IRISH UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

A European perspective on Lifelong Learning

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DCU · Maynooth University National University of Ireland Maynooth · NUI Galway OÉ Gaillimh · Trinity College Dublin Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath The University of Dublin · UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh · UCD DUBLIN · UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

Greetings from Ireland!
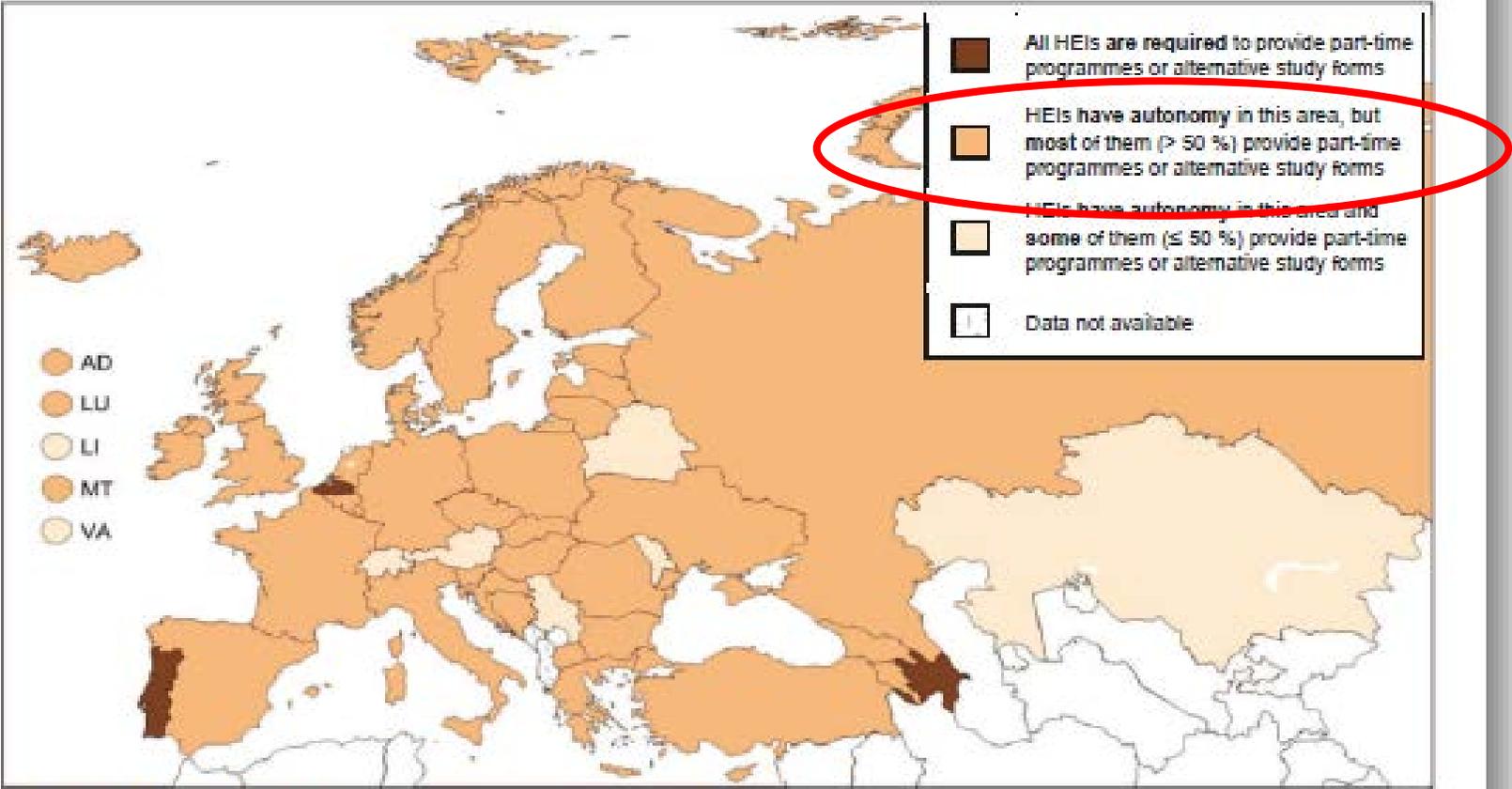
Outline of presentation

- Bologna tools which assist with Lifelong Learning (LLL)
- Current implementation of LLL in European universities
- Broader context for LLL and its importance in Europe today

Bologna tools for LLL

- **National and European Qualifications Frameworks**
- **ECTS and credit accumulation**
- **Recognition**

Part-time/flexible learning

Figure 2.17: Provision of part-time programmes or other alternative study forms by higher education institutions, 2016/17
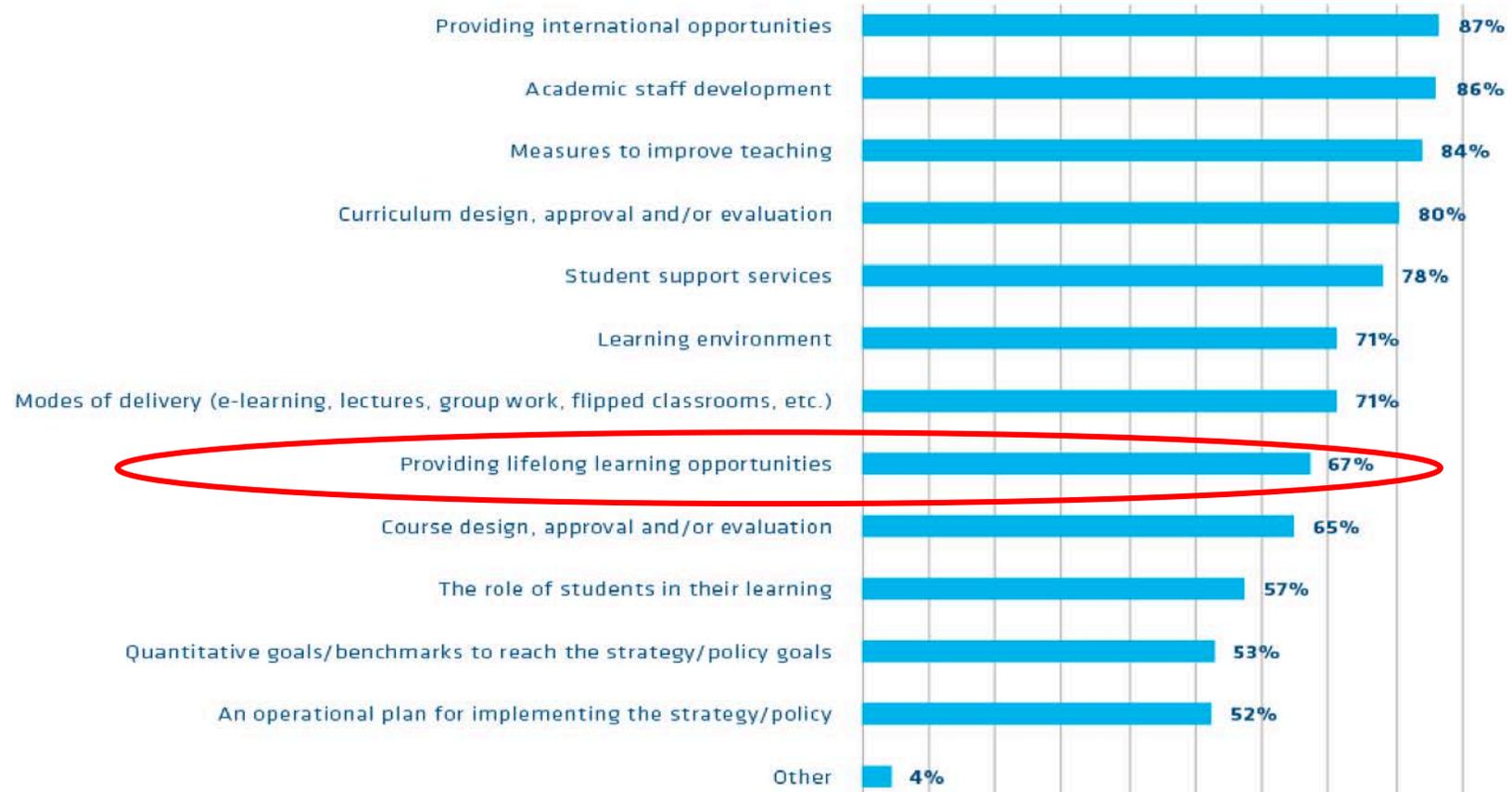
Source: EC/EACEA/Eurydice, 2018.
Bologna Process Implementation Report

Institutional Strategies

Fig. 3 Elements included in the institutional learning and teaching strategy or policy
What elements does your institutional learning and teaching strategy/policy address or include? (Q. 9.1; N = 260)

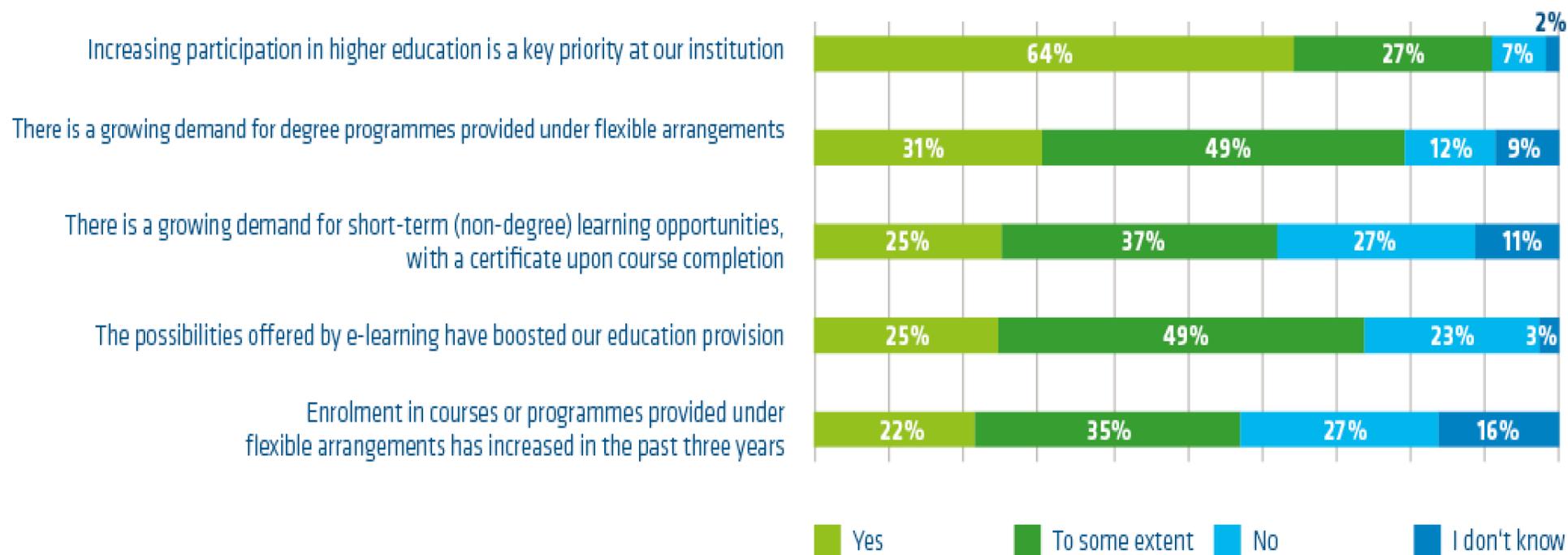| Element	%
Providing international opportunities	87%
Academic staff development	86%
Measures to improve teaching	84%
Curriculum design, approval and/or evaluation	80%
Student support services	78%
Learning environment	71%
Modes of delivery (e-learning, lectures, group work, flipped classrooms, etc.)	71%
Providing lifelong learning opportunities	67%
Course design, approval and/or evaluation	65%
The role of students in their learning	57%
Quantitative goals/benchmarks to reach the strategy/policy goals	53%
An operational plan for implementing the strategy/policy	52%
Other	4%

Source: EUA: Trends 2018, Learning and Teaching in the European Higher Education Area

Growing demand....

Fig. 18 Inclusive education provision

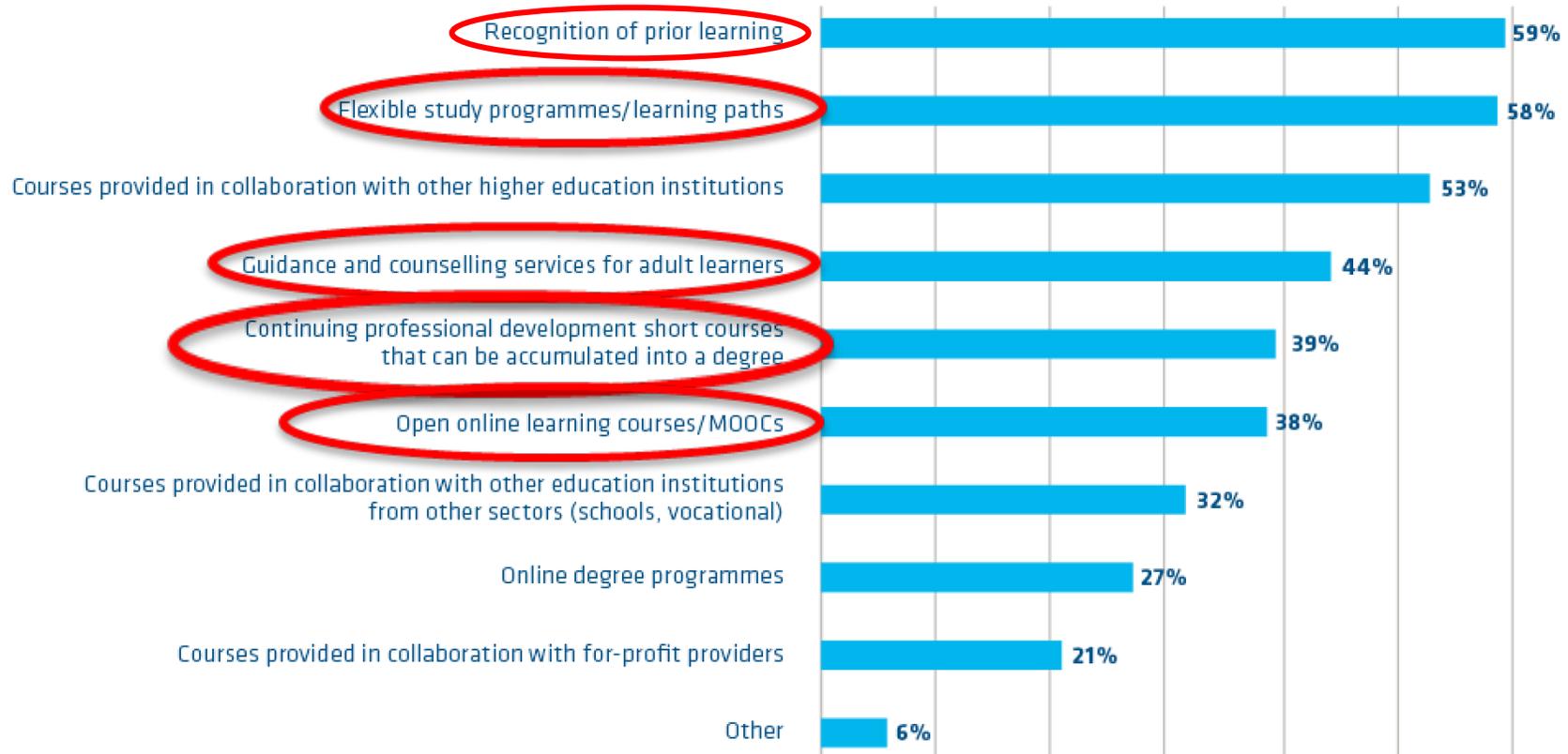Do the following statements reflect the current situation at your institution? (Q. 29; N = 290)

Statement	Yes	To some extent	No	I don't know
Increasing participation in higher education is a key priority at our institution	64%	27%	7%	2%
There is a growing demand for degree programmes provided under flexible arrangements	31%	49%	12%	9%
There is a growing demand for short-term (non-degree) learning opportunities, with a certificate upon course completion	25%	37%	27%	11%
The possibilities offered by e-learning have boosted our education provision	25%	49%	23%	3%
Enrolment in courses or programmes provided under flexible arrangements has increased in the past three years	22%	35%	27%	16%

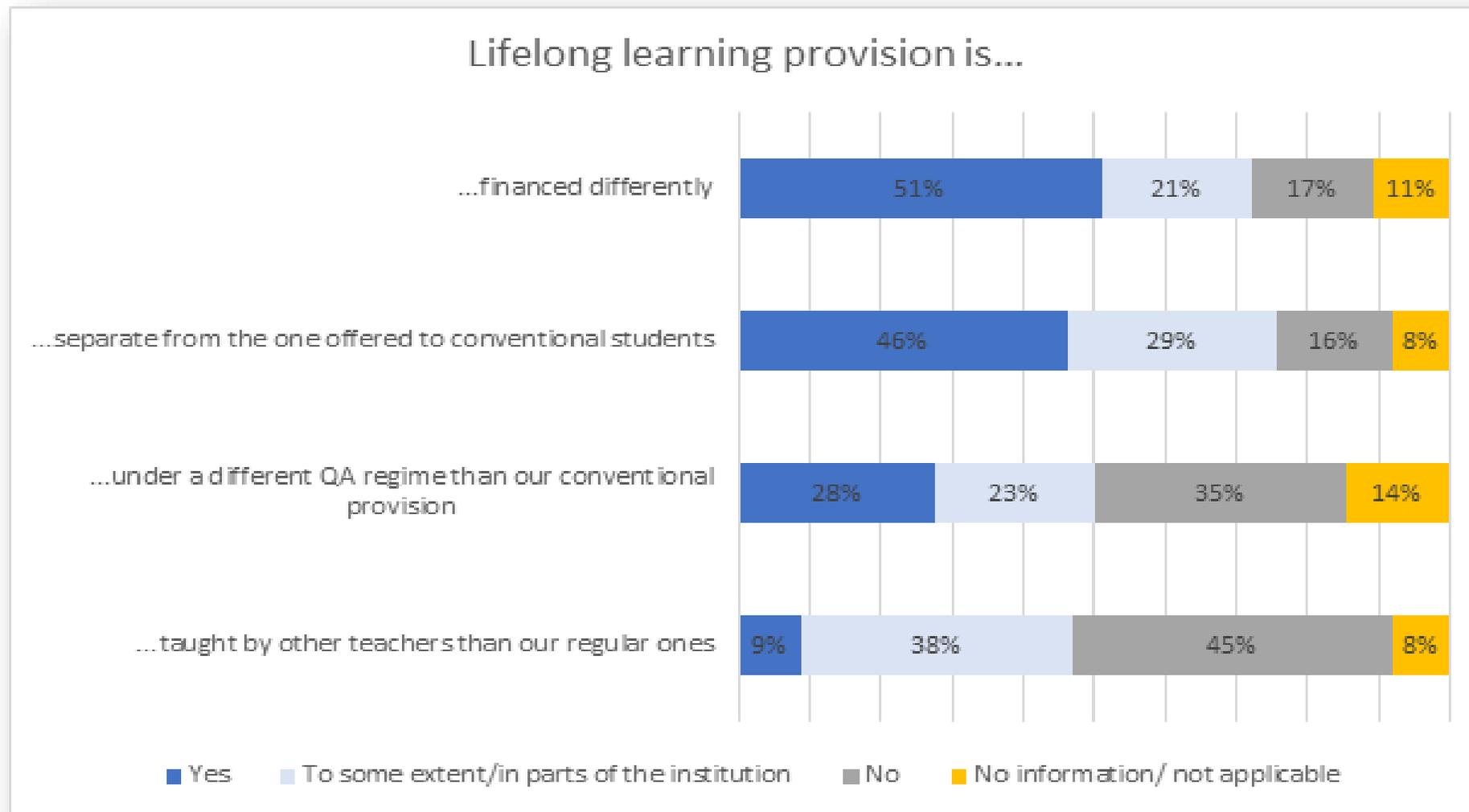Source: EUA: Trends 2018, Learning and Teaching in the European Higher Education Area

But limited supports…

Fig. 23 Measures offered for lifelong learners
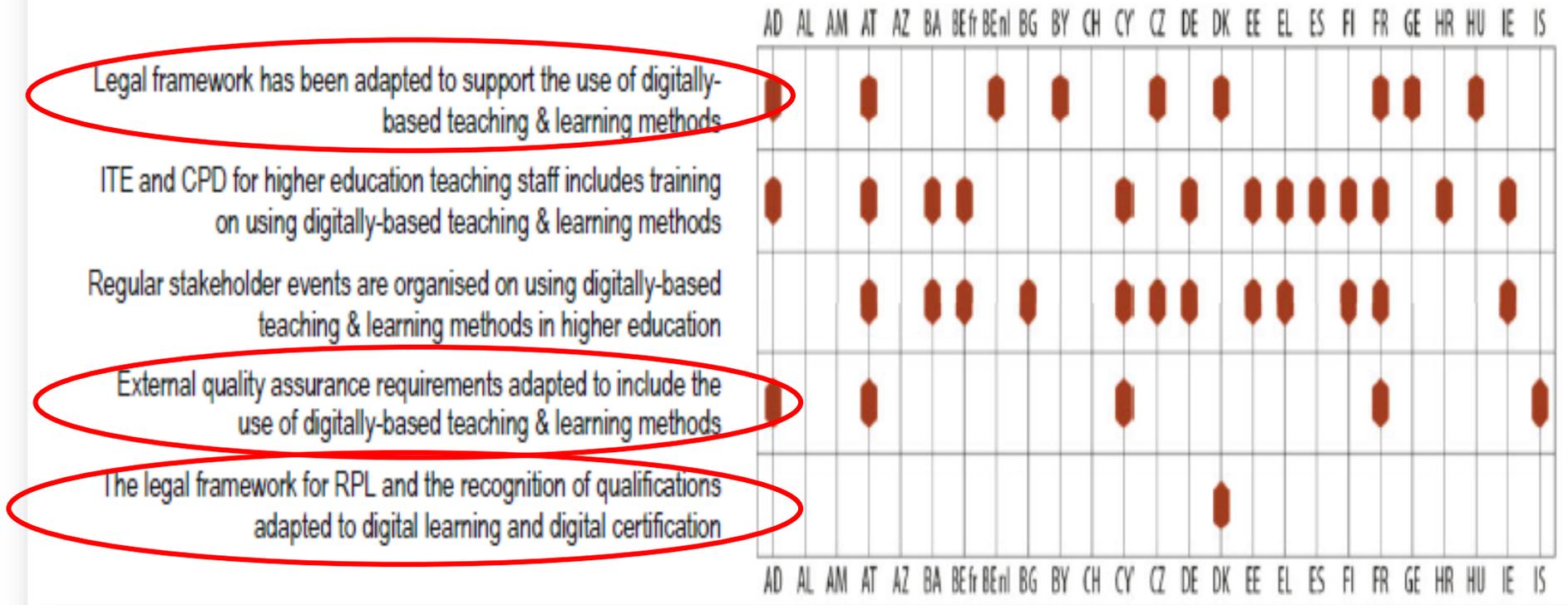Which of the following measures does your institution offer for lifelong learners? (Q. 30; N = 288)

- Recognition of prior learning — 59%
- Flexible study programmes/learning paths — 58%
- Courses provided in collaboration with other higher education institutions — 53%
- Guidance and counselling services for adult learners — 44%
- Continuing professional development short courses that can be accumulated into a degree — 39%
- Open online learning courses/MOOCs — 38%
- Courses provided in collaboration with other education institutions from other sectors (schools, vocational) — 32%
- Online degree programmes — 27%
- Courses provided in collaboration with for-profit providers — 21%
- Other — 6%

And different systems…

Lifelong learning provision is…

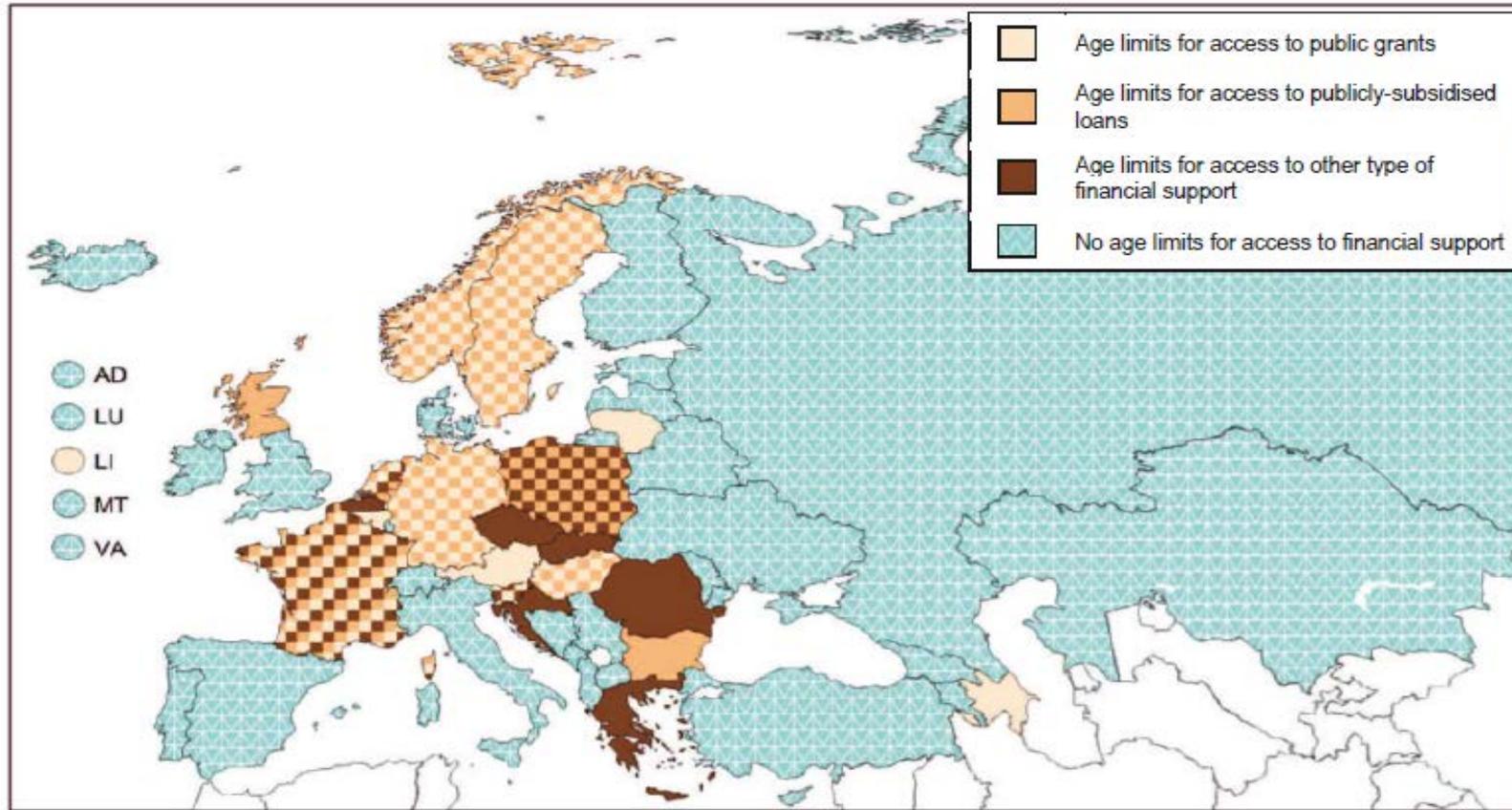|	Yes	To some extent/in parts of the institution	No	No information/ not applicable
…financed differently	51%	21%	17%	11%
…separate from the one offered to conventional students	46%	29%	16%	8%
…under a different QA regime than our conventional provision	28%	23%	35%	14%
…taught by other teachers than our regular ones	9%	38%	45%	8%

Regulations not adapted…

Figure 2.28: Incentives/support to the use of new technologies in teaching and learning in higher education (other than direct public funding), 2016/17

Source: EC/EACEA/Eurydice, 2018. Bologna Process Implementation Report

Limited student grants…

Figure 5.24: Presence of age limits applicable to financial support, full-time home students, 2016/17

Source: EC/EACEA/Eurydice, 2018. Bologna Process Implementation Report

Broader European context

- **Demographic decline**
- **Skills shortages**
- **"At risk" jobs**
- Social challenges linked to levels of education

- *So why do we make LLL so difficult?*
- *Can we afford to continue like this?*

Danke Schön!

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