



# Fundamental Values in the Bologna Process Implementation Report

*David Crosier*

*Daad Seminar Bologna Hub*

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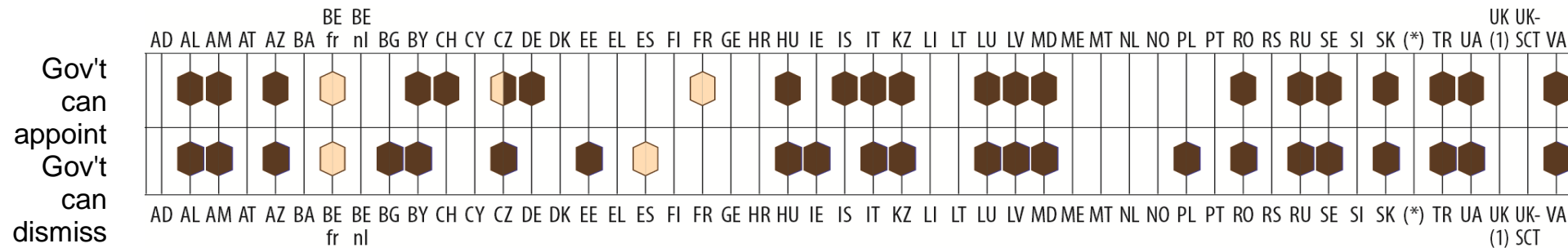
# BPIR reporting since 2012

- So far, 4 editions of the BPIR (2012, 2015, 2018 and 2020)
- 2012, 2015 editions had no information on fundamental values
- Topic came to the fore initially in relation to the Belarus application to EHEA (hotly disputed application process, in 2015)
- Between 2015 and 2018, values became (unfortunately) a hot topic in other countries eg Russia (European University in St Petersburg, license revoked in relation to gender studies) Turkey, (closure of 15 HEIs) Hungary (Law targeting CEU)
- 2018 edition of BPIR included a section on values and governance

# 2018 report

- Focused on legislation and policy documents
- Governments (BFUG members) were the main source of information
- provided information on whether academic freedom is protected in national legislation (only a few systems, including Belarus and Hungary, do not mention academic freedom in legislation)
- Also looked at governance issues and academic processes...

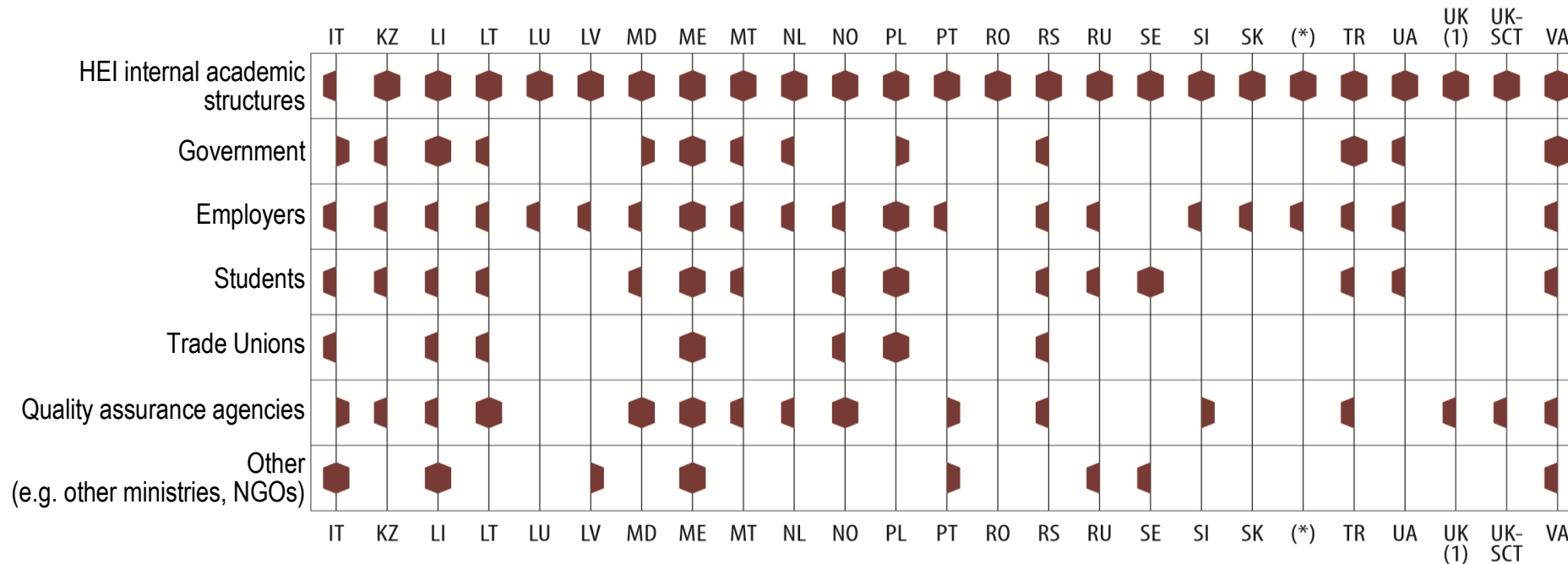
# Legal authority to appoint/dismiss HEI heads and professors



(\*): the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; UK (1): UK-ENG/WLS/NIR

Rector
  Professor

# Decision-making for new programmes

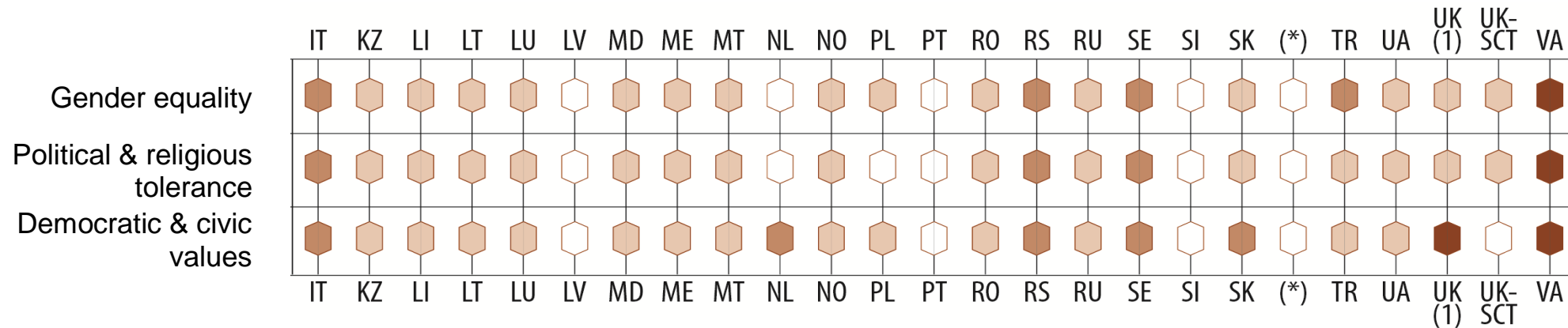


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Left  
Most commonly consulted

Right  
Most commonly takes decisions

# Support to HEIs for values



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Top level legislation
  Specific HE legislation
  Other forms of support
  HEIs decide on their own

# Limitations of 2018 report

- No source for de facto information
  - Legal requirements interesting, but insufficient – especially if less democratic countries ignore/bypass the rule of law...
- > Overall, a partial and potentially unreliable picture..

# Impact of 2018 report

- Although the approach was limited, it led to reflection in the BFUG
- Task Force created to explore how to report on and promote values
- Approach in relation to academic freedom was to develop common understanding (statement) in order to be able to develop appropriate indicators – both de jure and de facto
- Statement on academic freedom adopted in Rome, 2020



# 2024 Report: what is ahead?

- Working group now has the task of developing a framework for assessing implementation of fundamental values
- Academic Freedom Index - launched in 2020 by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI) – has advanced the agenda significantly by providing important indicators of academic freedom that capture its de facto realisation
- Process now needed to agree on the best way of reporting interlinked values..
- We also need to stimulate cross national discussion on values