Implementation of Key Commitments and the Future of the Bologna Process

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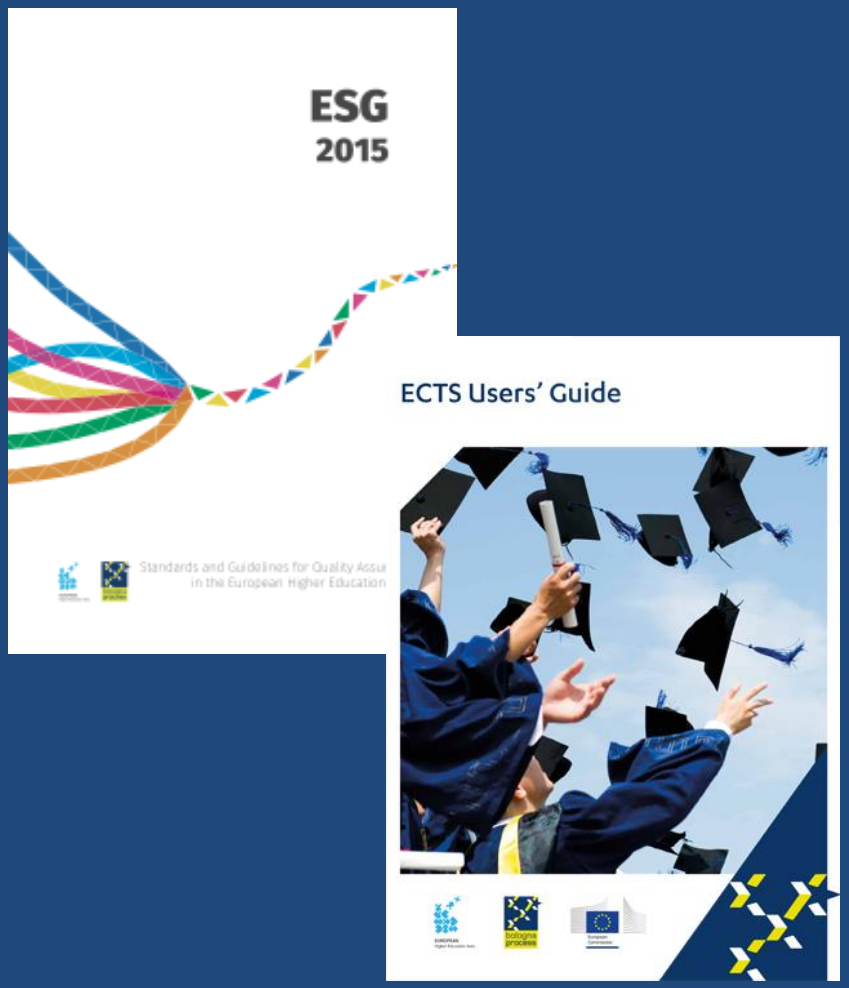
The European Higher Education Area: A unique collaboration

1999: 29 countries

Shared tool enable shared values

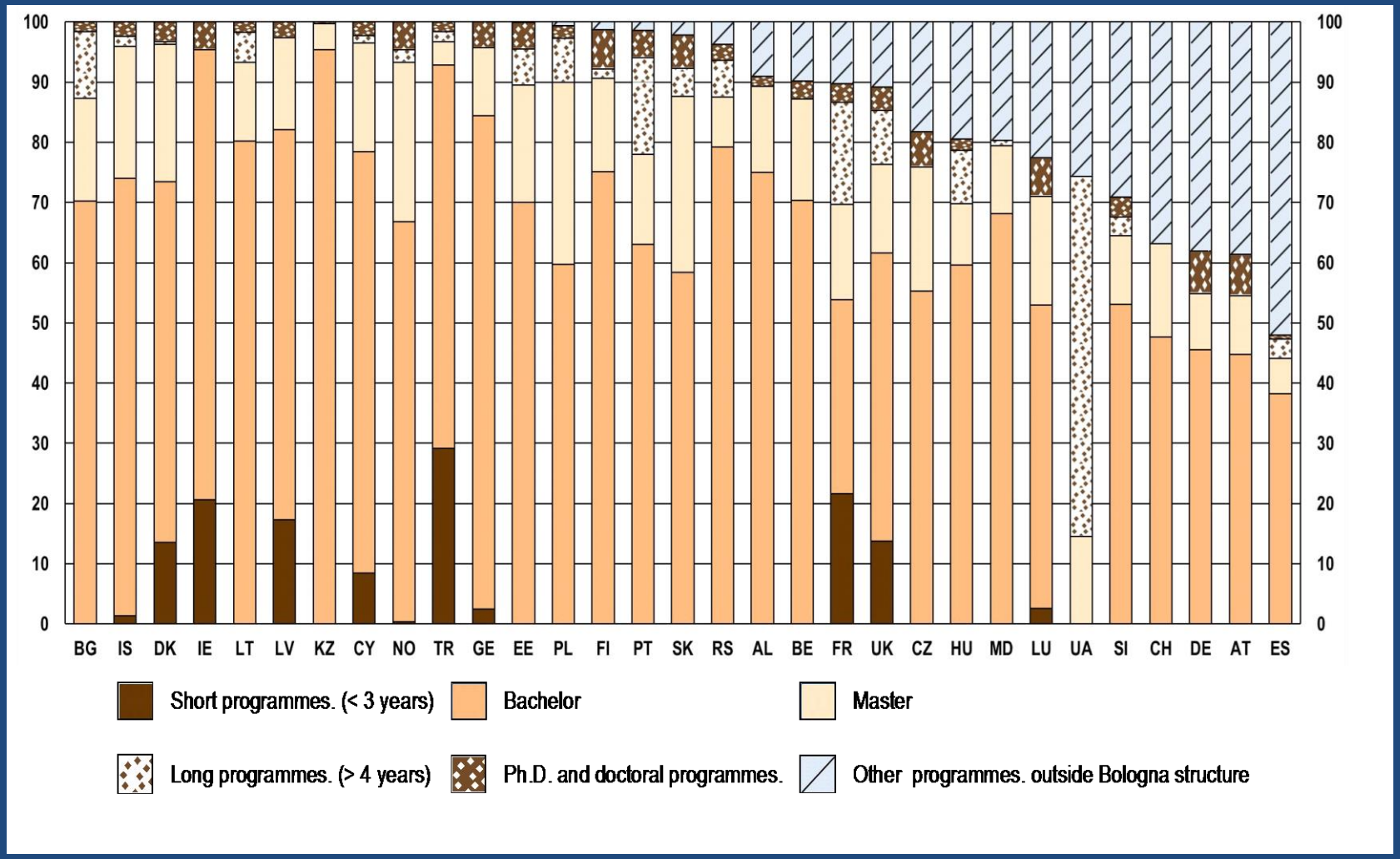


- Standardisation of degrees (ECTS)
- Qualification frameworks
- Quality Assurance standards
- Recognision standards
- ENIC /NARIC networks
- Diploma supplement
- Implementation reports and Communiqués

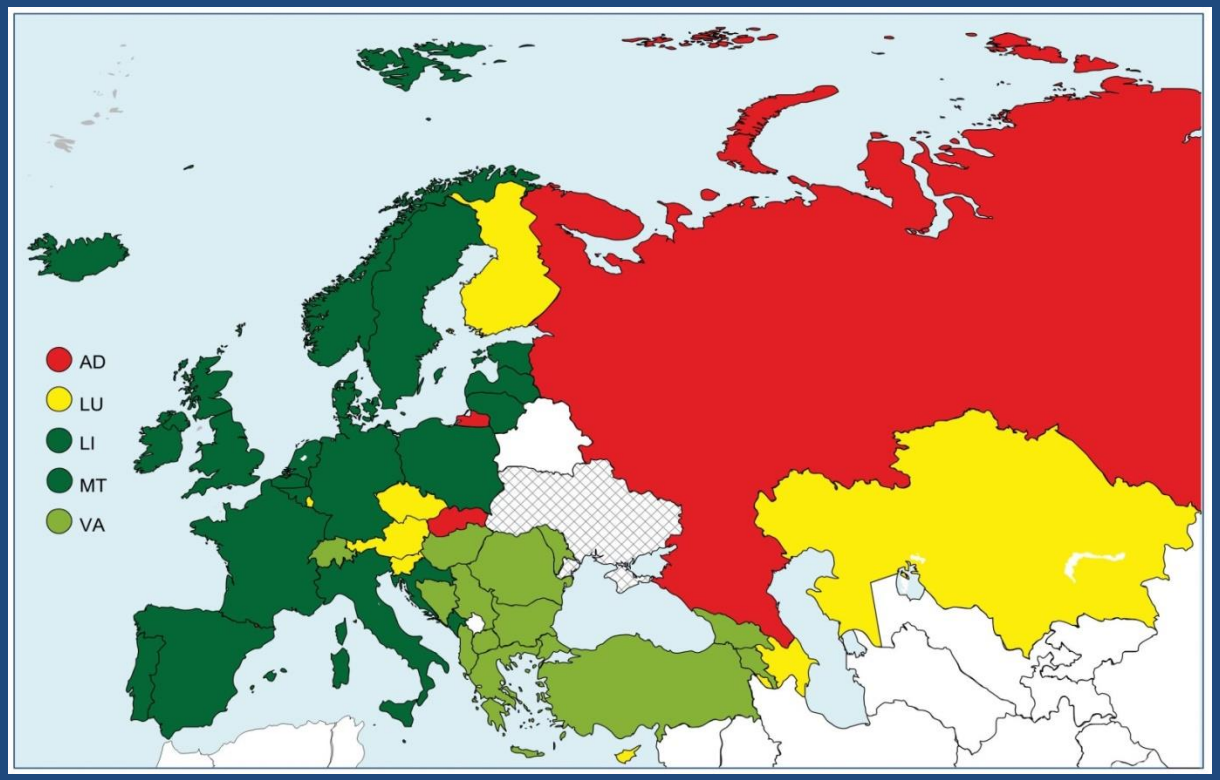
Trust

The state of implementation 2015

Bologna Basics: degree systems



Qualifications frameworks



	2015 Report	2012 Report
	24	10
	14	13
	7	18
	0	2
	3	4

38 countries in 'green ',
10 others have not started implementation at institutional and programme level
Some show no progress since 2012.

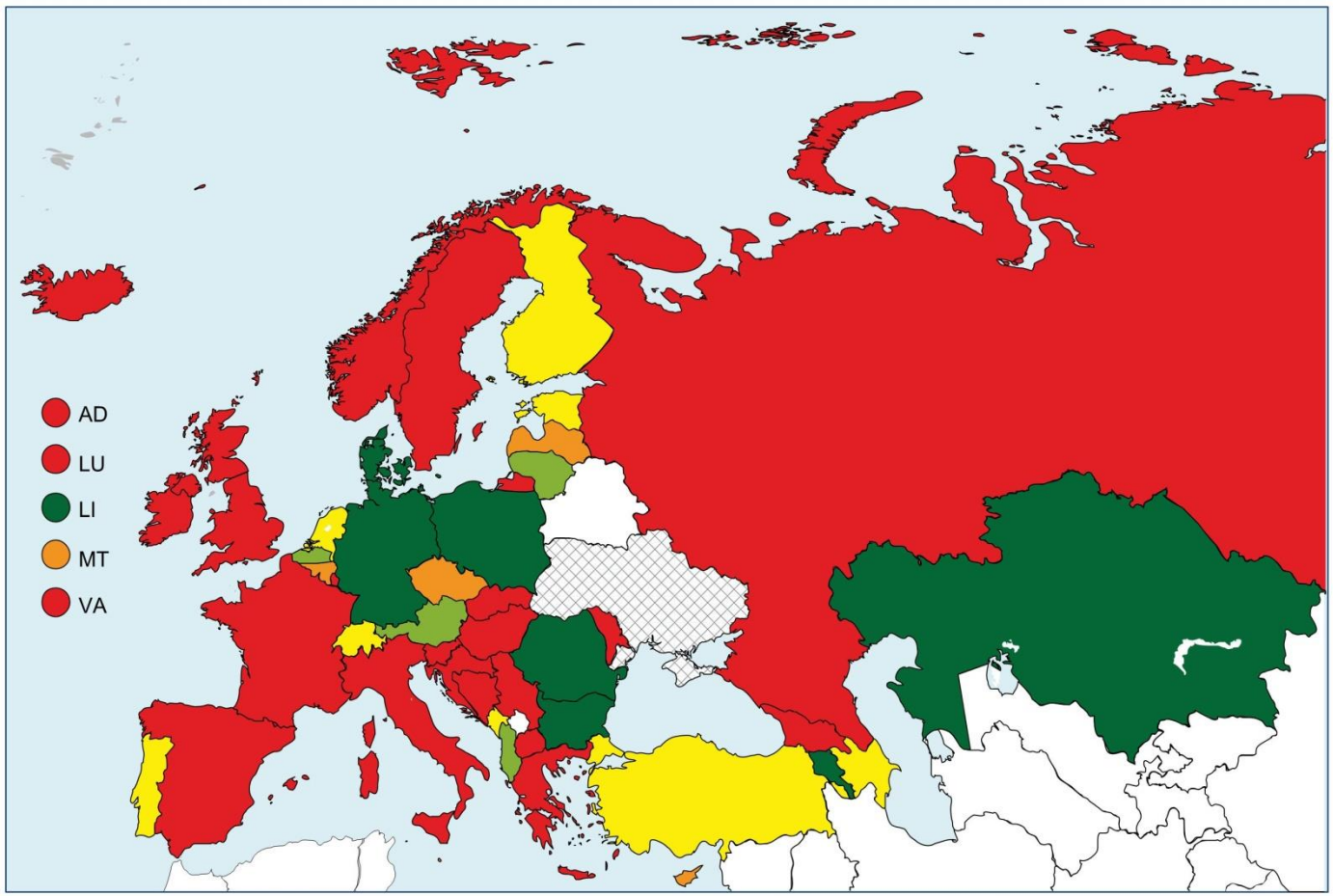
Recognition of qualifications and credits

- All but one EHEA countries had ratified the LRC
- (Only) 10 countries specify the main principles in legislation
- HEIs make most decisions upon recognition of qualifications and all decisions on credits gained abroad – often little or no advice from ENIC7NARIC
- Diploma supplements – improved use but 2/3 do not fulfill all requirements despte commitment having been in place over a decade.

Quality Assurance

- Dynamic evolution continues...
  - Participation of stakeholders sometimes still problematic
  - Lack of attention to social dimension
  - Slow progress in allowing EQAR-registered agencies to work across EHEA

Openness to cross-border QA



	2015 Report
	8
	4
	8
	5
	23

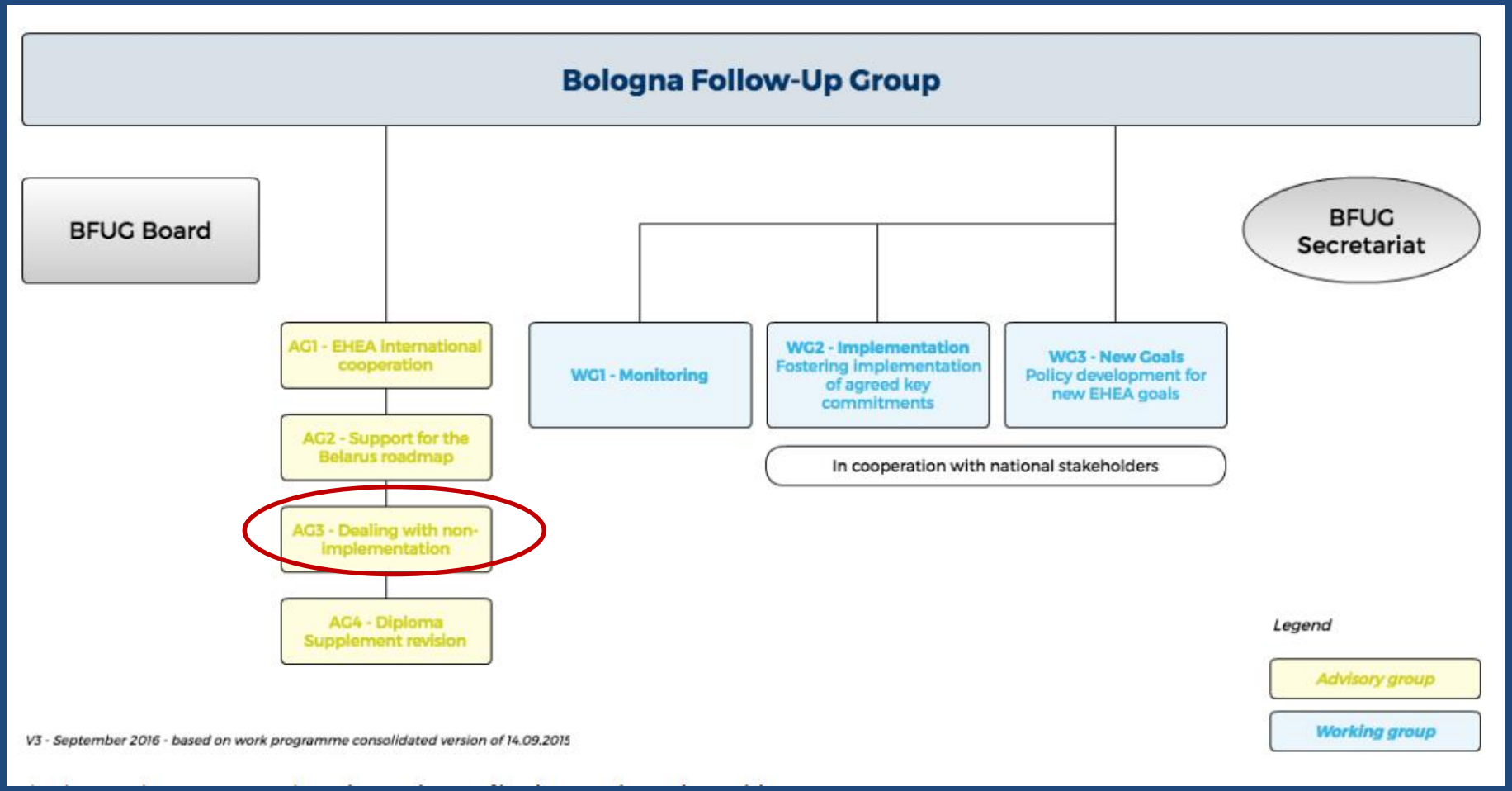
Why worry about implementation of Bologna Commitments?

“We ask the BFUG […] to submit proposals for addressing the issue of non-implementation of key commitments in time for our next meeting.”

Yerevan Communique

EHEA ministerial conference YEREVAN 2015

Work Programme 2015-2018



Post 2015

Continued problems with implementation

Violation of fundamental values in a number of EHEA countries

Little reaction from EHEA despite condemnation from stakeholders and civil society.

Worry that tackling problems would be seen as a „naming and shaming“ exercise

The concept of a voluntary system

Collegiality vs process

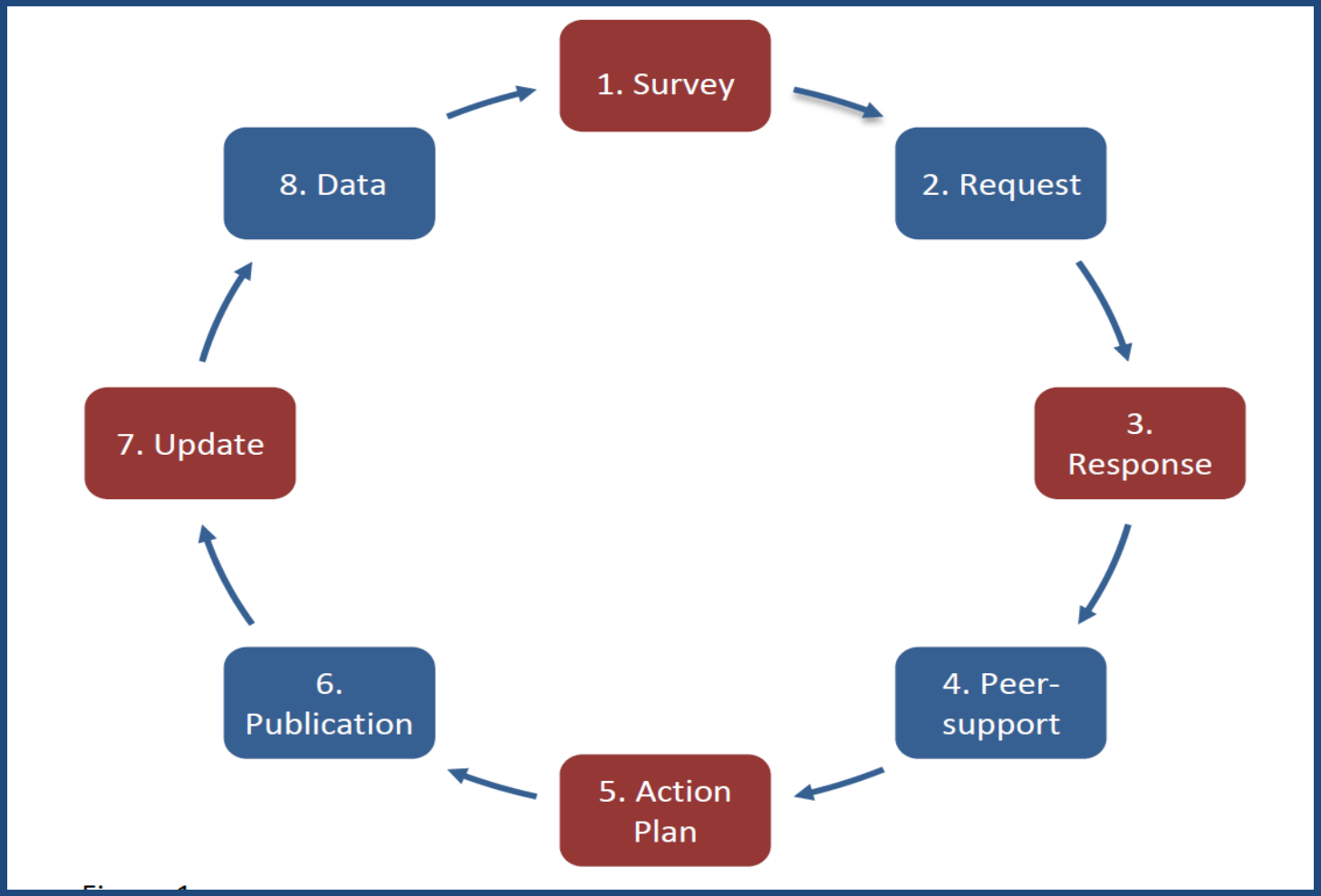
Key commitments of the BP

- Focus on three key elements of the Bologna Process :The core of the commitments all countries signed up to when joining the EHEA.
- Do not represent all EHEA tools, reforms and common values
- Allow recognition and mobility across the whole EHEA to function.
- Their correct implementation prerequisite to any higher education system that embraces the fundamental values of the Bologna Process.

Bologna Key Commitments

I. *A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA and scaled by ECTS*
II. *Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)*
III. *Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)*

Proposal for tackling insufficient implementation



Proposal for tackling insufficient implementation

- Exists alongside existent implementation monitoring and takes advantage of it
- Reliant on peer-support and peer-review
- Provides an operational procedure with potential to tackle problems with implementation across the full range of Bologna Commitments and values.
- Problem of perpetual circulation

Perpetual cycles
vs potential consequences

EHEA at crossroads