Co-funded by the European Union

TPG C MEETING

MAPPING OF IQA–EQA FROM THE SPICE PROJECT

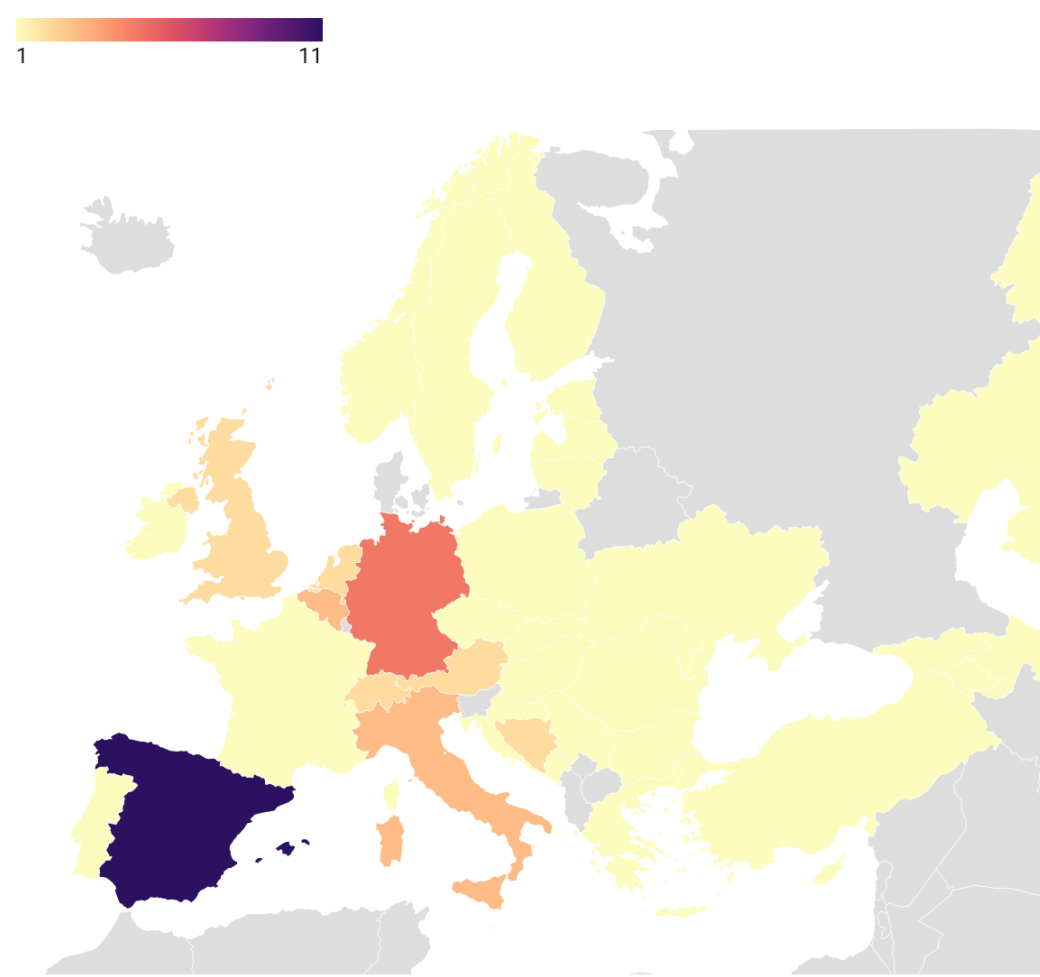
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY TO QA AGENCIES

ELENA CIRLAN, SENIOR POLICY AND PROJECT COORDINATOR, ENQA
17 NOVEMBER 2026

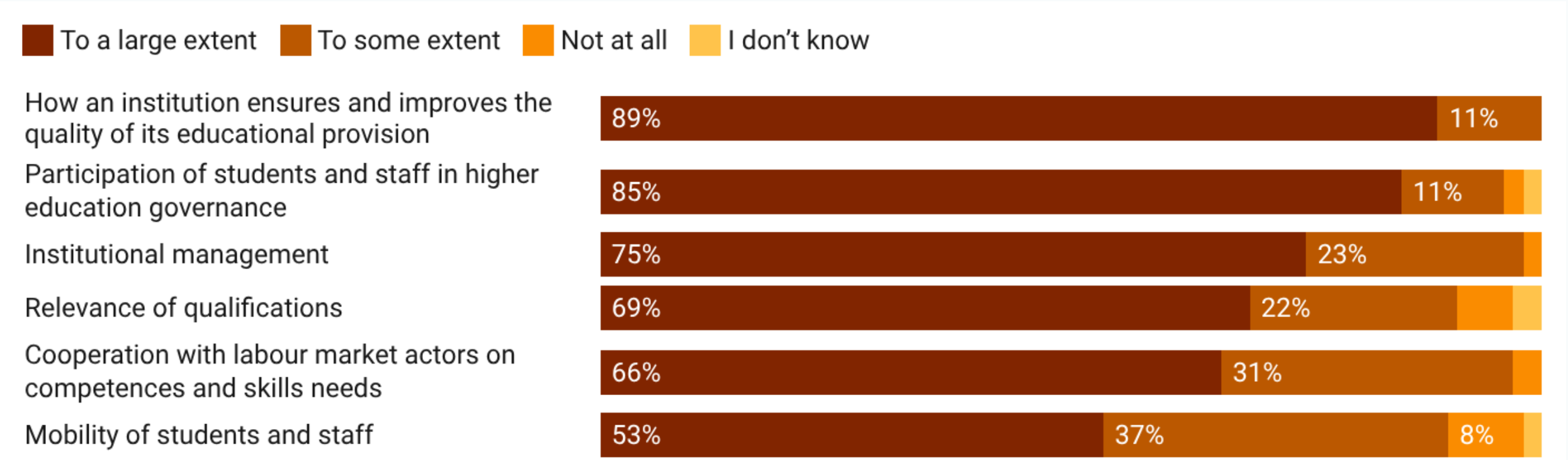
SPICE Stakeholder Perspectives enqa.

RESPONSES

- 65 agencies from 41 countries
- 78% are both members of ENQA and listed on EQAR
- Most of agencies act under a national/system-level legal framework (85%) and/or at international level (55%)
- 29% act at regional level (within a country)
- All agencies are active in HE, almost half in TNE, and almost half in online education



EXTERNAL QA COVERAGE OF INTERNAL QA – TOP 6



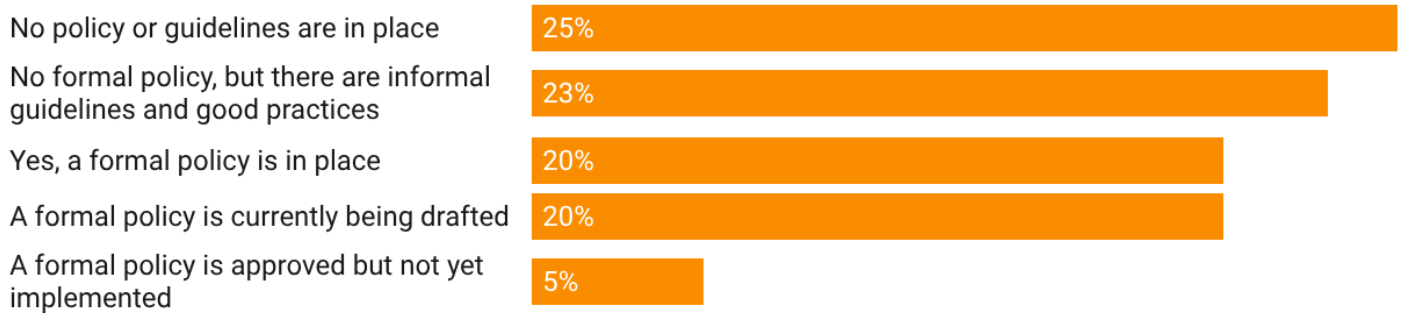
EQA & INTERNATIONALISATION

- 34% of agencies reported engaging with CBQA on a voluntary basis both within and outside the EHEA; 22% reporting doing it only within EHEA
- Half of the agencies have collaborated with a foreign agency in a joint review recently
- Almost half of the agencies evaluate joint programmes based on the European Approach and 31% plan to do it in the future
- 40% of agencies plan to conduct compliance assessments that could lead to Joint European Degree Label and 32% will decide on this depending on the further developments
- 45% do not evaluate European Universities Alliances while 31% will decide on this depending on the further developments

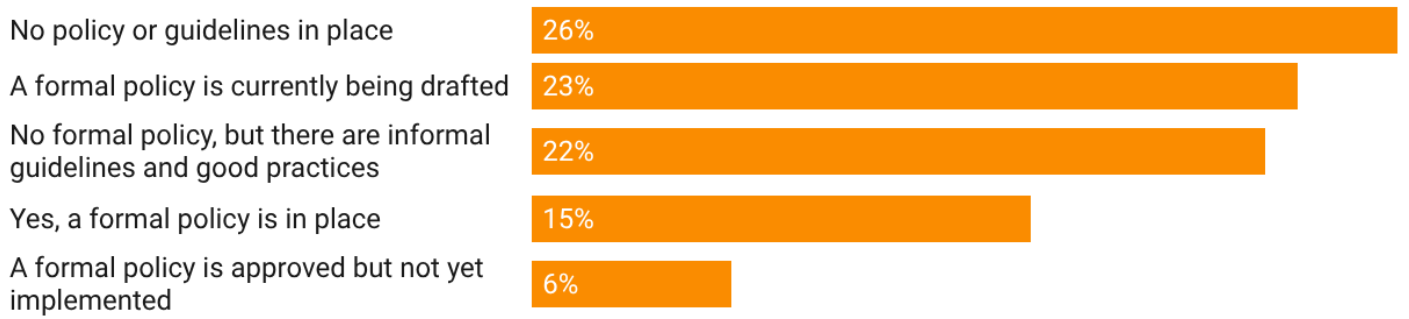
USE OF AI TOOLS

Most of the agencies are either currently using (46%) or plan to use (31%) AI tools in their daily work, while only 15 % do not use AI tools.

Does your agency have an internal policy on the use of AI tools in its daily work?

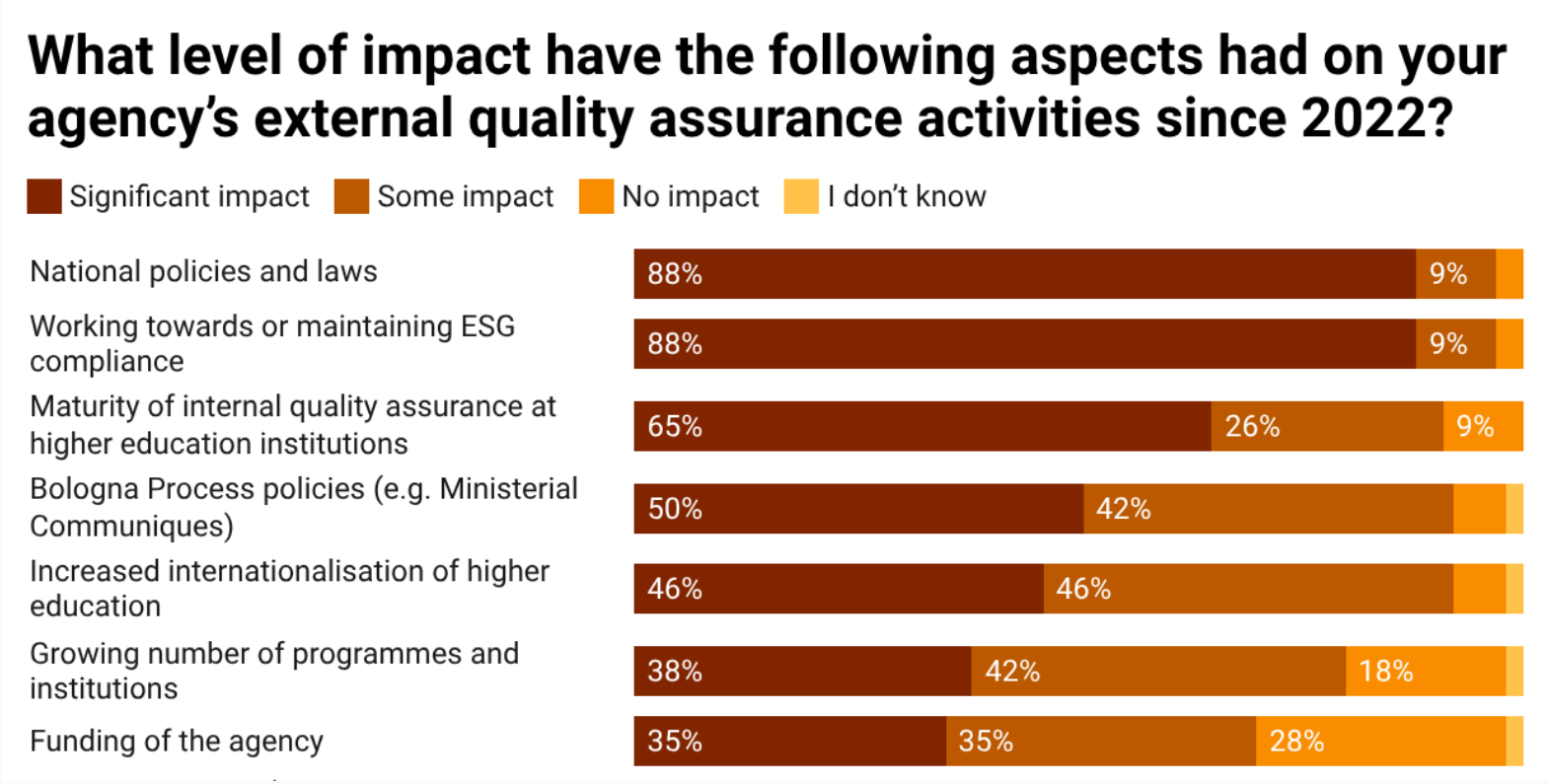


Does your agency have a policy on the use of AI tools in its external quality assurance activities?



IMPACT ON AGENCIES' EQA

- National laws and policies
- European level policies
  - ESG
  - Bologna Process
- Changes at HEIs
  - maturity of IQA
  - Internationalisation of HE



EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED CHANGES

- Revision and simplification of QA methodologies
  - more flexible approach and shift from programme to institutional level QA
- Expansion of agency responsibilities and functions
- Changes to governance and structure
- Increasing internationalisation and responding to international QA developments
- Legislative changes

WHAT WOULD YOUR AGENCY DO IF IT COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT ITS EXTERNAL QA APPROACH?

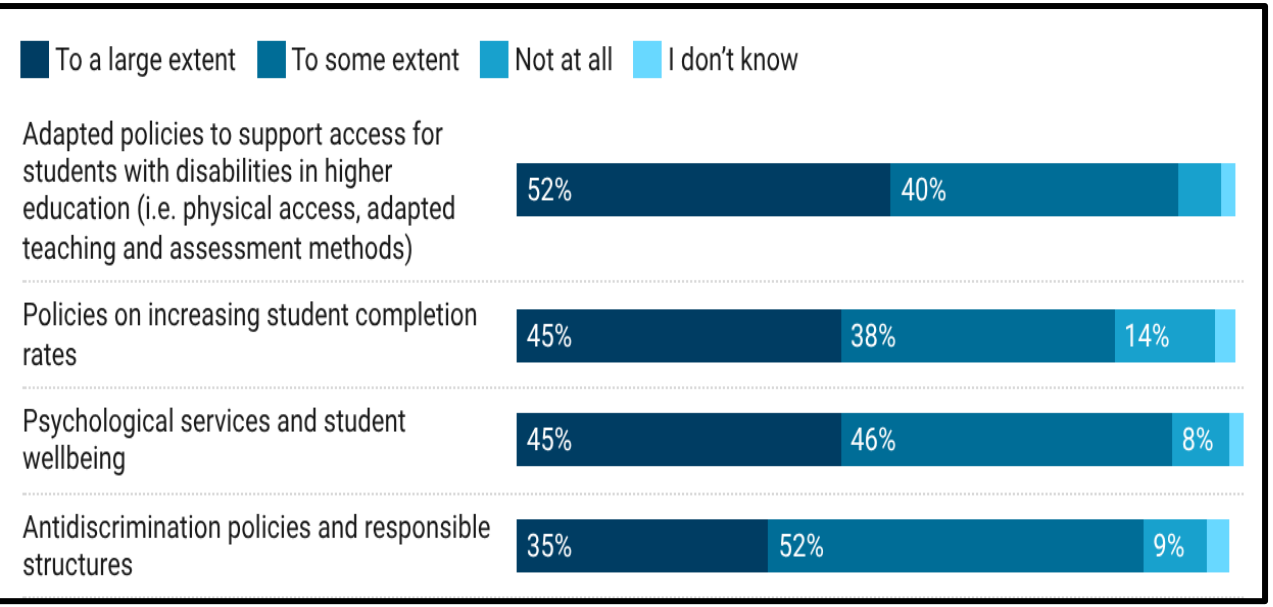
- Focus on enhancement
- Shift from programme to institutional level QA
- Flexibility, greater differentiation according to institutional maturity and performance
- Risk-based approaches
- Simplification/integration of procedures
- Greater use of digital tools and data
- Reduce administrative burden on HEIs
- Greater internationalisation
- More research and analysis

QA OF RESEARCH & SERVICE TO SOCIETY

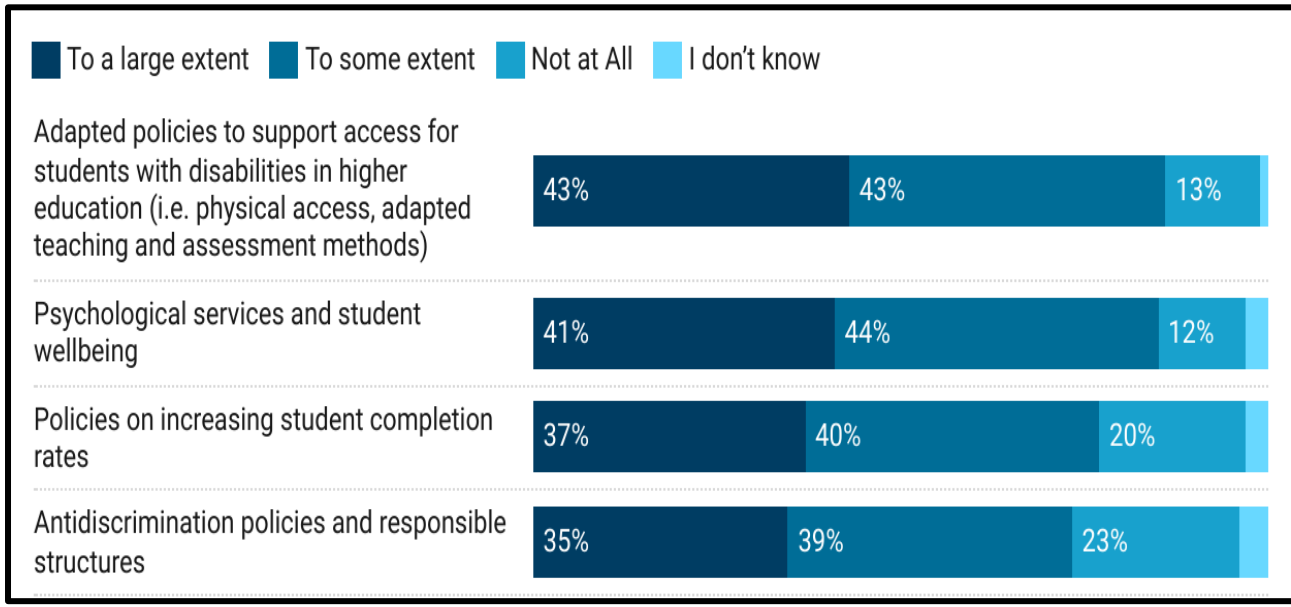
- Most agencies (89%) reported evaluating the link between research and teaching and learning
- 66% cover research environment and infrastructure (e.g. facilities, libraries, digital infrastructure); 54% Quality management of research
- Most agencies cover engagement with industry and society

SOCIAL DIMENSION & EQA

Spice survey

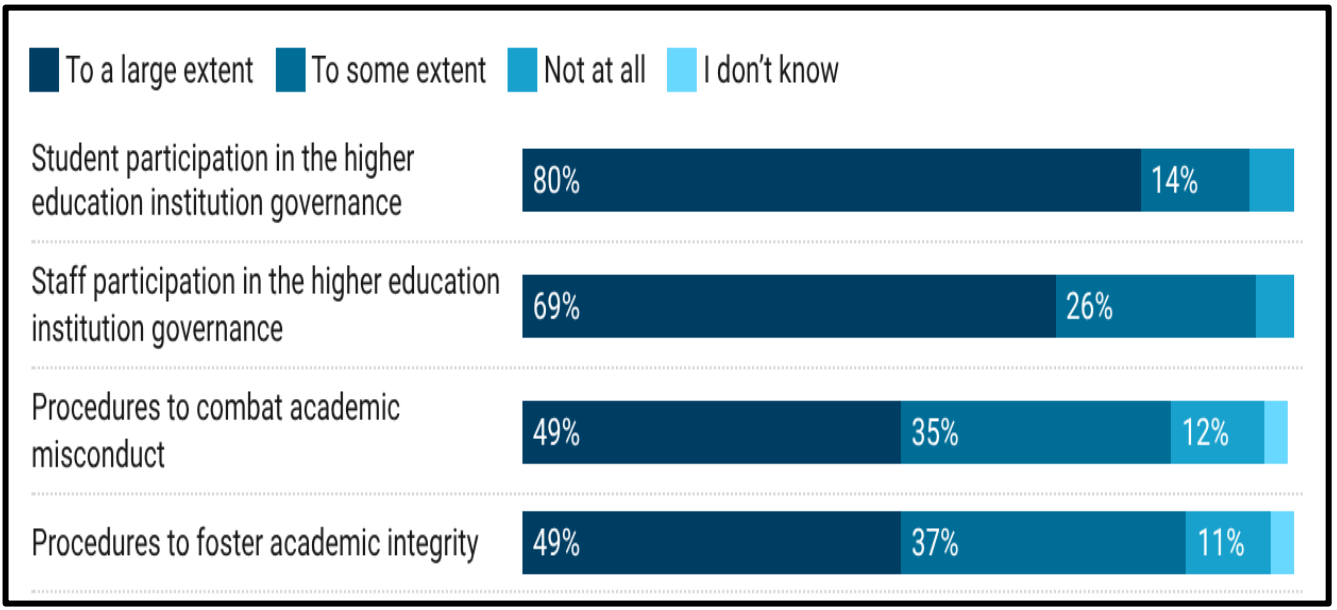


QA-FIT survey

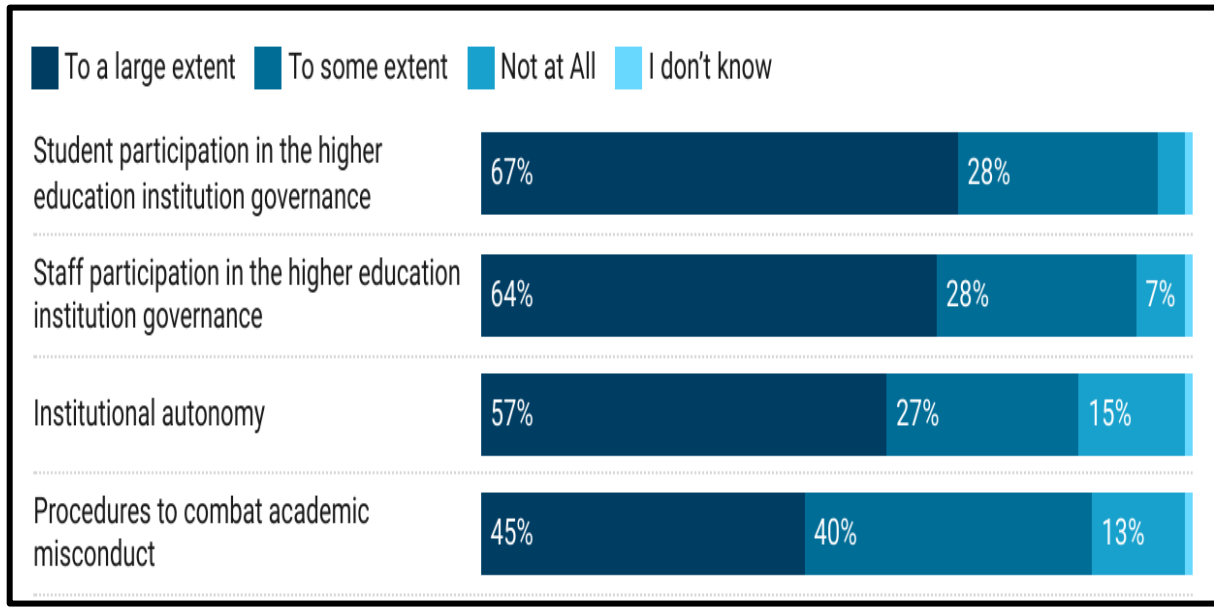


FUNDAMENTAL VALUES & EQA

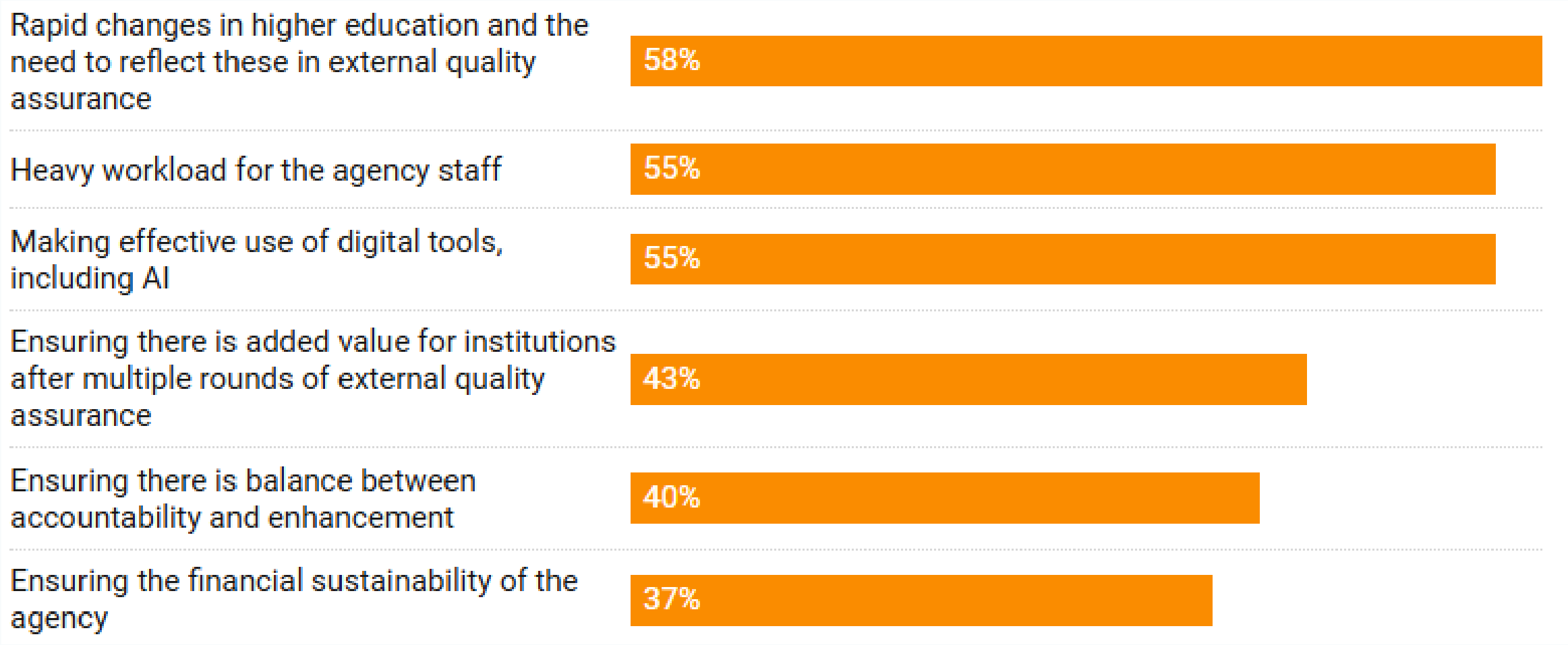
Spice survey



QA-FIT survey

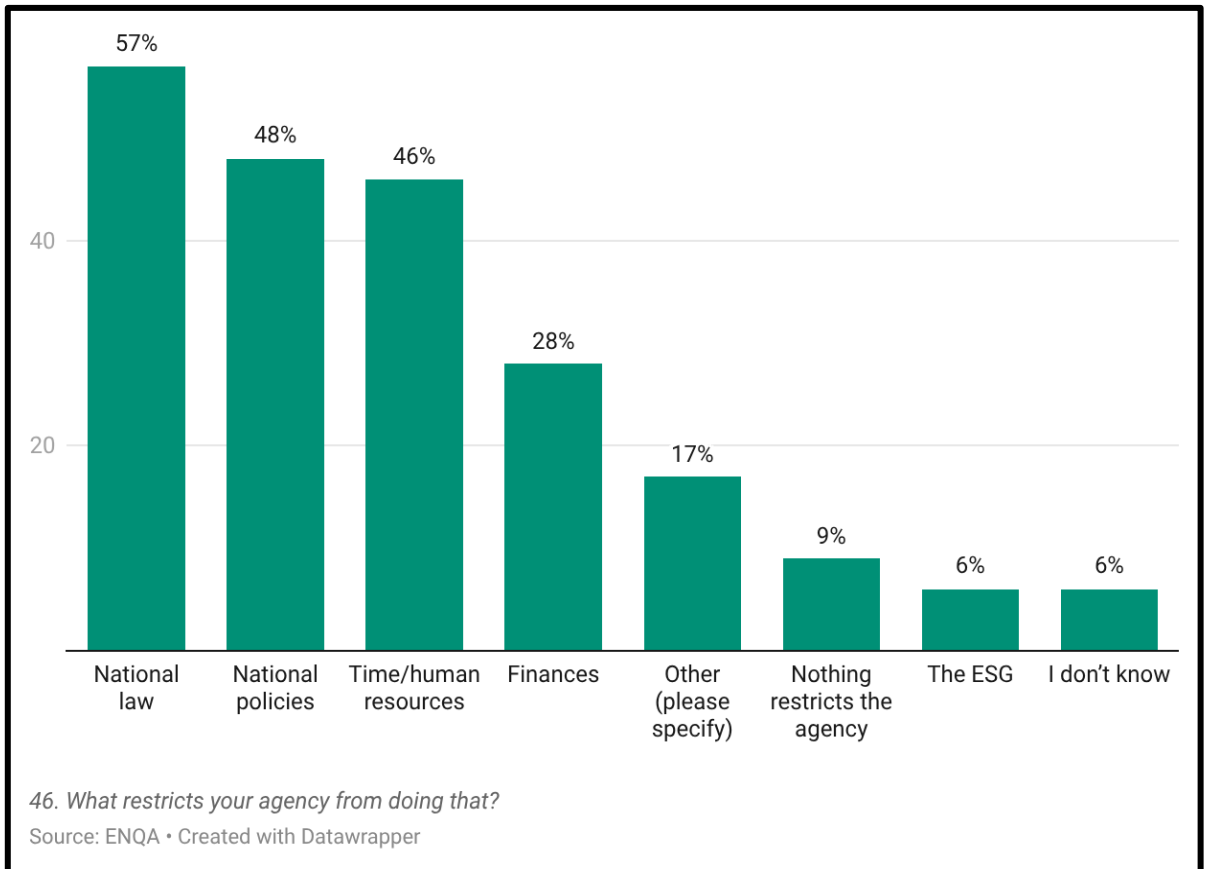


CHALLENGES – TOP 6



RESTRICTIONS FOR EQA

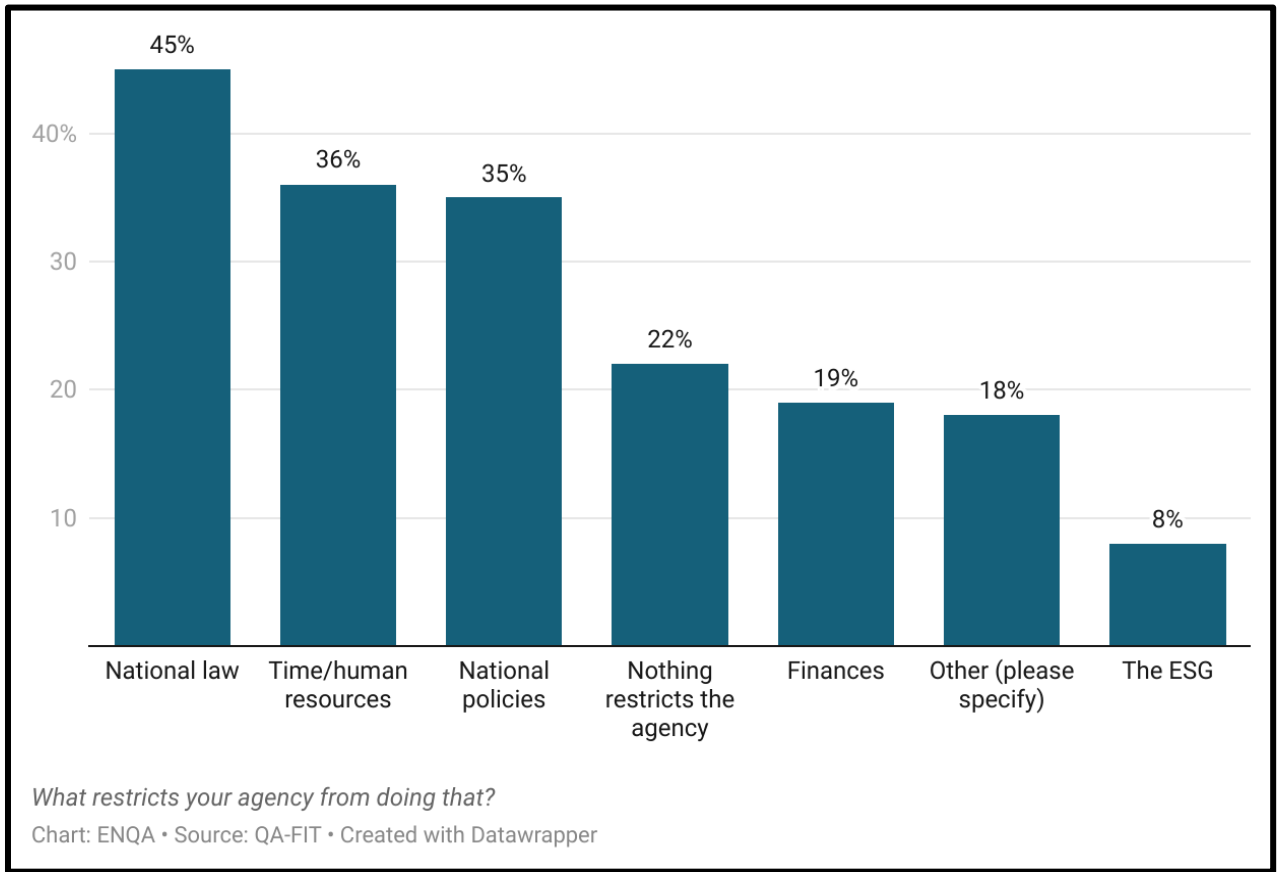
Spice survey



46. What restricts your agency from doing that?

Source: ENQA • Created with Datawrapper

QA-FIT survey



What restricts your agency from doing that?

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

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Importance of national and European policies and developments
- Growing internationalisation and European-level activities
- ESG 2027 is anticipated
- Ongoing or desired shift to institutional and enhancement-oriented approach
- Early adoption of use of AI

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