Implementing EQAVET: a European perspective

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EQAVET, Supporting the process of QA and the development of a culture of QA

- **Builds on a history of EU cooperation in QA quality assurance in VET for almost 10 years**

- **A partnership process – a community of practice**

- Recommendation of the EU Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a **European Quality Assurance Reference Framework** for VET-*June 2009*
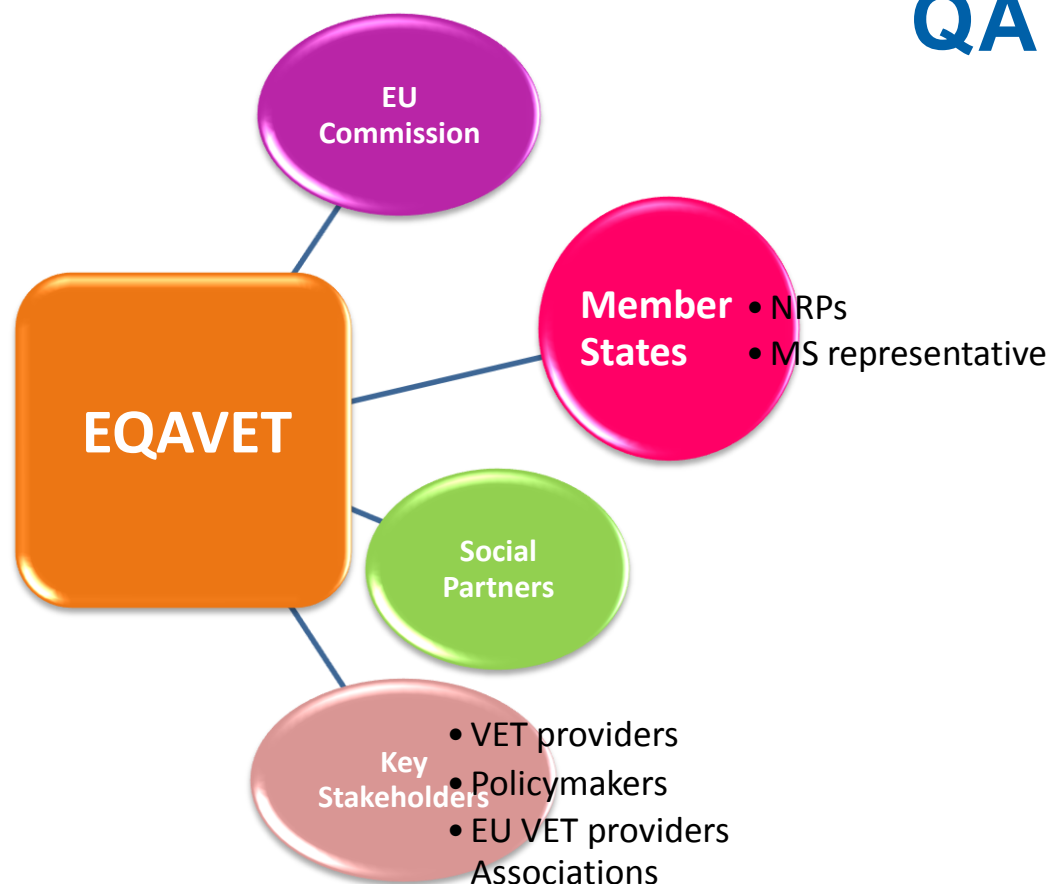
EQAVET

European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

Supporting the implementation of the
European Quality Assurance Reference Framework
for Vocational Education and Training

EU Commission

Member States
- NRPs
- MS representative

EQAVET

Social Partners

Key Stakeholders
- VET providers
- Policymakers
- EU VET providers Associations

Importance of Quality Assurance

1. Safeguard reliability

2. Robustness

3. Relevance

4. Usefulness

of Qualifications

EQF, ECVET, EQAVET

Qualifications standards – at the cross-roads of the labour market and education-training

- **Qualifications standards formally express the norms and specifications underpinning any VET-qualification;**
- **A qualification standard operates at the interface of education and training and will normally combine**
  - **Occupational standards**
  - **Education and training standards**
  - **Assessment standards**
  - **Process standards**
- **Qualifications standards are increasingly being defined and described through learning outcomes.**

The EQAVET Reference Framework objectives

1. To increase transparency and mobility

2. To valorise permeability in a LLL perspective

3. To make VET more attractive

The EQAVET Reference Framework – QA management tool

- Designed to promote <u>better VET</u>

- A reference instrument to help authorities of MS <u>promote and monitor the improvement</u> of their VET systems

- Uses QA as a <u>systematic approach</u> to modernising education systems, especially by improving the effectiveness of training.

- MS are invited to develop/use this instrument on a <u>voluntary basis</u>.

- Main users are national/regional authorities, VET providers, public /private bodies responsible for ensuring and improving the quality of VET

- Complements the work of EQF and ECVET

EQAVET model, deepening a culture of QA

![EQAVET logo — European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training. Supporting the implementation of the]

THE QUALITY CYCLE

of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training

1. Purpose and Plan
Set up clear, appropriate and measurable goals and objectives in terms of policies, procedures, tasks and human resources.

2. Implementation
Establish procedures to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives (e.g. development of partnerships, involvement of stakeholders, allocation of resources, and organisational or operational procedures).

4. Review
Develop procedures in order to achieve the targeted outcomes and/or new objectives: after processing feedback, key stakeholders conduct discussion and analysis in order to devise procedures for change.

3. Assessment and Evaluation
Design mechanisms for the evaluation of achievements and outcomes by collecting and processing data in order to make informed assessment.

Planning — Implementation — Evaluation — Review

EQAVET indicative descriptors, deepening a culture of QA

Indicative descriptors at system and provider level, for each phase of the quality cycle

Information on the indicative descriptors can be found at the EQAVET online tool (e.g. http://www.eqavet.eu/qa/tns/building-your-system/planning/descriptors-list.aspx)

EQAVET indicators, deepening a culture of QA

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1. **Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers**
2. **Investment in training of teachers and trainers**
3. **Participation rate in VET programmes**
4. **Completion rate in VET programmes**
5. **Placement rate in VET programmes**
6. **Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace**
7. **Unemployment rate**
8. **Prevalence of vulnerable groups**
9. **Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market**
10. **Schemes used to promote better access to VET**

Information on the indicators can be found at the EQAVET online tool (e.g.
http://www.eqavet.eu/qa/tns/monitoring-your-system/evaluation/indicators.aspx)

Progress since 2009– progress on the EQAVET implementation across the EU:

Results of EQAVET Secretariat Survey 2011
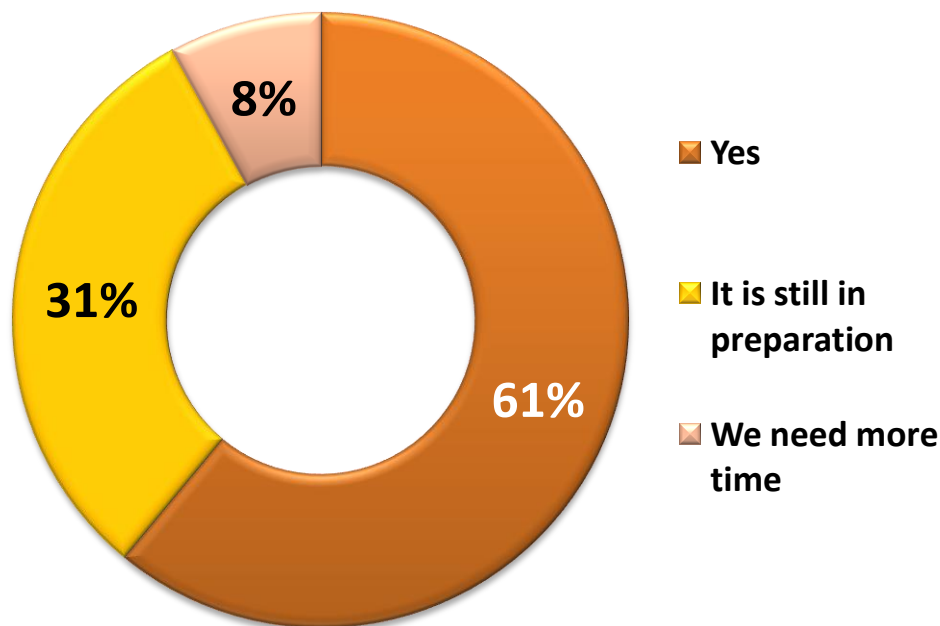
Content of survey questionnaire

1. **National VET policy and the national approaches to QA in-line with the EQAVET reference framework**

2. **Quality assurance national reference points**

3. **The use of EQAVET indicative descriptors at system and providers level for IVET and CVET sectors among MS**

4. **The use of EQAVET indicators for IVET and CVET sectors among MS**

National VET policy & the national approaches to QA

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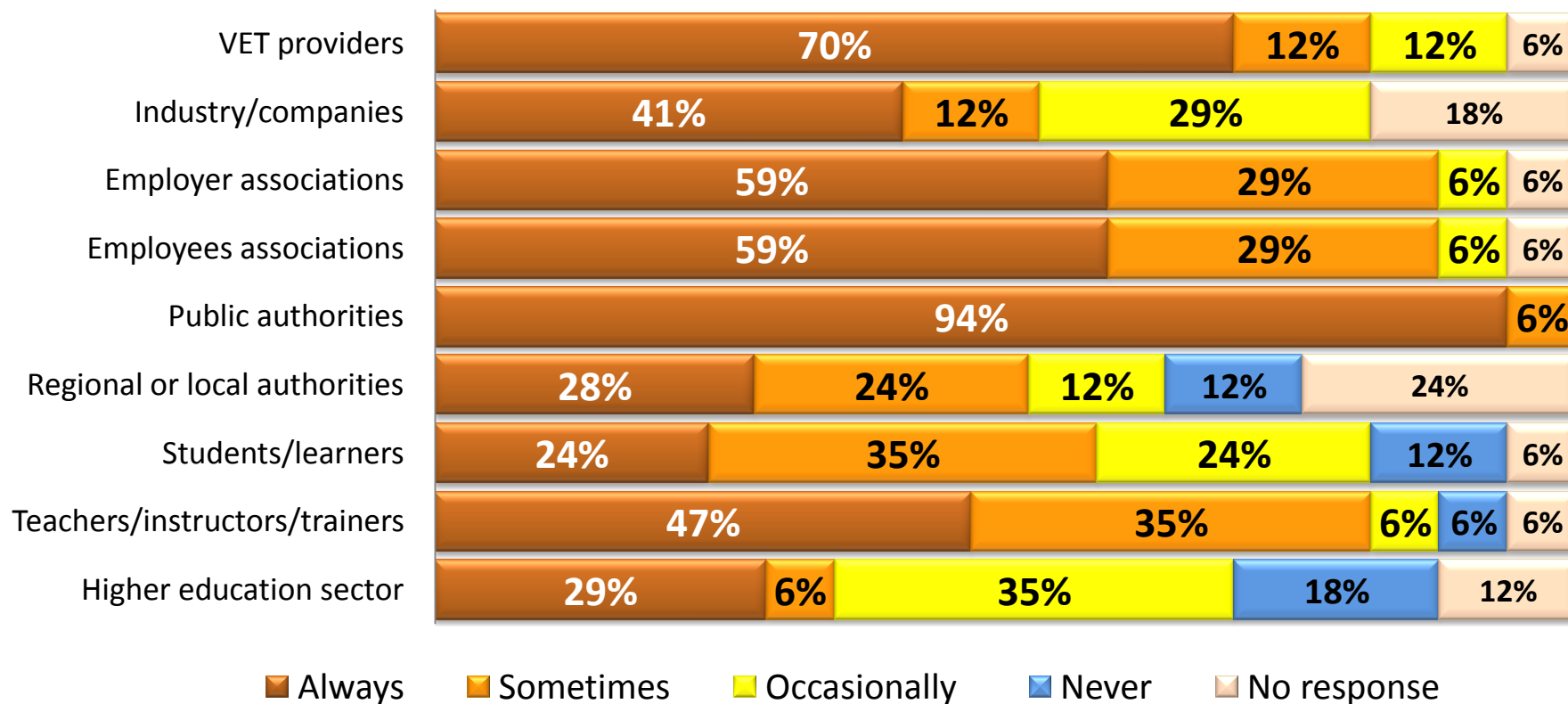
Has a national approach been devised aimed at improving QA systems at national level and making best use of the EQAVET Reference Framework in accordance with national legislation and practice?

- ■ Yes — 61%
- ■ It is still in preparation — 31%
- ■ We need more time — 8%

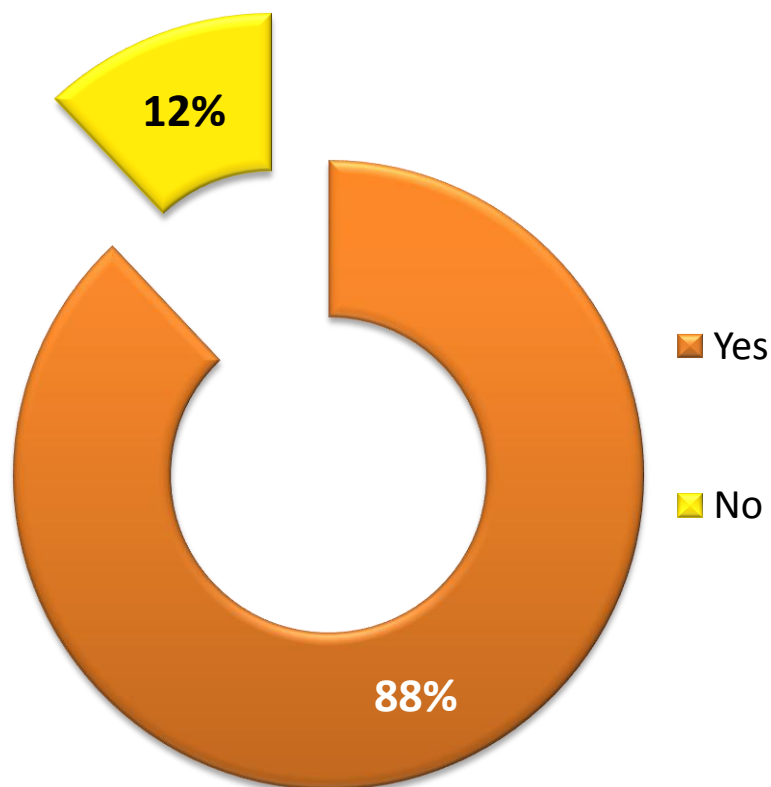|	
Yes	DE, EE, IE, EL, FR, LT, LU, NL, AT, RO, FI, SE, UK(Eng, Wls, Nir), HR
It is still in preparation (planned year of introduction)	BG (2012), CZ(2013), ES, IT(2011), CY(2012), HU(2012), SK(2013), UK(Scl)
No, we need more time to devise it	BE (fr), SI
No, we do not need it	–

National VET policy & the national approaches to QA

Indicate the extent to which the following stakeholders have been involved in developing the national approach?

Stakeholder	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never	No response
VET providers	70%	12%	12%		6%
Industry/companies	41%	12%	29%		18%
Employer associations	59%	29%	6%		6%
Employees associations	59%	29%	6%		6%
Public authorities	94%	6%			
Regional or local authorities	28%	24%	12%	12%	24%
Students/learners	24%	35%	24%	12%	6%
Teachers/instructors/trainers	47%	35%	6%	6%	6%
Higher education sector	29%	6%	35%	18%	12%

■ Always   ■ Sometimes   ■ Occasionally   ■ Never   ■ No response

National reference points

Has a National Reference Point for VET been established in your country?

12%

88%

- ■ Yes
- ■ No

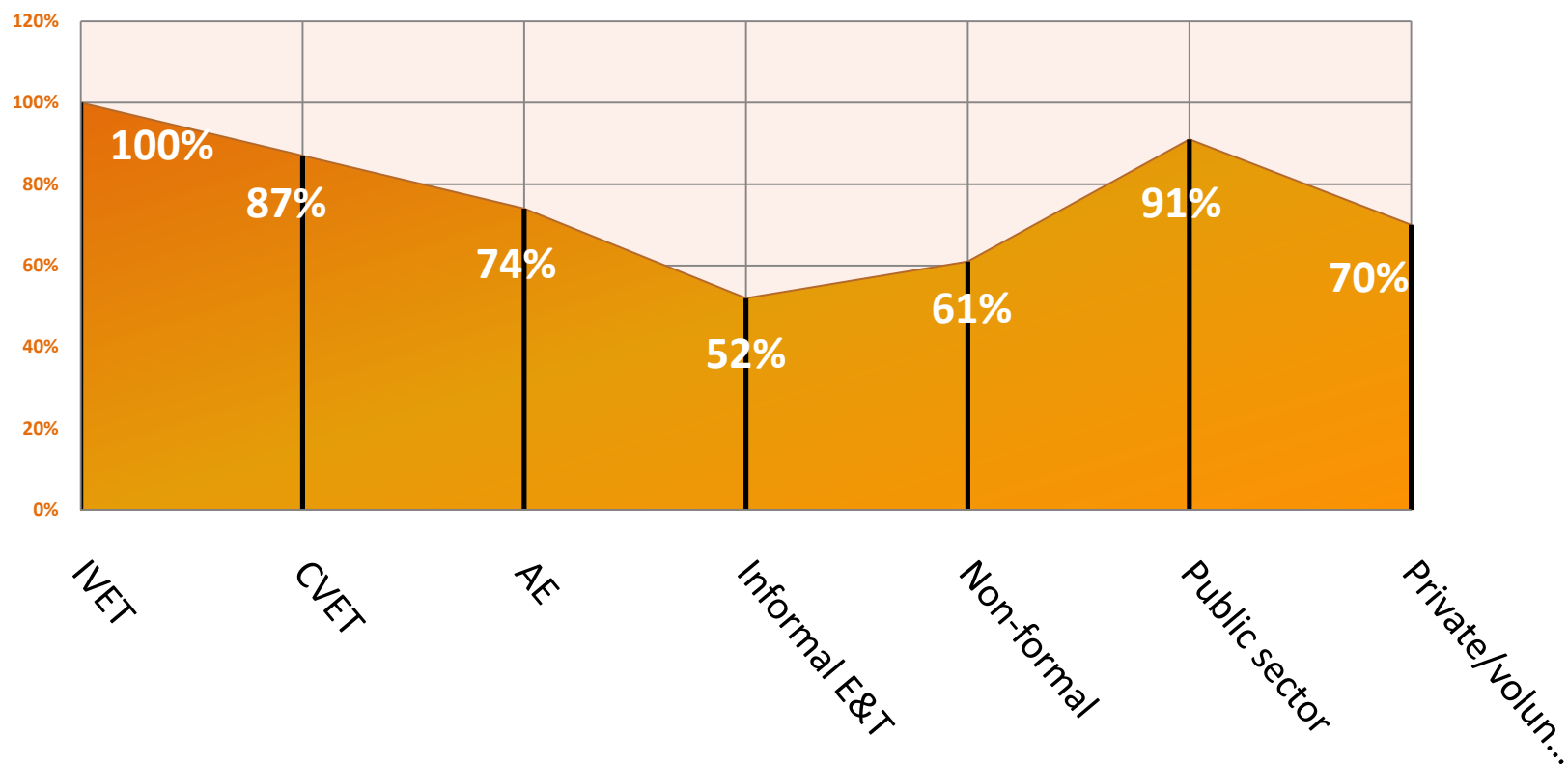|	
Yes	BG, CZ, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, RO, SI, SK, FI, SE, UK(Eng, Wls, Nir, Sct), HR
No	BE(fr), EE, FR

National reference points

Responsibilities of NRPs as set out by the EQAVET Recommendation

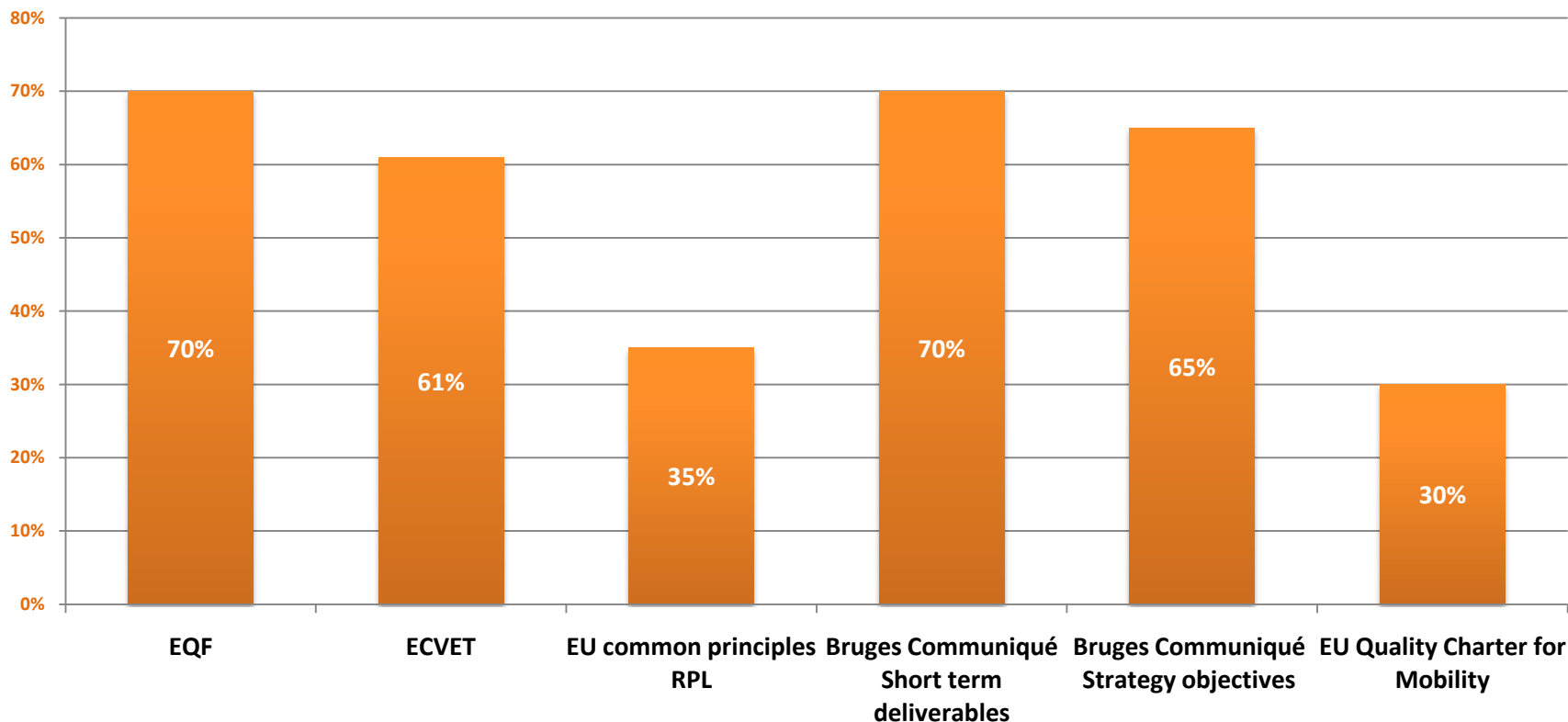| RESPONSIBILITIES of NRPs and the EQAVET RECOMMENDATION	%	Countries
Keeping stakeholders informed about the activities of the EQAVET network	96%	BG, CZ, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, RO, SI, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir, Sct), HR
Providing active support for the implementation of the work programme of the EQAVET network	96%	BG, CZ, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, HU, NL, AT, RO, SI, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir, Sct), HR
Taking concrete initiatives to promote further development of the EQAVET Reference Framework in the national context	83%	BG, CZ, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, NL, AT, RO, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir), HR
Ensuring that information is disseminated to stakeholders effectively	91%	BG, CZ, DE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LT, LU, NL, AT, RO, SK, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir, Sct), HR
Supporting training providers to identify areas for improvement to quality assurance and implement QA systems in line with the EQAVET Recommendation	70%	BG,CZ, IE, ES, IT, LT, NL, AT, RO, SI, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir), HR
Supporting training providers to introduce or develop self-evaluation systems	65%	BG, DE, IE, ES, IT, LT, AT, RO, SI, FI, SE, UK(Enl, Wls, Nir), HR

National reference points

In which areas does the NRP support the development of the EQAVET Recommendation in the national context?

Chart showing percentages by area:
- IVET: 100%
- CVET: 87%
- AE: 74%
- Informal E&T: 52%
- Non-formal: 61%
- Public sector: 91%
- Private/volun...: 70%
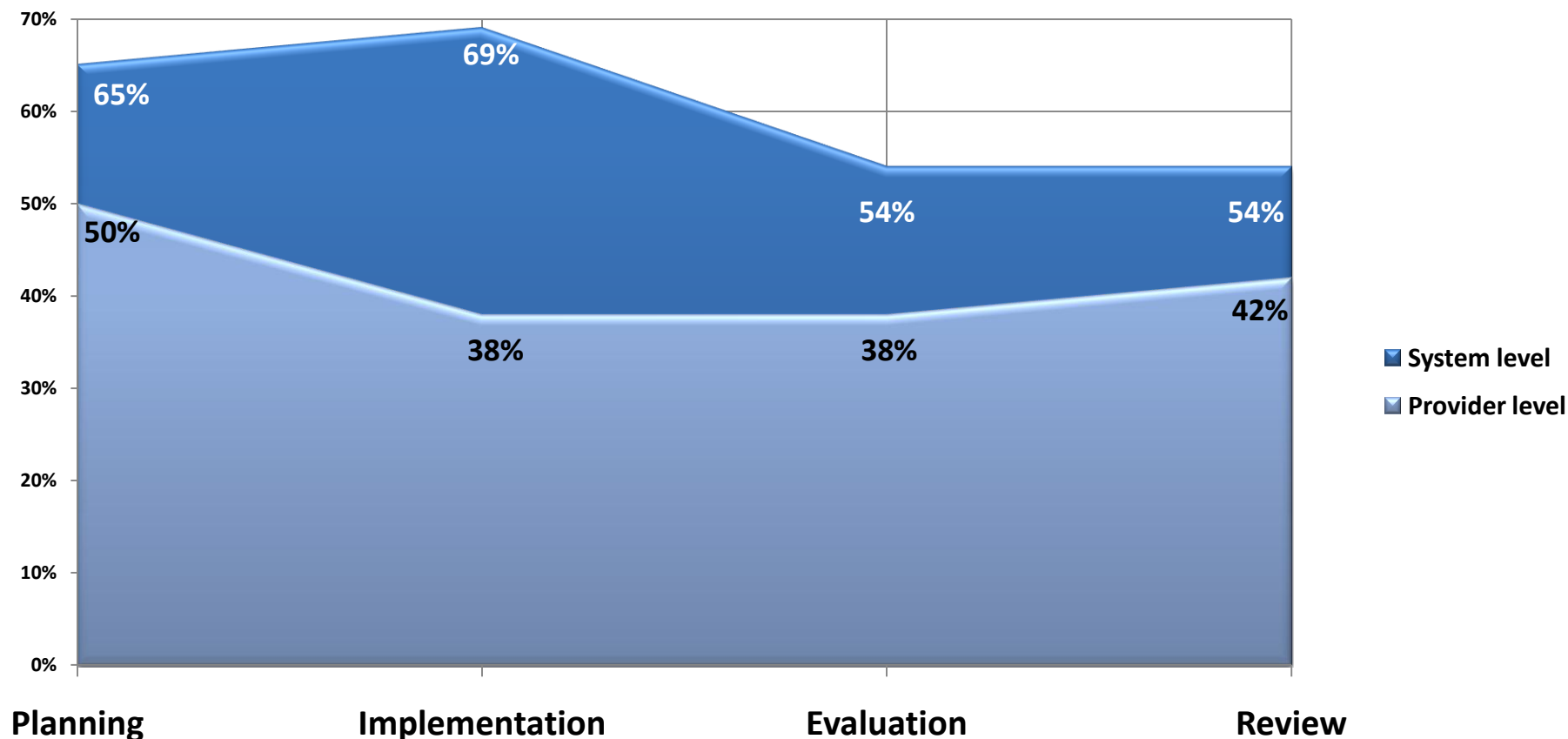
The use of EQAVET indicative descriptors
IVET sector

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The use of EQAVET indicative descriptors
CVET sector

The use of EQAVET indicative descriptors

Lowest average - At systems level for both IVET and CVET

- **In the planning:** Goals/objective of VET are: linked to EU goals (62%; 35%)

- **In the implementation:** Mechanisms and procedures have been established to identify training needs (38%; 38%)

- **In the evaluation :** Early warning systems are implemented (58%; 27%)

- **In the review:** Processes are regularly reviewed and action plans for change devised. Systems are adjusted accordingly (46%; 27%)
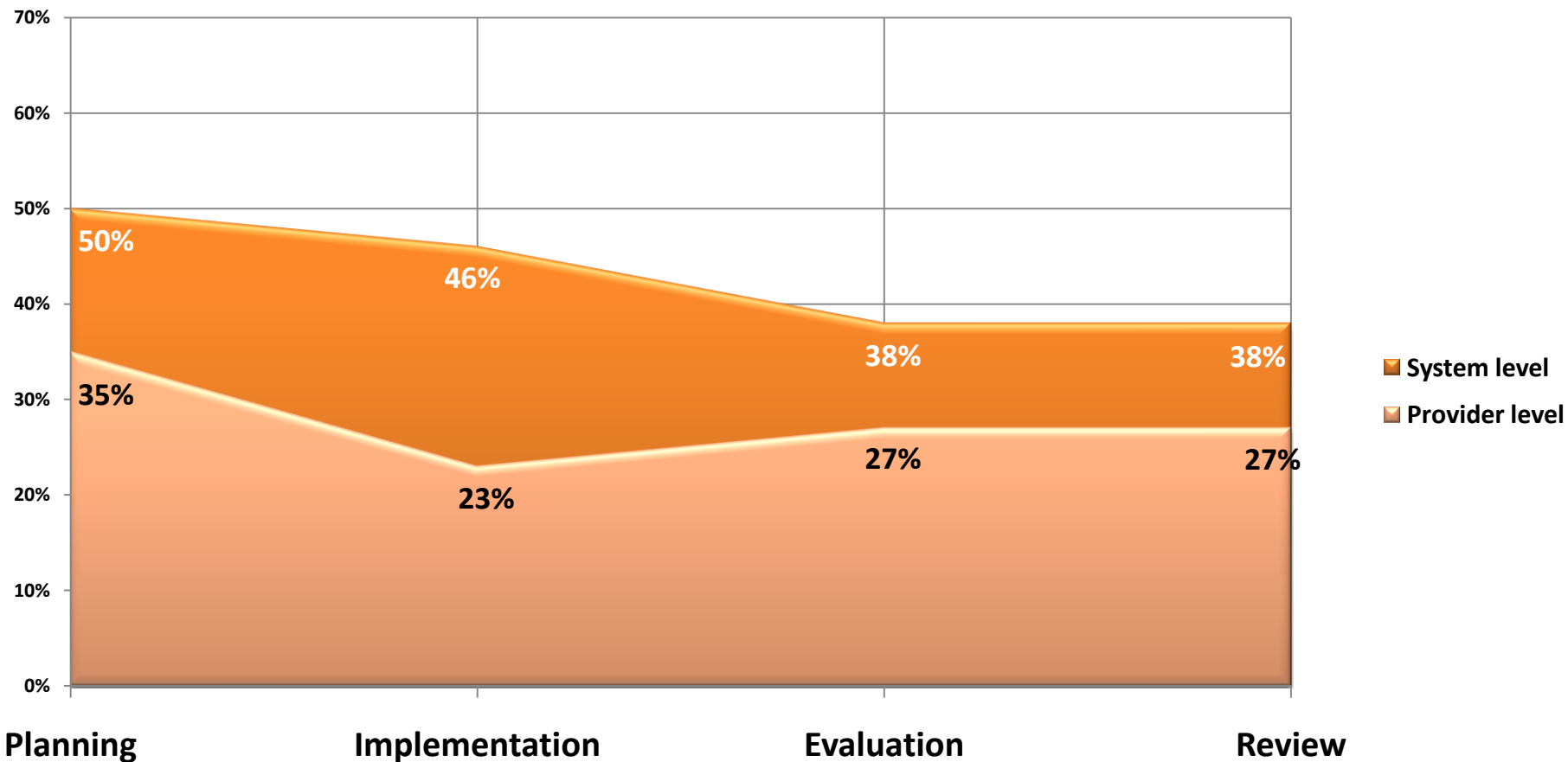
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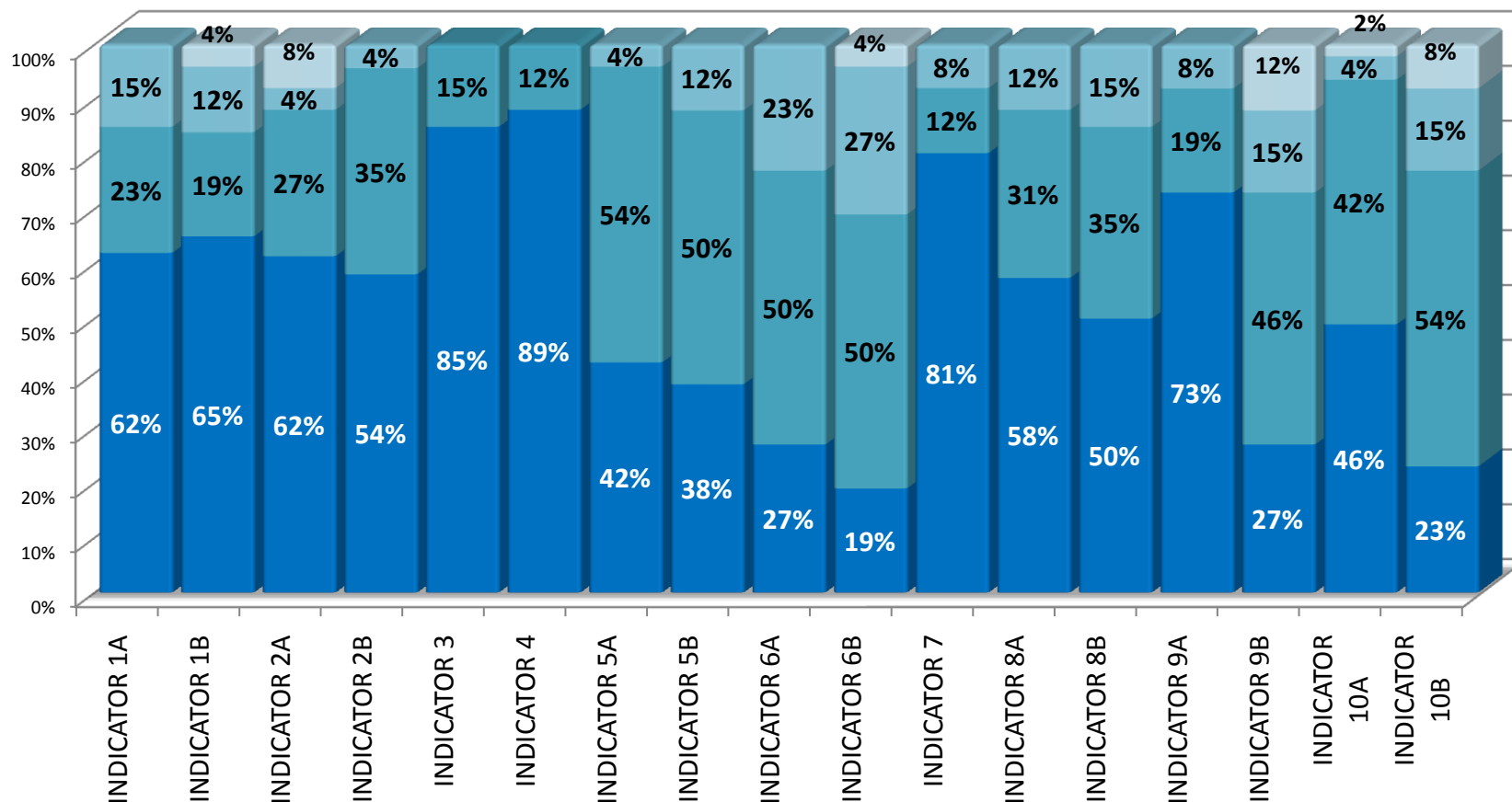for Vocational Education and Training

Lowest average - At provider level for both IVET and CVET

- **In the planning:** The local targets set by the VET providers reflect: European VET policy goals/objectives (31%; 12%)

- **In the implementation:** Staff undertake regular training and develop cooperation with relevant external stakeholders: to support capacity building and quality improvement (35%;15%)

- **In the evaluation :** Self-assessment/self-evaluation is periodically carried out: under regional regulations/framework (12%; 0%)

- **In the review:** Results/outcomes of the evaluation process are discussed with relevant stakeholders and appropriate action plans are put in place (35%;27%)
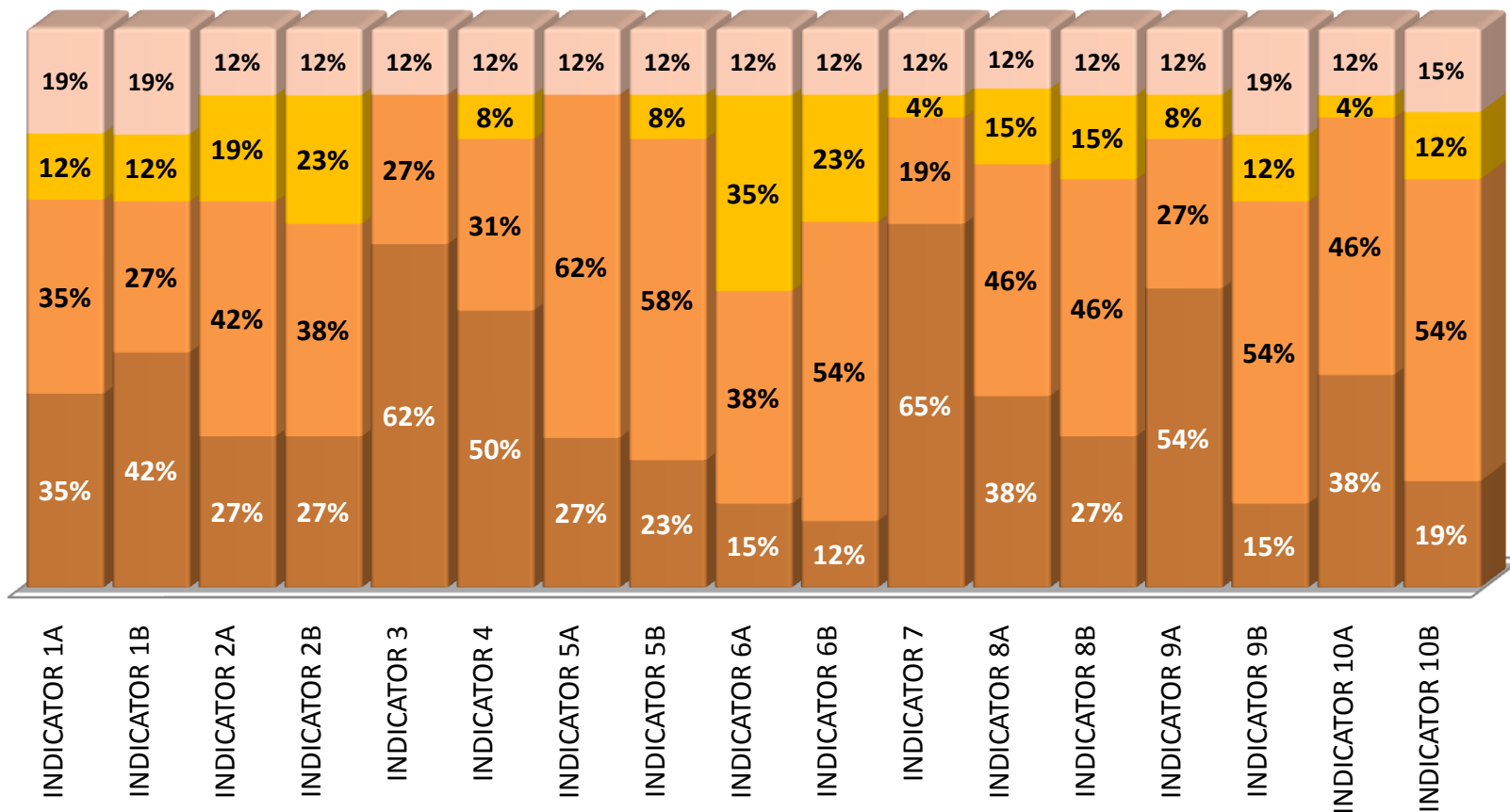
The use of EQAVET indicators
IVET sector

EQAVET Secretariat – DEQA-VET Annual Forum 13-14 Sep 2012

The use of EQAVET indicators
CVET sector

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Legend: ■ Always used ■ Sometimes used ■ No used ■ No response

Indicator	Always used	Sometimes used	No used	No response
INDICATOR 1A	35%	35%	12%	19%
INDICATOR 1B	42%	27%	12%	19%
INDICATOR 2A	27%	42%	19%	12%
INDICATOR 2B	27%	38%	23%	12%
INDICATOR 3	62%	27%		12%
INDICATOR 4	50%	31%	8%	12%
INDICATOR 5A	27%	62%		12%
INDICATOR 5B	23%	58%	8%	12%
INDICATOR 6A	15%	38%	35%	12%
INDICATOR 6B	12%	54%	23%	12%
INDICATOR 7	65%	19%	4%	12%
INDICATOR 8A	38%	46%	15%	12%
INDICATOR 8B	27%	46%	15%	12%
INDICATOR 9A	54%	27%	8%	12%
INDICATOR 9B	15%	54%	12%	19%
INDICATOR 10A	38%	46%	4%	12%
INDICATOR 10B	19%	54%	12%	15%

Indicators with the lowest values of 'always used' are:

- the 'pure' outcome indicators (i.e. indicator 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B);
- the indicators which provide qualitative data (i.e. indicators 6, 9 and 10)

Lowest average occurs in Indicator 6B for the IVET and CVET sectors

Policy implications

- Importance of stakeholders in deepening a culture of quality management

- Potential for EQAVET Recommendation to contribute to strengthen approaches to evaluation –internal and external

- Assess progress in meeting the short term deliverables and strategic objectives of Bruges Communiqué

- More engagement with learners

- Increased efforts to embed quality assurance approaches at every stage of the Quality Cycle

- Challenges of diversity

- Ongoing support to Member States

Thank you for your attention!