

External quality assurance of research, unveiling agencies' realities



Sophie Guillet, Head of agency cooperation (Hcéres) and co-chair of the ENQA working group on the quality assurance of research

Why EQA of research?

To improve the quality of research

Complement research assessment procedures, take a broader perspective and contribute to enhancing the quality of research

Endorse international and regional concerns on the quality of the research environment

To follow HEIs' developments

56% of HEIs consider education and research as two equally important missions and 11% consider research as more important than education (EUA, 2024)

93% of HEIs cover research in their IQA procedures (EUA, 2023)

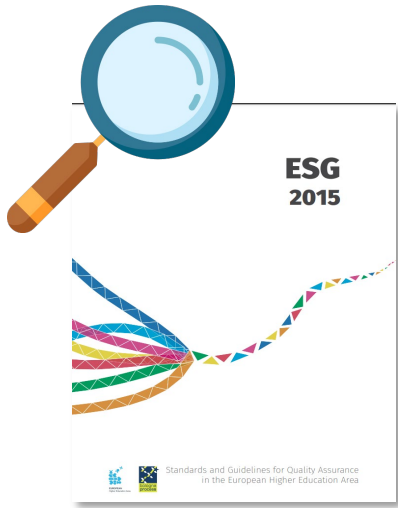
To foster the link between HE and research

Train enlightened students who are able to face the challenges of the 21st century

To shed light on undocumented activities many agencies carry out

Share practices of support enhancement of EQA

What do the ESG say?



“

Guideline 1.1.

Quality assurance policies are most effective when they reflect the **relationship between research and learning & teaching**

”

“

Guideline 1.5.

HEIs provide a supportive environment that “encourages scholarly activity to strengthen the **link between education and research**”

”

“

Guideline 1.9

Regular monitoring, review and revision of study programmes “include the **evaluation of the content of the programme in the light of the latest research** in the given discipline thus ensuring that the programme is up to date”.

”

The ENQA WG on EQA of research



Duration: 18 months (September 2023 – January 2025)

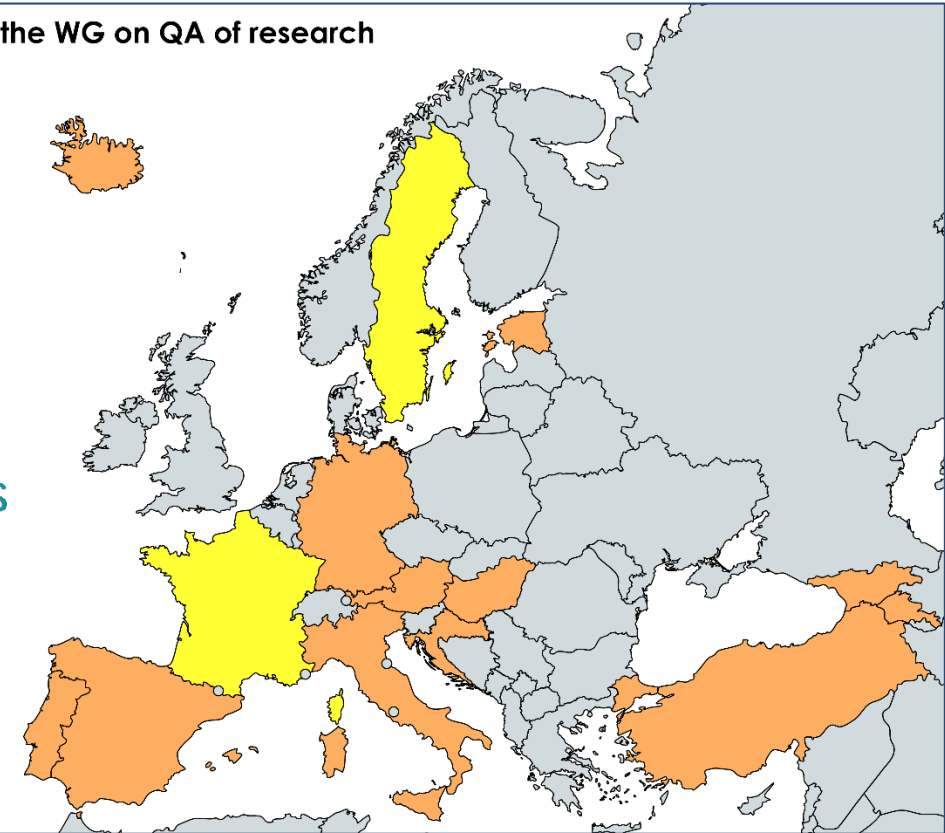


Objective: take stock of the agencies' procedures for external quality assurance of research in HEIs to inform agencies and share practices

⇒ The final report will provide agencies with reflective questions to support them in developing EQA of research

Composition of the WG on QA of research

Members
Co-chairs



Defining EQA of research



External quality assurance of research

An all-embracing term referring to a regular process of reviewing (monitoring, guaranteeing, maintaining, and enhancing) the quality of the **research environment at HEIs**, including its interrelations with the education and societal impact missions of HEIs.



⇒ EQA of Research ≠ **Research assessment**: evaluating research outputs and results, often to enable to distribute public funds on the basis of research quality

⇒ **Focus of the study**: EQA of research **at the level of HEIs**: we do not look in depth at researchers' evaluation, research project evaluations or the reviews of research organisations

Key data from the survey analysis

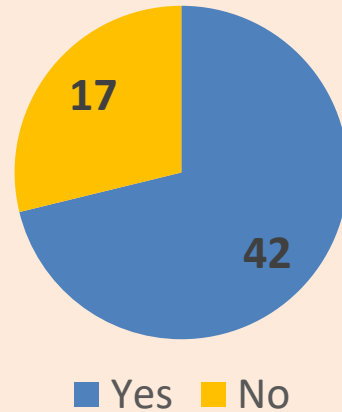


59 responding agencies

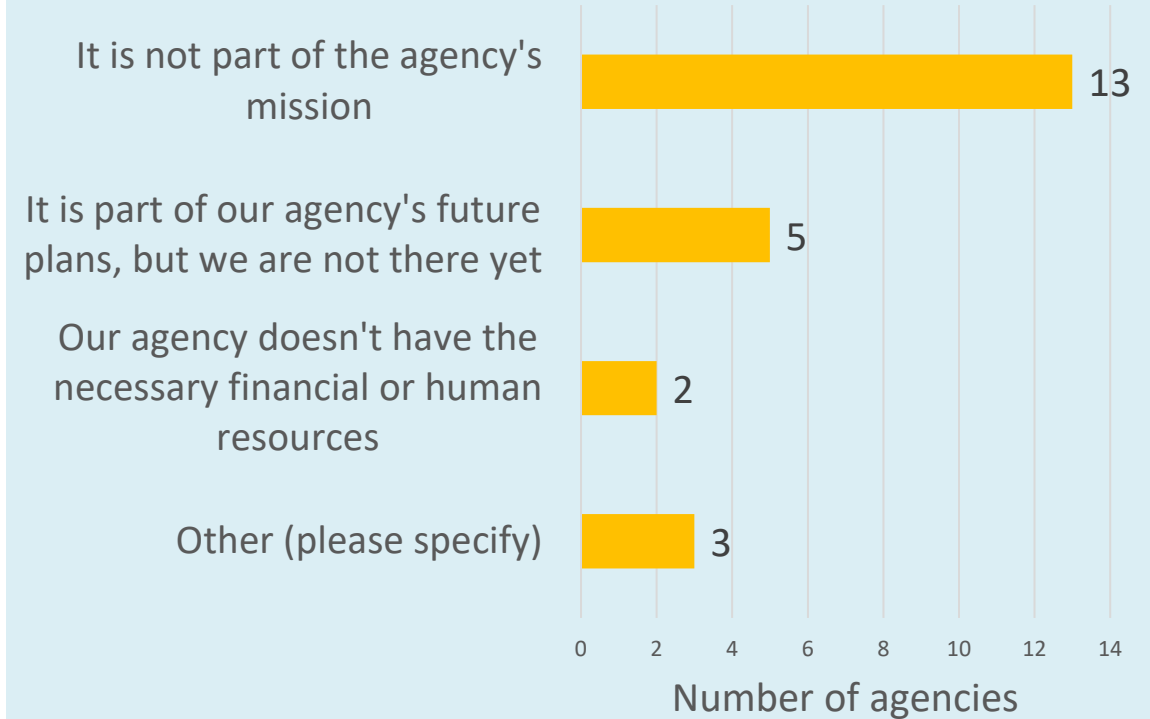


Located in 34 countries
(9 from Spain and 6 from Germany)

Is your agency engaged in external quality assurance of research at the HEIs? (N=59)



If your answer is “No”, what is the reason (or reasons, multiple answers allowed) for not engaging in this area? (N=17)

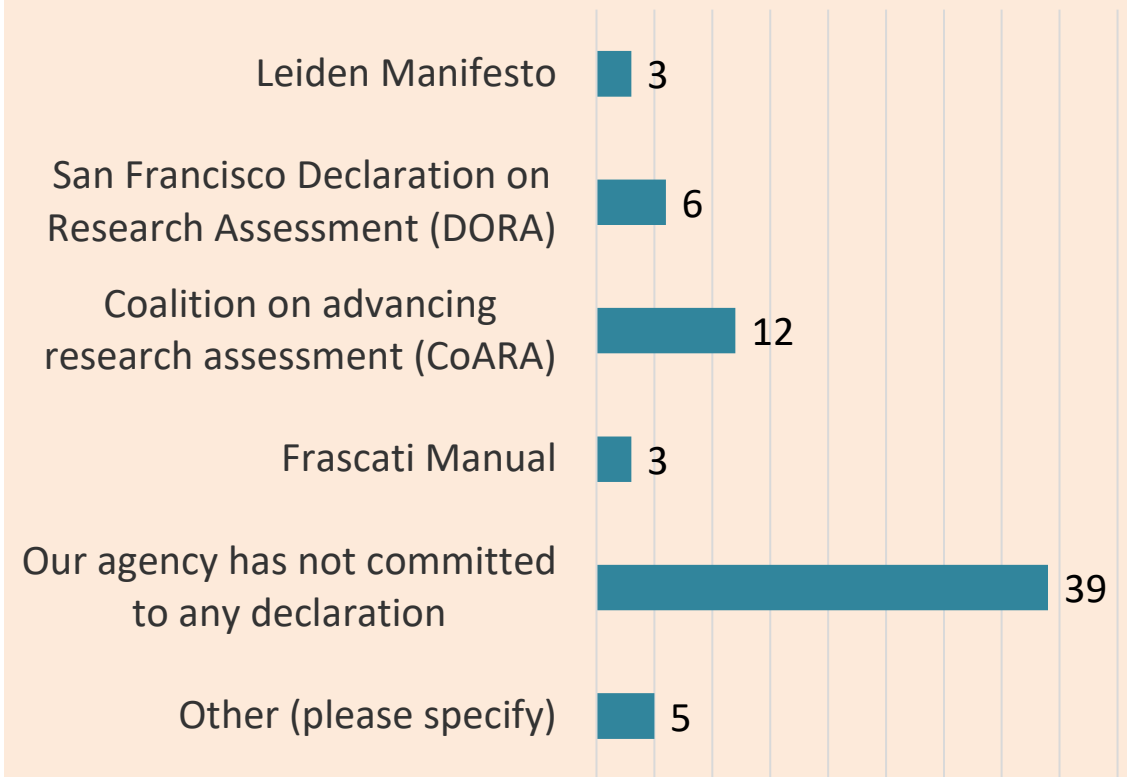


Key data from the survey analysis

Among the agencies that carry out EQA of research activities:

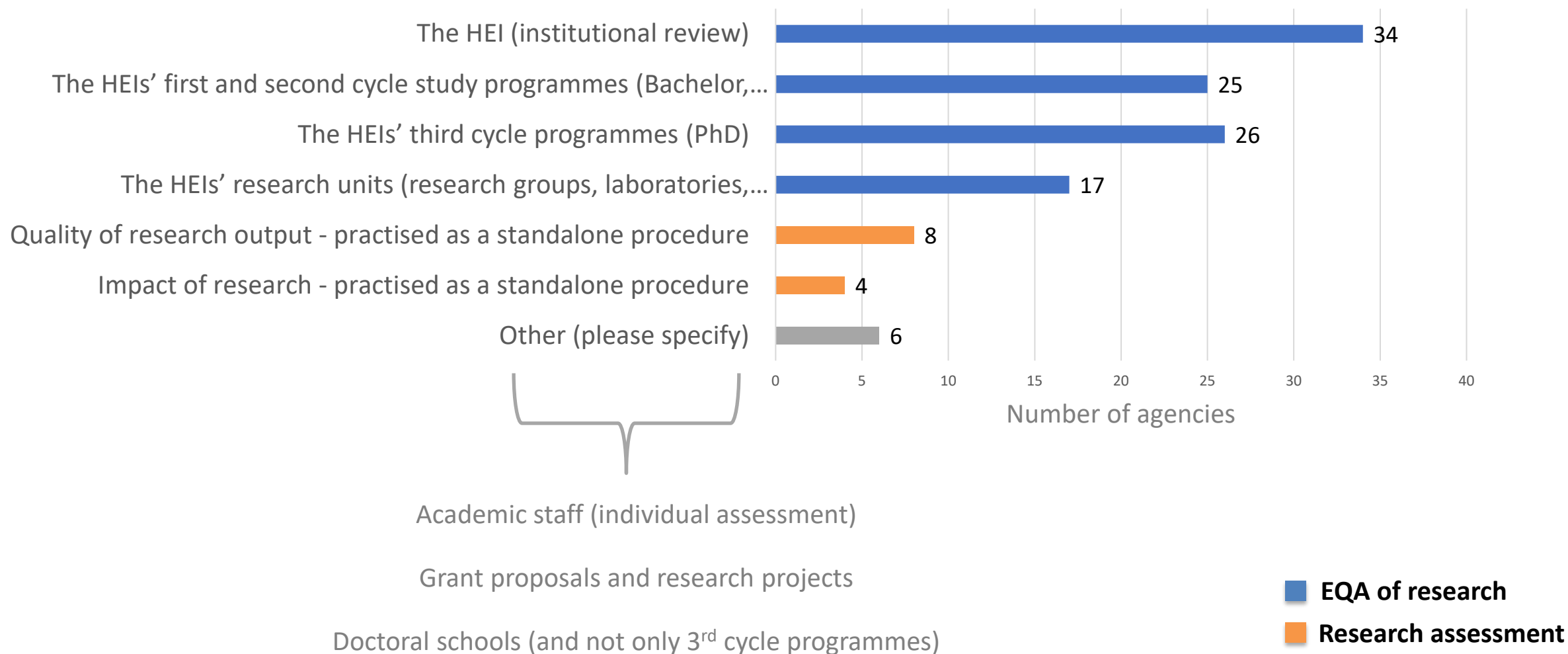
- Most agencies (39) relied on the **ESG** to develop their EQA of research activities
- EQA of research is **embedded in the national context** => 25 agencies relied on national frameworks and guidelines
- 11 agencies used the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**

Has your agency committed to any of the following declarations? (N=59)



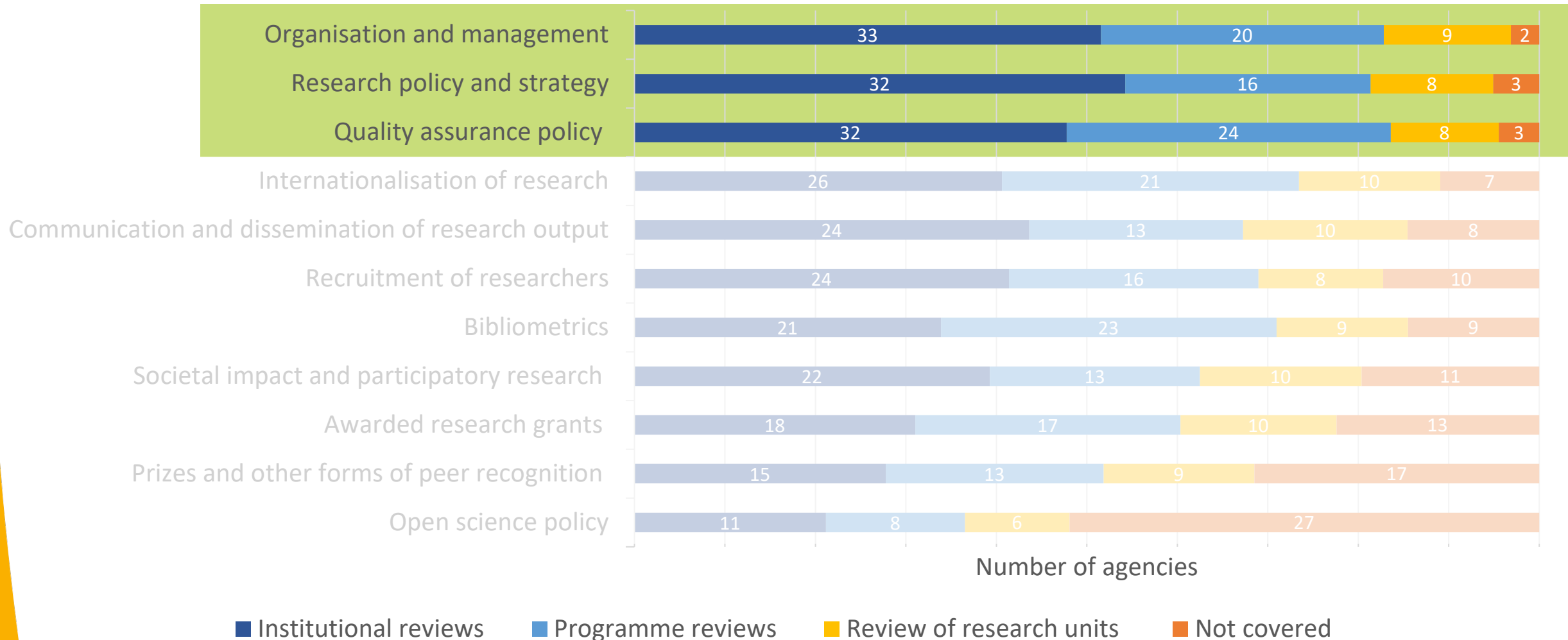
Key data from the survey analysis

What is the focus of the procedures carried out by your agency that focus on research ? (N=42)



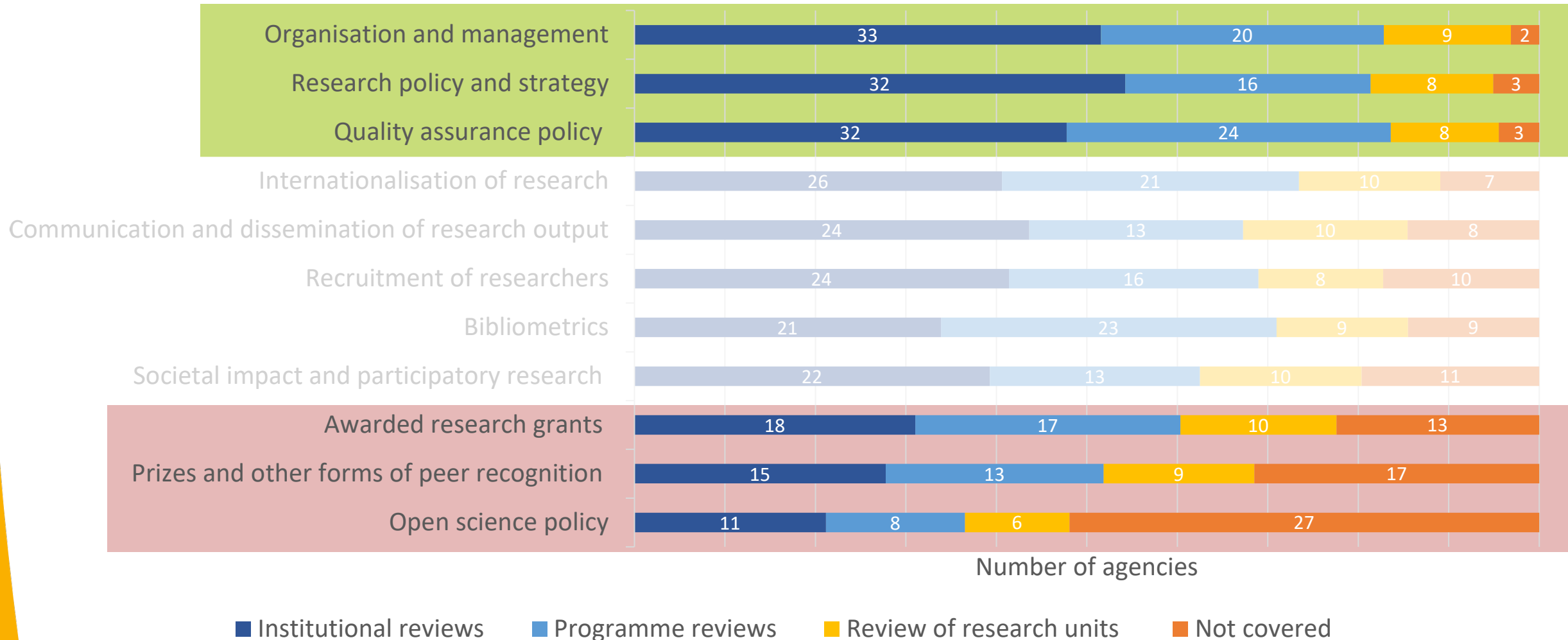
Key data from the survey analysis

General aspects of research management and policy covered by agencies in their EQA of research procedure (N=42)



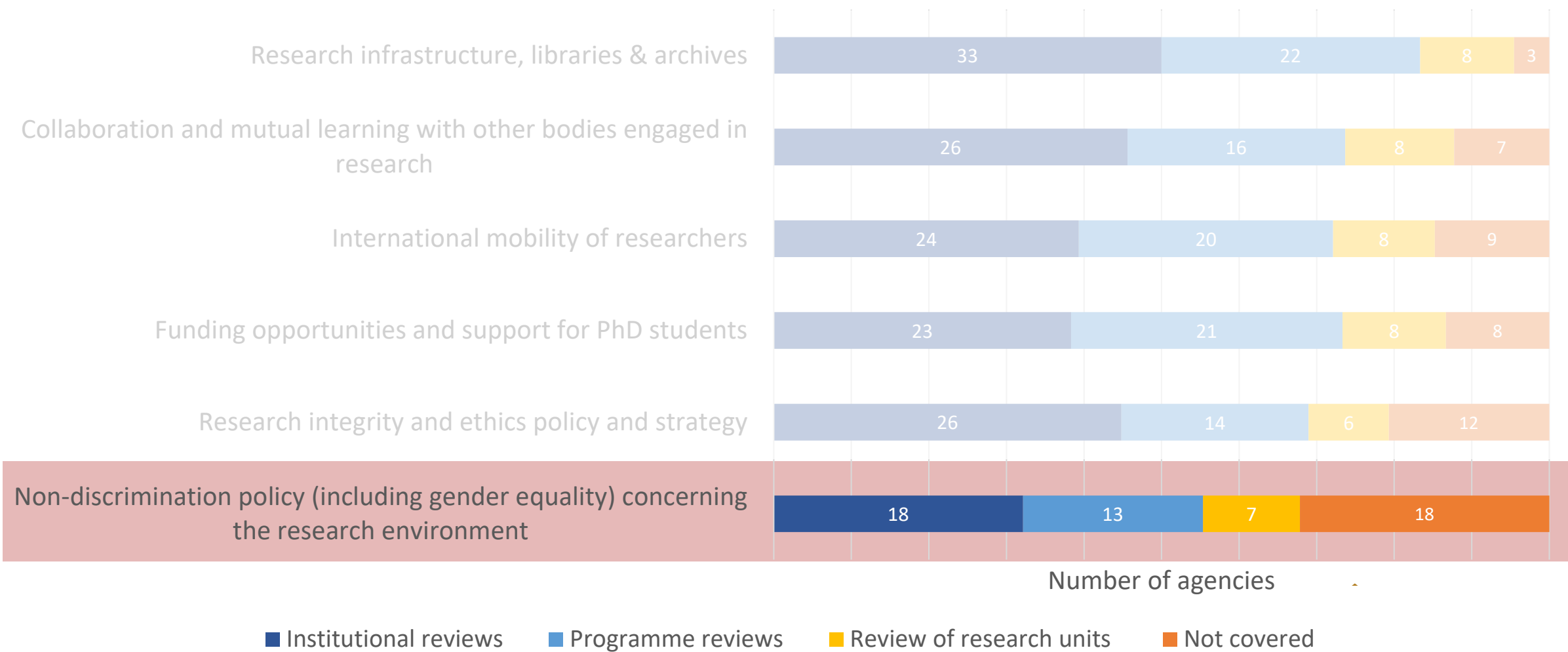
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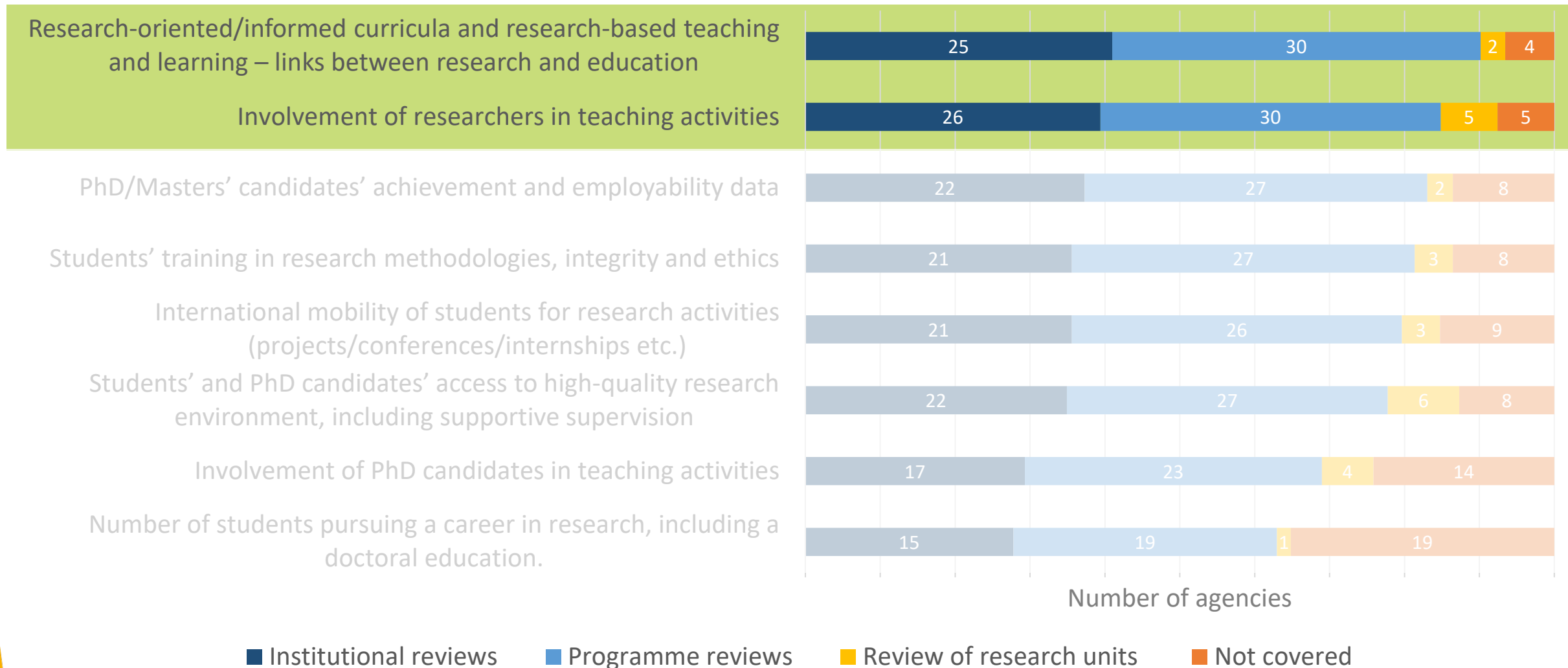
Key data from the survey analysis

Elements of the research environment covered by agencies in their EQA of research procedure (N=49)



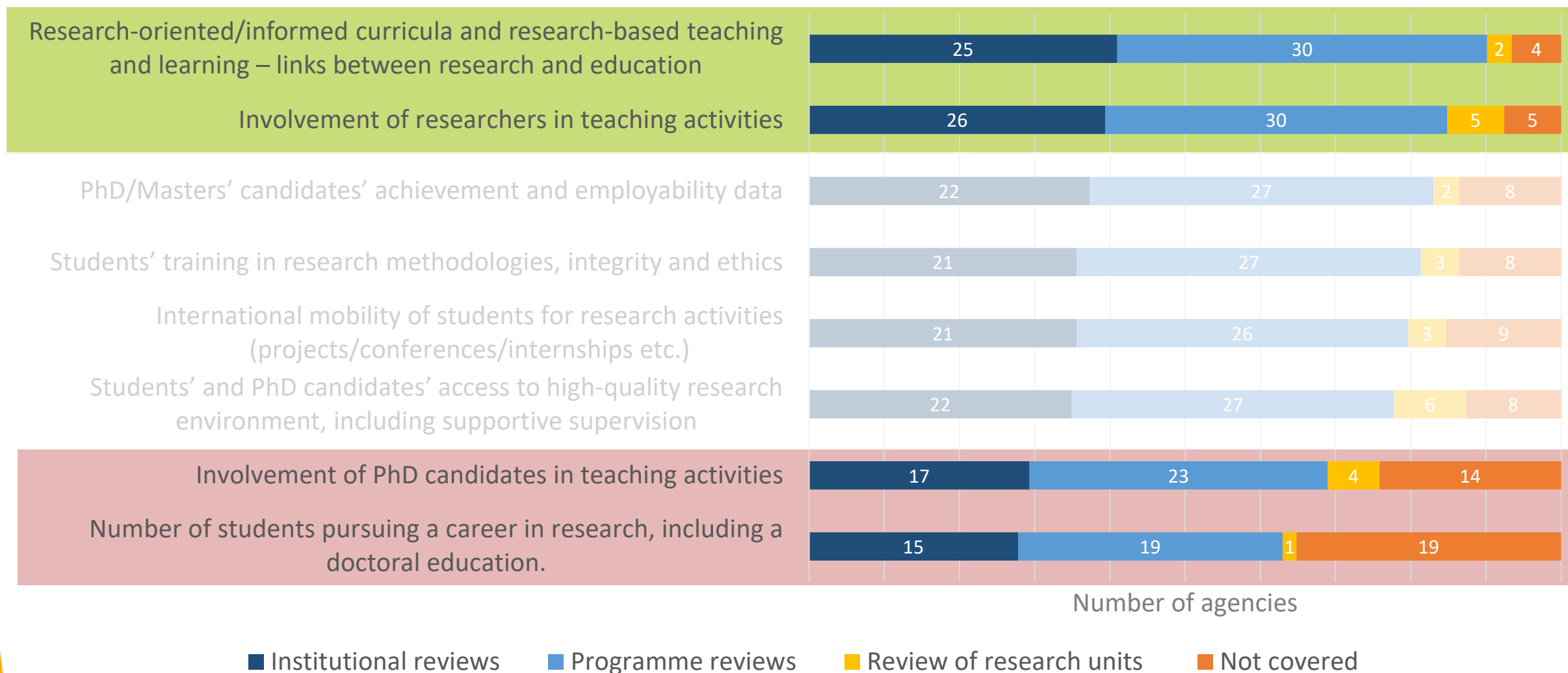
Key data from the survey analysis

Aspects of the link between HE and research covered agencies in their EQA of research procedure (N=49)



Key data from the survey analysis

Aspects of the link between HE and research covered agencies in their EQA of research procedure (N=49)



Follow-ups on this presentation

Concrete example of an agency's procedures for EQA of research VS research assessment



Marilena Maniaci, Governing board member of ANVUR (Italy) and member of the working group on the quality assurance of research

Breakout session to discuss EQA of research in practice and look at the success factors and challenges faced by agencies



Ólöf Gerður Sigfúsdóttir, Executive director of IAQA (Iceland) and member of the working group on the quality assurance of research