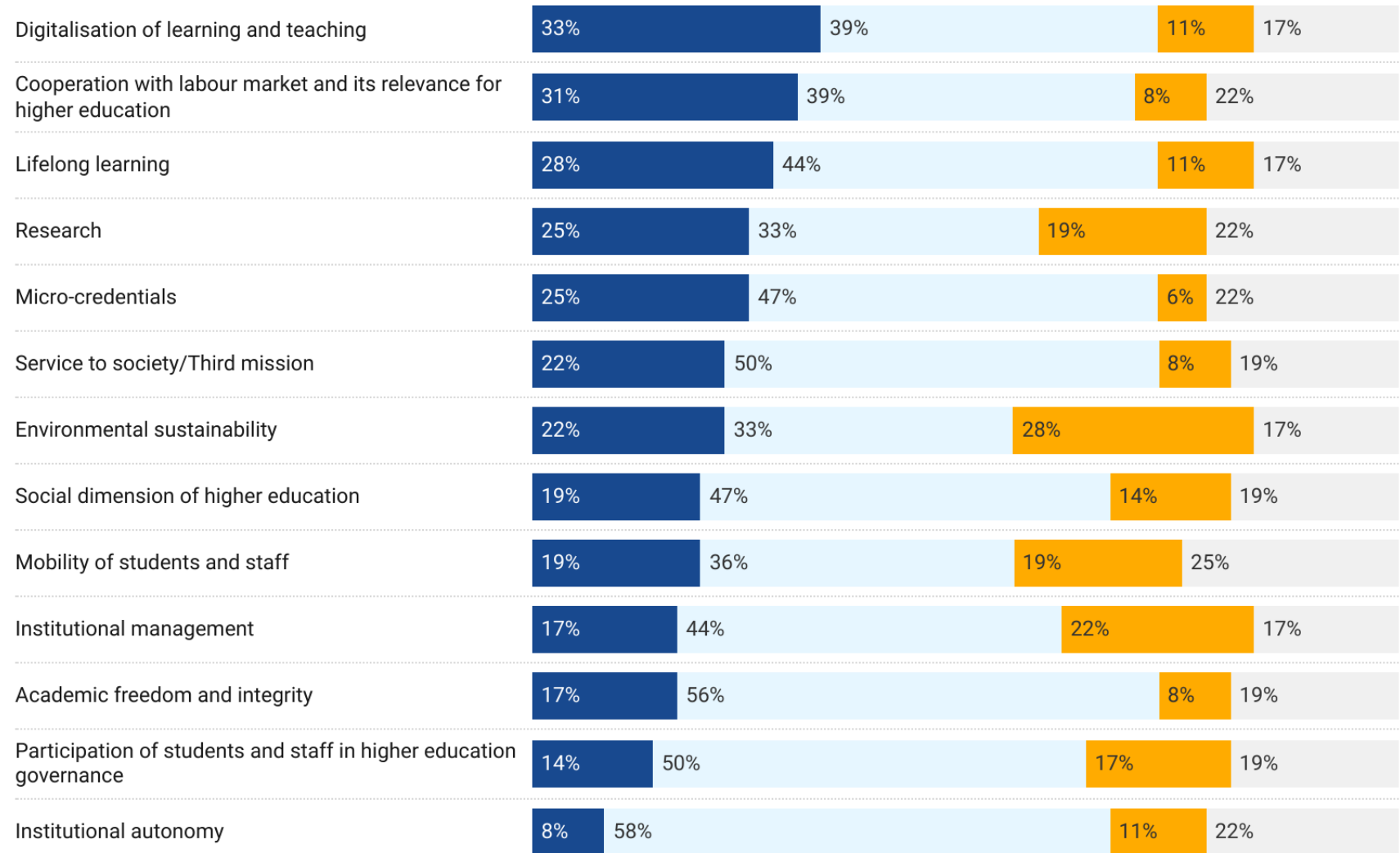
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- 66% positively answered whether Part 1 of the ESG should cover more in detail SD



If the scope of the ESG Part 1 were to be expanded, what should it cover in more detail?

■ To a large extent ■ To some extent ■ Not at all ■ I do not know



Are the following indicators concerning the social dimension of higher education addressed as part of the quality assurance of higher education institutions in your system?

■ Fully addressed
 ■ Partially addressed
 ■ Not at all
 ■ I do not know

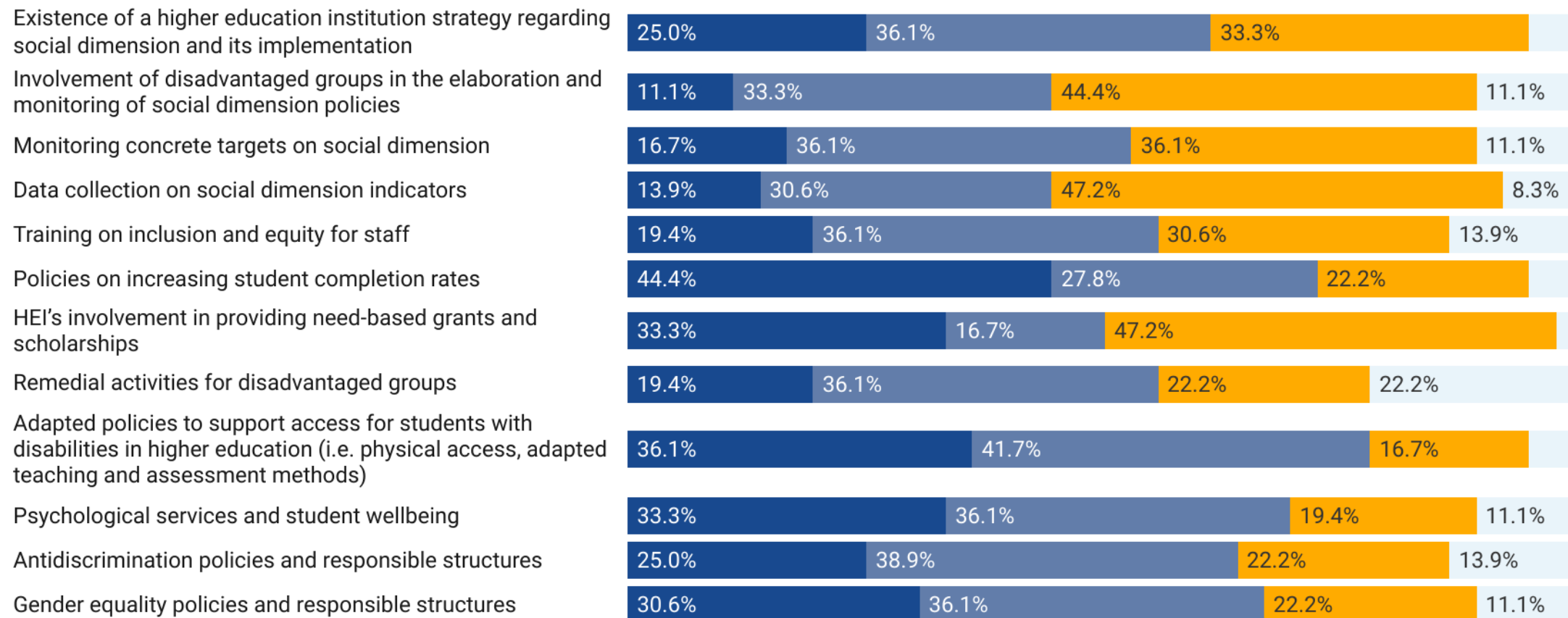


Chart: EQAR • Source: QA FIT Survey • Created with Datawrapper



Are the following indicators concerning the social dimension of higher education addressed as part of the quality assurance of higher education institutions in your system?

■ Fully addressed
 ■ Partially addressed
 ■ Not at all
 ■ I do not know

Existence of a higher education institution strategy regarding social dimension and its implementation



Involvement of disadvantaged groups in the elaboration and monitoring of social dimension policies



Monitoring concrete targets on social dimension



Data collection on social dimension indicators



Training on inclusion and equity for staff



Policies on increasing student completion rates



HEI's involvement in providing need-based grants and scholarships



Remedial activities for disadvantaged groups



Adapted policies to support access for students with disabilities in higher education (i.e. physical access, adapted teaching and assessment methods)



Psychological services and student wellbeing



Antidiscrimination policies and responsible structures



Gender equality policies and responsible structures



Chart: EQAR • Source: QA FIT Survey • Created with Datawrapper





# Thank you!

