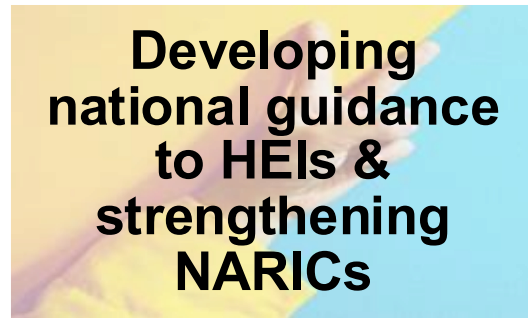


**Report on the implementation of the Council
Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual
recognition of higher education and upper secondary
education and training qualifications and the outcomes of
learning periods abroad (2023)**

TPG B, 29 January 2026

Council Recommendation 2018

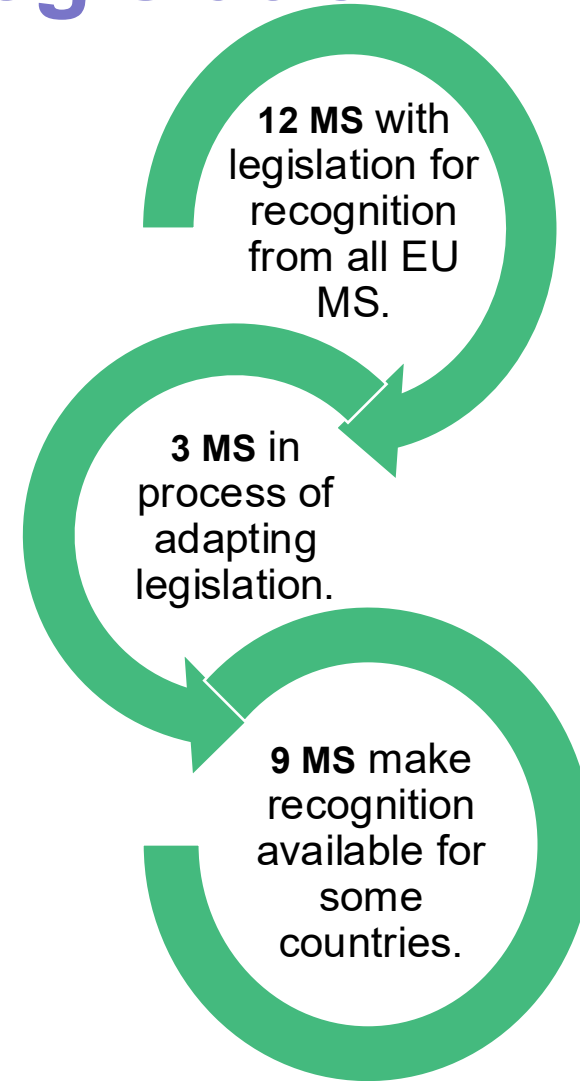
- **By 2025, Member States put in place the steps to ensure that**
 - a HE qualification acquired in one MS is automatically recognised at the same level in any other MS, for the purpose of granting access to further studies.
 - the outcomes from a learning period abroad at HE level in one MS are automatically and fully recognised in the others
- **Member States are recommended to create framework conditions and trust and transparency by:**



Progress in adapting national legislation

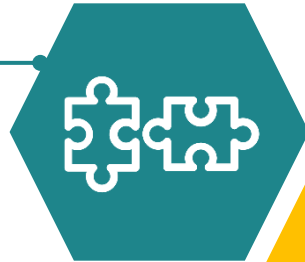
Adapting legislation is a necessary prerequisite for automatic recognition in HE

- National legislation for automatic recognition of HE qualifications from all EU Member States is in place in 12 Member States.
- 3 Member States in process
- 9 Member States with a subset of countries
- No legislative alignment so far: 3 countries



Progress in implementing EU tools and common standards for transparency and trust

Bologna and EU transparency tools used in most MS.
In 11 MS not fully implemented.



26 MS have referenced their NQFs to the EQF.
21 indicate EQF levels in NQF databases and registers. 16 share data on qualifications through the Europass platform.



22 MS use QA agencies registered in EQAR, while 5 are undergoing EQAR review or considering application. NARICs in 3 MS are integrating an automatic DEQAR search in their workflows for recognition.



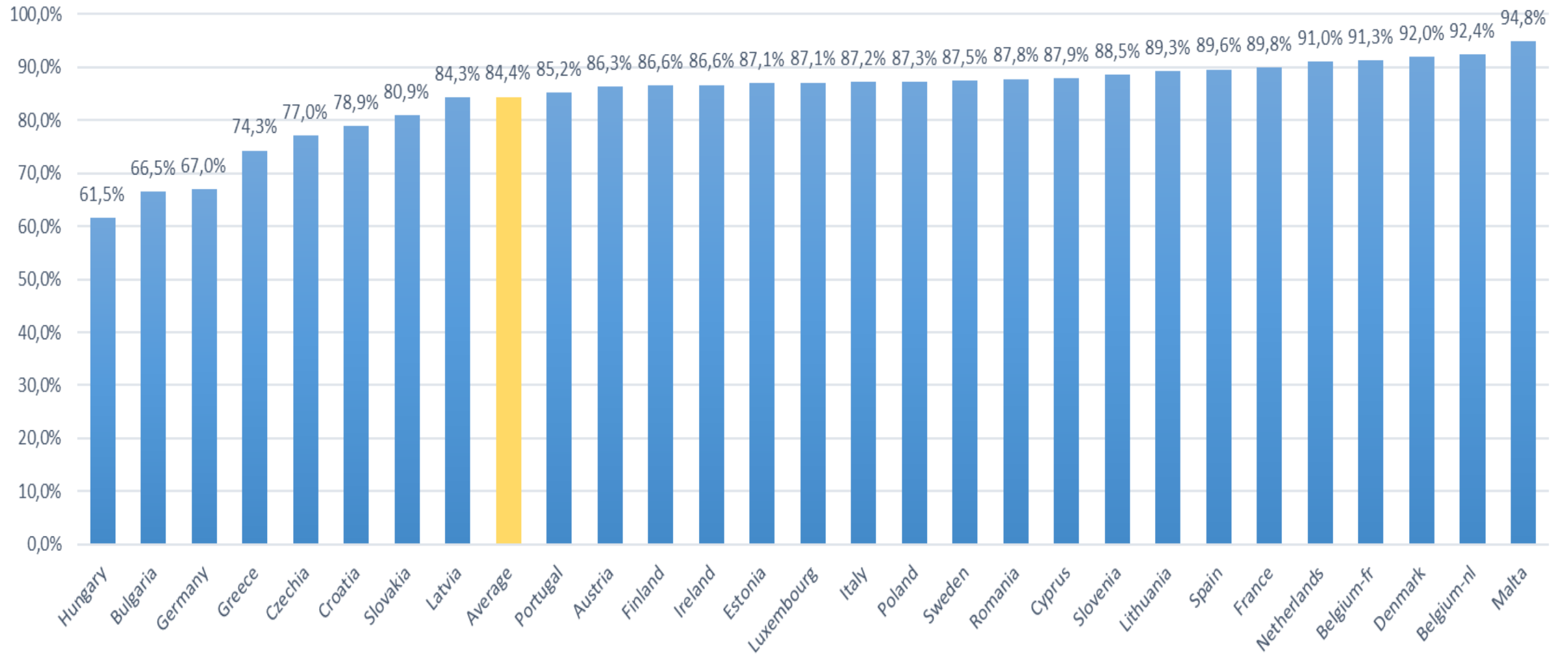
In 23 MS Diploma Supplement is issued automatically, free of charge and in a widely spoken language for all graduates. 3 MS do not issue DS automatically and 1 MS requires a fee.



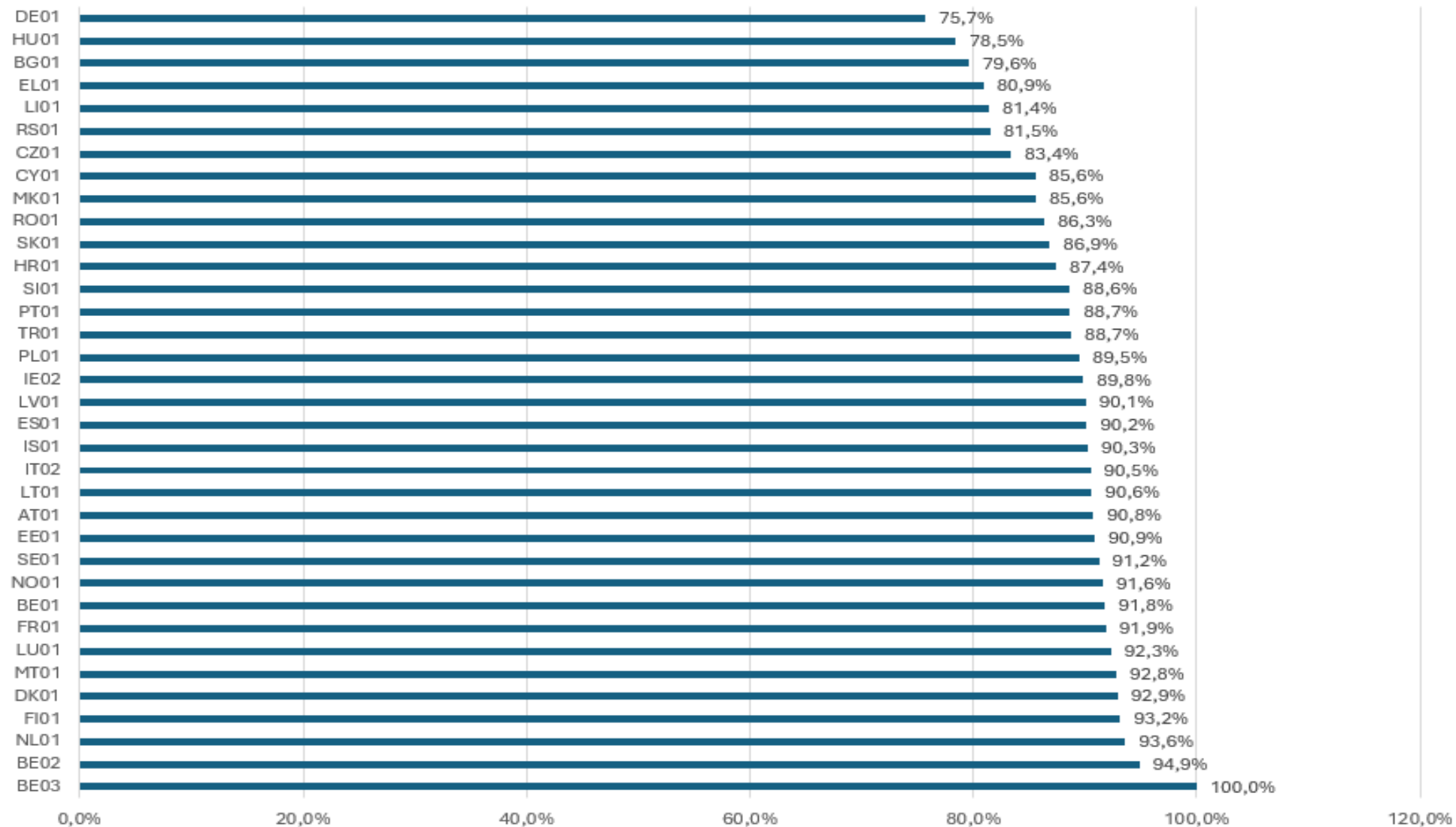
22 MS have a legal requirement for external QA agencies to refer to the key principles of ECTS and the rest use it widely. In 6 systems the implementation of ECTS is fully monitored.



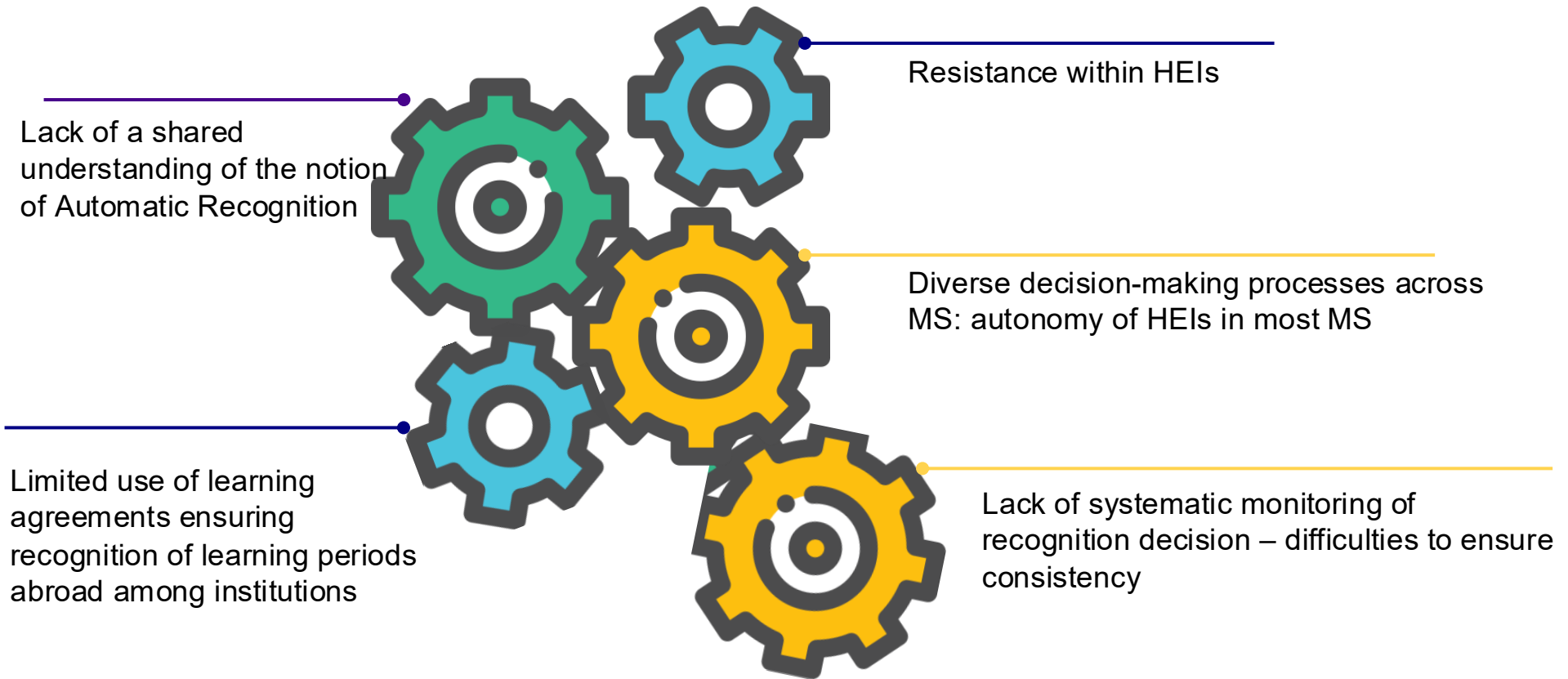
Full recognition of Erasmus+ learning periods abroad, 2020



Full recognition rate KA131 SMS 2024



Challenges in implementation



Council conclusions (2023): Recommendation to Member States

- **Consolidate and reinforce their efforts in line with the Council Recommendation**
- **Support higher education institutions in applying automatic mutual recognition as defined in the Council Recommendation, including by providing clear guidance and relevant training.**

- **Ensure that external quality assurance in higher education is carried out by independent quality assurance agencies registered with EQAR and operating in line with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), to promote transparency and thereby foster mutual trust in automatic mutual recognition.**

- **Foster synergies within the EHEA and the EEA to ensure that they mutually reinforce each other, to promote transparent and efficient environments for automatic mutual recognition.**



Thank you



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

