



The European Higher Education Area in 2018

*Bologna Process
Implementation Report*

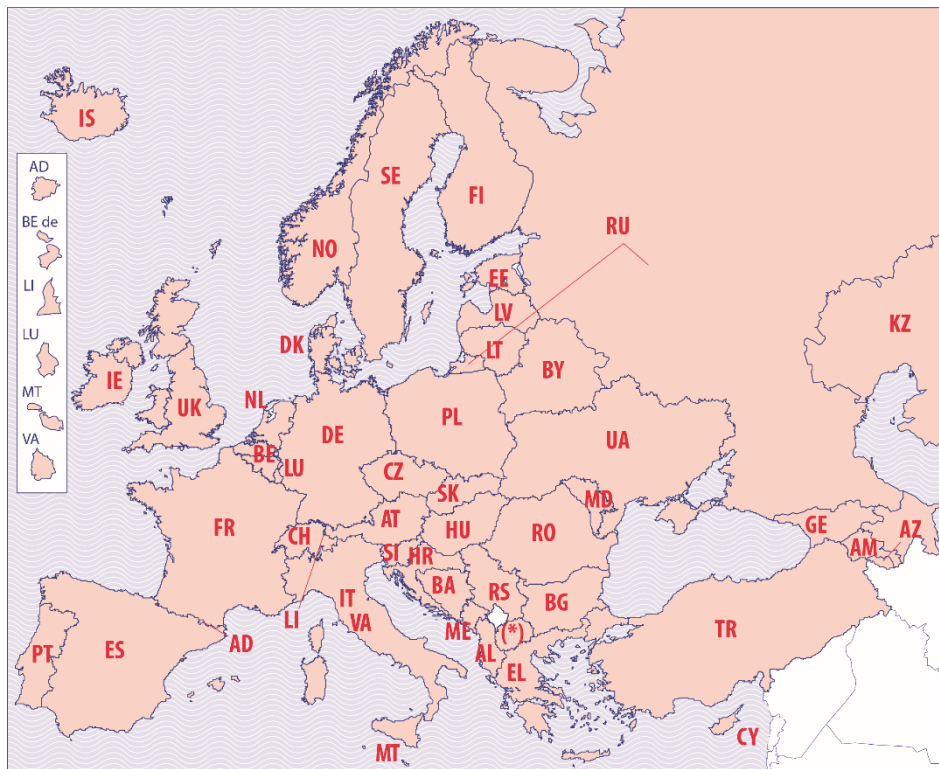
Education and
Training

ECTS – state of play

*ECTS Conference
Prague, 4/5/2019*

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Eurydice*

EHEA today



- **48** countries
 - **38** million students:
56 % in *Russia, Turkey, Germany, France and UK*
 - **1.2 % GDP**
public expenditure (average)
- > *An open and inclusive higher education area among diverse countries is a major challenge*

Key Commitments:

- *Structural reforms underpinning EHEA*
- *3 cycle degree structure (including NQF, **ECTS**, DS)*
- *Recognition*
- *Quality Assurance*

**The main goal is
to increase staff
and students'
mobility and
to facilitate
employability**

The method

***Voluntary
commitment***

***Monitoring and peer
pressure***

***With the risk of
picking and
choosing
ingredients...***



Paris Communiqué, 2018

*‘...To this end we renew our **commitment to ensure full implementation of ECTS**, following the guidelines laid down in the 2015 ECTS Users’ guide.’*

ECTS

*...is a learner-centred system for **credit accumulation** and **transfer**, based on the principle of transparency of the learning, teaching and **assessment** processes.*

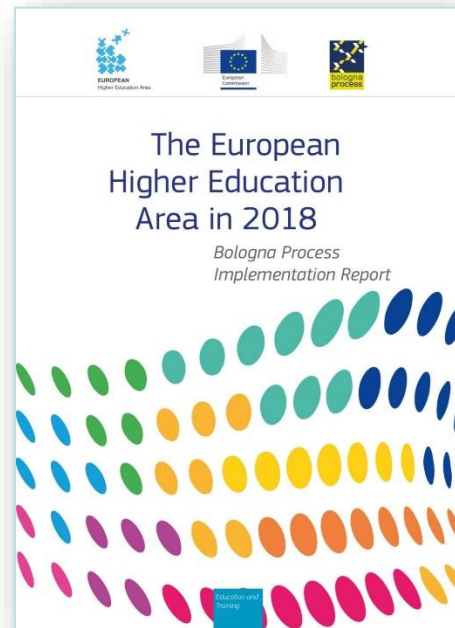
*Its objective is to facilitate **planning, delivery** and **evaluation** of study programmes and student **mobility** by recognising learning achievements and qualifications and periods of learning.*

Using ECTS for credit accumulation and transfer, 1st and 2nd cycle programmes

48 countries use ECTS or an ECTS-compatible national credit system

*In 40 countries **all HEI** use ECTS*

*In 42 countries **all programmes** use ECTS*



ECTS credits: learning outcomes and student workload (2015 Yerevan!)



39 countries allocate ECTS credits based on learning outcomes (to be) achieved and associated student workload

LO:...what the learner need to know, understand and able to do by the end of the learning process...

(help) make it happen? -

1) Top-level steering to encourage using learning outcomes



in programme development: **47** countries

in student assessment: **44** countries



(help) make it happen? -

2) Systematic monitoring and quality assurance



...ECTS implementation should be quality assured through appropriate evaluation processes (monitoring, internal & external QA, students' feedback) and continuous quality enhancement. (ECTS Users' Guide 2015)

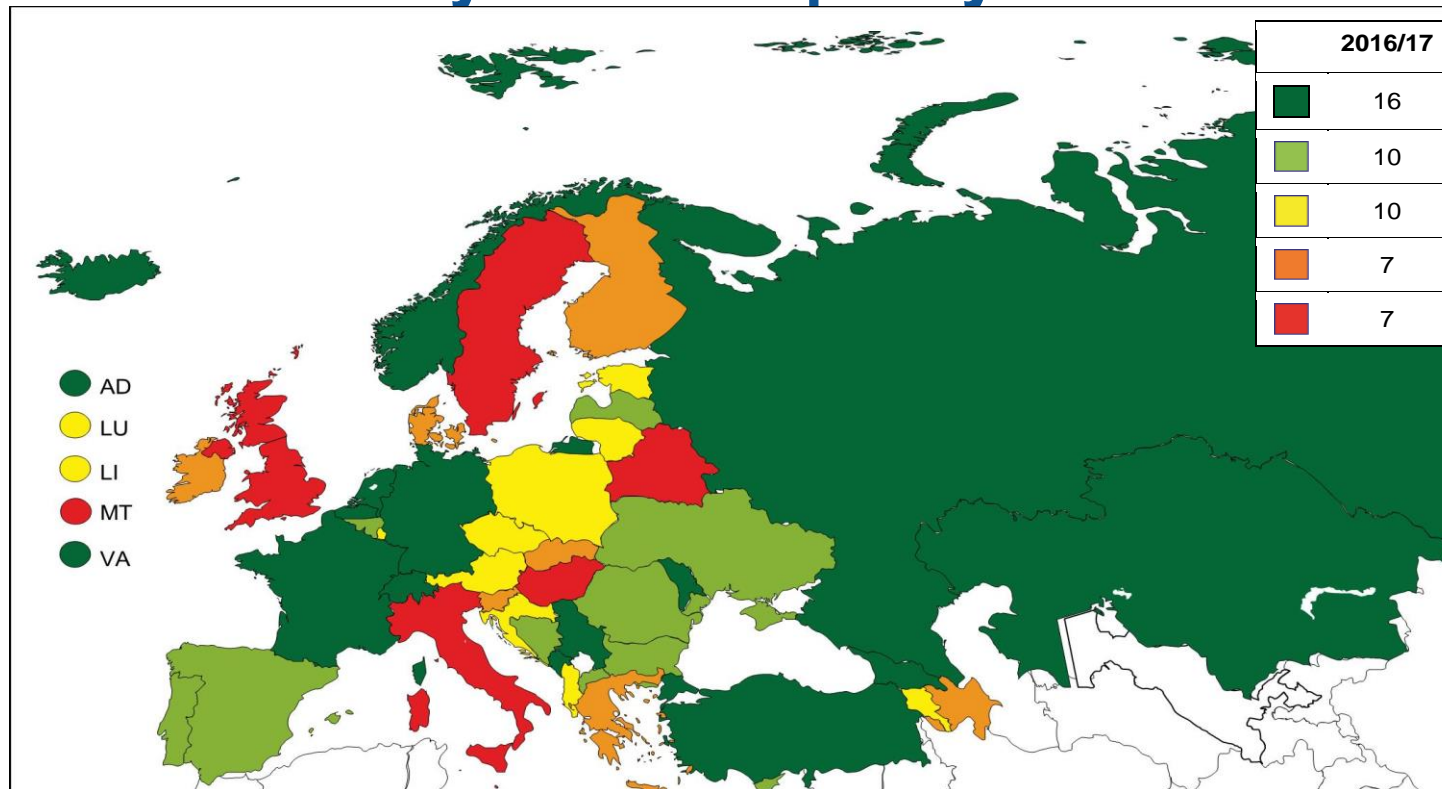
European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015)

- at HEI level – internal QA*
- at national and European levels - external QA systems*

Requirement to monitor **key ECTS aspects** by external quality assurance

1. *ECTS credits are awarded on the basis of **learning outcomes** and **student workload**;*
2. *ECTS **credit allocation** is regularly **monitored** and followed up by appropriate revision if necessary;*
3. *ECTS is used as a credit system for the **accumulation of credits** acquired within higher education institutions;*
4. *ECTS is used as a credit system for the **transfer of credits** for student learning outcomes acquired in **another institutions within the country**;*
5. *ECTS is used as a credit system for the **transfer of credits** for student learning outcomes acquired **during periods of study abroad**;*
6. *Appropriate **appeals procedures** are in place to deal with **problems of credit recognition**.*

Scorecard indicator n°1: Monitoring the implementation of ECTS by external quality assurance



- All issues
- 4-5 issues
- 1-3 issues
- Not required but may in some cases
- Not required, not in practise

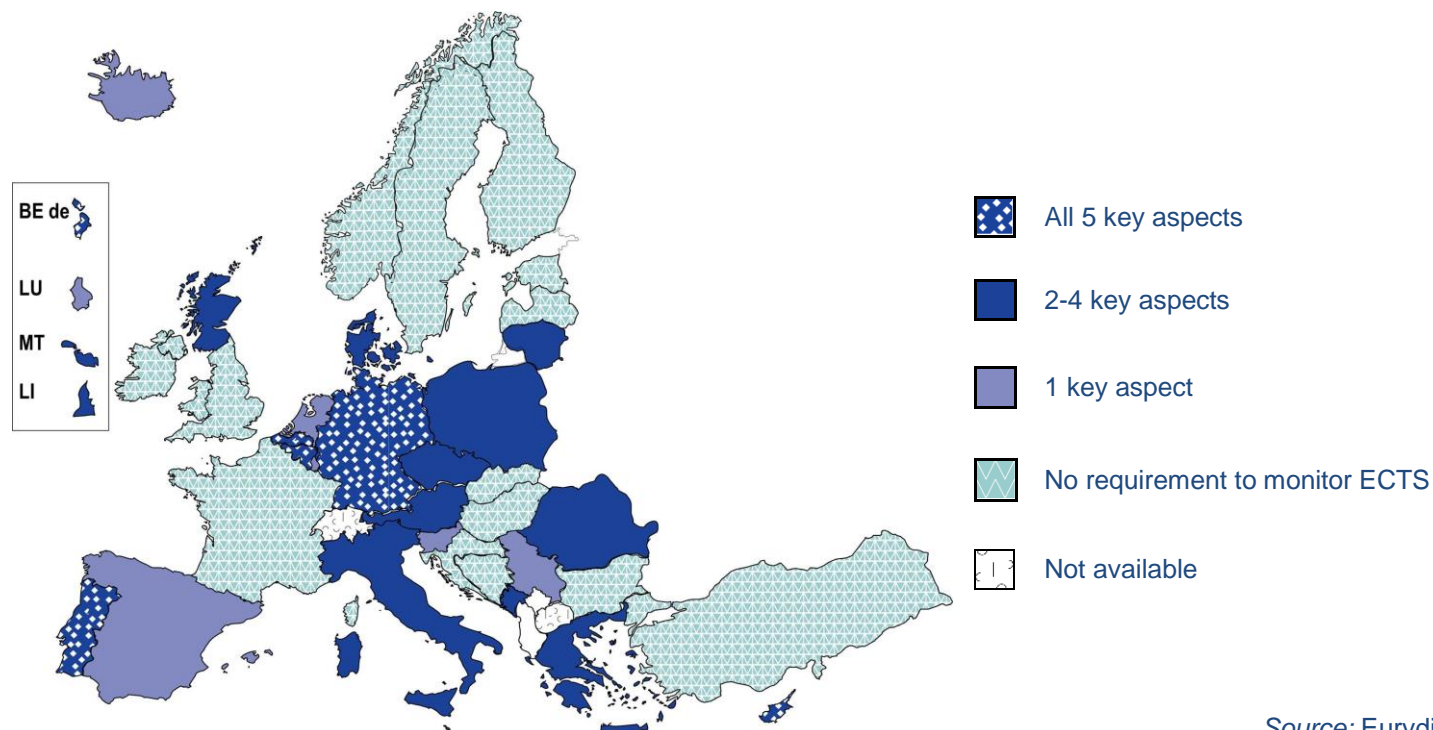
Challenges

- *Key principles of ECTS required to be monitored **a la carte** by external QA*
- ***Student appeals** procedures NOT required to be monitored in 30 countries*

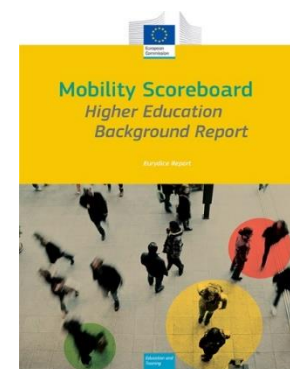
Mobility Scoreboard 2016

QA!

Figure 5.3: Monitoring of key aspects of ECTS for higher education learner mobility by quality assurance agencies, 2015/16



Source: Eurydice.



1. ECTS credits are awarded on the basis of **learning outcomes & student workload**
2. **ECTS supporting documents** (Course Catalogue, Learning Agreement, Transcript of Records ...) are used appropriately
3. All credits gained during a period of study abroad are **transferred without delay**
4. The HEI has an **appropriate appeals procedure** to deal with problems of credit recognition
5. The HEI's statistical **grade distribution tables** in each field of study

An important caveat (even when all are green)...



Students' experiences – credit accumulation and transfer



Thank you for your attention!

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Erasmus+: Education and Youth Policy Analysis – Unit A7*

If interested in more detail read the reports:

- *Bologna Process Implementation Report 2018:*

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/european-higher-education-area-2018-bologna-process-implementation-report_en

- *Mobility Scoreboard 2016:*

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/mobility-scoreboard>

Upcoming: Bologna Stocktaking report 2020; Mobility Scoreboard 2019