

Working Group on QA of Micro-credentials Meeting 2

DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2023

PLACE: TEAMS

I'MINQA

Overview of Activities

Task	Status
1. Desk research	
a. Survey preparation, launch and analysis of data	Done
b. Interviews with stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Preparation of Case study form & Interview questions○ Collect materials from EHEA countries○ Interviews with QA agencies○ Interviews with HEIs○ Interviews with non-HEI providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Done✓ Done✓ 9 are Done; 2 more to take place✓ 2 are Done; 8 more to take place✓ None is Done and none is planned
c. Desk research 1 st draft	✓ Done
2. Guiding document for HEIs	Planned
3. Guiding document for QA agencies	Planned
4. Key considerations for non-HEI providers	Planned
5. Inclusion of MC providers in DEQAR	✓ Done – 1st draft of the Data model
6. Feasibility assessment on quality label	Planned
7. Harmonised data standard for information on micro-credentials	Planned
8. Input to the 2024 Ministerial Conference	Planned

Desk Research - Aim of the study

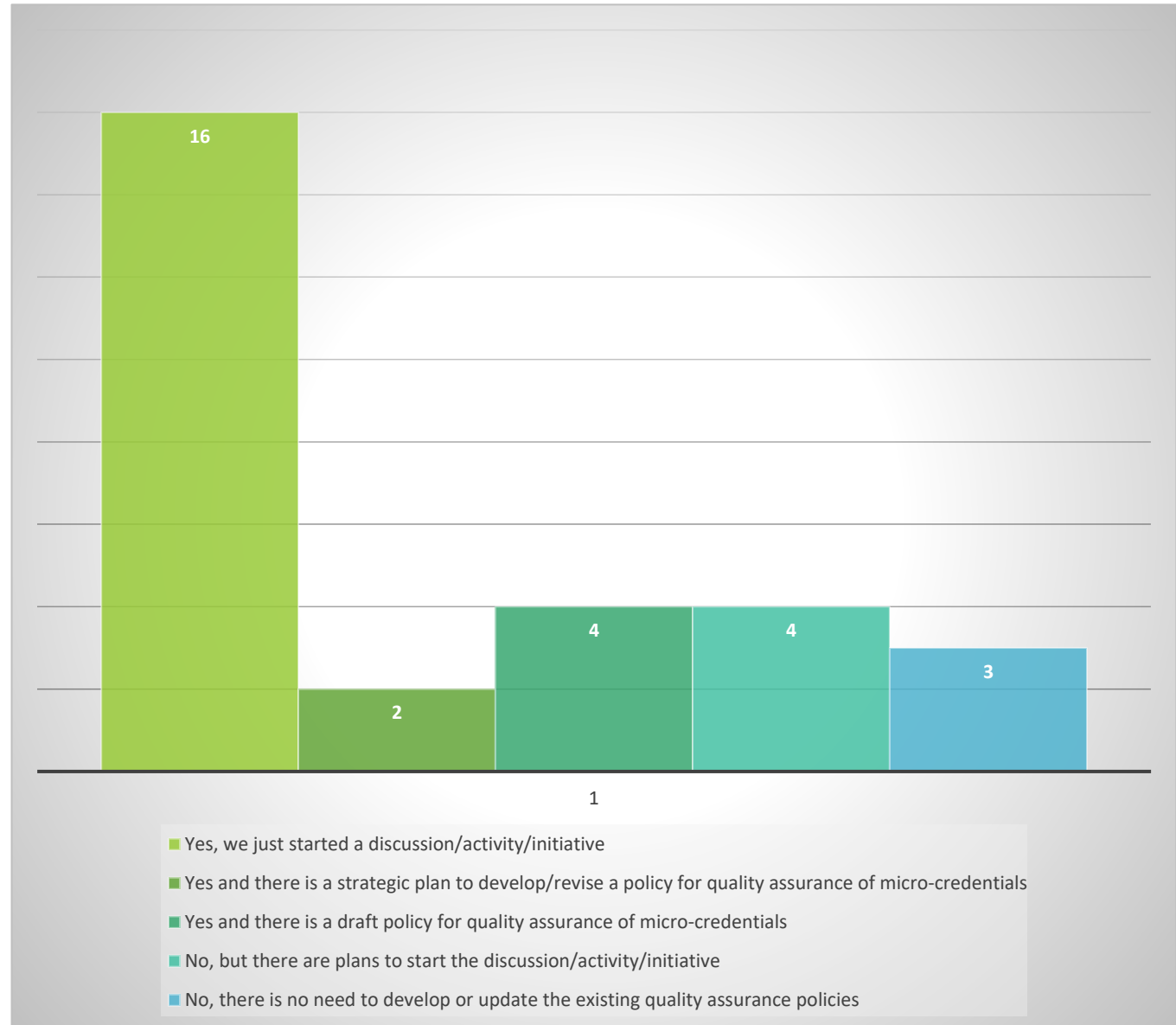
- provide an overview on the state of play of policy developments
- present information on various activities and initiatives
 - present their findings and conclusions related to quality assurance of micro-credentials in the EHEA
 - present examples
- provide a basis for the guidance documents for IQA, EQA and the key considerations for non-HEI providers

Data from the survey

Survey launched in November 2022 to the members of TPG C

- 31 member countries answered the survey (66% from the total of 47 EHEA countries)
- A number of suggestions for interviews with QA agencies and HEIs was received
- Links to materials were collected from 16 countries

Have there been discussions/activities/initiatives related to the development/revision of policies for quality assurance of micro-credentials in your country?



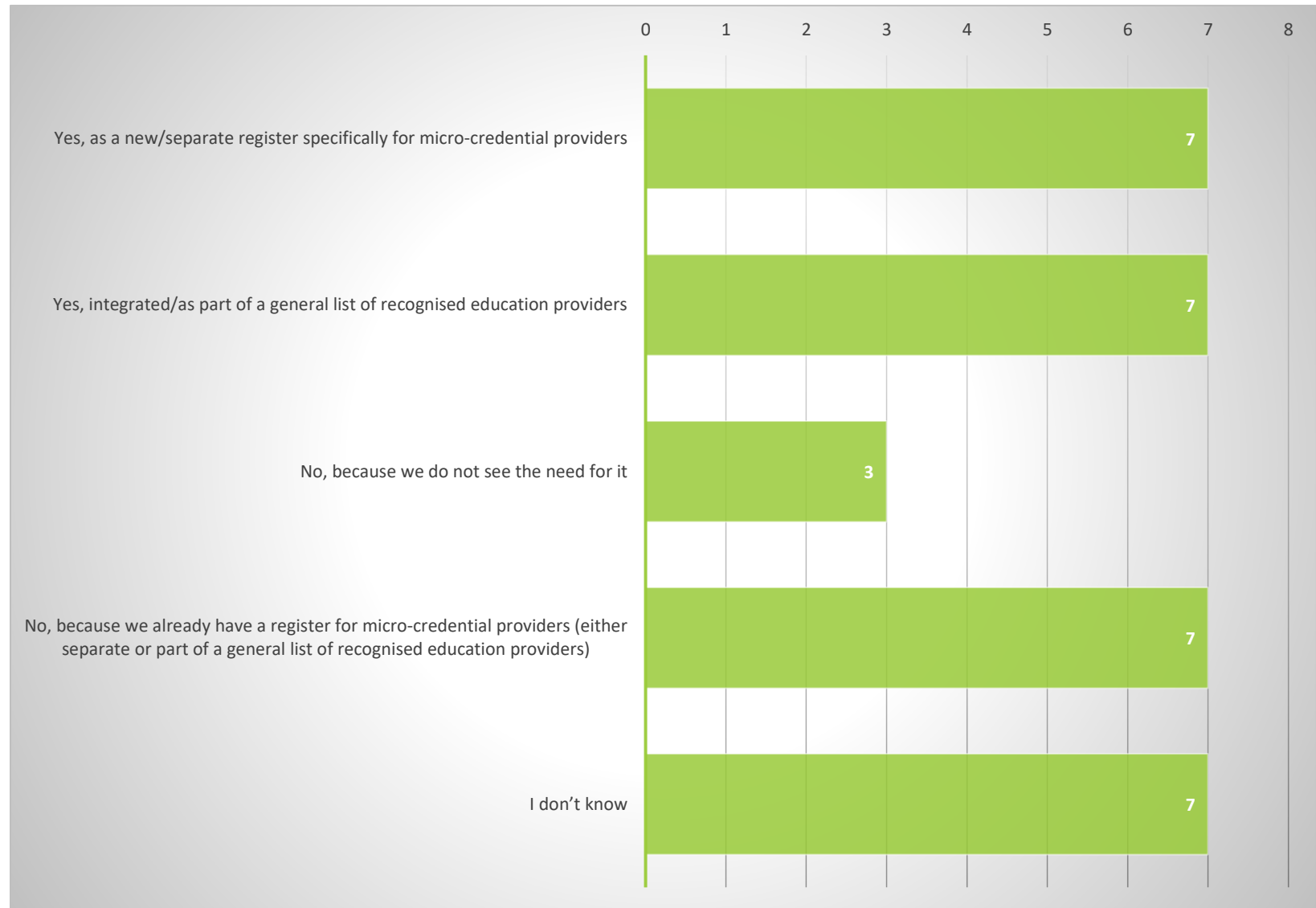
Stage one - when countries follow closely the ongoing trends and participate in national and international working groups on the topic, organise workshops for higher education institutions, conduct nation-wide research and consultations with stakeholders and draft position documents related to quality assurance of micro-credentials.

Second stage – at this stage, based on the information gathered from stage one activities, countries work on defining criteria, procedure and timeline for the implementation of micro-credentials; they work on a strategic plan for quality assurance of micro-credentials and on developing processes and procedures to evaluate micro-credentials; on nation-wide pilots focused on developing a quality framework for issuing of micro-credentials; on recommendations for changes to the higher education law; and on drafting policies.

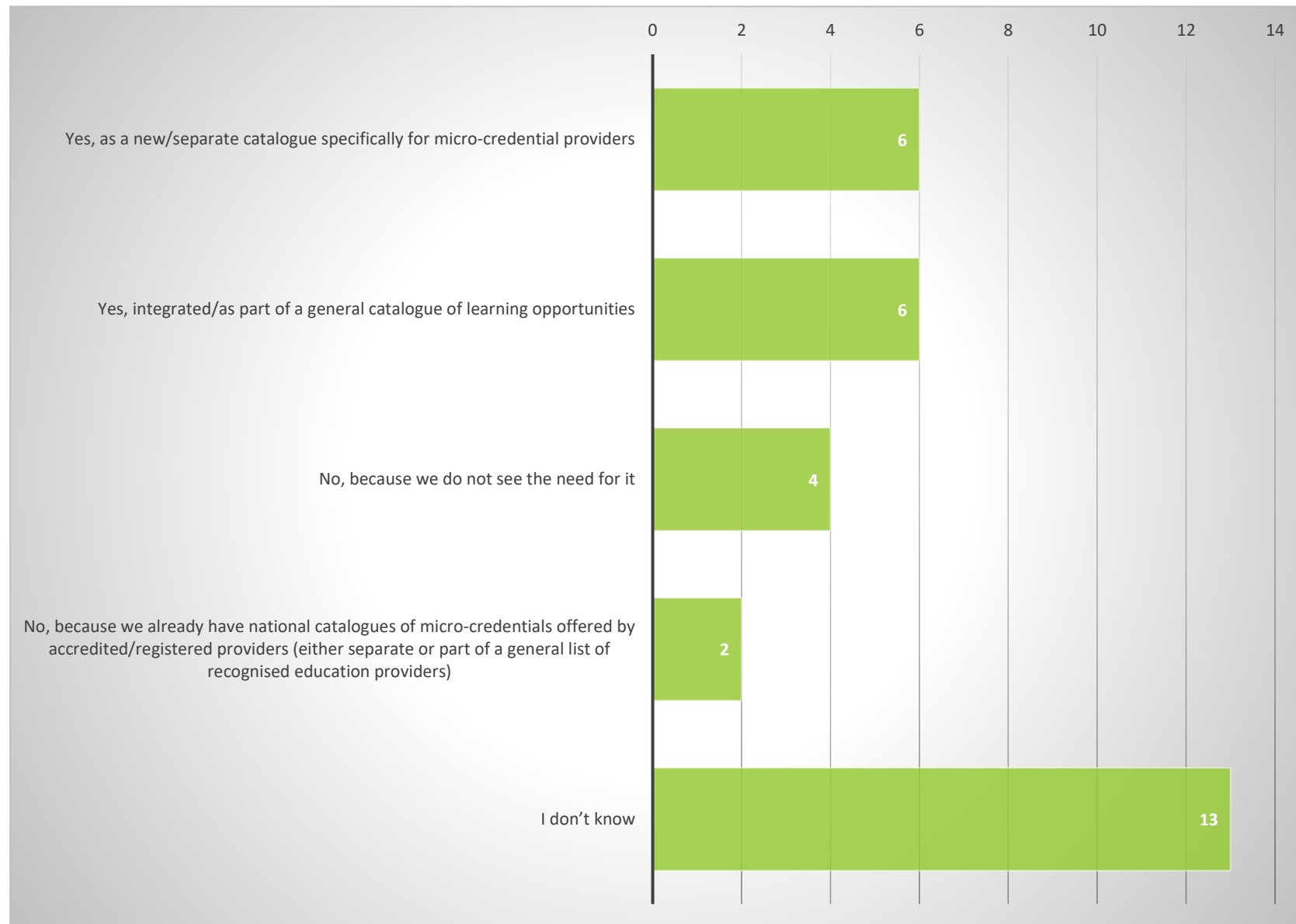
Third stage – at this stage, countries work on updating the national qualification framework and including micro-credentials in it or have included them already; some countries are in advanced stages of the process of including micro-credentials in the higher education law.

Stages of developments at system levels

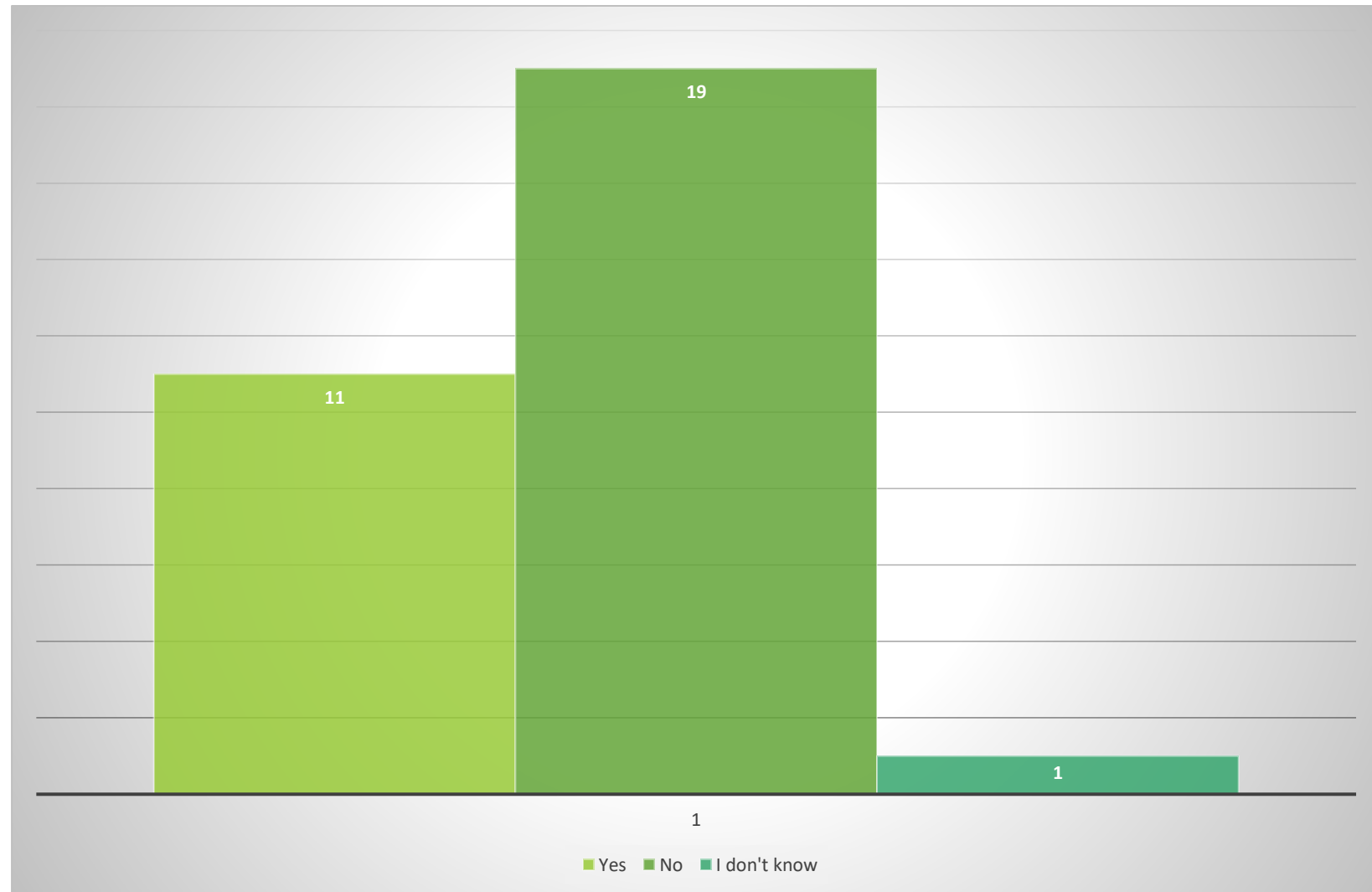
Discussions and/or plans regarding the development of a national register for micro-credential providers



Discussions and/or plans regarding the development of national catalogues of micro-credentials offered by accredited/registered providers



Has (have) the quality assurance agency(ies) in your country been developing a quality assurance approach for micro-credentials?



Desk research report structure

Foreword

Introduction

European policy context

Policy level developments in the EHEA countries

- *National registers and catalogues*

External quality assurance

- *Institutional and programme accreditation/evaluation*
- *External evaluation of each micro-credential*
- *External evaluation of the micro-credentials offered by alternative providers*

Internal quality assurance

- *Online or hybrid mode of delivery*
- *Stackability*

Non-Higher Education providers

Conclusion

Acknowledgements

References

Discussion

- Report structure and content
- Overall feedback; written feedback
- Questions/remarks

Desk research report timeline

Timeline

1. Analysis of survey data – **January**
2. Early report draft – **end of January**
3. Meeting of the writing group – **end of January**
4. First full report draft – **by mid-February**
5. WG meeting – **27 February** – discussing the draft
6. Incorporate feedback and make changes to the report - **March**
7. Desk research 2nd draft of the report ready – **beginning of April**
8. WG short meeting/or sending written feedback on the 2nd draft – **mid-April**
9. Finalise the report – **by beginning of May**
10. Edit and publish the report – **by end of May**

The IQA & EQA guiding documents and Key considerations for non-HEI providers

Timeline

1. Interviews and collection of case examples – February - March
2. Analysis of interviews and case studies data – end March – beginning of April
3. Based on the findings of the desk research and interviews, draw out what to include in each of the outputs - end March – beginning of April
4. Meeting of the writing groups IQA/EQA/Key considerations – Mid-April
 - discuss the early drafts
 - division of tasks
5. First drafts of the outputs ready – Mid-May
8. Meetings with each writing group discussing the 1st drafts – end-May
9. Incorporate feedback and prepare the second drafts of the outputs – June - July
10. Meeting with each writing group/sending written feedback on the 2nd drafts – beginning of August
11. Finalise the outputs - Mid-August – beginning of September
12. WG meeting in BE – 14 September
13. Edit and design of the publications & Publication – Mid - end of September

Next meeting(s) of the WG

- Should we have a short meeting or send written feedback on the 2nd draft of the desk research – **mid-April?**
- Meeting in September – **planned in Belgium on 14 September 2023**