Quality Agency for Higher Education

Latvian Quality Agency for Higher Education

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Quality Agency for Higher Education
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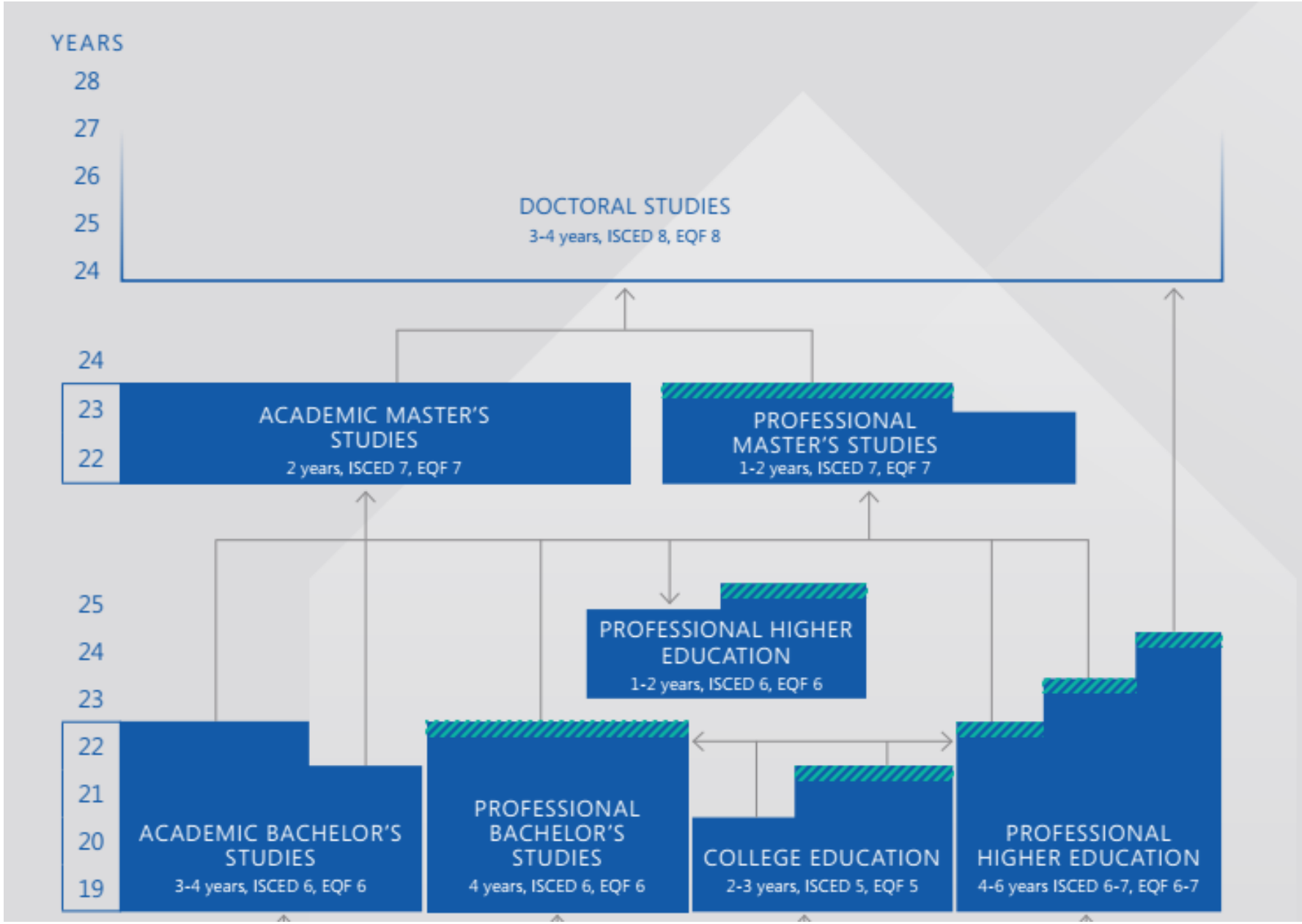
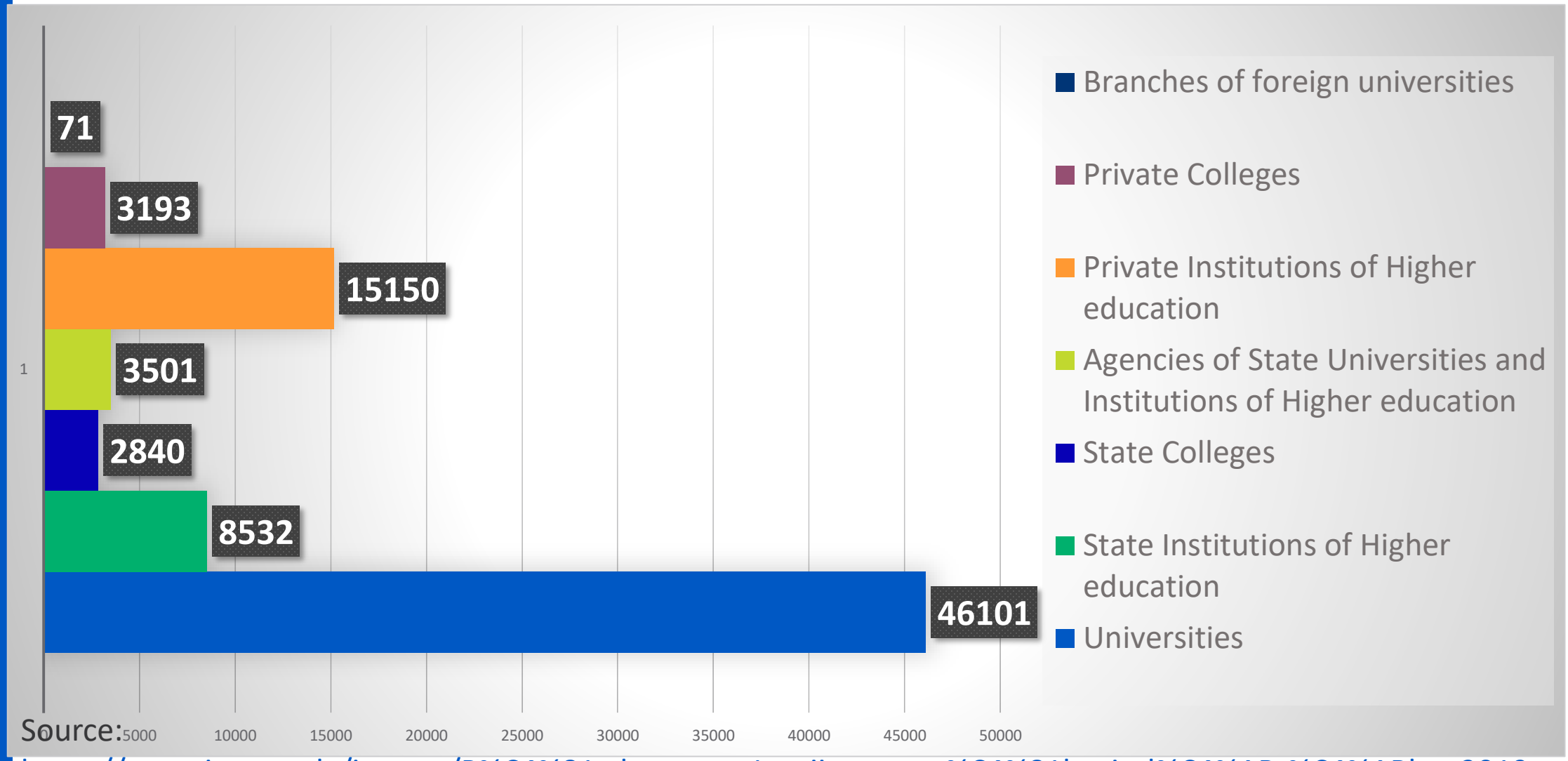
Latvia

Independence in 1918
Restoration of independence in 1991
Signatory state of the Bologna declaration since 1999
EU member since 2004
Inhabitants: 1,907,675

Higher education



Number of Students in 2019/2020 – 79 388



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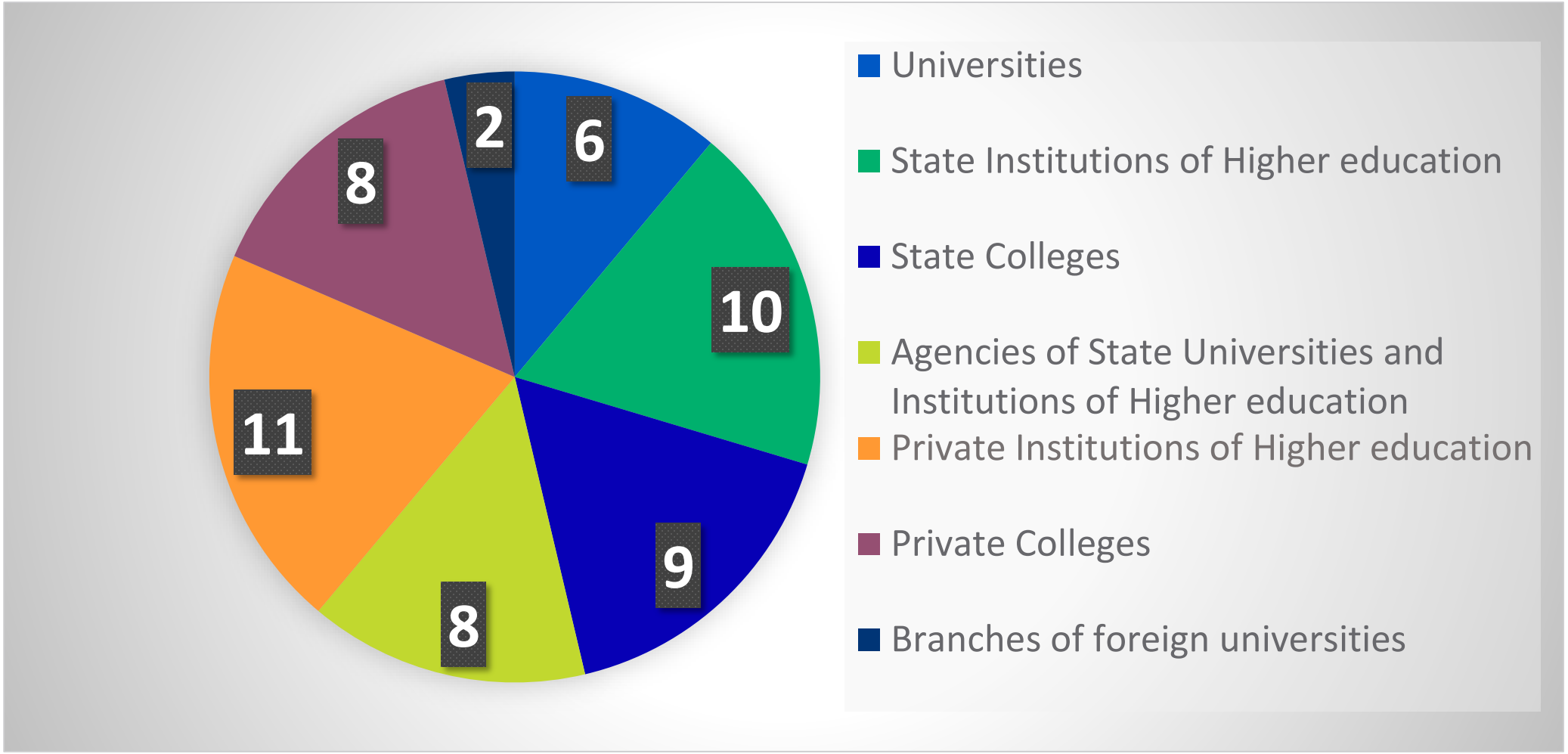
Higher education institutions in Latvia - 54



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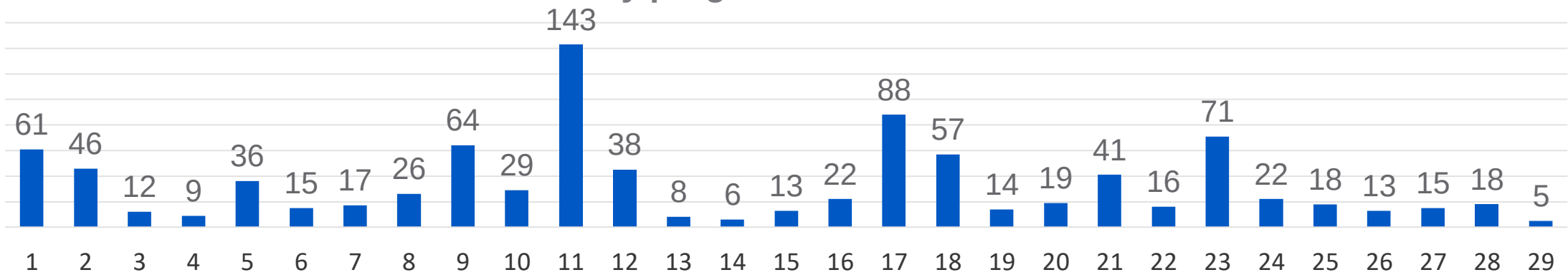
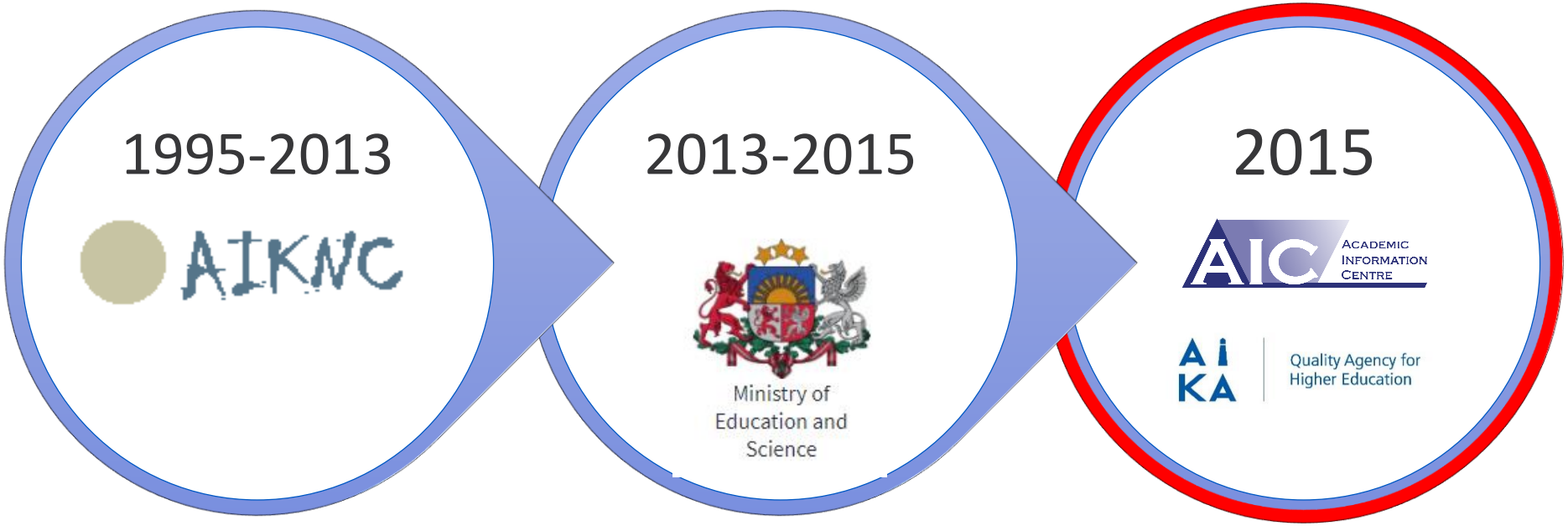
Number of Study programmes in Field



1. Education and pedagogy
2. Arts
3. Religion and theology
4. History and philosophy
5. Language and cultural studies native language studies and language programmes
6.Translation
7.Psychology
8.Sociology, politics and anthropology
9.Economics
10.Information and communication sciences
11.Management, administration and real estate management
12.Law sciences
13.Natural sciences
14.Geography and earth sciences
15.Chemistry, chemical technologies and biotechnology
16.Physics, material science, mathematics and statistics
17.Information technology, computer engineering, electronics, telecommunications, computer management and computer science.
18. Mechanic and metal working, heat power industry, heat engineering and mechanical engineering.
19.Power industry, electrical technologies
20.Production and processing
21. Architecture and construction
22. Agriculture, forest management, fishing and food hygiene.
23.Health care
24.Social welfare
25.Hotel and restaurant service, tourism and recreation organization
26.Enviroment protection
27. Transport services
28. Internal security and civil defence
29.Military defence
30. Veterinary medicine*
31. Sport*
32. Maritime education*

Responsibility for Quality Assurance



Quality agency for higher education is trustful and internationally recognized, it contributes to the continuous quality enhancement of higher education in Latvia and takes active role in quality assurance processes of the European and global higher education area.

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Academic Information Centre/ Quality Agency for Higher Education

- Defined by the Law on Higher Education Institutions as the institution responsible for organising accreditation processes
- Higher education system is open to any EQAR registered quality assurance agency (for one specific assessment procedure). However, the decision on accreditation is issued by AIC only.

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Main functions of AIKA

- Ensure the accreditation of institutions of higher education and study fields, as well as licensing of study programmes.
- Inform society about assessment results
- Provide the necessary information and support for HEIs/colleges and other stakeholders.
- Develop procedures and guidelines for ensuring the functions of AIKA
- Participate in international networks for external quality assurance.

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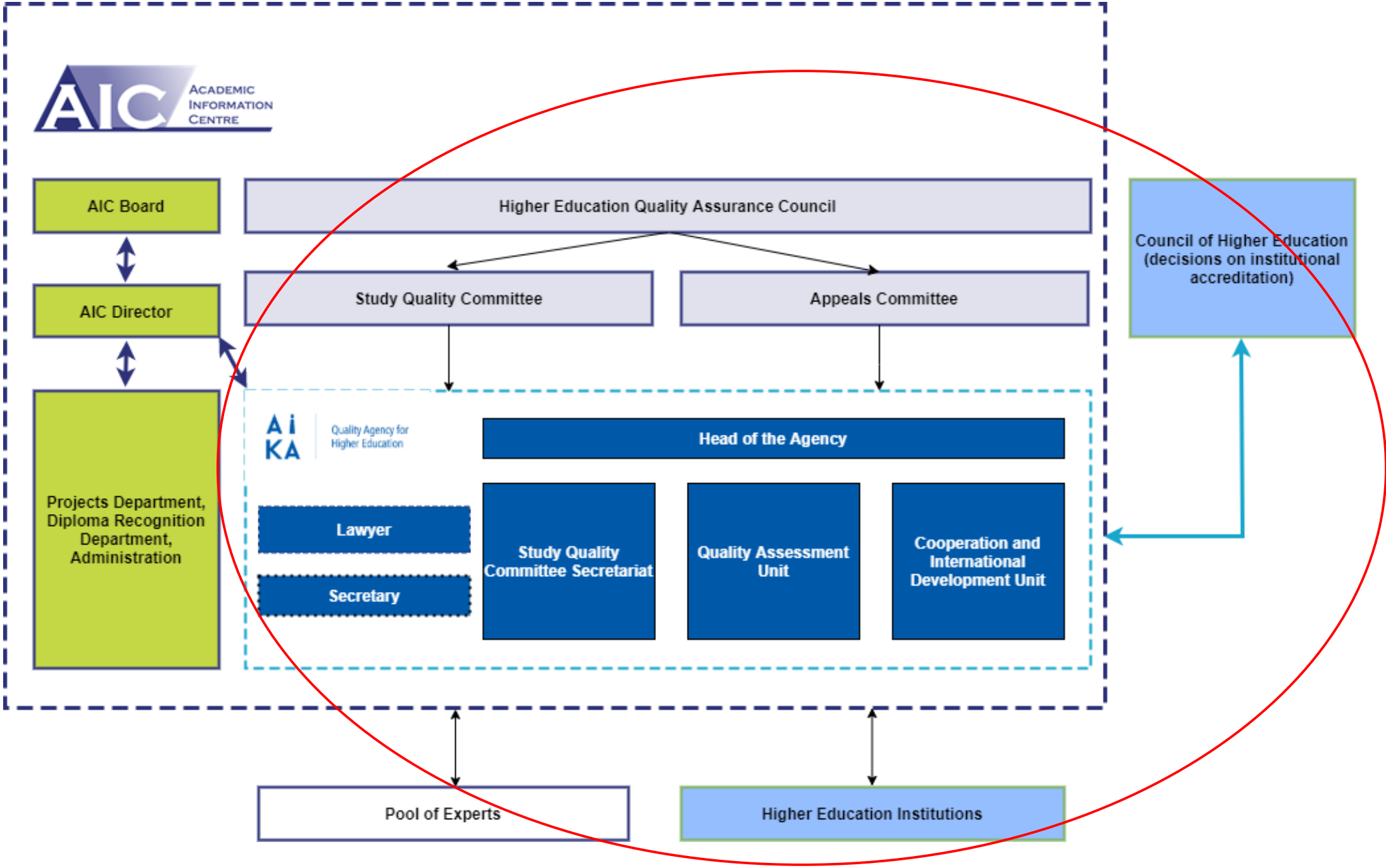

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Higher Education Quality Assurance Council

- Ministry of Education and Science
- Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia
- Latvian Employers' Confederation
- Latvian Association of Colleges
- Latvian Rectors' Council
- Student Union of Latvia
- Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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Study Quality Committee

- 7 members
- Selected in an open competition and approved by the Higher Education Quality Assurance Council for the term of 5 years
- Diverse professional background, including the perspective of students and employers

- Administrated by a Secretariat

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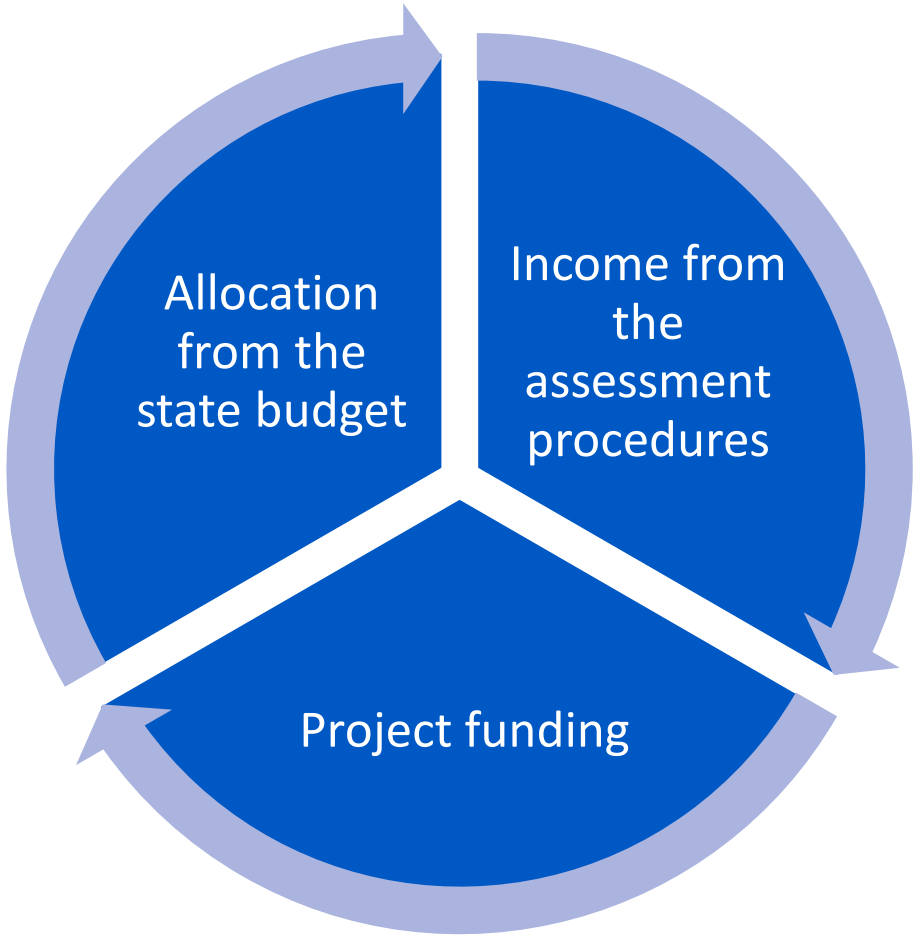
Funding



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Quality Assessment Procedures

Licensing of a study programme

- non-cyclical procedure for each new study programme

Accreditation of a study field

cyclical procedure for a study field in each HEI, every 2 or 6 years

Accreditation of a higher education institution

- only once for each HEI shortly after the HEI has started operating

Assessment of substantial changes

- non-cyclical activity based on the request of HEIs

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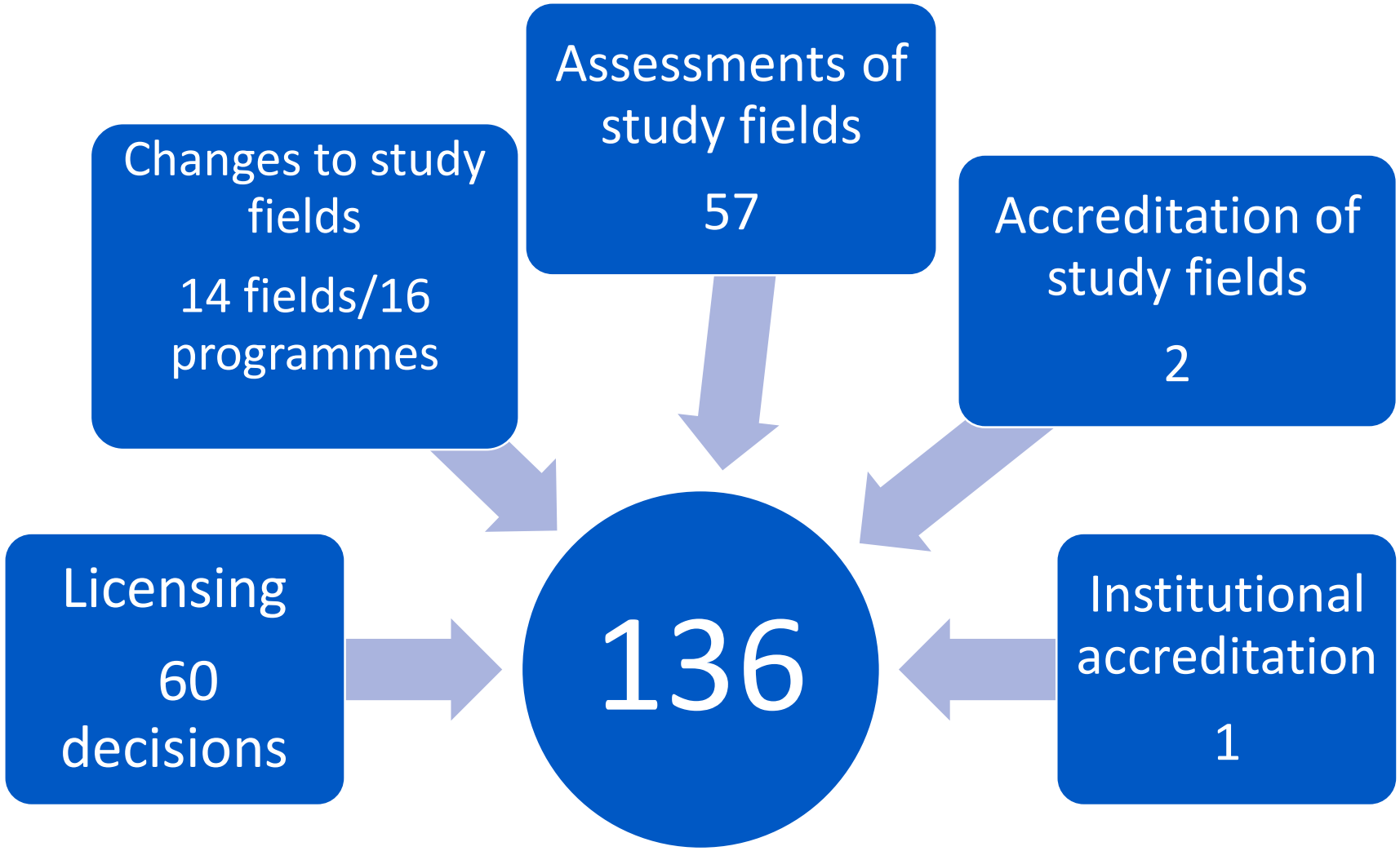
Assessment procedures in 2020



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Guidelines	Detailed instructions for higher education institutions on **preparation of SER** and for experts on **preparation of expert reports**
Methodology	Detailed (step by step) instructions on the overall assessment process; schedule; tasks to be performed; duties and responsibilities
Cabinet Regulations/ Law on Higher Education Institutions	Overarching principles and regularity of the quality assurance processes, roles of those involved

Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

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Peer Review – Experts panel

Accreditation of HEI

7 experts

- Labour market representative
- Student representative
- Academic field
- **At least 2 foreign experts**

Accreditation of study fields

at least 5 experts

- Student representative
- Labour market representative
- Academic field
- **At least 2 foreign experts**

Licensing of study programme

3 experts

- Student representative
- Labour market representative
- Academic field

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Expert database

- Permanent database administred by AIKA
- Main prerequisites for inclusion
  - Masters degree or higher level of education
  - Experience in teaching, research, administration of higher education
  - Previous experience in quality assurance
  - English proficiency
- Student experts are nominated by the Student Union of Latvia; labour market experts are nominated by the Employers' Confederation of Latvia

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Trainings/ seminars

- Trainings for experts
- Seminars/ conferences for HEI
  - Feedback on quality assessment
  - Tendencies on the development of study programmes
  - Student-centred learning
  - Monitoring and e-platform
  - Follow-up
  - Bologna Process implementati
  - Strategic partnership

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Membership in international organisations

2015 INQAAHE — International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

2016 EENQA — Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

2016 eca — The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education

2018 (2015) enqa.

2018 eqar — European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

2018 CHEA International Quality Group

NOQA — Nordic Quality Assurance

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International projects

Roadmap for Implementation of Institutional Assessment (RoadMap)
2020 - 2022

Enhancing the Coverage and Connectivity of QA in the EHEA through DEQAR (DEQAR CONNECT)
2020 – 2022

"Support in strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan" (Twinning)
2018 – 2020

Microcredentials linked to the Bologna Key Commitments (MICROBOL)
2020 - 2022

Developing a European Approach for Comprehensive QA of (European) University Networks" (EUniQ)
2019 – 2021

Linking Academic Recognition and Quality Assurance (LIREQA)
2016-2018

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Youtube channel

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZ5E6qxj2kMZ_L9TZYaN6A/videos)

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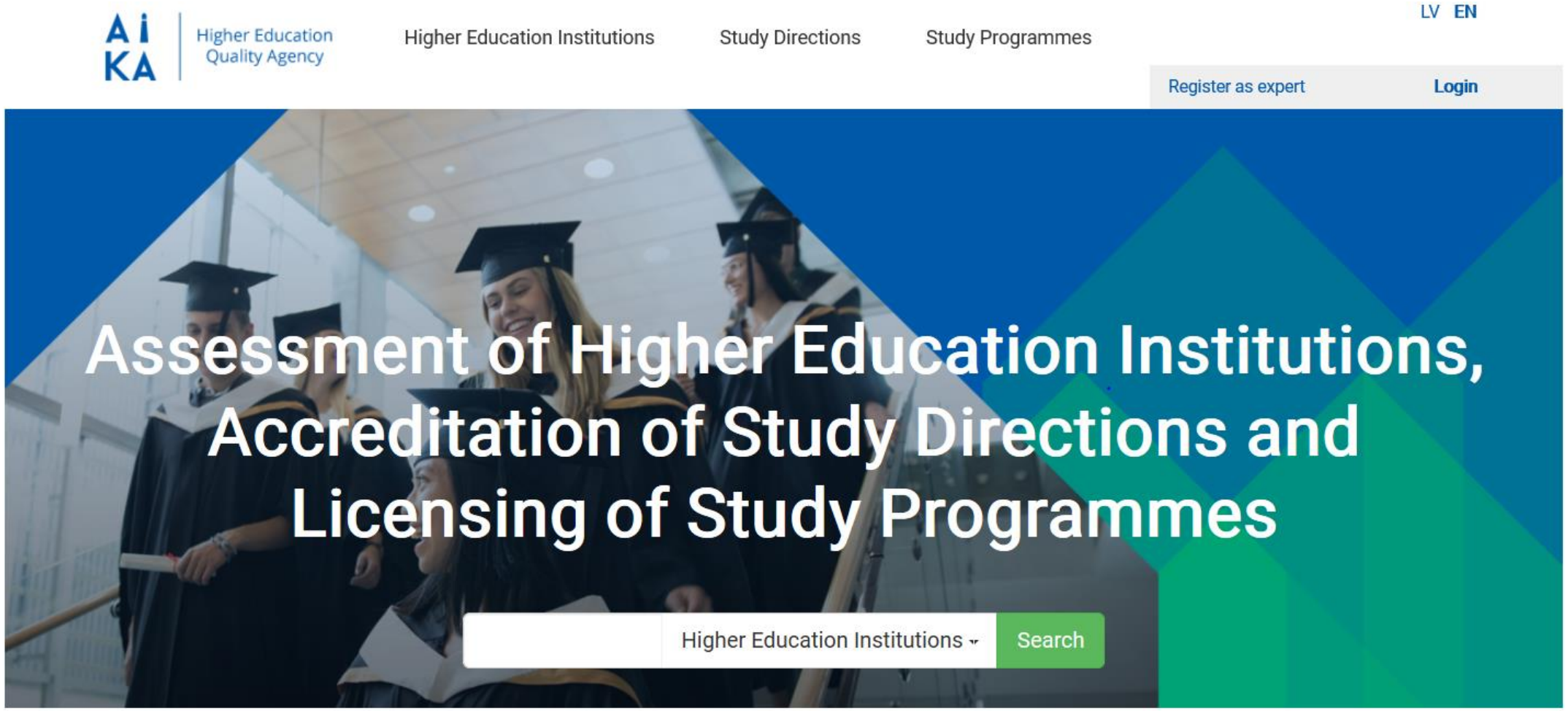
E-platform

(eplatforma.aika.lv)



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