Assessing Internal and External Quality Assurance System.

Students` perspective

Pegi Pavletić

pegi.pavletic@esu-online.org

Executive Committee Member of ESU

European Students` Union (ESU)

- Umbrella organization of 45 students` unions from 40 European countries
- We represent approximately 20 million students from all levels of education
- Our members are student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles

ESU's partners:

- European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
- Bologna Follow Up Group
- Council of Europe
- E4 Group: ENQA, EURASHE, EUA, ESU
- UNESCO
- European Youth Forum…
- Many QA partners

The history of student involvement in external QA- ESU's QA Pool

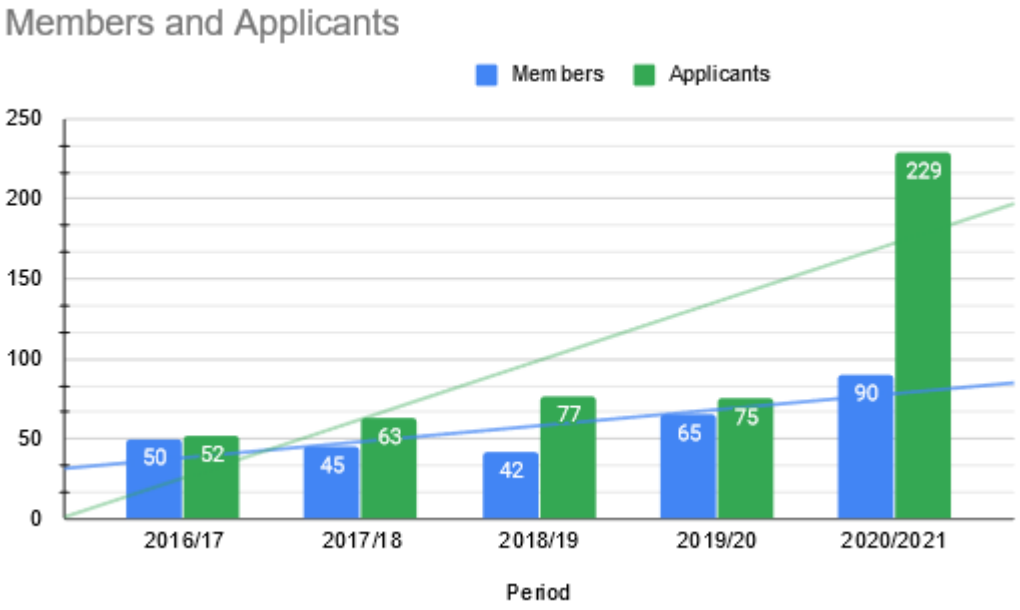
- Established in 2009
  - Independent Steering Committee
  - Based on public criteria
  - Transparent policy
  - Relevant stakeholders
- Pool is renewed every year
- Only for enrolled students and recent graduates
- Membership is free and the expects are trained and supported in QA

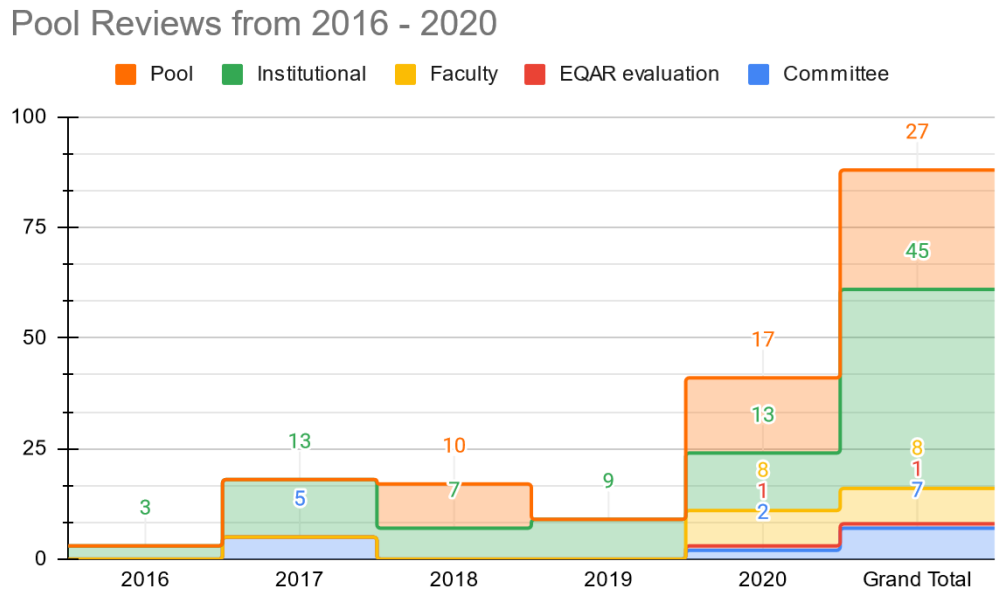
External QA!

ESU'S QUALITY ASSURANCE
STUDENT EXPERTS POOL

https://www.esu-online.org/quality-assurance-student-experts-pool/

ESU`s QA Pool of student experts





1. **Contact by partner**
2. **Call is published** — Requirements and beneficial skills are stated in the call
   - Application Deadline ~ 2 Weeks
3. **Collection** — Applications are collected until the end of the deadline
   - Confirmation email for applicants
4. **Selection** — SC Members select final nominee together
   - Each SC Member states individual assessment in selection sheet before call
5. **Candidates CV is shared with partner**
   - Candidates are informed about result

External QA from our perspective

The role of students

- Usually a panel member, however some of our students have a secretary role
- Students with many years of experience in QA are also known to take up the position of a panel Chair

Input we can provide best

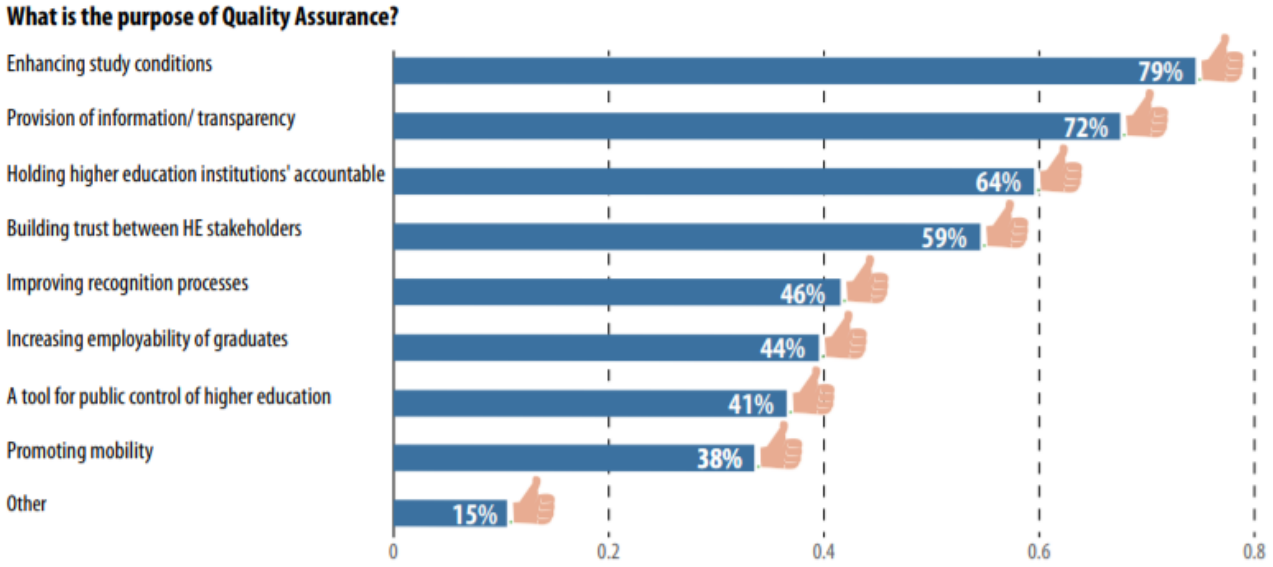
- **Experts fit to the evaluation field!**
- Student- centered learning, teaching & assessment
- Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
- Learning resources and student support
- Public information
- Improvements from cyclical external quality assurance
- *Students` representatives have a great reflection on QA policy*

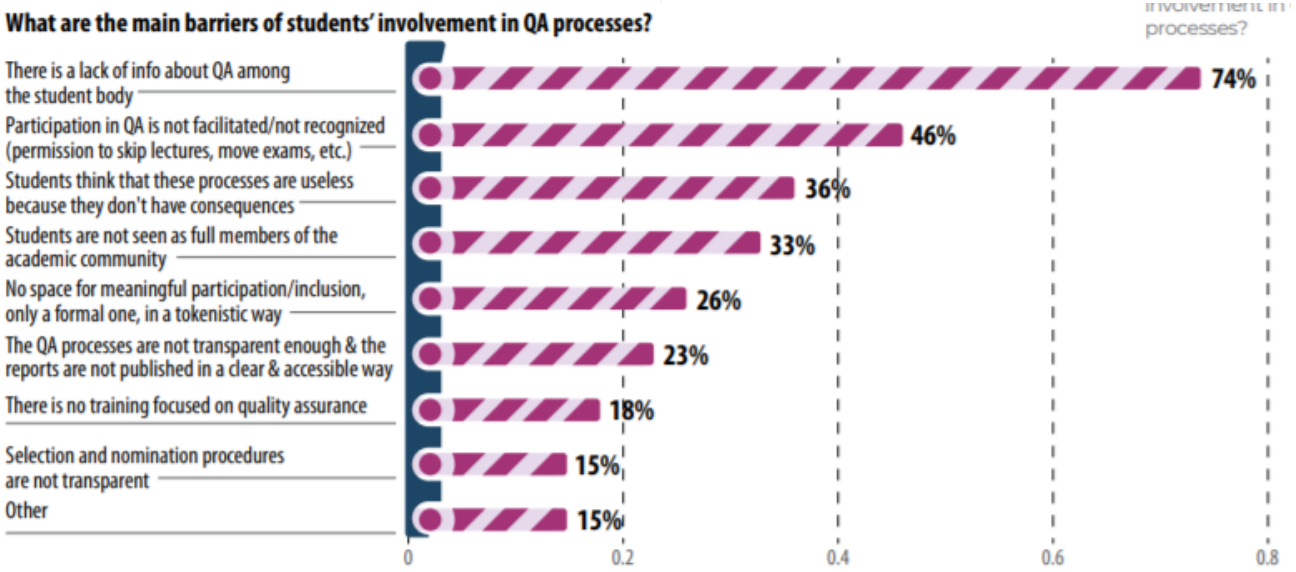
A look on QA from the BWSE2020

- **Berlin Communiqué** stated in 2003 that the quality of HE has proven to be at the heart of the setting up of EHEA and the QA is one of the fundamental priorities
- A milestone for creating a common language of QA around EHEA: **ESGs**
- **Yerevan Communiqué** from 2015 empowered a multipurpose QA by underlining its roles in learning and teaching
- **Paris Communiqué** from 2018 reiterated that QA is key in developing mutual trust as well as increasing mobility and fair recognition of qualifications and study periods throughout the EHEA

https://www.esu-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/0037-Bologna-Publication-2021-WEB3.pdf

What do ESU`s Board members say?





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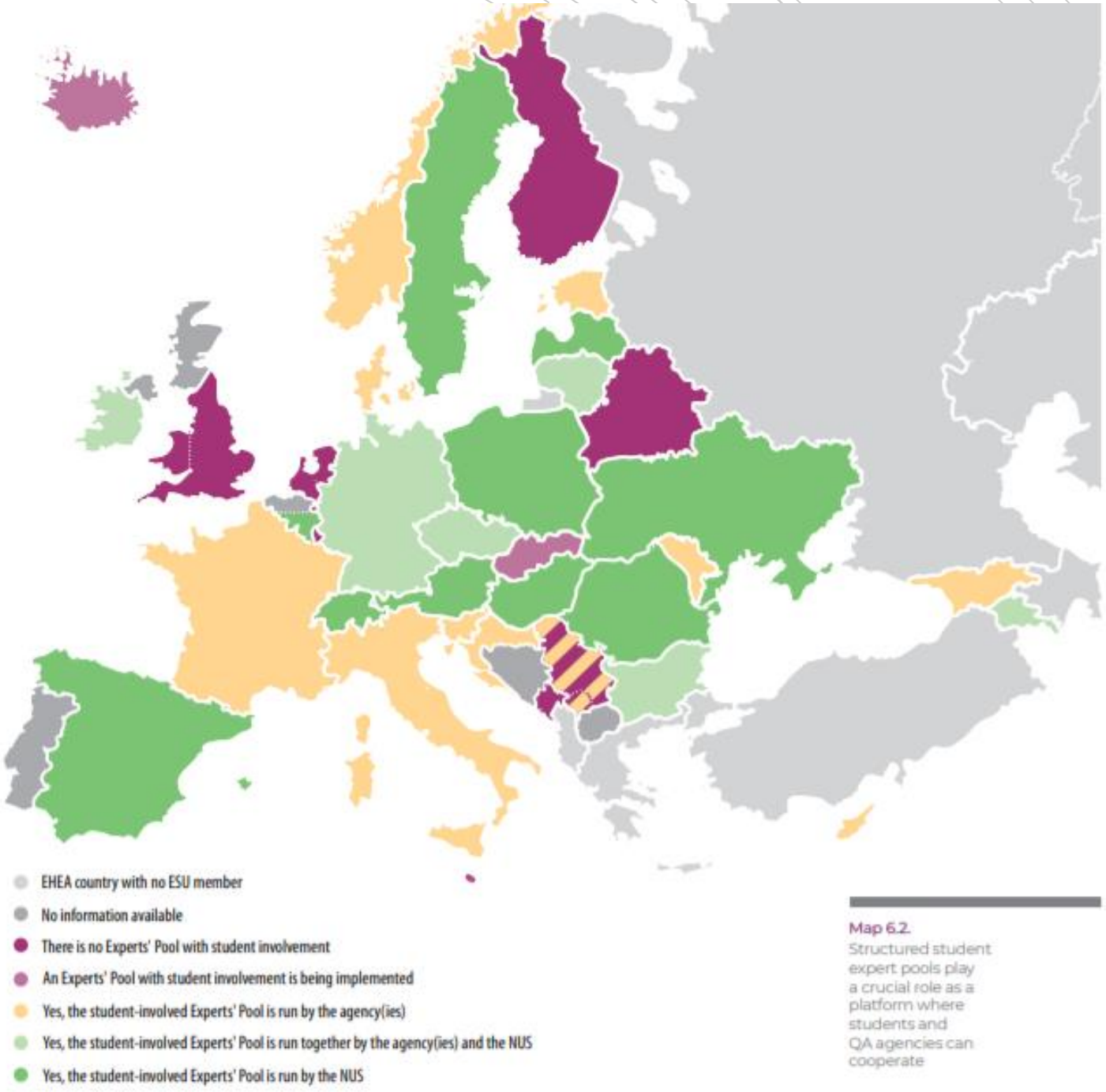

Map 6.2.
Structured student expert pools play a crucial role as a platform where students and QA agencies can cooperate

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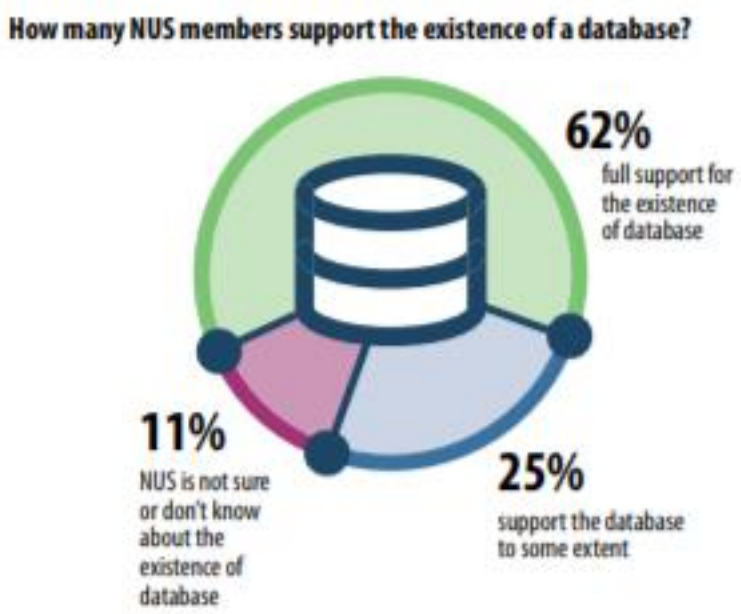

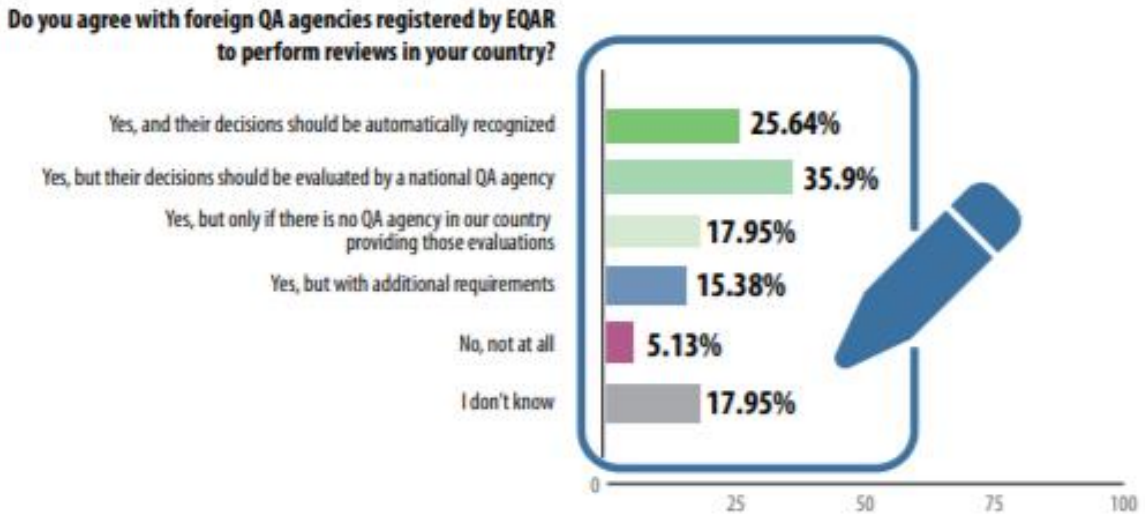

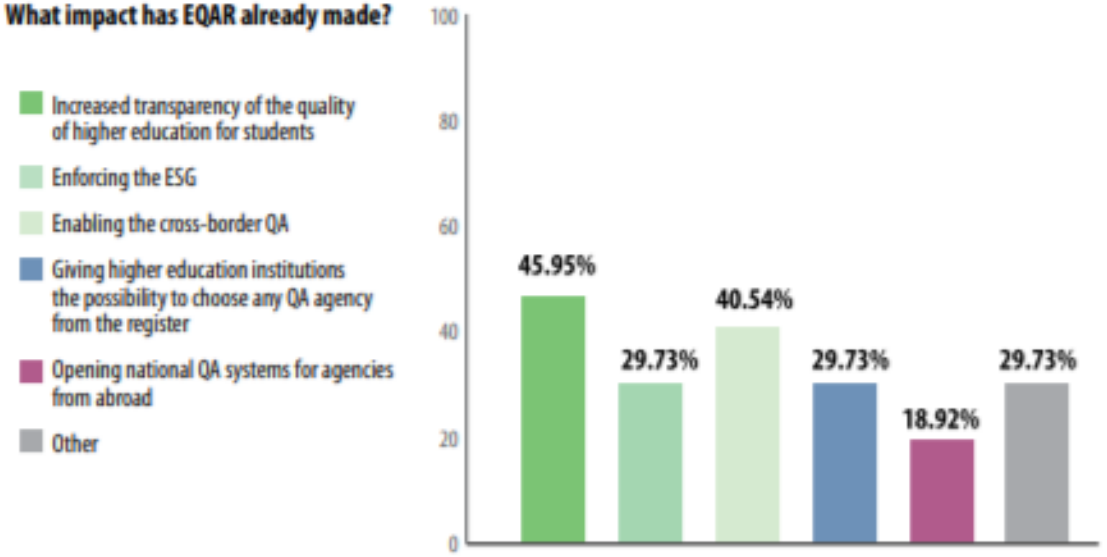

What do our experts say?

Collaboration is the key

- Students are not corrective factors, but insightful collaborators
- Criticism for the intent of improvement, not downgrading!

Preparation leads to perfection

- Students need to prepare for a particular review- give them some time
- Have in mind that the students are an important group for collecting institutional feedback- do not be afraid to ask ”hard” questions
- Sometimes students are the most prepared panel members!?

Equal rights= equal commitment

- Students NEED to be equal to other panel members in all aspects
- Do not allow students to „sit and comment” on the evaluation process. Actively engage them!

Recent interests in QA

Digitalization of education

- How well-adapted to the „new reality” are institutions
- Post-COVID-19 goals of education- how accessible is it?
- The role of digitalization within social dimension of HE

QA of EUA

- How to adapt current ESGs to the networks?
- Automatic recognition
- Degree values

Recognition within QA

- Attracting criteria of education
- Transparency of the recognition systems (both mobility and educational)
- Students` feedback on recognition

QA for the future

Student-centered learning in a digital learning environment

Interlinking academic integrity and QA

Micro-credentials and digital credentials

Social dimension of QA

The development of the EEA 2025 and the adaptation of ESGs 2015

Students as rightful and equal stakeholders

Thank you!

pegi.pavletic@esu-online.org
LinkedIn: Pegi Pavletic

More about ESU`s QA Pool:
https://www.esu-online.org/quality-assurance-student-experts-pool/
More about Bologna With Student Eyes publication:
https://www.esu-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/0037-Bologna-Publication-2021-WEB3.pdf