

**ESU** EUROPEAN  
STUDENTS'  
UNION





# Student participation in QA – European model

Horia Onița, Vice President of ESU



# European Students' Union

The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 40 countries.

The European Students' Union's aim is to represent and promote students' educational, social, economic, and cultural interests at the European level to all relevant bodies, such as the European Union, the Bologna Follow-Up Group, the Council of Europe, and UNESCO.

ESU represents almost 20 million students across Europe throughout its members.



# Importance of student representation

Why should academia put the needs of students first:

- Core stakeholder of HE systems, experts of their learning
- Working in the interest of constituency (students)
- Guarding student rights and ensuring democracy
- Maintaining co-ownership of the education system
- Focusing on the quality of education and student needs
- Learning democracy, participation and autonomy through hands-on engagement in leadership - responsibility of student movement should come directly from students

Concept of student agency (Klemencic) – metaconcept with 3 layers



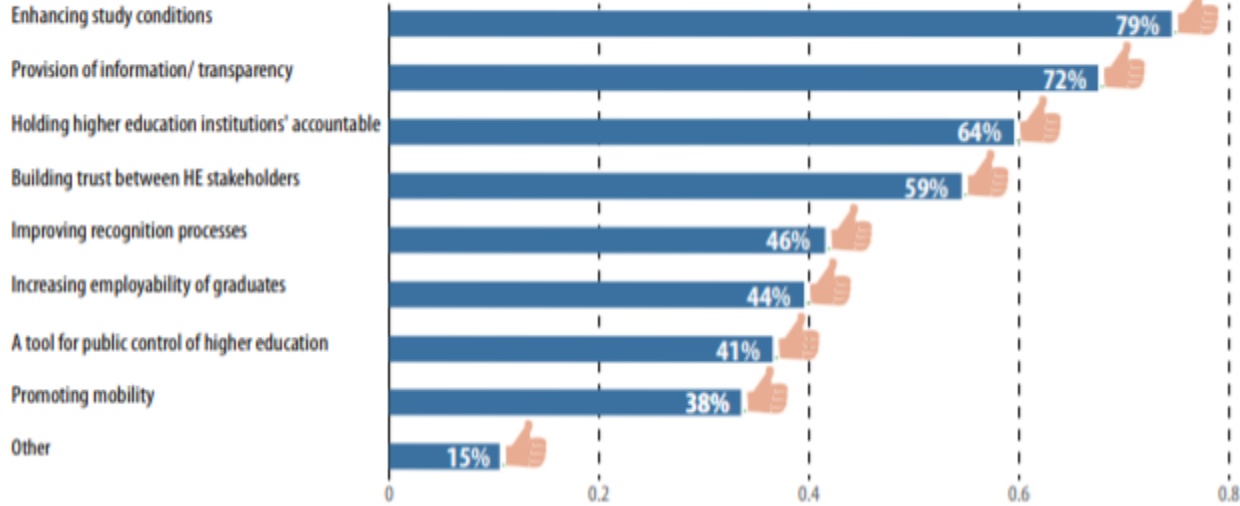
# Purpose of QA (BWSE)



ESU  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL

Quality Assurance

## What is the purpose of Quality Assurance?



# What do we mean by student representation?

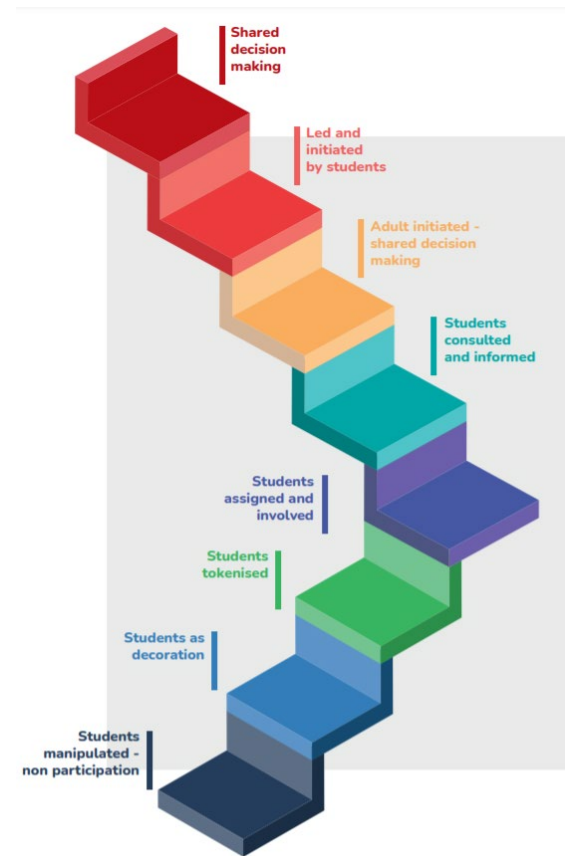
Stakeholder participation in governance can be characterised as “steps”.

Also its worth to remember that achieving certain level of participation does not always mean that its achieved for good.

Student Participation:  
innovative practice guide

Guide for effective stakeholder involvement in Quality Assurance

Student Rights Charter  
Board meeting ESU80



# Stages of stakeholders involvement in QA

Similarly to the stages of student representation the degree of stakeholders' involvement in QA also varies and often is not linear.





# Student involvement in IQA

- Promoting of the culture of quality should take place from the beginning of the study cycle
- Students should be encouraged to be critical and reflective regarding their programmes, curriculum planning, assessment, learning environment, study conditions, support systems, promoting student-centred learning
- The whole student body should be engaged through regular surveys (on different areas of relevance) and qualitative means, on institutional and subinstitutional level
- The whole student body should know the results of evaluations, the follow-up and the impact
- Formal participation in QA bodies that ensures a meaningful and impactful participation
- Student representatives should be engaged in the whole policy cycle of internal QA: preparation of IQA strategy/plans, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as in the outcomes of IQA: preparation, decision, implementation and evaluation of policies/strategies/measures

# How can you measure quality?

## European Standards and Guidelines

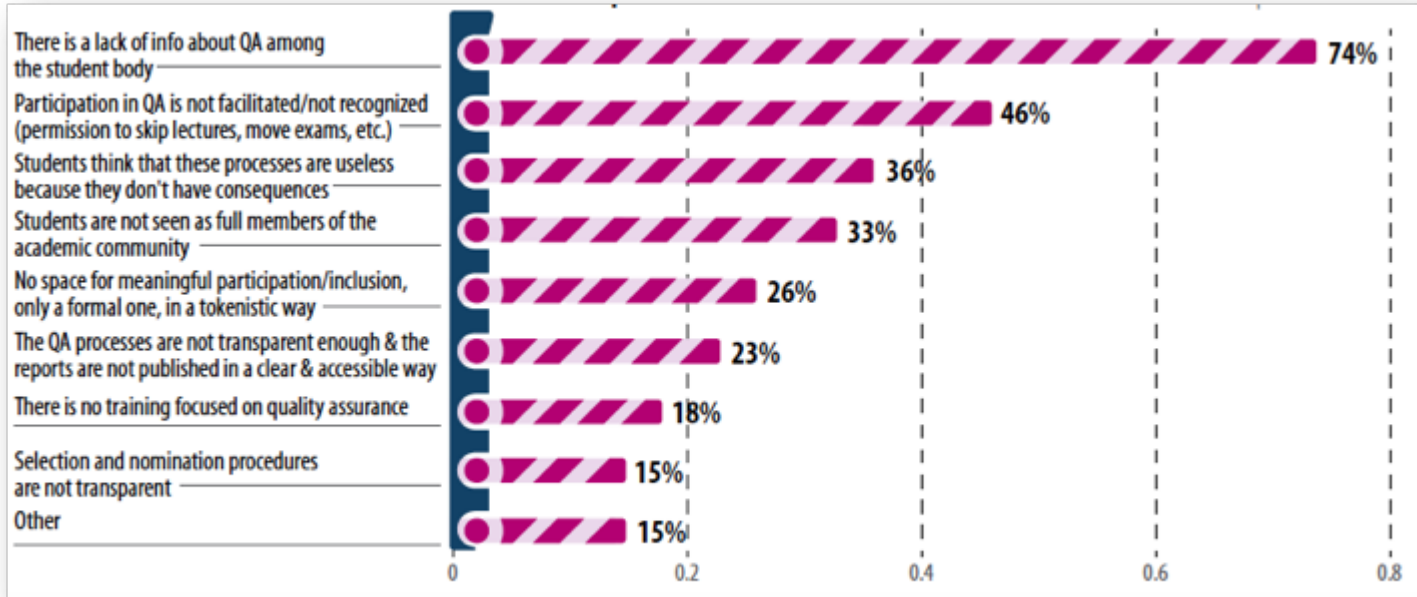
1. Policy for quality assurance
2. Design and approval of Programmes
3. Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
5. Teaching staff
6. Learning resources and student support
7. Information management
8. Public information
9. On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes
10. Cyclical external quality assurance

**ESG**  
**2015**

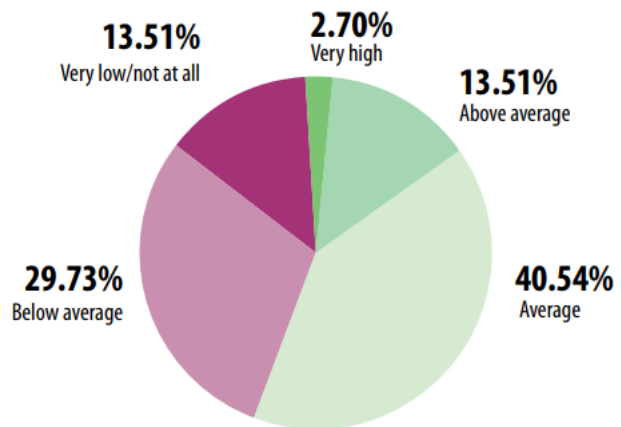


- Student centered learning
- Input vs. output orientation ?  
Learning outcomes
  - Knowledge vs. qualifications

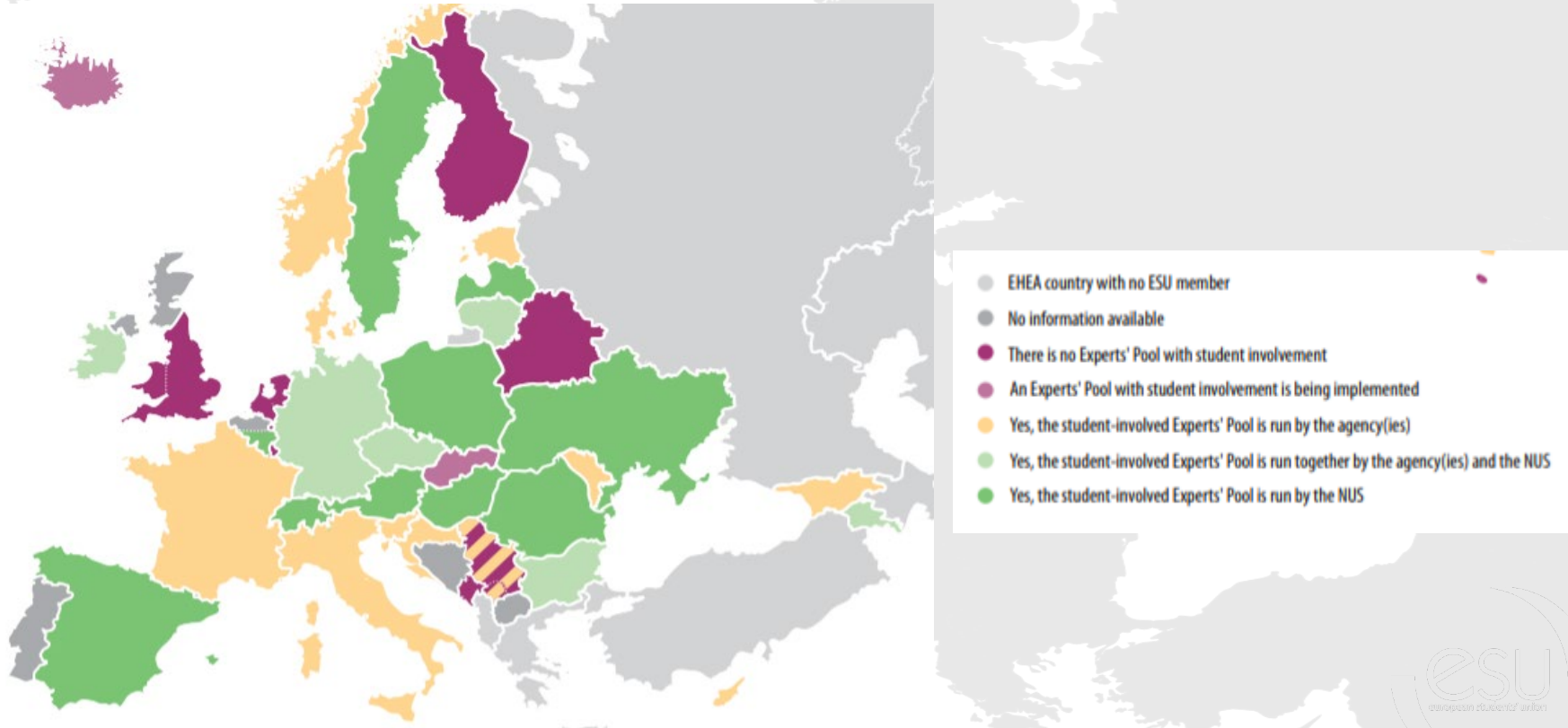
# Main barriers of students' involvement in QA processes



**To what extent is SCL considered as a factor of the internal QA in your country?**



## QA Pools - EHEA overview



# Challenges for the future of student participation in QA

- Tokenism
- Better recognition of students' involvement in QA
- Capacity building for students which are not involved in QA
- QA of short and flexible learning opportunities, QA of lifelong learning
- QA of digital education/digitalisation/AI tools
- Strengthening the Student Pools of experts and QA community
- Replicating and promoting the good practices regarding students' impact on study programmes, evaluation and modules
- Cross-border QA and transnational education

# Links and contacts



European Students' Union - ESU



european\_students\_union



ESUtwit



European Students' Union (ESU)



[esu-online.org](https://esu-online.org)



[esu-online.org/publications](https://esu-online.org/publications)



[esu-online.org/projects](https://esu-online.org/projects)



Subscribe to our Newsletter!



[secretariat@esu-online.org](mailto:secretariat@esu-online.org)



(+32) 2 329 00 26



# ESU

EUROPEAN  
STUDENTS'  
UNION