

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OF
MICRO-CREDENTIALS

**MAPPING EXTERNAL QA
PRACTICES FOR MC ACROSS
THE EHEA:
RESULTS OF ENQA SURVEY**

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SUMMARY

- Description of the survey
- Sample
- Principal Components Analysis for Categorical Data (CAPTCA)
- Results
- Challenges

DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY



April 2022

Item	Description
Section A	General information
Section B	About your agency / organisation
Section C	Agency's views on MC
Section D	MC and the ESG

SURVEY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Field work period	April, 4-27 2022
Scope	European Higher Education Area
Survey method	Self-administered questionnaire
Statistical unit	Staff of ENQA'S members or affiliates
Sample size	64 valid respondents
Sampling method	Exhaustive sampling
Sampling error	8.68 (confidence level 95%, $p= 0.5$)
<p data-bbox="129 776 845 825">Reliability and construct validity</p> <p data-bbox="129 858 677 906"><i>(where is possible to calculate)</i></p> <div data-bbox="147 968 879 1306" style="border: 2px dashed orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p data-bbox="180 1061 535 1103">CONCLUSION</p> <p data-bbox="180 1118 817 1222">The instrument is well built, specially in ESG (D1 and D3)</p> </div>	<ul data-bbox="988 776 1982 925" style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Agency's Views on Micro-credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C21, Reliability coefficients: Cronbach's $\alpha=0.916$ • C23, Reliability coefficients: Cronbach's $\alpha=0.896$ <p data-bbox="988 939 2382 1035">Construct validity: bidimensional model. Fit measures: RMSEA=0.121, GFI=0.740, PNFI=0.615 (poor model fit*).</p> <ul data-bbox="988 1049 1745 1092" style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-credentials and the ESG (D1, D3) <p data-bbox="988 1106 1727 1149">Reliability coefficients: Cronbach's $\alpha=0.958$</p> <p data-bbox="988 1163 1949 1249">Construct validity: unidimensional model. Fit measures: RMSEA=0.000, GFI=0.984, PNFI=0.856 (good model fit)</p> <p data-bbox="1014 1278 1274 1306">Software: JASPV16.1</p>

SAMPLE



N = 64

53 different agencies/organisations

- Status
 - 62.5% national
 - 21,9% non-governmental
 - 14.1% regional
 - 1.6% other
- 51.6% evaluations *for* institutional and programme level
- 81.3% evaluations *at* institutional and programme level
- 98.4% Higher Education, further education (32.8%), VET (35.9%)

CHARAC.

- **N = 64**
 - **Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization**
- Software: SPSS V26

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1: *Vision, Insight, Inside (agency/organisation' experience)***

C4, C13, C15*, C17, C19, C21* and C23*

Cronbach's Alpha: 0.968; Variance: 24.38%

- **Dimension 2: *Plan, Do, How***

C11, C14, C15*, C16, C18, C20, C21*, C23*, D1 and D3

- ESG

Cronbach's Alpha: 0.952; Variance: 17.22%

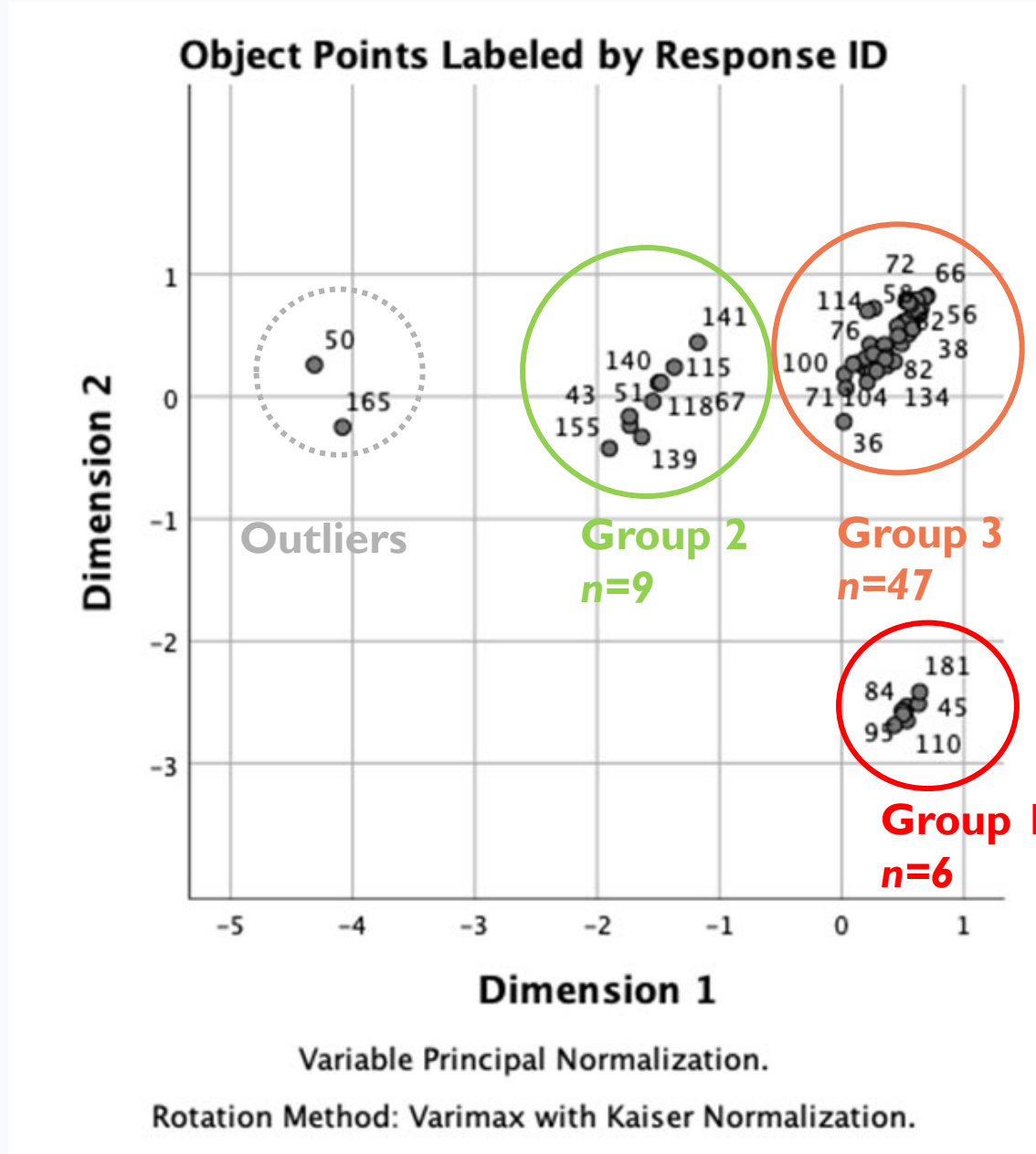
Section C	Agency's views on MC
C1, C2, C3	Definition for MC
C4 , C5	National requirements for external quality assurance of MC
C6, C7	Reliance on internal quality assurance arrangements in institutions to cover MC
C8, C9	Validation/review the recognition of MC developed by HEIs/other providers
C10, C11 , C12	Agency/organisation currently quality assure MC (C10) When would you expect this to happen? (C11) Would this be expected to be applied... (C12)
C13 , C14 , C15 , C15 , C16	How do you externally quality assure MC? (C13; C15) How do you plan to externally quality assurance micro-credentials? (C14; C16)
C17 , C18	Minimum quality threshold with specific criteria/indicators that you use as part of the external quality assurance approach for MC
C19, C20	Train reviewers specifically for external quality assurance of MC
C21 , C21 , C22	Challenges to externally quality assuring MC
C23 , C23 , C24	Tools to strengthen/develop/implement external quality assurance for MC

Red – Dim. 1 / Yellow – Dim. 2

Section D	MC and the ESG
D1, D2	Relevance/applicability of individual ESG (Part I) for the quality assurance of MC
D3, D4	Relevance/applicability of individual ESG (Part II) for the quality assurance of MC
D5, D6	Example of practice in relation to the quality assurance of MC
D7	Other comments

Yellow – Dim.
2

RESULTS



Group I (n=6) -

N/A, High relevance/applicability of the individual ESG



Dimension 1

C4, C13, C15*, C17, C19, C21*, C23*

C1: I Microbol; 5= European Commission

C13: N/A or No C15: N/A or No

C17: N/A or No C19: N/A

C21: Agree (3,4): lack/gap in national legislation; Lack of full understanding of micro-credentials by the sector; Lack of clear definitions/descriptors to allow for micro-credentials quality assurance requirements; Insufficient agency resources to include micro-credentials in external quality assurance operations.

C23: 50% Disagree (1,2) and 50% Agree (3,5): Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials.

Dimension 2

C11, C14, C15*, C16, C18, C20, C21*, C23*, D1, D3

C11: N/A

C14: N/A or No

C16: N/A or No

C20: Disagree

C21: Neither agree nor Disagree (2,3): Lack of reviewers with sufficient experience in micro-credentials; Lack of support/collaboration with professional bodies or the labour market; Insufficient collaboration/openness by institutions offering micro-credentials; Absence of international agreement/collaboration on micro-credentials; Different views of government bodies and the QA-agency/organization

C23: 50% Disagree (1,2) and 50% Agree (3,5): Specific (suggested) criteria/indicators for the quality assurance of micro-credentials; Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials; National or European thematic analysis of national-level quality assurance activity involving micro-credentials.

D1: Agree or Strongly Agree with the relevance ESG (4,5)

D3: Agree or Strongly Agree with the relevance ESG (4,5)

Dimension 1

C4, C13, C15*, C17, C19, C21*, C23*

C1: Microbol, European Commission, own definition, is being developing

C13: No or N/A **C15: Yes**

C17: Yes (30-40%); No (60-70%)

C19: 50% Disagree (1,2) and 50% Agree (3,4)

C21: Different opinions (1 to 5): lack/gap in national legislation; Lack of full understanding of micro-credentials by the sector; Lack of clear definitions/descriptors to allow for micro-credentials quality assurance requirements; Insufficient agency resources to include micro-credentials in external quality assurance operations.

C23: Different opinions (1 to 5): Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials.

Dimension 2

C11, C14, C15*, C16, C18, C20, C21*, C23*, D1, D3

C11: N/A

C12: No, N/A, and some 'Yes': externally quality assurance

C14: Yes (40%); No and N/A (60%)

C15: No or N/A

C16: Yes (30-40%); No and N/A (60-70%)

C18: Yes (20-30%); No and N/A (70-80%)

C20: N/A

C21: Different opinions (1 to 5): Lack of reviewers with sufficient experience in micro-credentials; Lack of support/collaboration with professional bodies or the labour market; Insufficient collaboration/openness by institutions offering micro-credentials; Absence of international agreement/collaboration on micro-credentials; Different views of government bodies and the QA-agency/organization

C23: Different opinions (1 to 5): Specific (suggested) criteria/indicators for the quality assurance of micro-credentials; Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials; National or European thematic analysis of national-level quality assurance activity involving micro credentials.

D1: 10-30% Disagree or Strongly Disagree with the relevance of ESG

D3: 10-50% Disagree or Strongly Disagree with the relevance of ESG (above all 2.5 and 2.7)

Dimension 1

C4, C13, C15*, C17, C19, C21*, C23*

C1: European Commission

C13: N/A C15: N/A or No

C17: N/A or No, some 'Yes'

C19: N/A

C21: (≈ 60% Agree or Strongly Agree):
lack/gap in national legislation; Lack of full understanding of micro-credentials by the sector; Lack of clear definitions/descriptors to allow for micro-credentials quality assurance requirements; Insufficient agency resources to include micro-credentials in external quality assurance operations.

C23: (≈ 66% Agree or Strongly Agree):
Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials.

Dimension 2

C11, C14, C15*, C16, C18, C20, C21*, C23*, D1, D3

C11: Don't know.

C12: No or N/A

C14: N/A or No

C15: N/A or No

C16: N/A or No

C18: N/A or No, some 'Yes'

C20: N/A

C21: (≈70% Agree or Strongly Agree): Lack of reviewers with sufficient experience in micro-credentials; Lack of support/collaboration with professional bodies or the labour market; Insufficient collaboration/openness by institutions offering micro-credentials; Absence of international agreement/collaboration on micro-credentials; Different views of government bodies and the QA-agency/organization

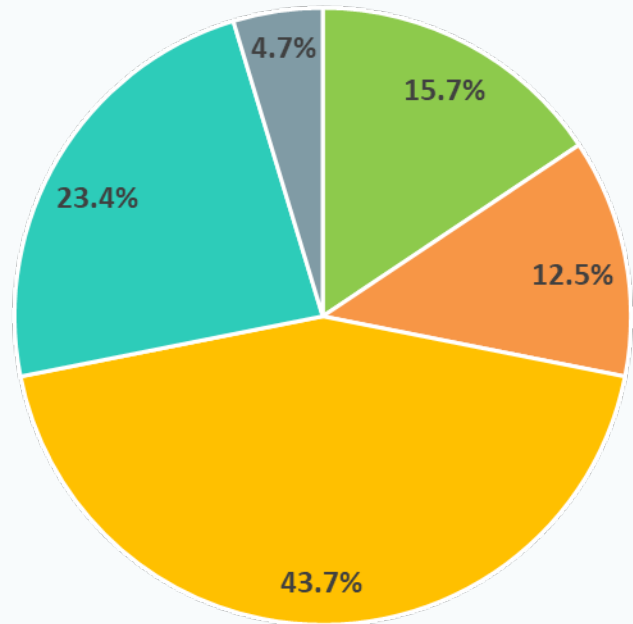
C23: (≈66% Agree or Strongly Agree): Specific (suggested) criteria/indicators for the quality assurance of micro-credentials; Specific (suggested) external quality assurance methodological features to be used for micro-credentials; National or European thematic analysis of national-level quality assurance activity involving micro credentials.

D1: ≈ 85% Agree or Strongly Agree with the relevance of ESG

D3: 80-85% Agree or Strongly Agree with the relevance of ESG (above all 2.3 and 2.4)

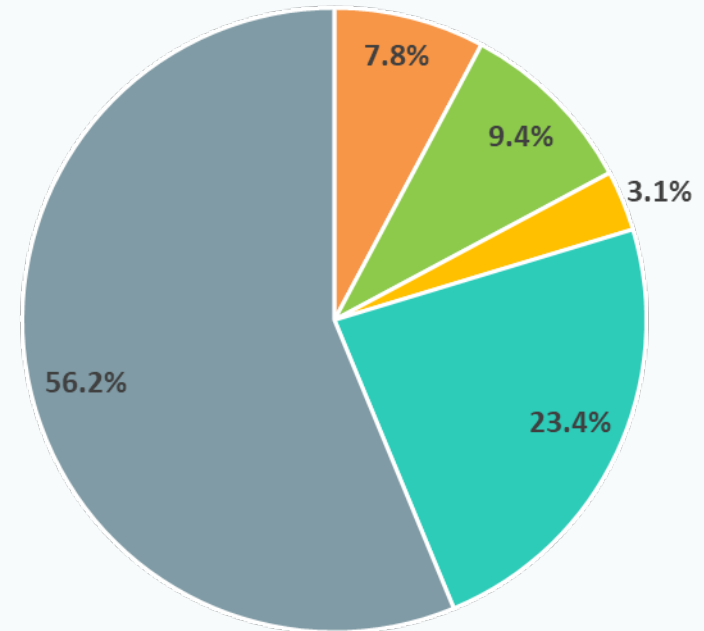
RESULTS (I)

C10. Does your agency/organisation currently QA MC?



- YES
- NOT currently, but approach is being developed
- NOT currently, but intended to in the future
- NO and not intending to
- Don't Know

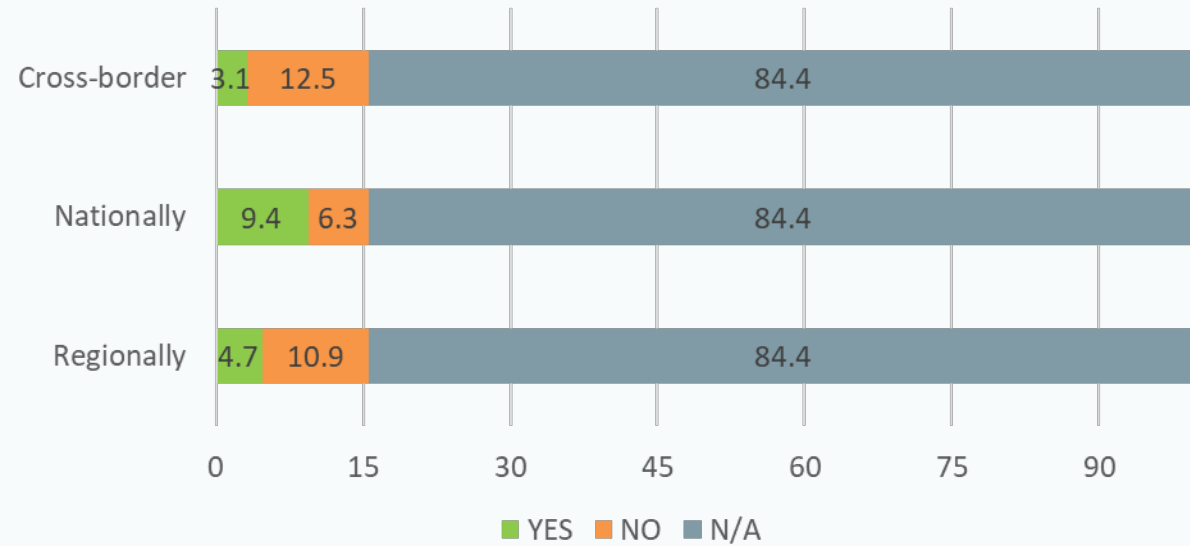
C11. When do you expect to start QA of MC?



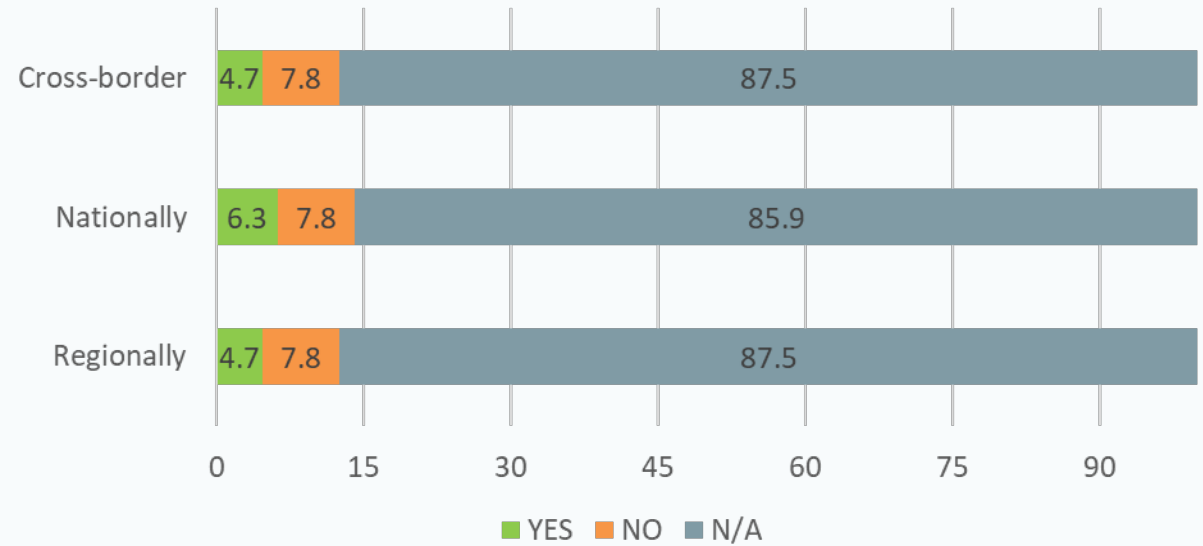
- In the next 1-2 years, i.e. starting with 2023/2024
- In the next 3-4 years, i.e. from 2025 onwards
- NOT sooner than five years
- Don't know
- N/A

RESULTS (II)

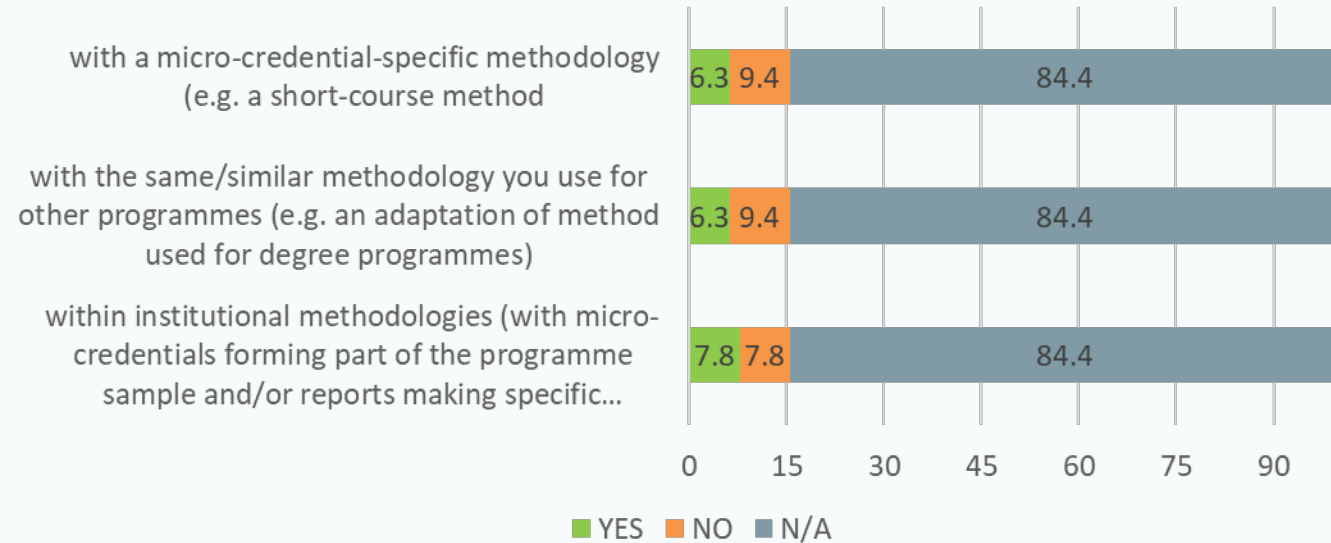
C13. How do you externally QA MC?



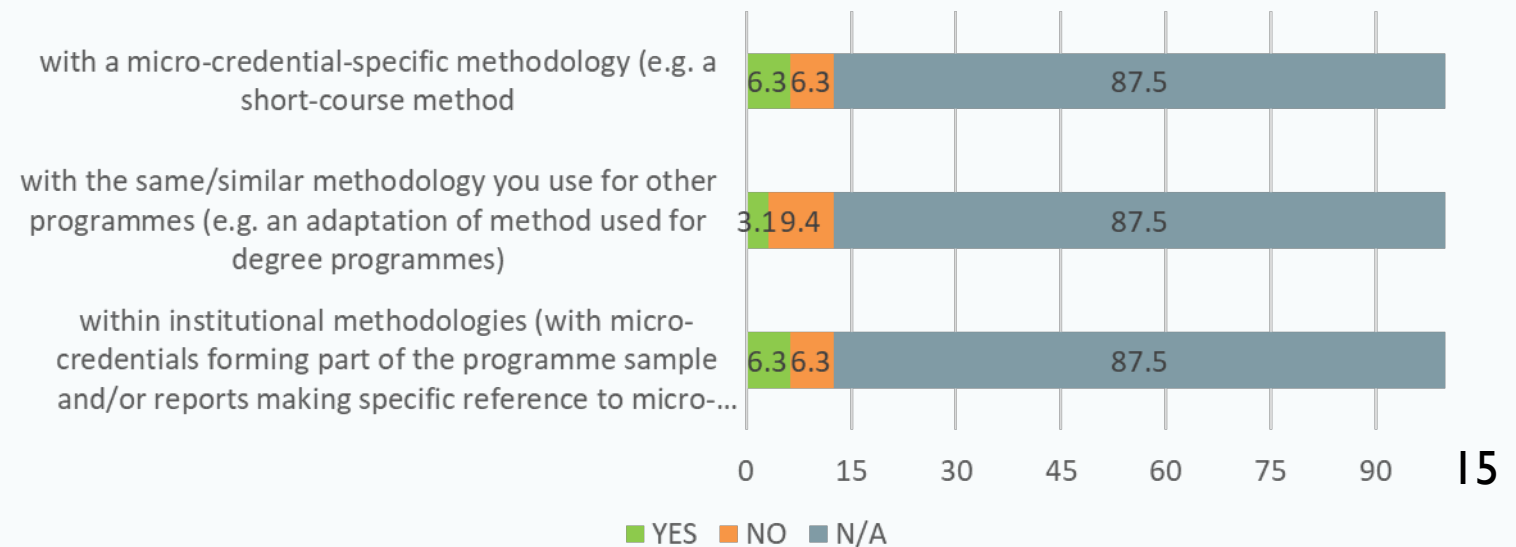
C14. How do you plan to externally QA MC?



C15. How do you externally QA MC?

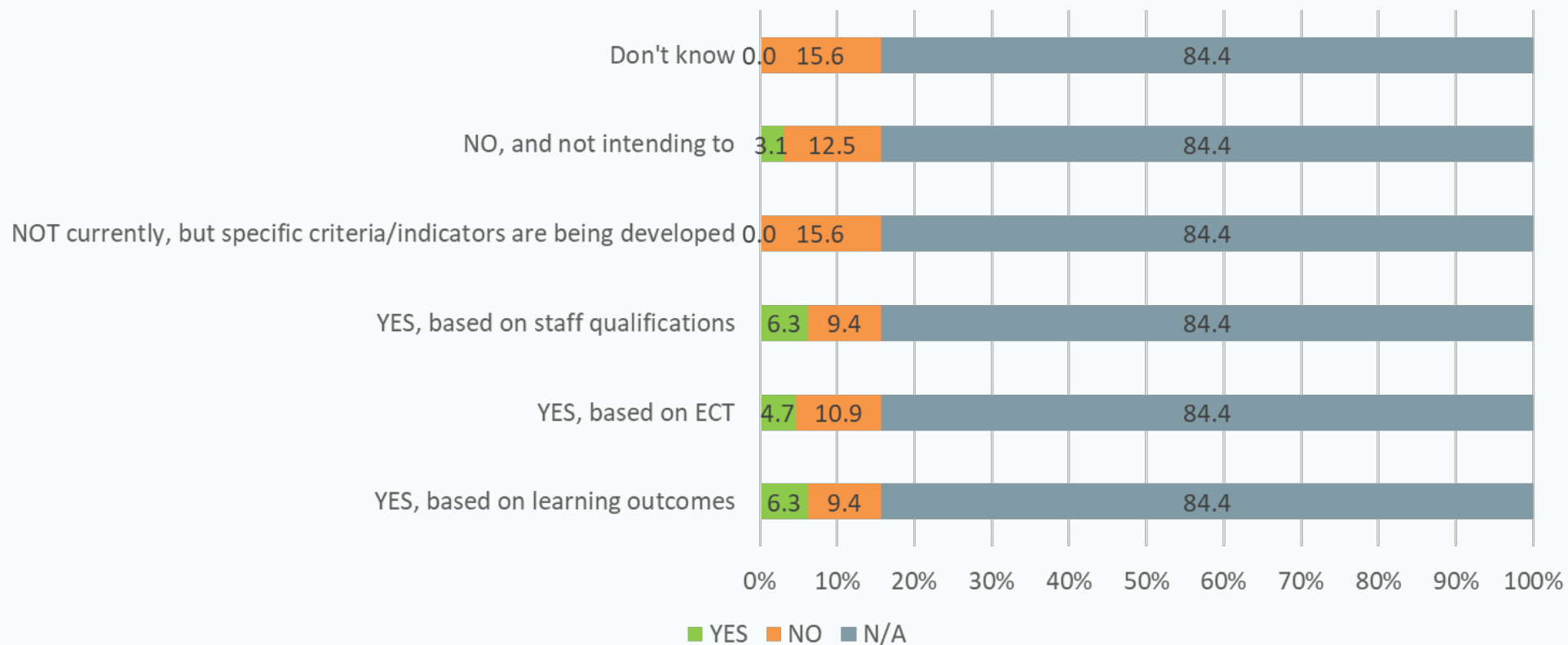


C16. How do you plan to externally QA MC?

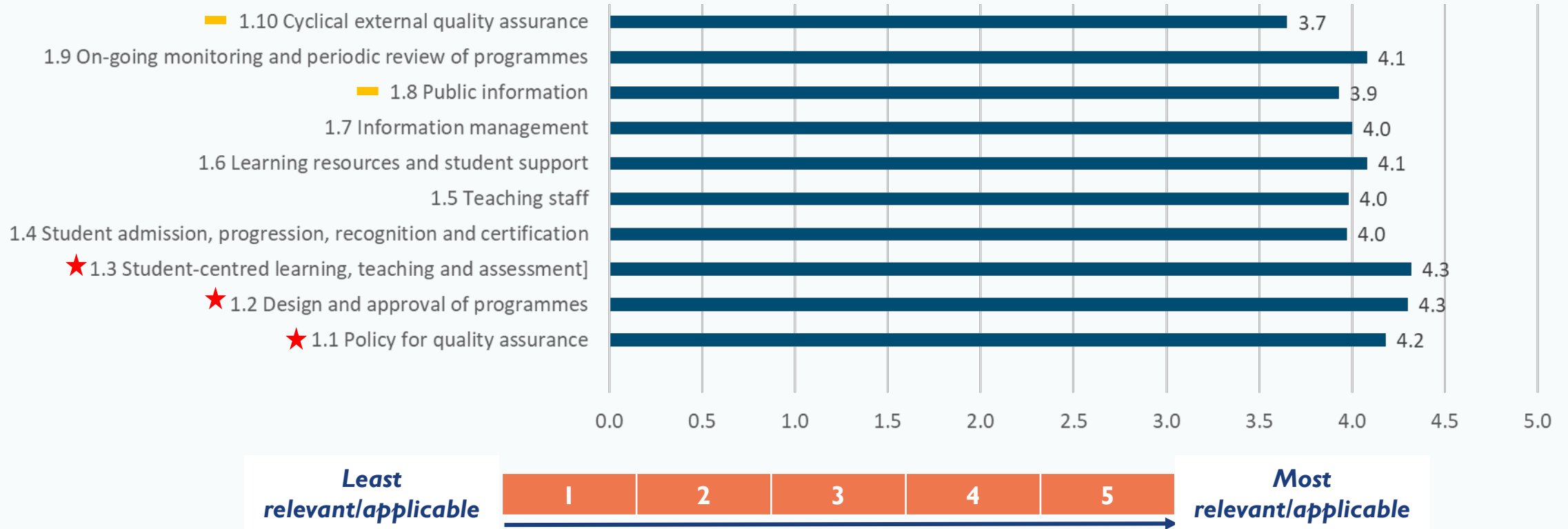


RESULTS (IV)

C17. Have you developed a minimum quality threshold with specific criteria/indicators that you use as part of EQA approach for MC?

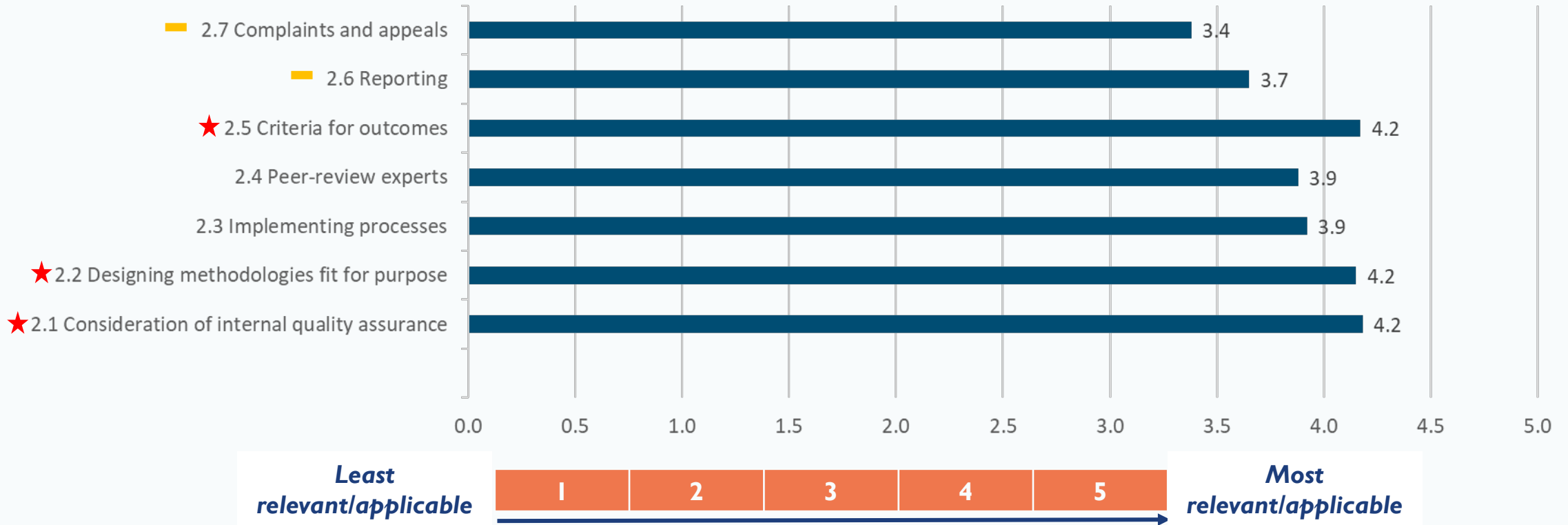


D1. How do you view the relevance/applicability of individual ESG (Part 1) for QA of MC? (Mean)



- Overall, the relevance or applicability of the individual ESG Part I is seen as very important to important.
- Most relevant ESG are 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.
- In the middle are ESG 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.9.
- At the bottom are ESG 1.8 and 1.10.
- ESG 1.10, there has been disparity of opinions.

D3. How do you view the relevance/applicability of individual ESG (Part II) for QA of MC? (Mean)



- Overall, the relevance or applicability of the individual ESG Part II is seen as very important to important.
- Most relevant ESG are 2.1, 2.2., 2.5.
- In the middle is ESG 2.4.
- At the bottom are ESG 2.6, 2.7.
- ESG 2.7, there has been disparity of opinions.

CHALLENGES

C21. In the context that you operate, what are the major challenges to externally quality assuring micro-credentials?

	Mean	ADM
Lack of supporting national legislation/gap in national legislation	4.00	0.92
Lack of full understanding of micro-credentials by the sector	3.93	1.05
Lack of clear definitions/descriptors to allow for MC quality assurance requirements to be relevantly captured	3.93	0.94
Lack of reviewers with sufficient experience in micro-credentials	3.31	1.24
Insufficient agency resources to include micro-credentials in external quality assurance operations	3.0	1.16
Lack of support/collaboration with professional bodies or the labour market	3.17	0.97
Insufficient European guidance and guidelines	3.00	1.03
Insufficient collaboration/openness by institutions offering micro-credentials	3.17	0.92
Burden of external assessments/evaluations to institutions	3.40	1.08
Absence of international agreement/collaboration on micro-credentials (cross border)	3.50	1.16
Different views of government bodies and the QA-agency/organisation	3.08	1.12



Thank you!

Eduardo García (Madri+d)
Esther Huertas (AQU Catalunya)
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DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY (II)

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