

The background of the slide is a vibrant, high-angle photograph of a graduation ceremony. In the foreground, the heads and shoulders of graduates in blue and orange academic regalia are visible, many wearing black mortarboards. They are reaching their arms up, holding small, colorful confetti cannons that are firing a shower of multi-colored streamers and confetti into the air. The streamers are in various colors including red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and celebration. The image is slightly blurred, giving a sense of motion and excitement.

# **Realising Automatic Recognition**

The European Education Area  
in support of mobility and  
recognition for all

Vanessa Debiais-Sainton  
Head of Higher Education Unit  
European Commission

# A European Education Area by 2025

**learning  
& research are  
unhampered by  
borders**



**mobility is  
standard  
practice**



**a strong sense  
of European  
identity**





*Because after 30  
years of Erasmus...*

**63%**

believe that recognition of  
foreign higher  
education qualifications  
is still a problem



European  
Commission

# We're not starting from scratch

Treaty on the  
Functioning of  
the European  
Union

1997 Lisbon  
Convention on  
the Recognition  
of Qualifications

Bologna Process  
Paris  
Communiqué  
2018



# Council Recommendation 26/11/2018

## In a nutshell:

A qualification in one Member State is automatically recognised in the others to grant access to further learning.



The outcomes from a learning period abroad are automatically and fully recognised.



*Education and training institutions remain free to make independent decisions on admission to their programmes.*

# EXISTING GOOD PRACTICES

- Benelux Union decision on automatic recognition
- Reykjavik Declaration
- Nordic/Baltic Admission Manual
- Baltic States Agreement on automatic recognition



# European Universities

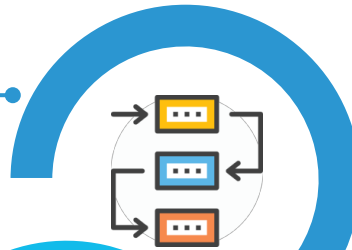
Flagship initiative of the  
European Education Area



European  
Commission

# WHAT WILL 'EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES' LOOK LIKE IN 2025- 2030?

**Dedicated Cooperation Structures**



**Shared, integrated, long-term strategic vision on education/research/innovation**



**European Statute  
European Degree**





**The road ahead...**



## Member States

Improved **transparency**  
and **trust**:

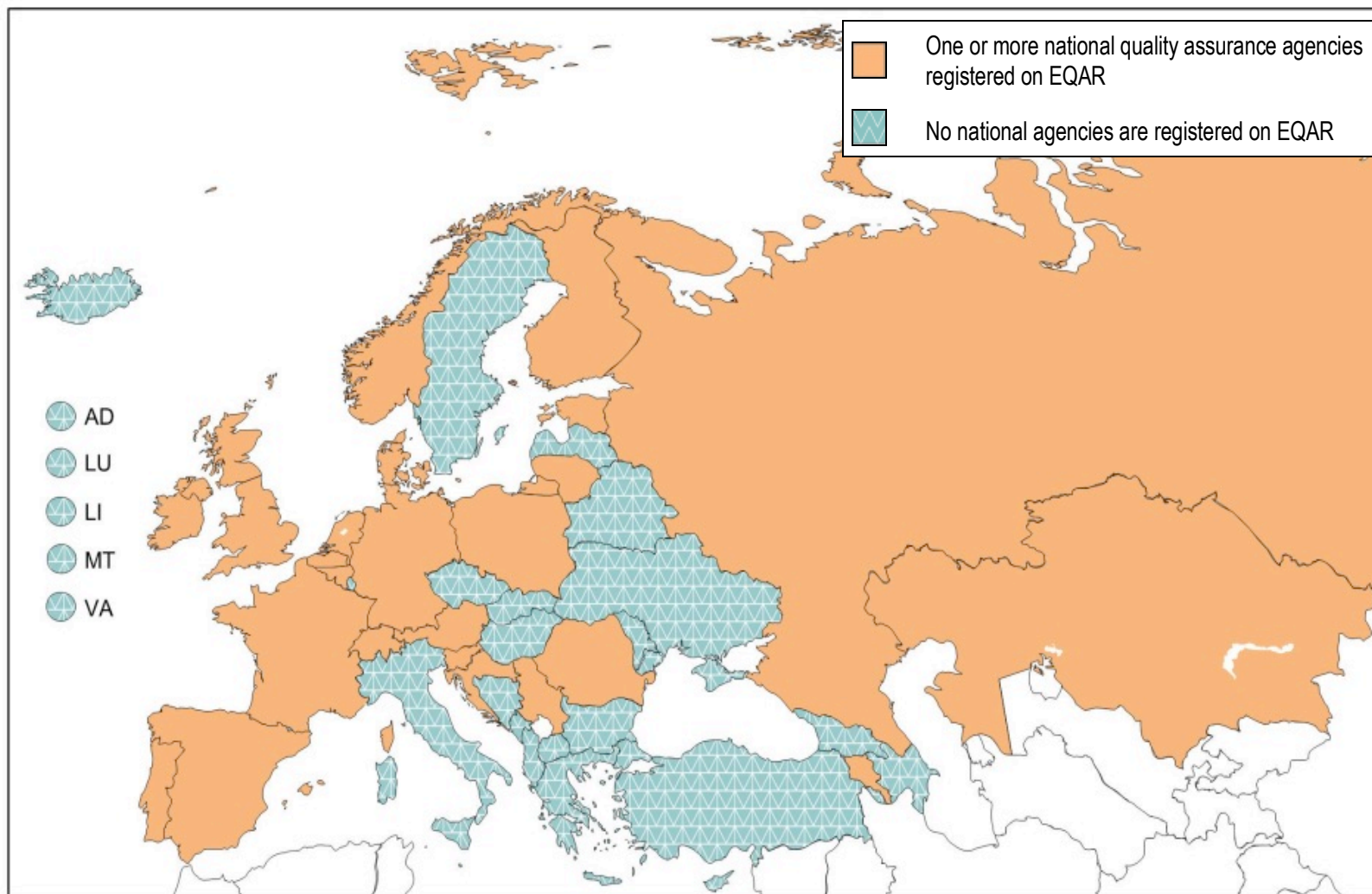
- National guidance on implementing transparency tools
- ECTS, course catalogues
- Diploma Supplement
- Transparent criteria for recognition

## Commission

- Digital tools
- Expansion of role of NARICs
- Synergies between transparency tools

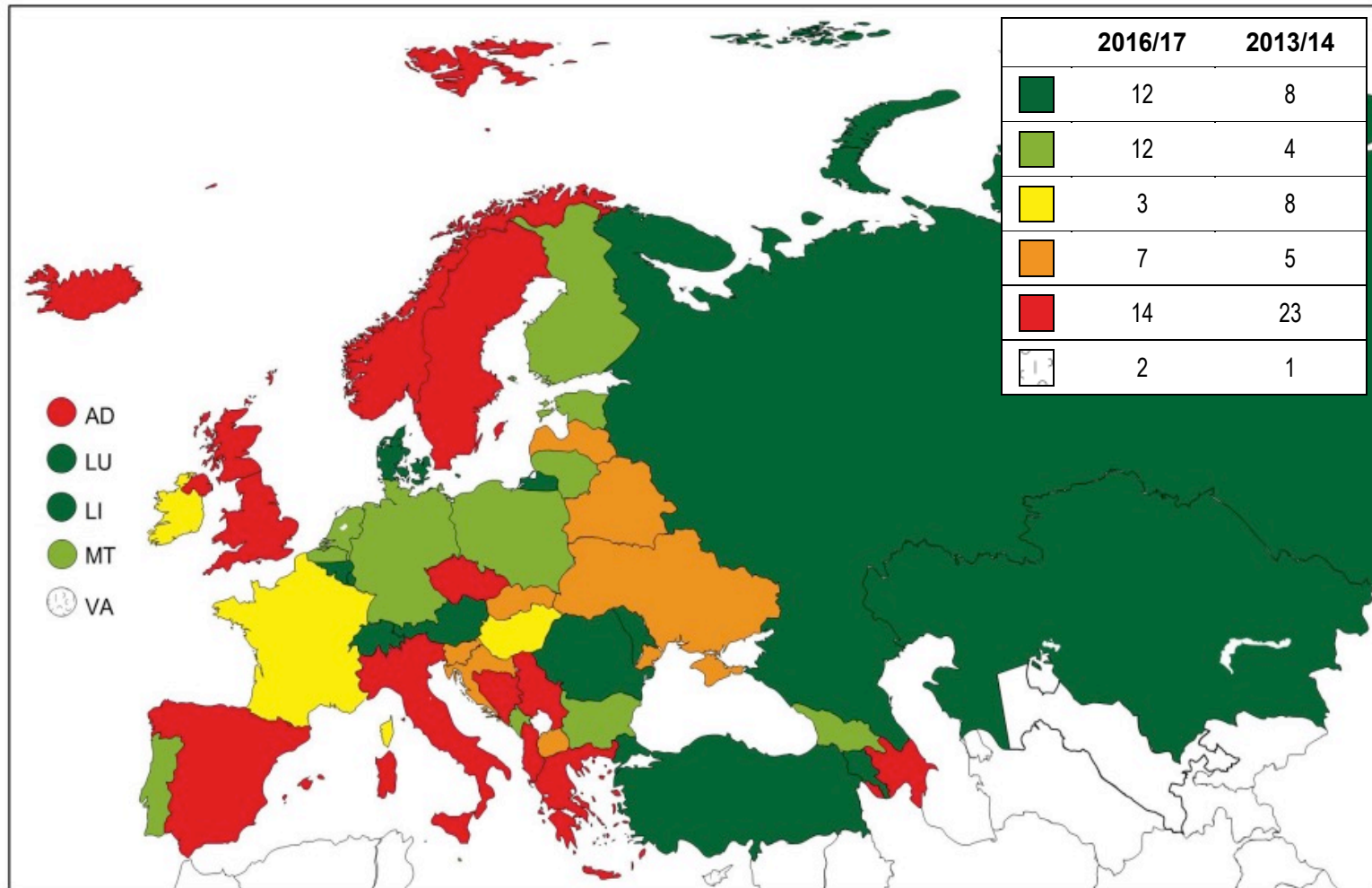


# COUNTRIES WITH EQAR REGISTERED AGENCIES



Source: Bologna Process Implementation Report  
2018

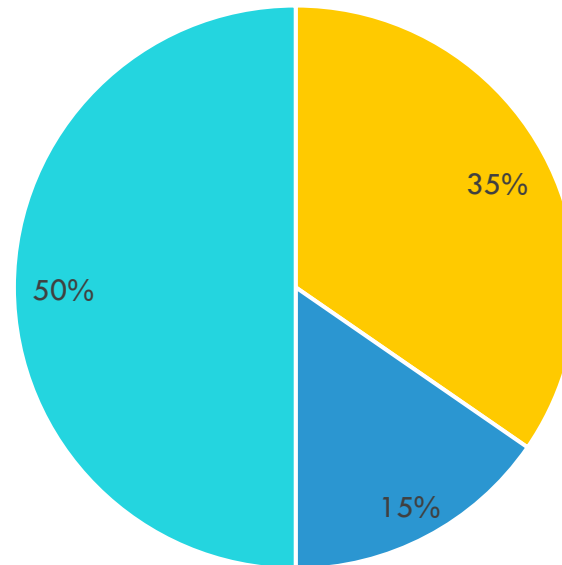
# OPENNESS TO CROSS-BORDER QA



Source: Bologna Process Implementation Report  
2018



# HAS YOUR AGENCY EVER IMPLEMENTED THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES?

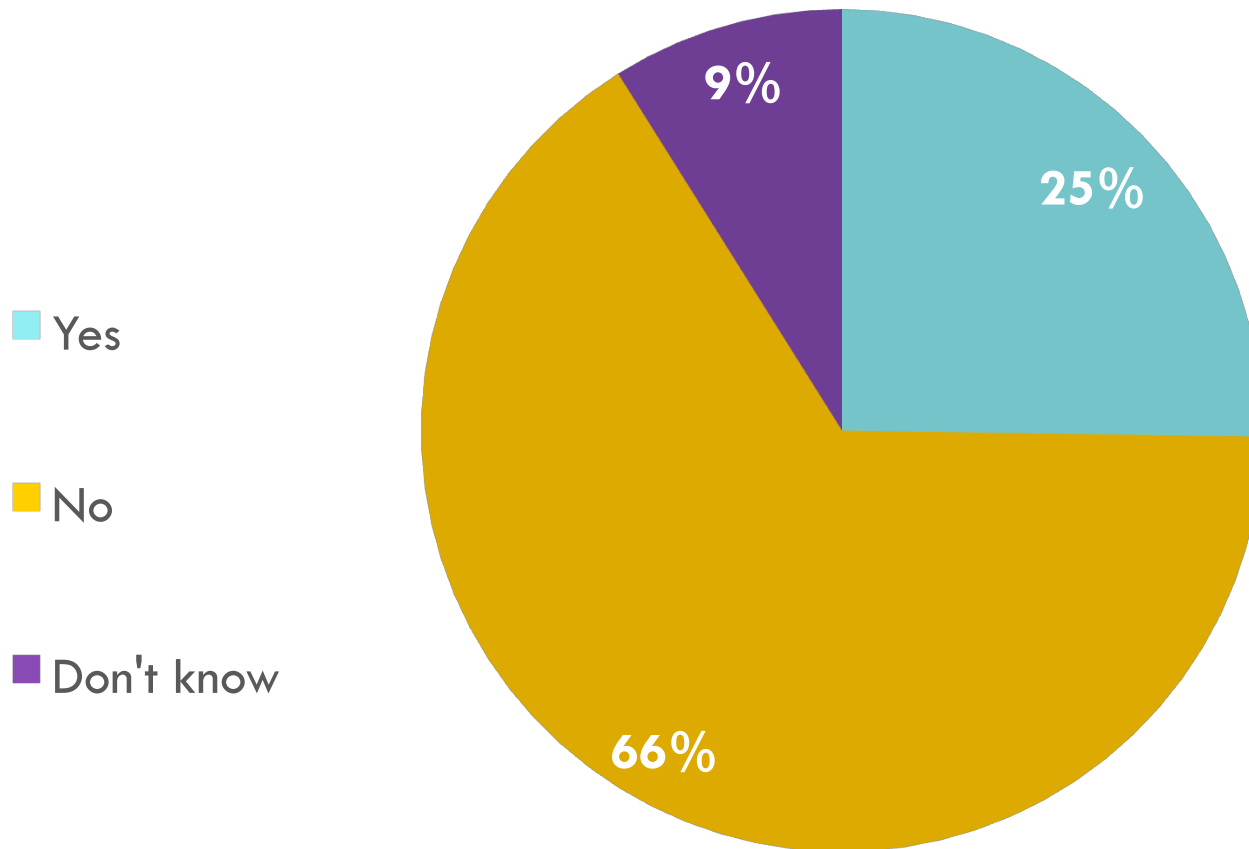


- Yes, our agency regularly evaluates HEIs from other countries
- Our agency has evaluated HEIs from other countries at least once
- No, our agency has not evaluated foreign HEIs

Source: Forthcoming European Commission  
study on progress in quality assurance

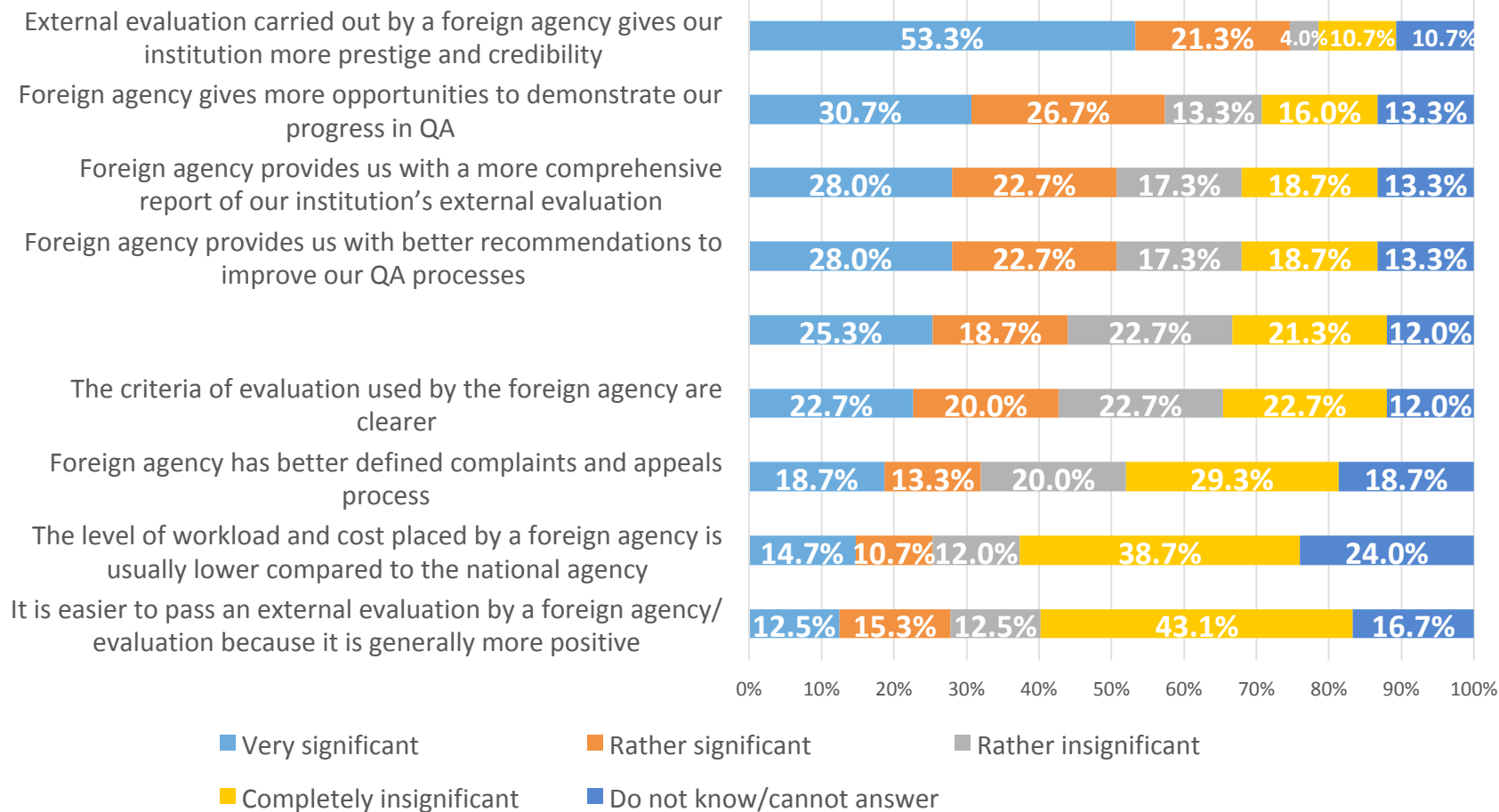
# HAS YOUR ORGANISATION/STUDY PROGRAMME BEEN EVER EVALUATED BY A FOREIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY?

14



Source: Forthcoming European Commission  
study on progress in quality assurance

# WHAT REASONS LED YOUR INSTITUTION TO CHOOSE A FOREIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY INSTEAD OF A NATIONAL ONE?





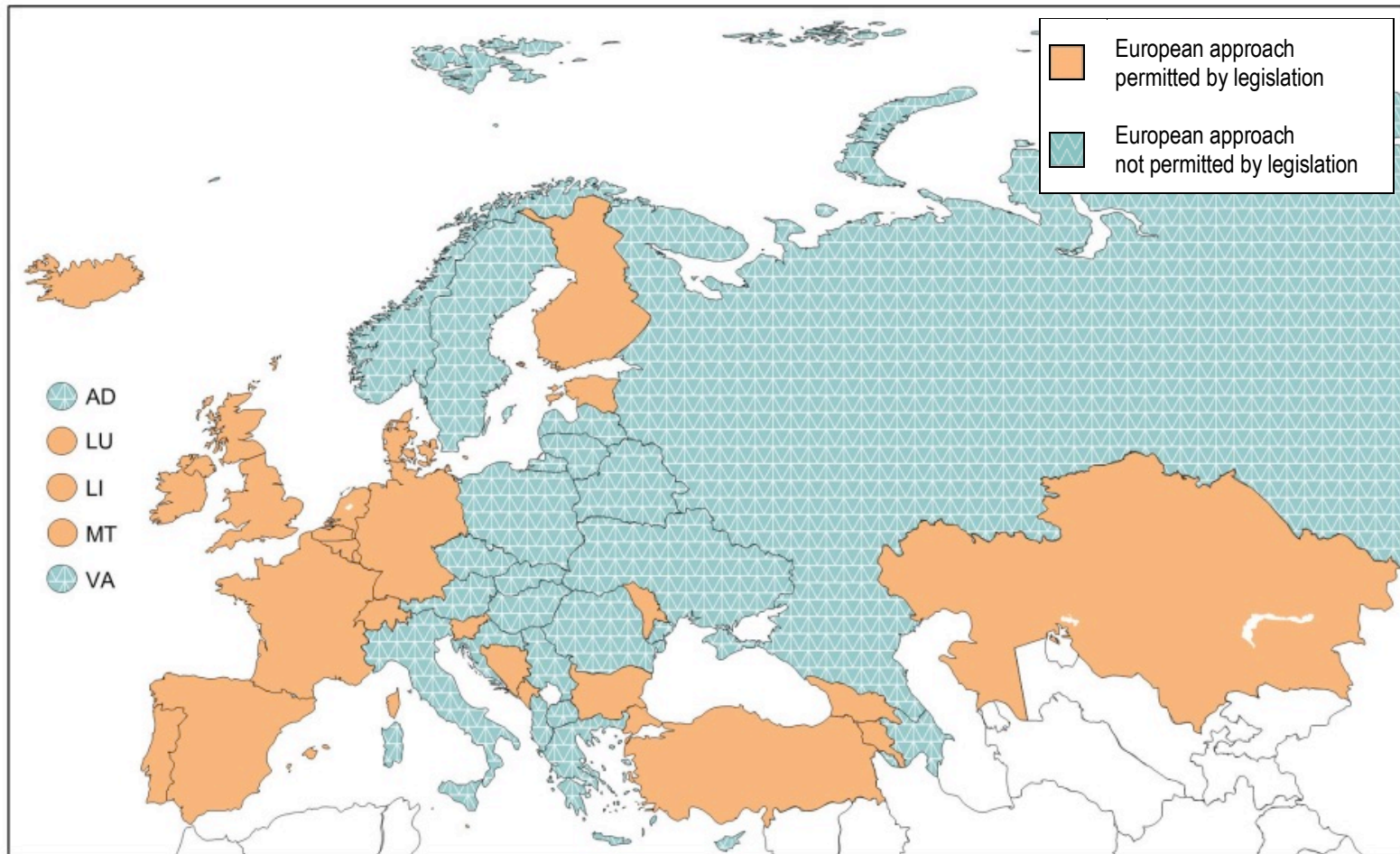
# KEY BARRIERS TO CHOOSING A FOREIGN QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY

- Higher financial costs
- Differing contexts and regulations
- Language barriers
- Unfavorable legal regulations set at the national level
- Distrust of foreign quality assurance agencies

*Source: Forthcoming European Commission study on progress in quality assurance*



# EUROPEAN APPROACH ON THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF JOINT PROGRAMMES







# Questions?