# Bologna Implementation Report 2018 -

Overview of indicators on QA

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EHEA today
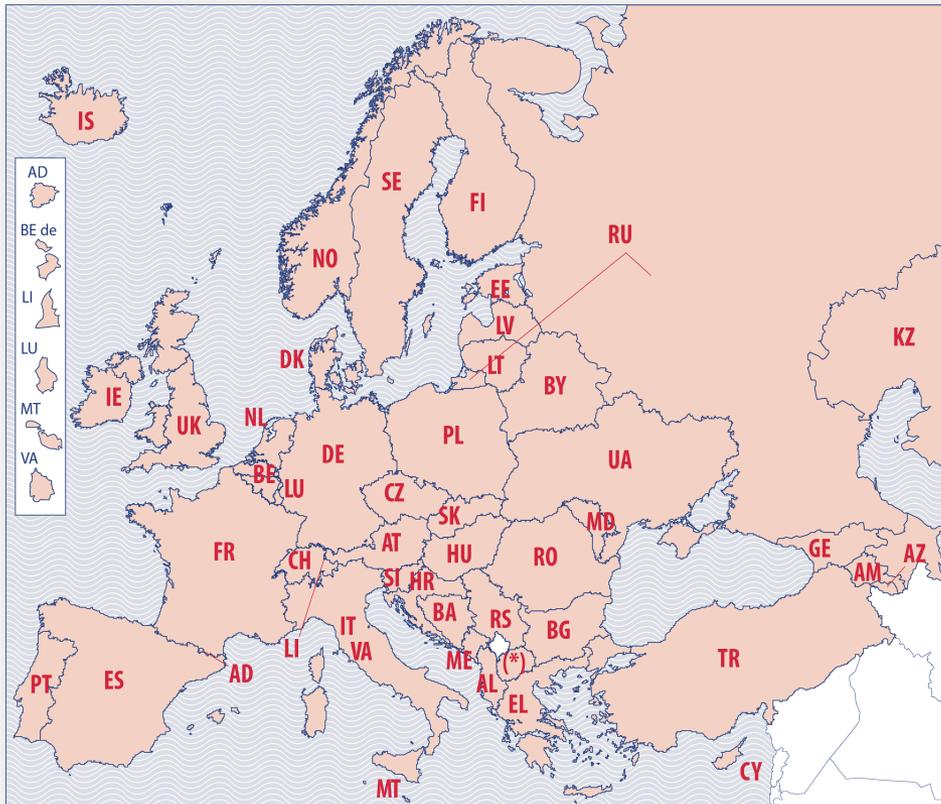
Framework for higher education co-operation in Europe.

48 countries

38 million students:
56 % in Russia, Turkey, Germany, France and UK

1.2 % GDP public expenditure (average)

EHEA tomorrow (?)
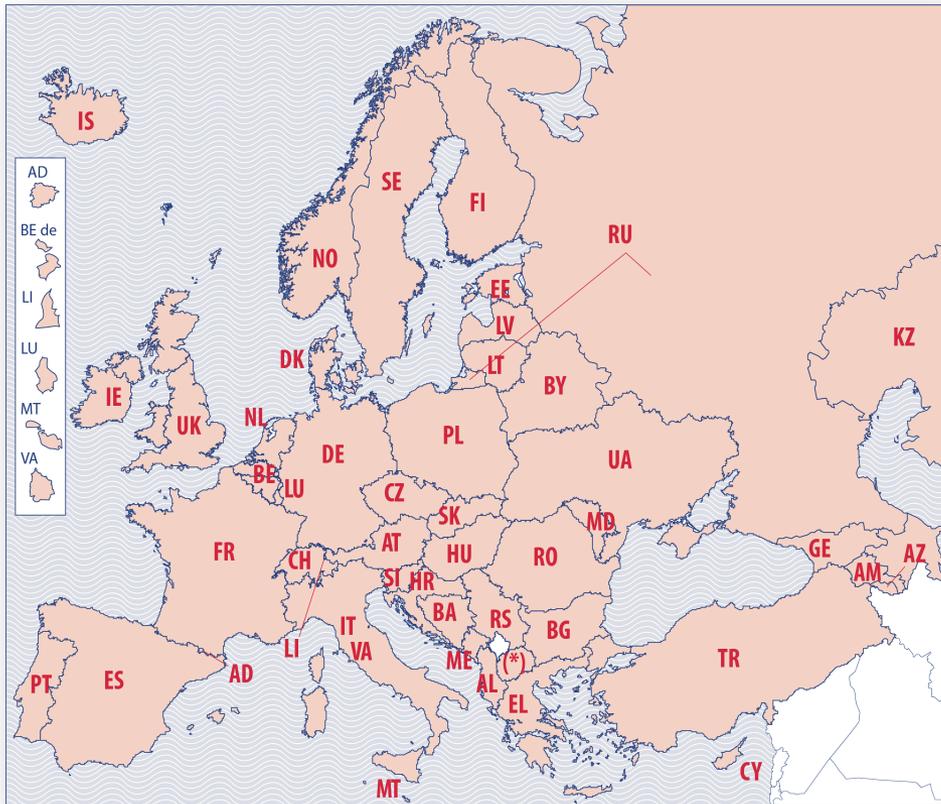
Moving Beyond 2020

A working framework to support "a more ambitious EHEA" (Paris Communique)

Structured peer support approach for the implementation of the key commitments

-> Mandate of the Bologna Process Implementation Report to assess the main developments in the EHEA

Key commitments: not yet all green

Potential pitfalls on Key Commitments

1) Countries won't turn green by 2020 as a result of peer support

2) Through concentrating on key commitments we might neglect other issues (e.g. social dimension)

3) False sense of security

- If key commitments turn green, our EHEA dreams will come true...

"My class is so large and my seat is so far back, I feel like I'm taking a distance-learning course."
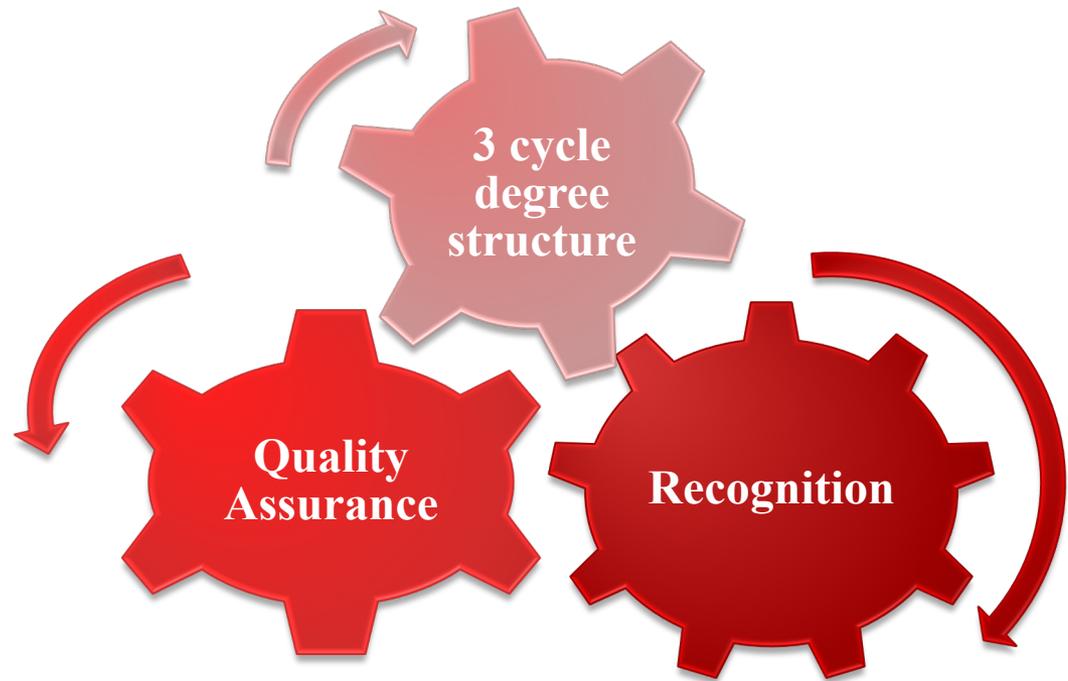
Key Commitments:

Paris Communique 2018 on QA:

- *« **We encourage the use of the Erasmus+ programme for increasing cooperation, beyond mobility, and <u>achieving progress on the key commitments.</u> »***

- *« …we commit to removing the remaining obstacles to their (ESG) implementation in national legislations and regulations »*

- *«…we will also enable and promote the use of the "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" in our higher education systems. We welcome and will promote the development of the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR). »*

Key commitment on QA
Scorecard Indicator. stage of development of QA system

No QA system

QA system in operation but not aligned to ESG

QA system, but only some HEIs subject to QA via EQAR agency

QA system aligned to ESG but agency not registered on EQAR

All HEIs QA via EQAR registered agency
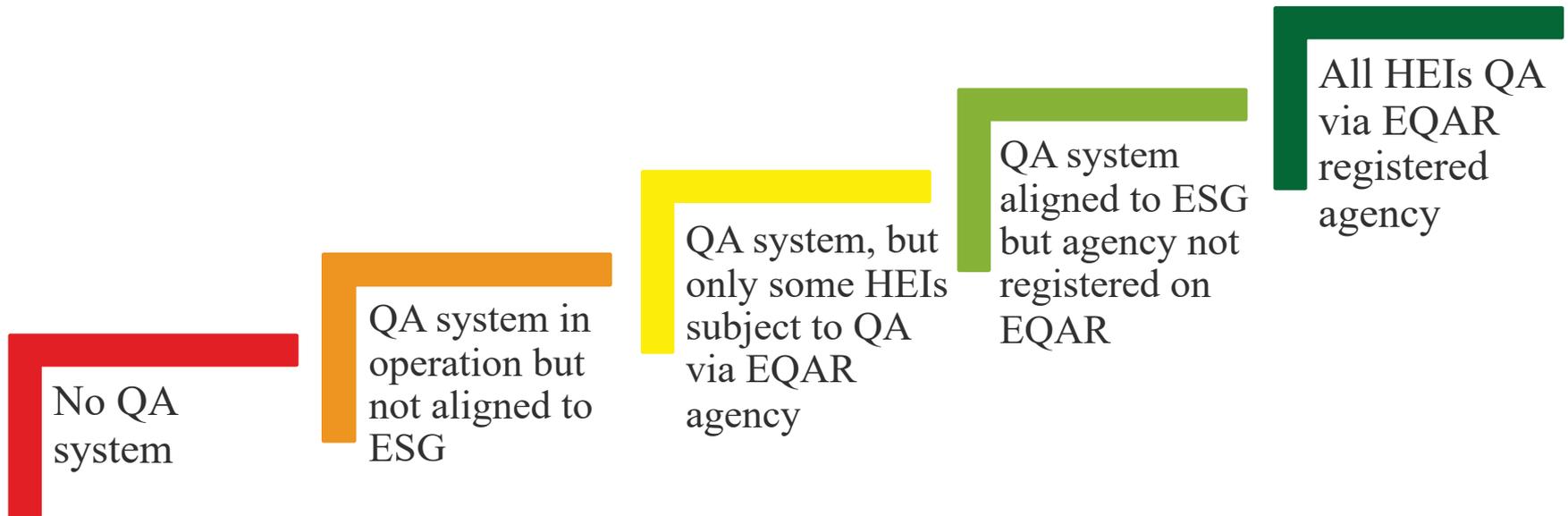
Scorecard indicator & Key commitment
Stage of developement of QA systems

	2016/17	2013/14
■	24	23
■	10	2
■	3	17
■	11	6
■	2	0
□		1

AD
LU
LI
MT
VA
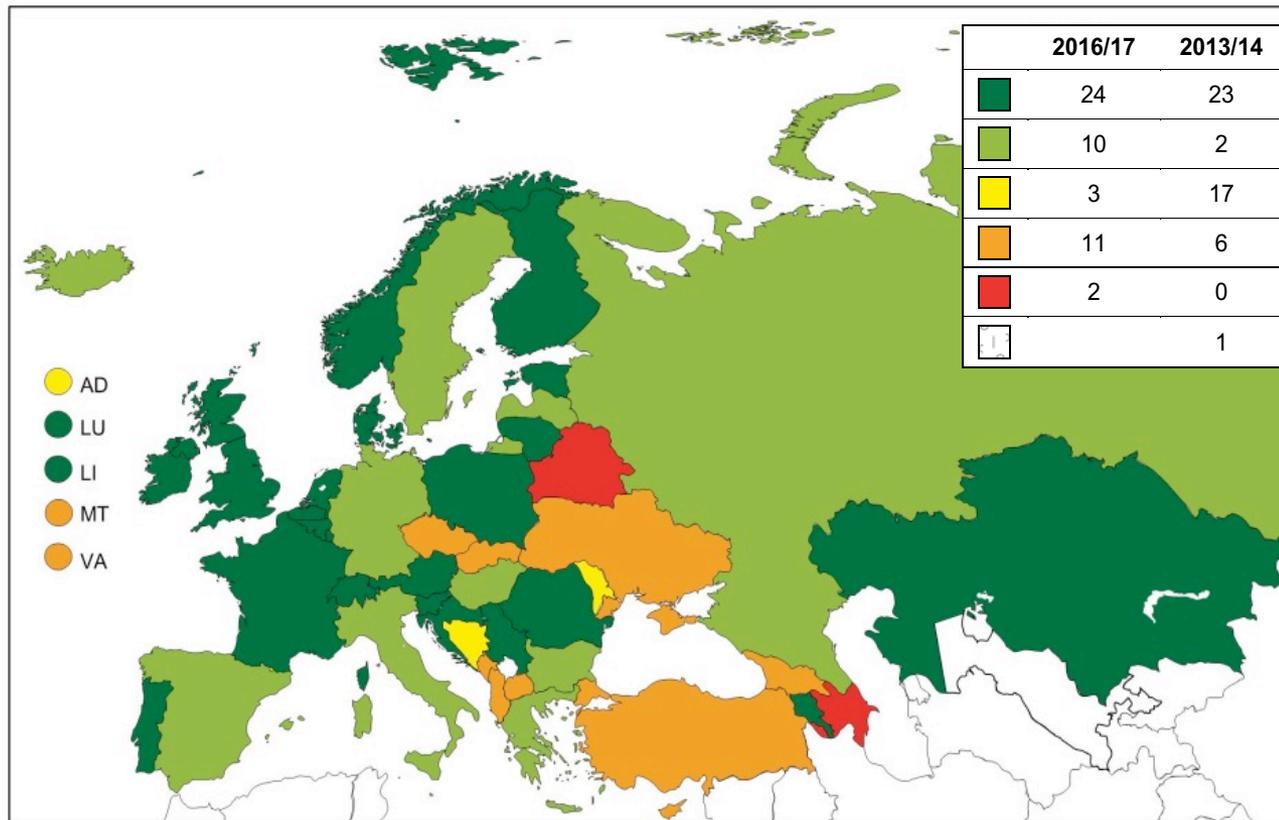
Source: BFUG data collection.

■ A fully functioning QA system is in operation where all HEIs are subject to regular EQA by an agency that demonstrated compliance with the ESG through registration on EQAR.

■ A QA system is in operation nationwide, aligned to the ESG, but QAA not registered in EQAR.

■ A fully functioning QA system is in operation nationwide, but only some HEI are subject to regular EQA by QA that demonstrated compliance with the ESG through EQAR-registration

■ A QA system is in operation nationwide, but has not (yet) been fully aligned to the ESG.

■ No quality assurance system is in operation

Key Commitment on External Quality Assurance

- ■ External QA performed by agencies that demonstrably comply with the ESG, registered on EQAR

- ■ For some, but not all higher education institutions

December 2018:
46 registered QAAs based in 23 countries
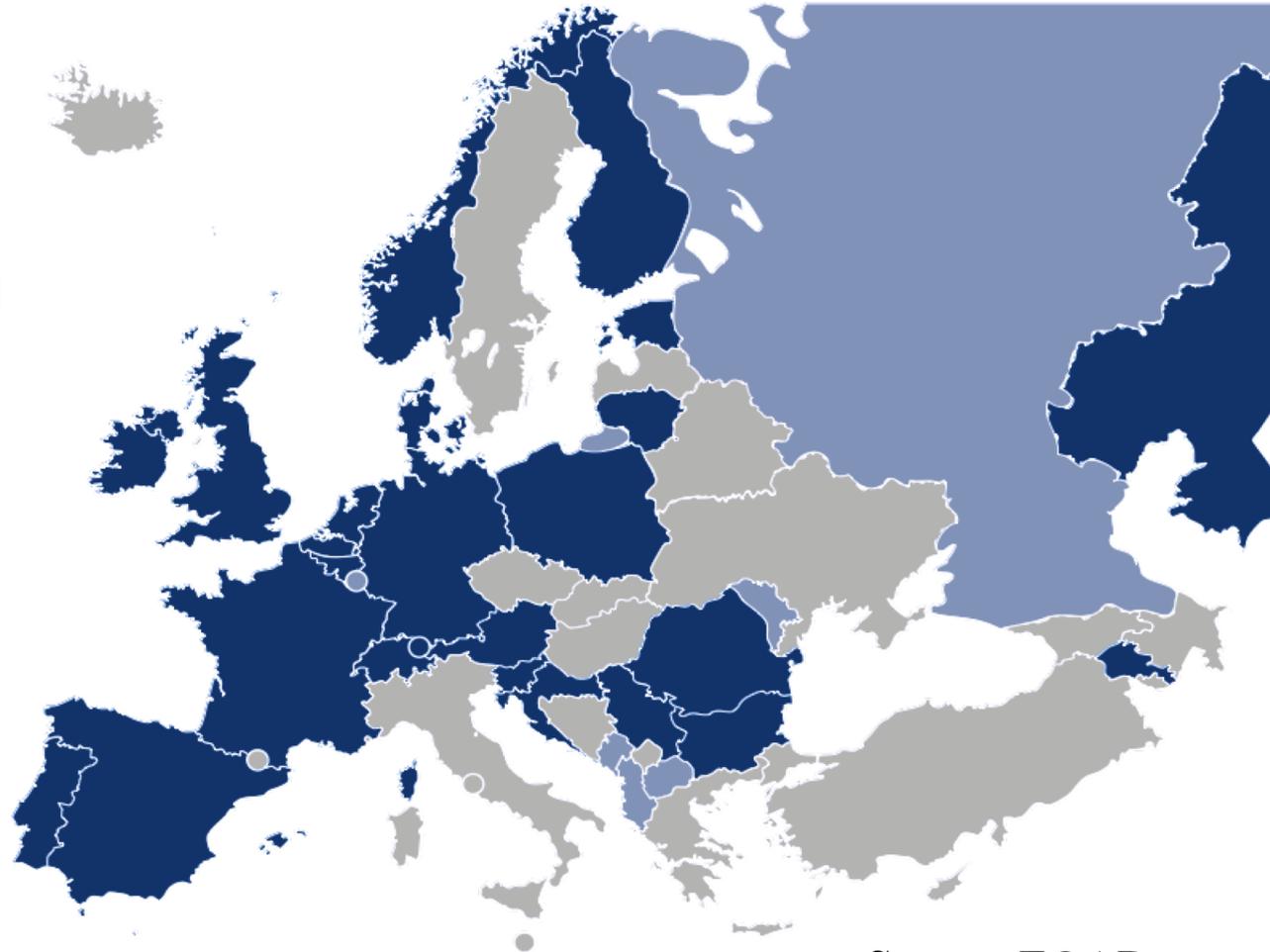
Source: EQAR

| 52% | 10% | 38% |

Examples where national QA systems have an impact on ESG compliance

ESG 2.2: Designing methodologies fit for purpose

In a number of countries it is the Ministry and its national accreditation council who coordinates and designs the methodologies employed by the QA agency.

- what is the role of the QA agency and what is the role of other responsible authorities?
- who is responsible for the involvement of stakeholders in the design of new procedures?
- who ensures the methodologies are fit for purpose?

ESG 3.3 Independence

In a number of countries it is the Ministry who decides on the composition and nomination of the board.

- How is appointment of the quality assurance agency director its board, council is done by the Ministry?
- Is the selection process clear and transparent?

Examples where national QA systems have an impact on ESG compliance

ESG 2.7: Complaints and appeals
 "appeals processes should be clearly defined as part of the design of external quality assurance processes and communicated to the institutions" . Guidelines note that *"the agencies, need to handle [issues of concern] in a professional way by means of a clearly defined process that is consistently applied"*

When the responsibility with the appeal of EQA procedures lies with the Ministry or with the judiciary (e.g. Croatia, Hungary, Latvia)
- what is the role of QA agencies in such situations?
- what happens if the initial decision is overturn?
- what is the internal system of the appeals procedure? How is consistency in decision ensured?
- how this communicated to back the QA agency?

Where the challenges lie

ESG	2.5 Criteria for outcomes	2.6 Reporting	2.7 Complaints and Appeals	3.1 Activities, policy and processes for QA	3.3 Independence	3.4 Thematic analysis
Legal framework does not allow to (fully substantially comply)	◼	◼	◼	◼	◼	
Traditions or prevalent (academic) culture not supportive		◼		◼	◼	
Lack of capacity	◼					◼
Time to adjust to ESG 2015			◼			◼
Lack of (institutionalised) partnerships with stakeholders				◼		

Scorecard indicator: Level of student participation in external quality assurance system, 2016/17
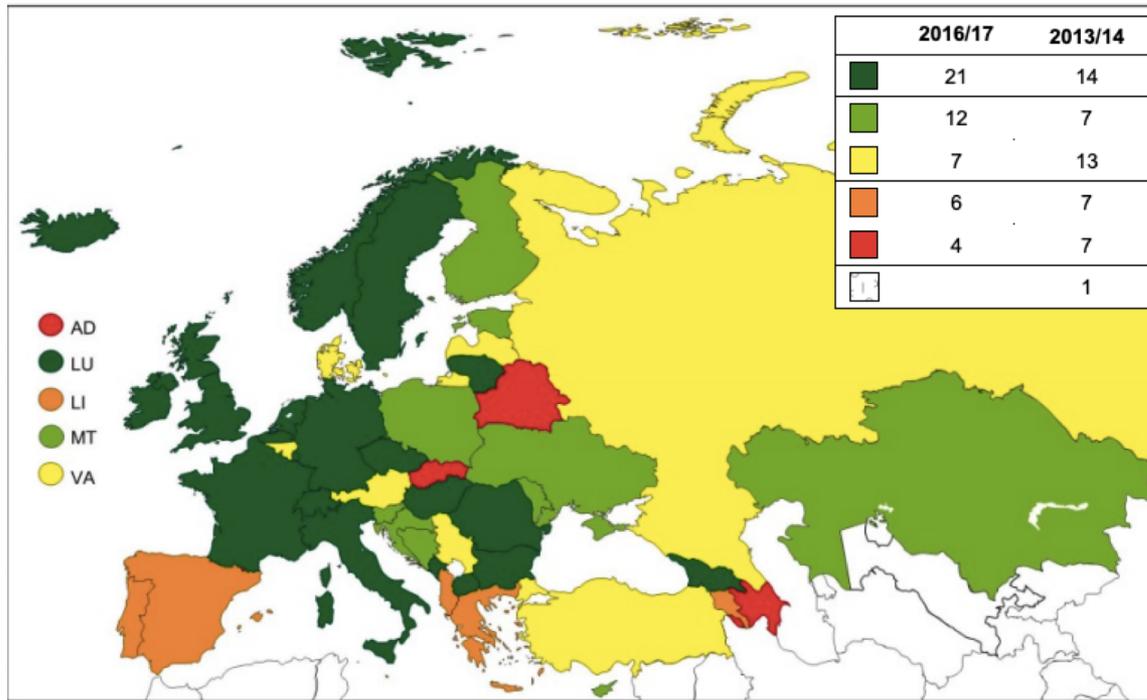
In all quality assurance reviews, students participate as full members at five levels:
in governance structures of national QA agencies;
- in external review teams;
- in the preparation of self-evaluation reports;
- in the decision making process for external reviews;
- in follow-up procedures.

Students participate at 4 of the 5 levels

Students participate at 3 of the 5 levels

Students participate at 2 of the 5 levels

Students cannot participate or participate at only 1 level mentioned above.

Scorecard Indicator. Level of international participation in external quality assurance, 2016/17

	2016/17	2013/14
(dark green)	15	10
(light green)	13	16
(yellow)	13	9
(orange)	4	8
(red)	5	5
		1

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- LI
- MT
- VA
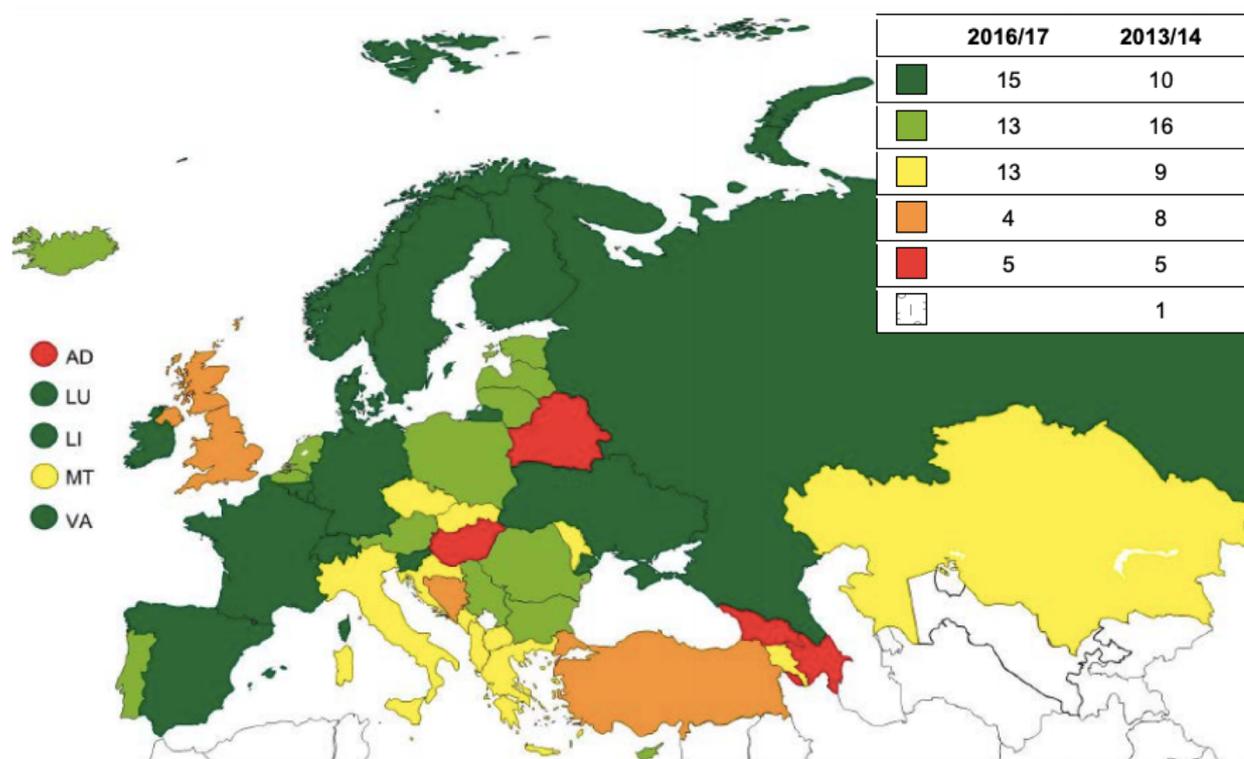
In all cases the following four aspects are met:
- agencies are members or affiliates of ENQA;
- international peers/experts participate in governance of national QA bodies;
- international peers/experts participate as members/observers in evaluation teams;
- international peers/experts participate in follow-up procedures.

Three of the four aspects are met.

One of the four aspects is met

Two of the four aspects are met.

No international participation.

Scorecard indicator: Level of openness to cross border quality assurance of EQAR registered agencies, 2016/17
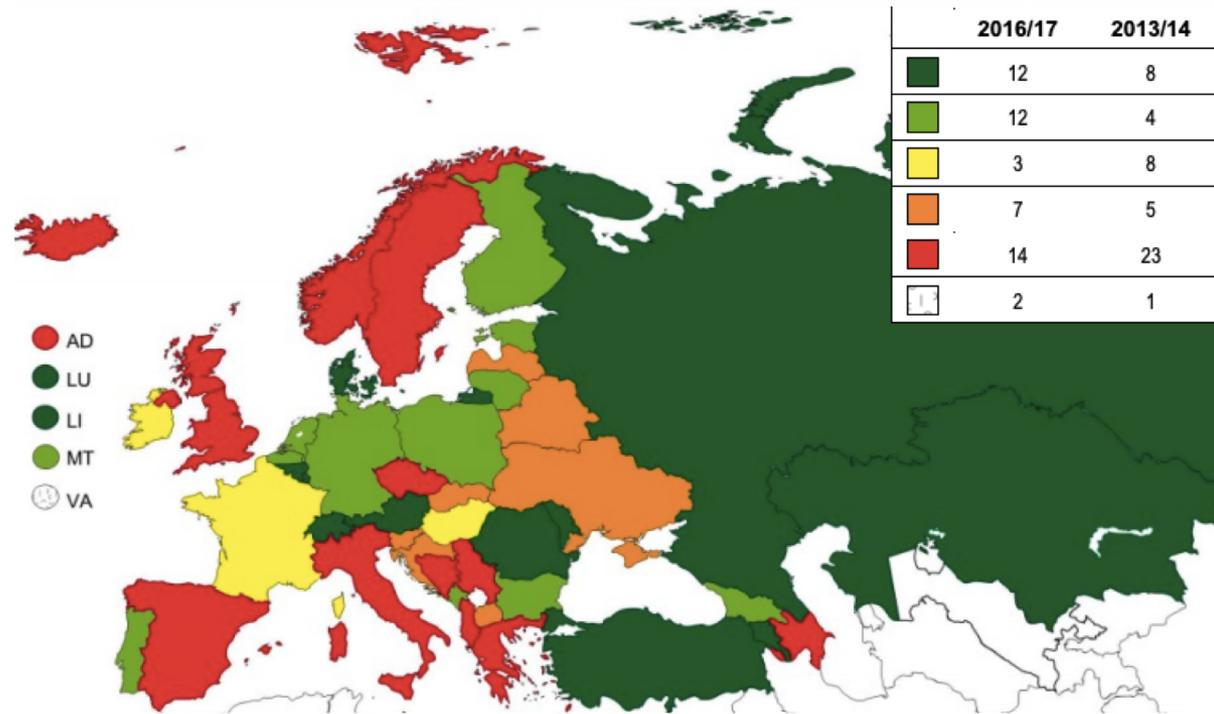
	2016/17	2013/14
	12	8
	12	4
	3	8
	7	5
	14	23
	2	1

- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- VA

All HEI & programmes can choose for their regular EQA a suitable QAA. EQAR registration serves as a criterion QA agencies.

All HEI & programmes can choose for their regular EQA a suitable QAA. EQAR registration does not always serve as a criterion

In some cases, some HEIs/programmes can choose to be evaluated by suitable QAA. EQAR registration serves as a criterion

**Discussions are on-going/ plans have been made.**

HEI & programmes cannot be evaluated by QA agencies from outside the country.

# Indicator. Countries allowing the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, 2016/17

Indicator. Main outcome of external evaluation, 2016/17
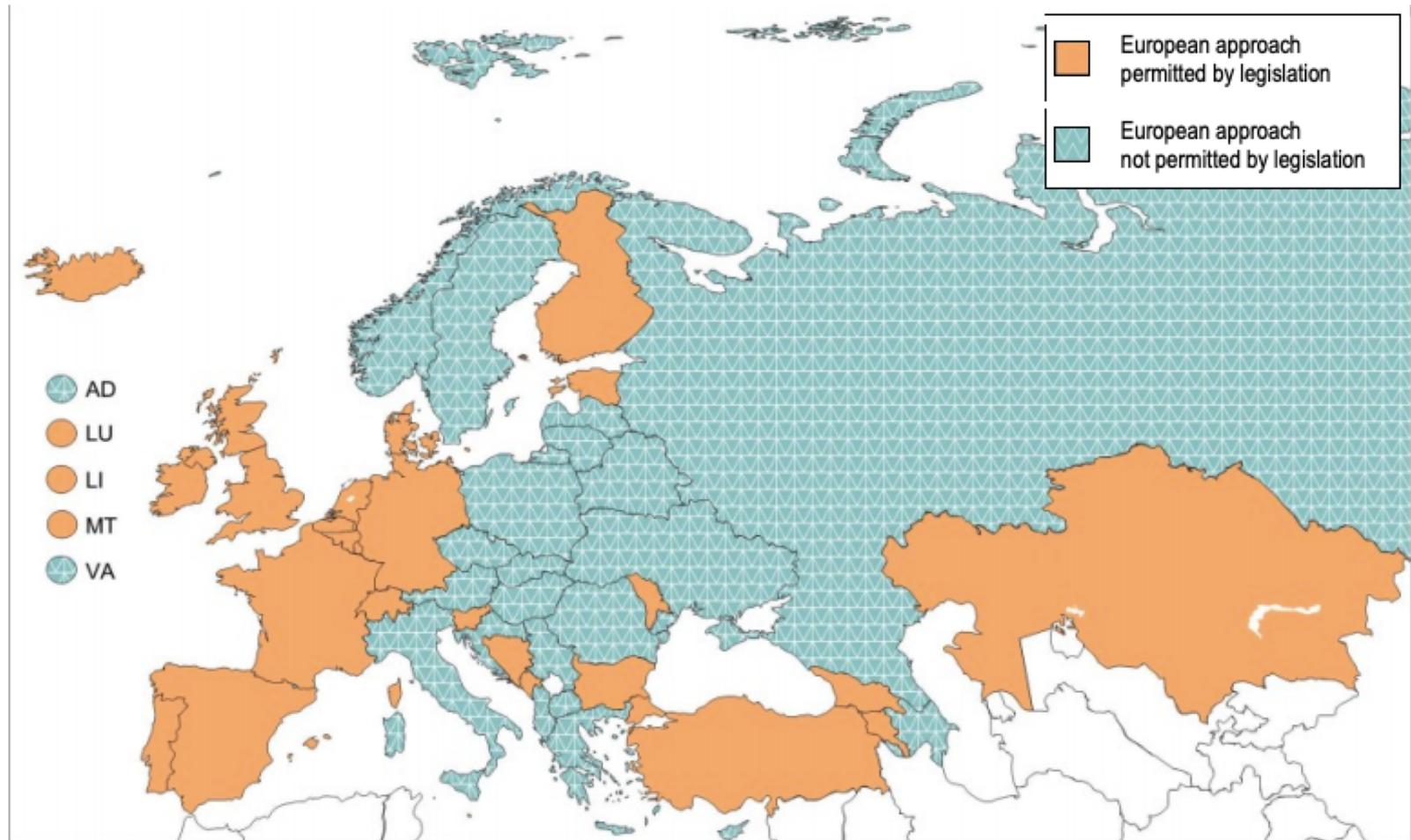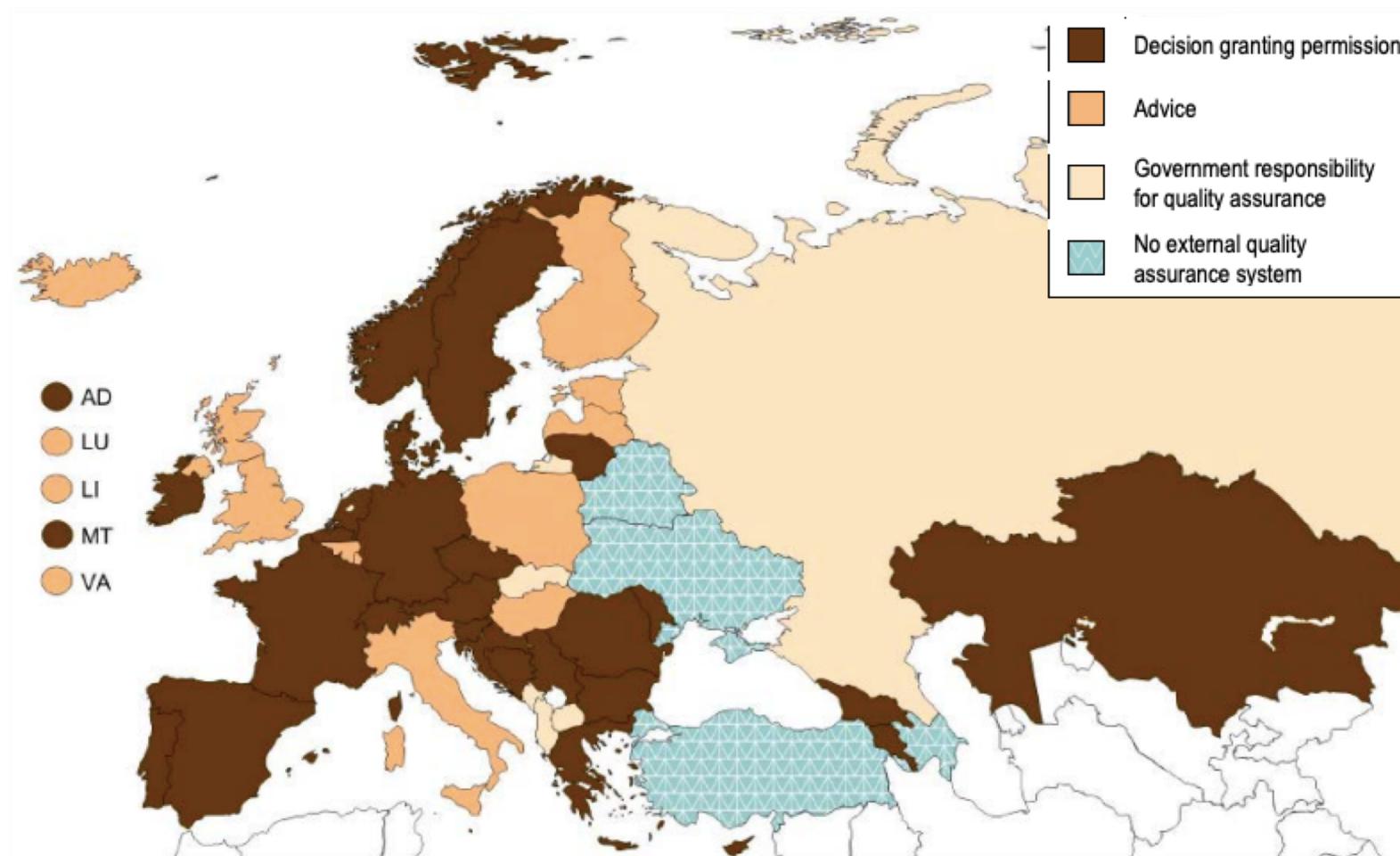
Source: BFUG data collection.

Indicator. Requirements for external quality assurance to consider the elements specified in the ESG 2015, 2016/17
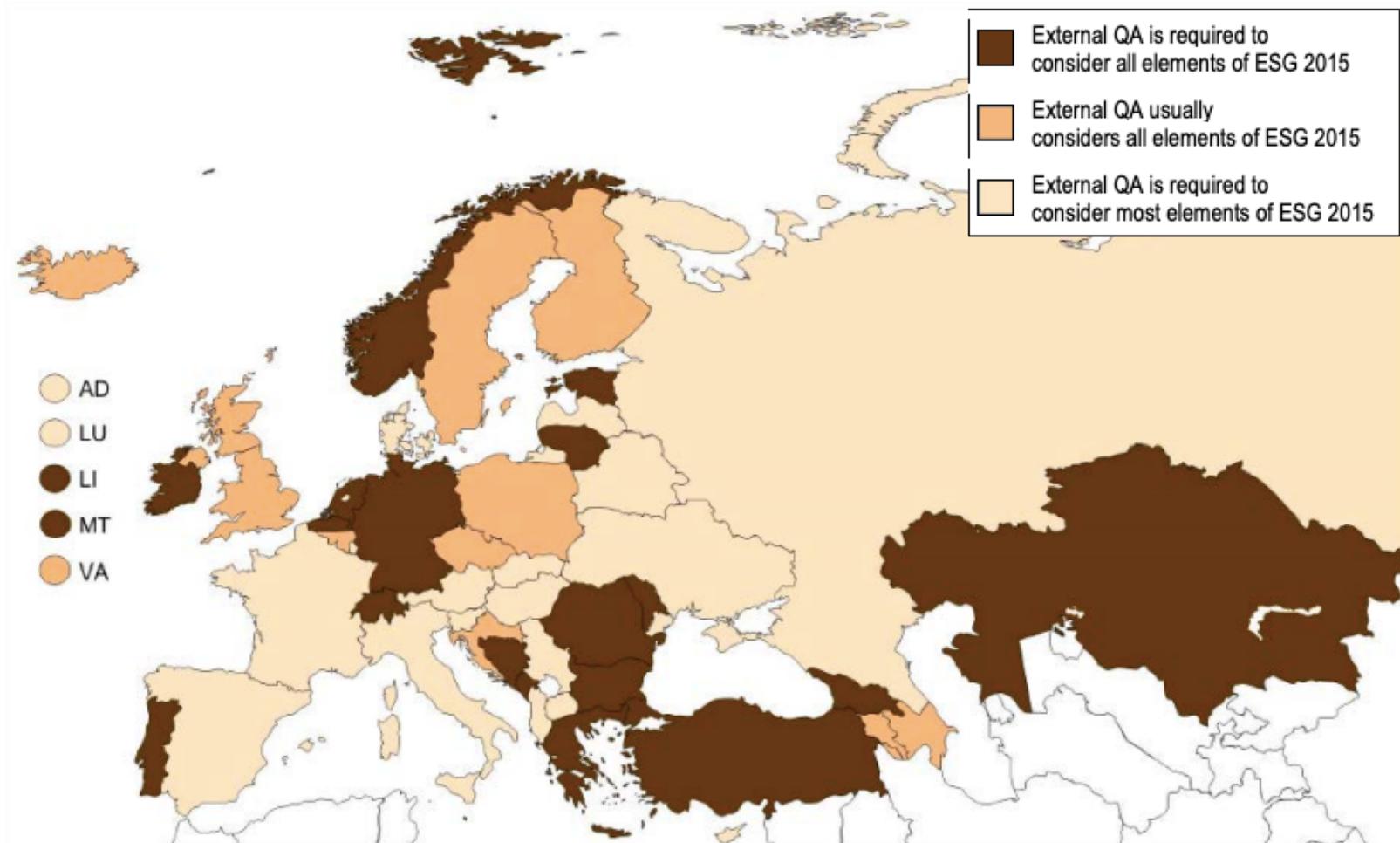
Source: BFUG data collection.

Looking ahead..

- **Peer support to implementation of key commitments is a very good idea…**
- **But it's not the only issue**
- **EHEA commitments are implemented when there is political will**
- **So do we want an open and coherent higher education on the basis of shared values?**
- **While implementing reforms we shouldn't neglect attitudes – exercising trust in practice**

"The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them"

Ernest Hemingway

A final thought…