

**SIDERAL FINAL CONFERENCE, 7 JULY 2021**

# **Social inclusion at European higher education institutions**

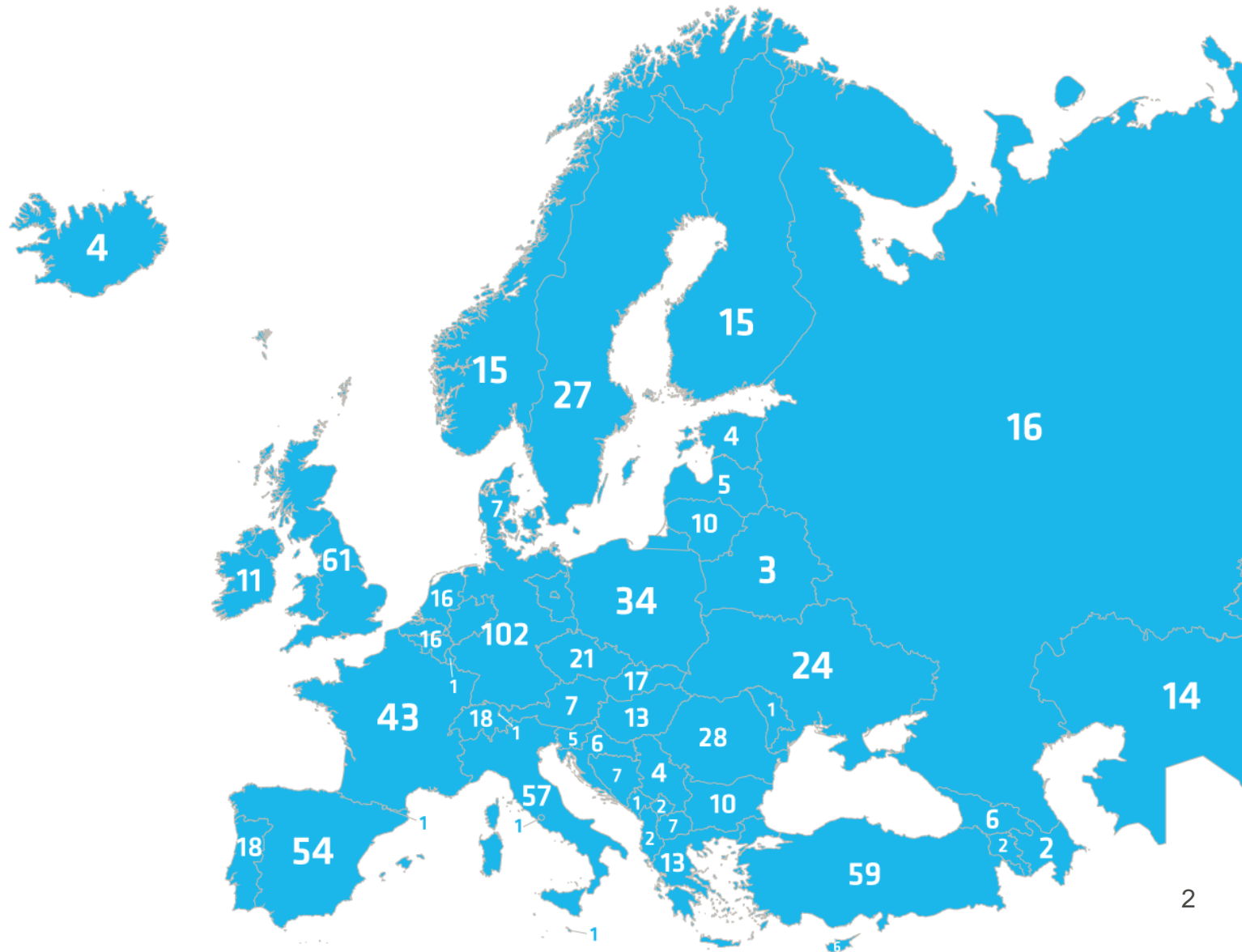
Henriette Stoeber, Policy Analyst

## EUA

800+ member HEIs

48 European countries

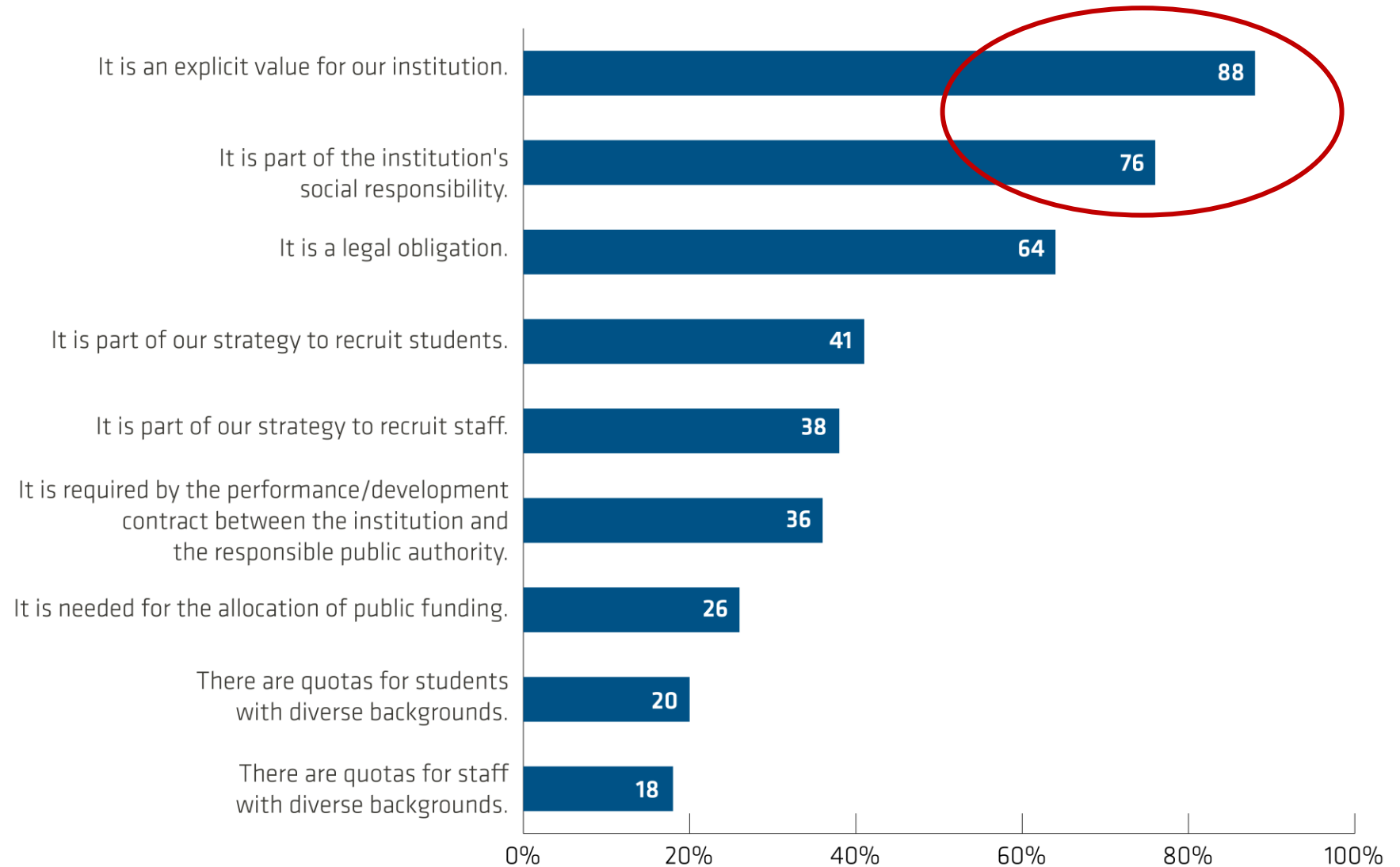
33 national university associations



# INVITED: Diversity and inclusion at higher education institutions

- 159 higher education institutions
  - 36 European higher education systems
  - Sample with self-selection bias
- **85% of HEIs address equity, diversity and inclusion at a central level strategy**
    - 75% as part of main strategy, 59% dedicated diversity strategy, 39% code of conduct, 21% quality manual
  - **53% of HEIs have a specific office in charge of implementation**

# INVITED: Why HEIs engage in diversity

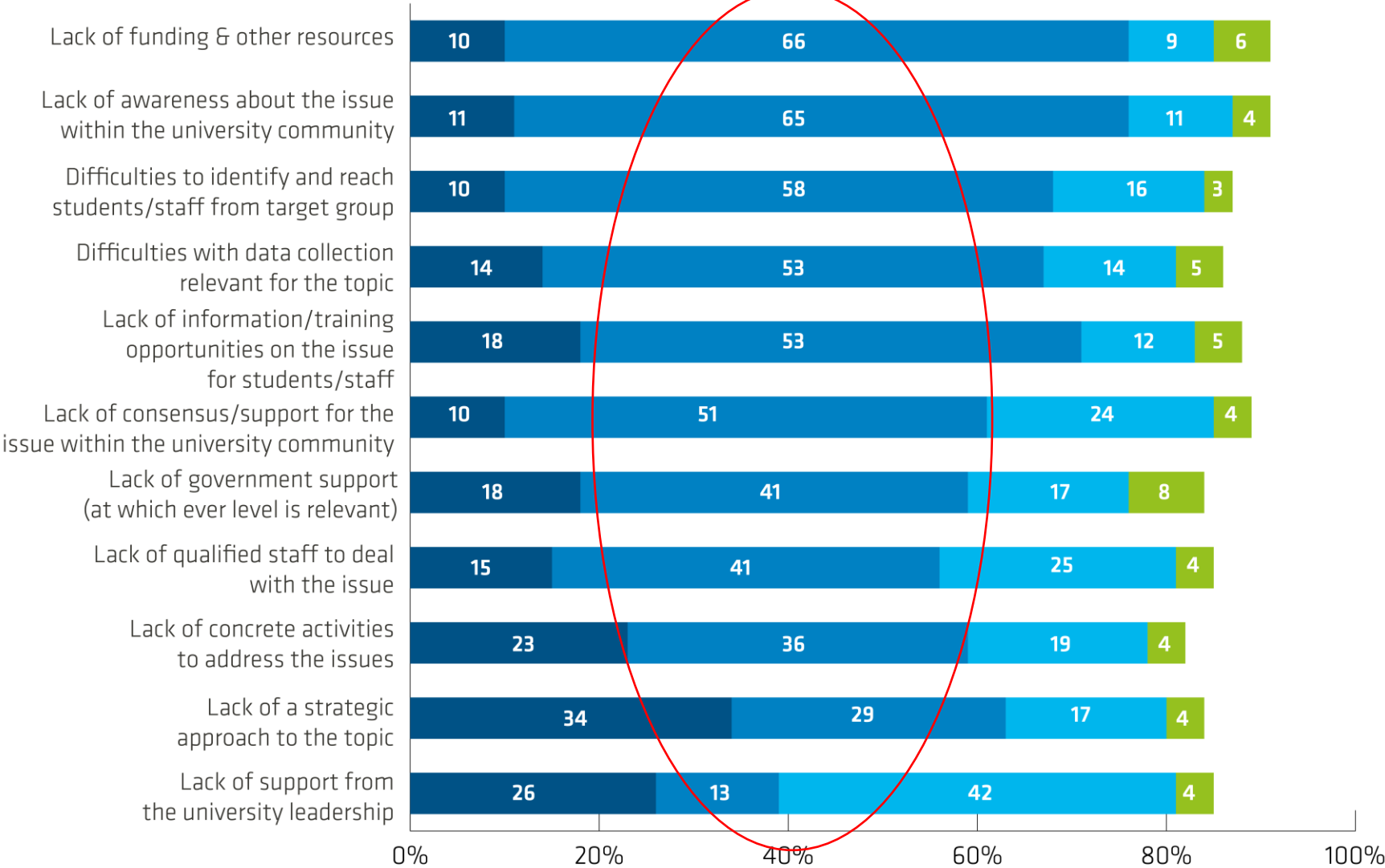


INVITED:  
Dimensions of  
diversity and  
inclusion

	Students	Academic staff	Non-academic staff
<b>Disability</b>	92%	76%	76%
<b>Gender</b>	82%	83%	74%
<b>Ethnic/cultural/migration background</b>	76%	55%	45%
<b>Socio-economic background</b>	71%	20%	19%
<b>Sexual identity (including LGBT+ )</b>	65%	52%	49%
<b>Educational background (alternative pathways, lifelong learners)</b>	61%	31%	28%
<b>Caring responsibilities</b>	53%	58%	58%
<b>Religious background/beliefs</b>	48%	39%	36%
<b>Age</b>	39%	46%	45%

Social inclusion at European higher education institutions

INVITED:  
Barriers to  
diversity and  
inclusion at HEI



Was a challenge but has been solved
  Continues to be a challenge
  Has never been a challenge
  I do not know

## European policies and priorities of Erasmus+ 2021-17

- Framework of inclusion measures (approx. summer 2021)
- Definition of participants with fewer opportunities

*Disabilities, Health problems, Barriers linked to education and training systems, Cultural differences, Social barriers, Economic barriers, Barriers linked to discrimination, Geographical barriers*

- National inclusion action plans

### **Mobility**

- Top up 100EUR
- Real cost coverage additional cost, incl. for preparatory visits and accompanying persons.

### **Projects**

- Top ups for participants
- Fostering diversity and inclusion as horizontal priority in project calls for proposals

## EHEA – Social Dimension

### Social Dimension in the EHEA

- Equal opportunity
- Societal development
- Quality/competitiveness of higher education

**‘the social dimension encompasses the creation of an inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities’**



# EHEA

## Principles and Guidelines for the Social Dimension

### **Forward-looking strategic document 2020-2030**

- 10 principles - basis for the conceptualization of different policies
- Guidelines - recommendations for implementation

### **Encouraging governments to respond to the barriers faced by HEI, e.g. though:**

- legal FWs that enable HEIs to develop their own strategies
- enhanced data collection
- funding and financial autonomy to build adequate capacity to embrace diversity
- policy dialogue with higher education institutions and other relevant stakeholders about how the above principles and guidelines can be translated

# Covid 19 – Impact

Information gathered by EUA  
from National Rectors'  
Conferences in January  
2021;

Digitally enhanced learning  
and teaching in European  
higher education institutions  
(EUA 2021)

UNI(di)VERSITY project  
report (October 2021) ;

## Impact of Covid

- From 90% on-campus to almost 100% online
  - 73% plans for enhancing digital capacity beyond the crisis
- delays in some study fields (practical)
- amplification of social disadvantage

## but also

- Increased ECTS / academic year, higher GPAs
- positive feedback from some of the mature learners
- Increased enrolment and retention (*see next slide*)

# Covid-19 – Impact on enrollment

Information gathered by EUA from National Rectors’ Conferences in January 2021

Enrolment rates		
Increase	Decrease	Same
Denmark		
Finland		
France		
	Germany	
Italy		
		Lithuania
Norway		
Romania		
Slovakia		
Sweden		

Drop-out rates		
Retention	Drop-outs	Unknown
		Denmark
Finland		
		Germany
Iceland		
Ireland		
Italy		
Netherlands		
Romania		
Spain		

## Covid 19 – response

Information gathered by EUA  
from National Rectors'  
Conferences in January 2021;

UNI(di)VERSITY project report  
(October 2021): Chapter 3:  
Summary of interviews with  
HEIs on Challenges in diversity,  
inclusion, and support for  
migrants with a refugee(-like)  
background

### Additional support (some systems/HEIs)

- Digital support e.g. purchase / loan of laptops
- direct financial support to students
- funding to student welfare organizations
- resources for mental health and well-being

**“(...) Crisis has shone a light on the importance of accessibility and inclusion.** It has underlined the need for coordinated strategies for inclusion for all disadvantaged learners, (...) The need to remove barriers, for instance in the context of digital learning and teaching, has never been more evident. (...)”

UNI(di)VERSITY report (forthcoming)

# Thank you for your attention

Henriette Stoeber  
Policy Analyst  
Henriette.stoeber@eua.eu

