

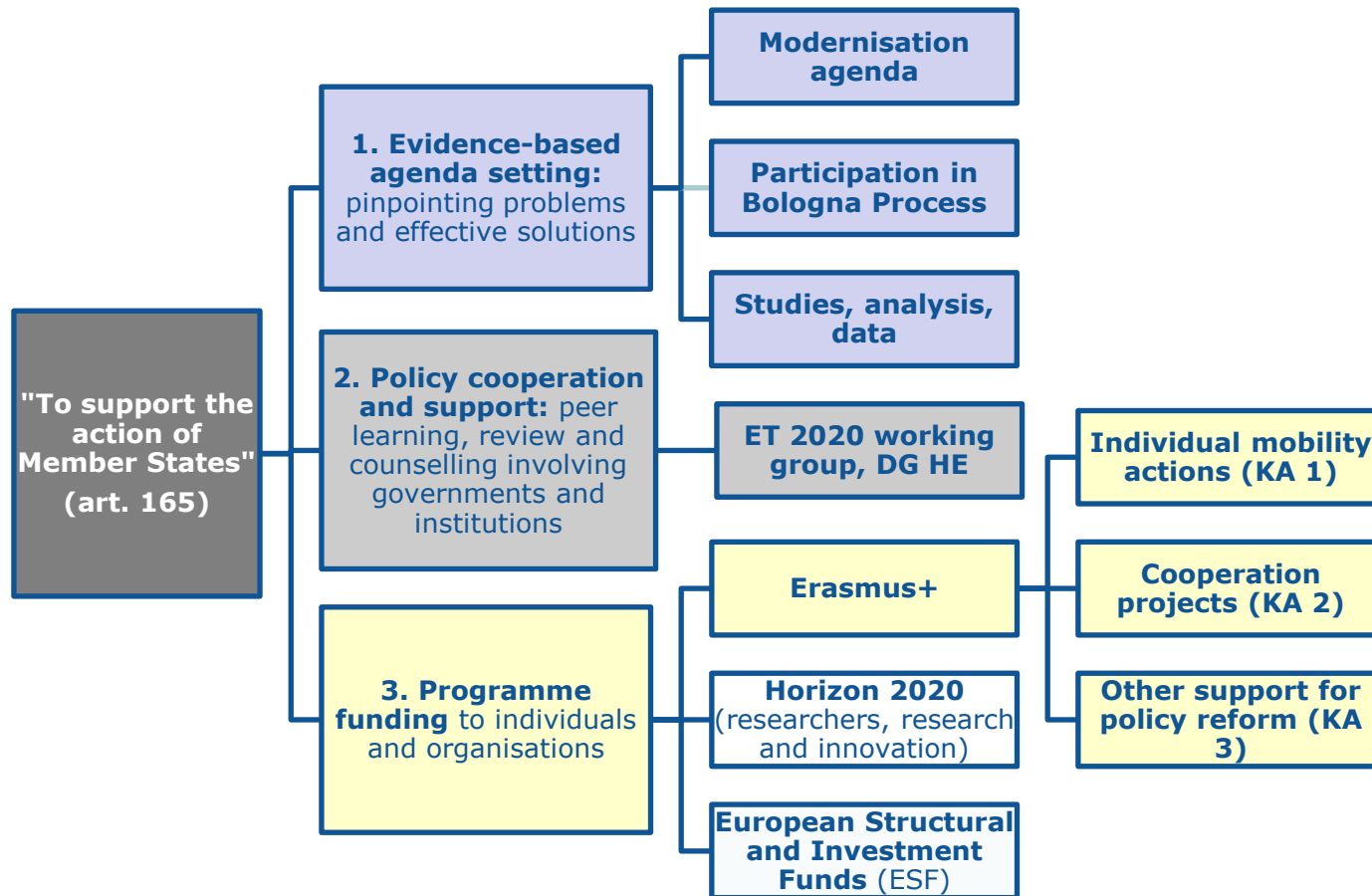


# **European higher education policies in support of quality and modernisation**

**35<sup>th</sup> Conference of Rectors and  
Presidents of European Universities  
of Technology**

**Łódź, 16-17 September 2016**

# The EU's role in higher education



# Modernisation Agenda

Five key priorities:

- **Quantity:** widening access, reducing drop-out
- **Quality and relevance:** programmes, teaching & teachers
- **International** cooperation and mobility
- **Knowledge triangle**
- Ensuring adequate, efficient **funding & governance**

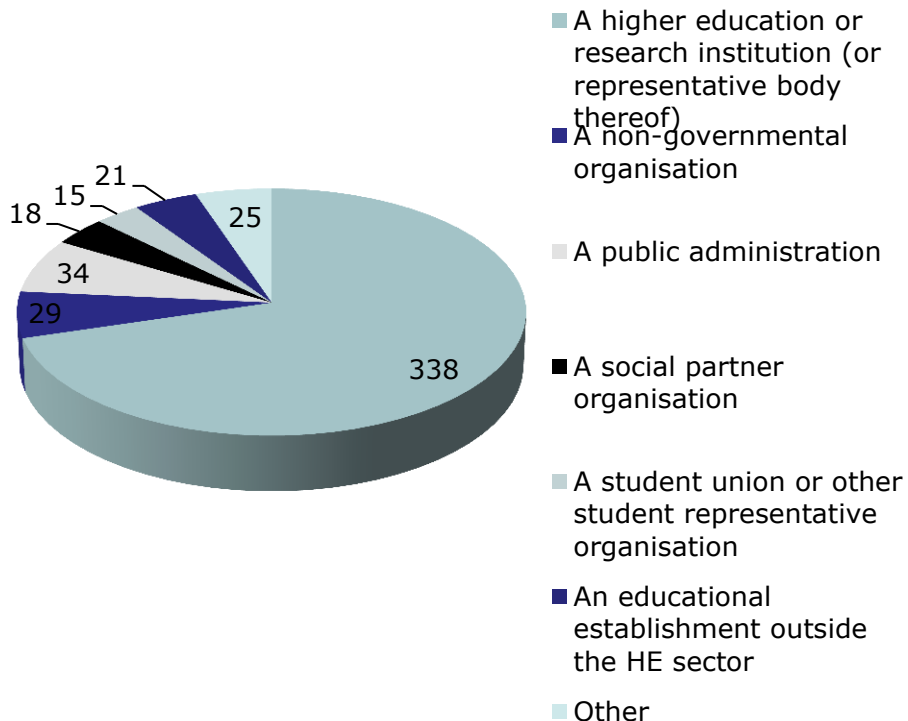


# A wide-ranging public consultation

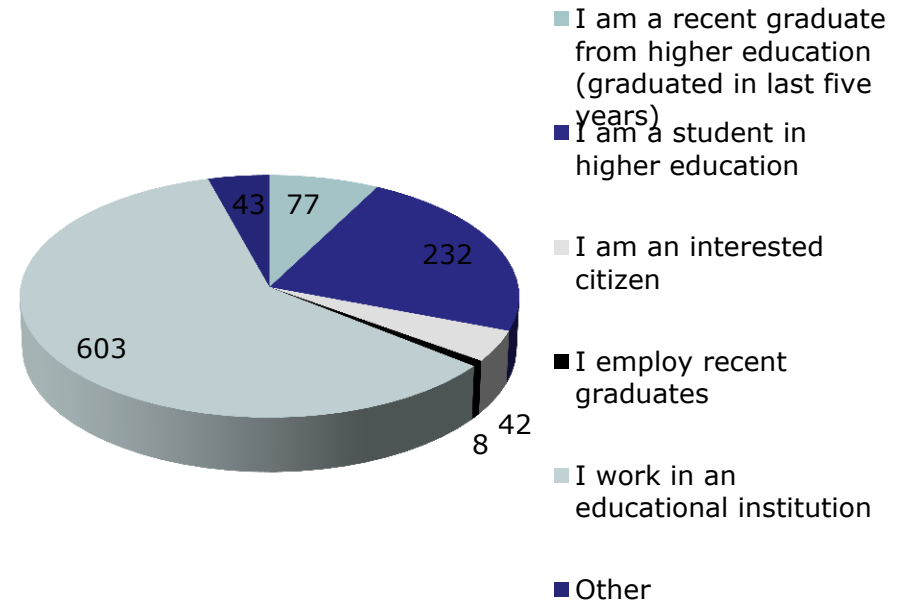
- An open **online questionnaire** on the EUROPA website
- A targeted request for "**position papers**" to DGs and European stakeholders
- Feedback gathered through **meetings** with Member States and stakeholders (including TWG and DGHE)

# Response to online questionnaire

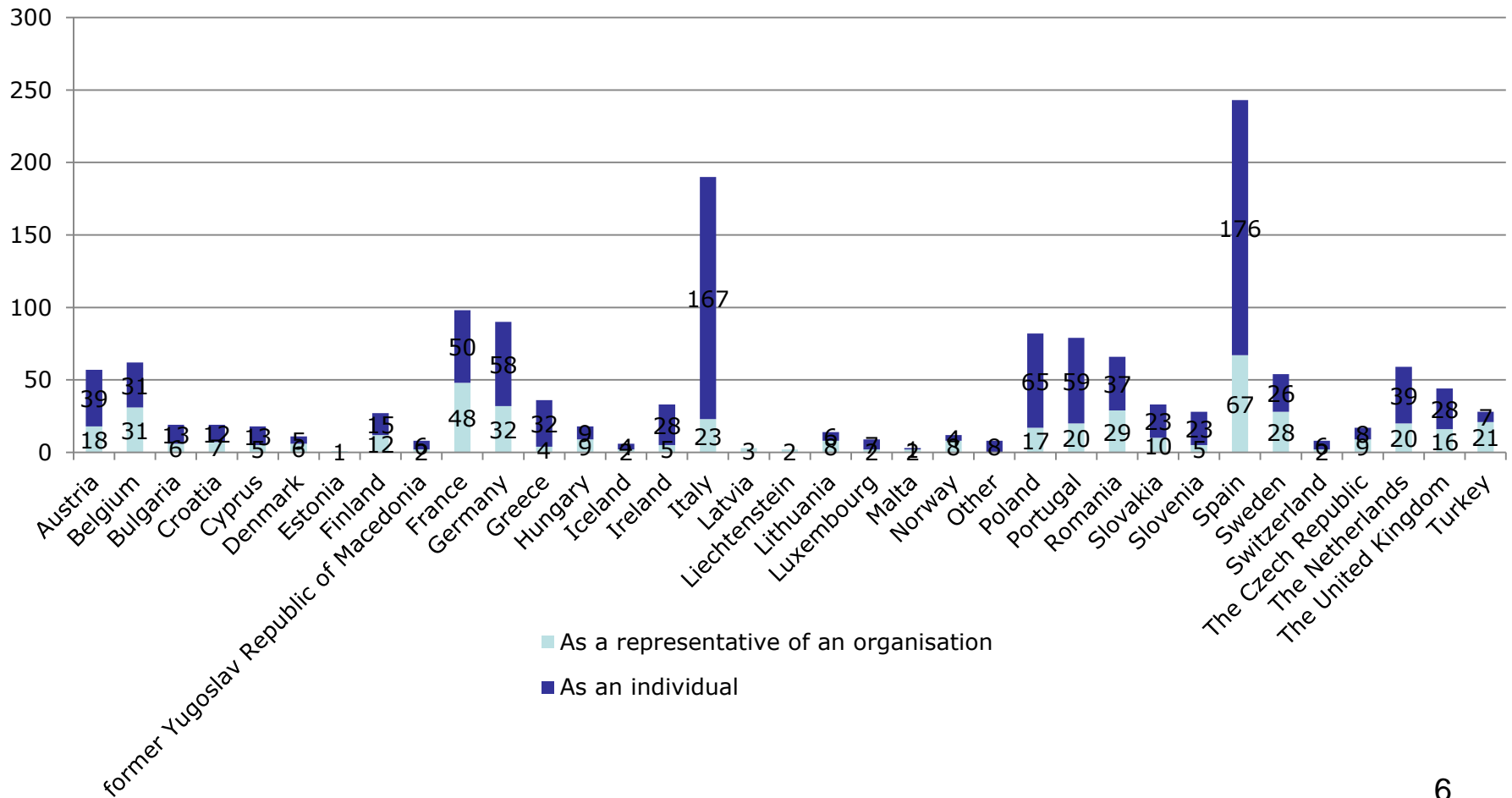
## Overview of 480 *Institutional* respondents



## Overview of 1,005 *Individual* respondents



# Response to online questionnaire



# Response targeted call for papers

- 30 from government authorities
- 19 from European and national stakeholders

# Key questions in consultation

1. What are the **challenges** facing HE?
2. What should be the **priorities** for change?
  - In teaching and learning
  - In (regional) innovation and outreach
  - In research and its links
3. What should the **EU** do to help?



# Main challenges facing HE

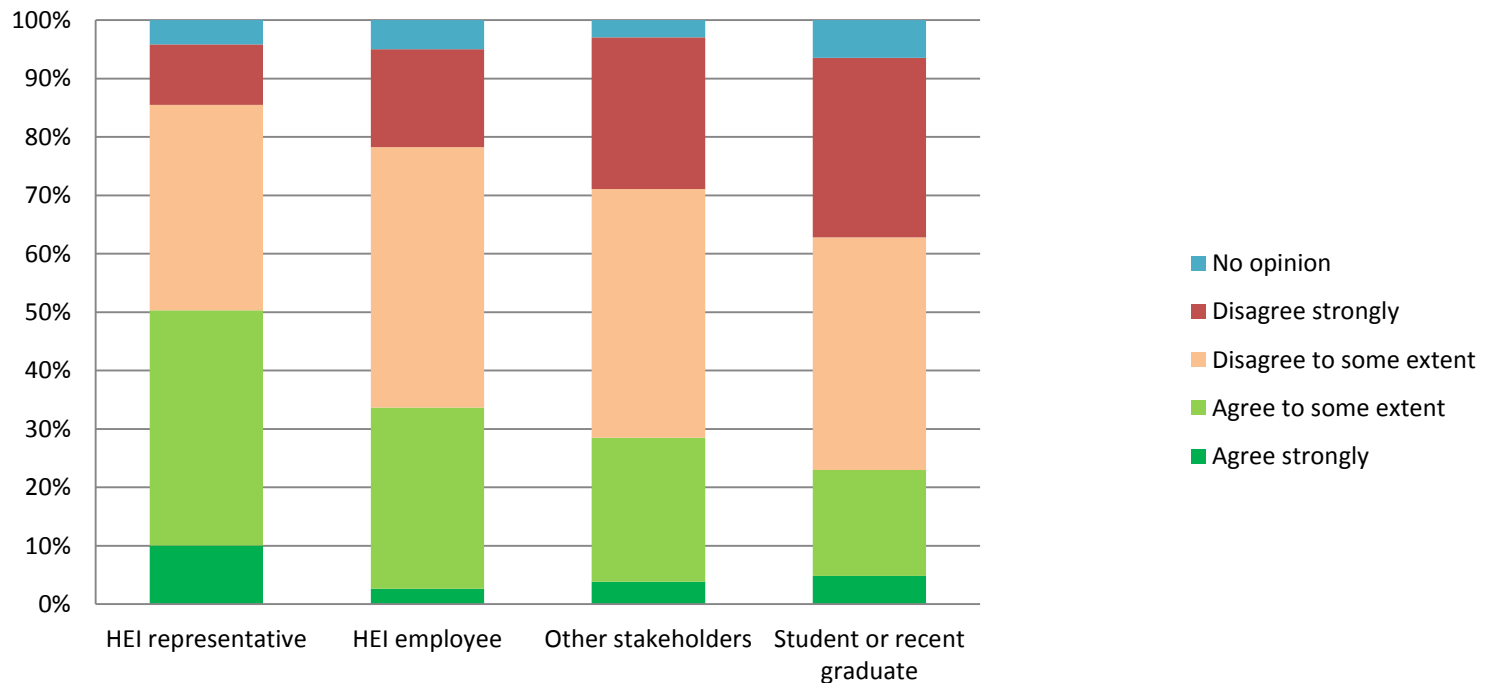
- Contextual drivers: globalisation + digitalisation
- Employment, unemployment, mismatch
- Dealing with diverse + new population groups
- Innovation potential of HE under-exploited
- Technology under-exploited within HE
- Challenging funding conditions

Looking specifically at:

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

# Higher education and labour market?

***'There is a good match between the supply of higher education graduates and the knowledge and skills the economy needs'***



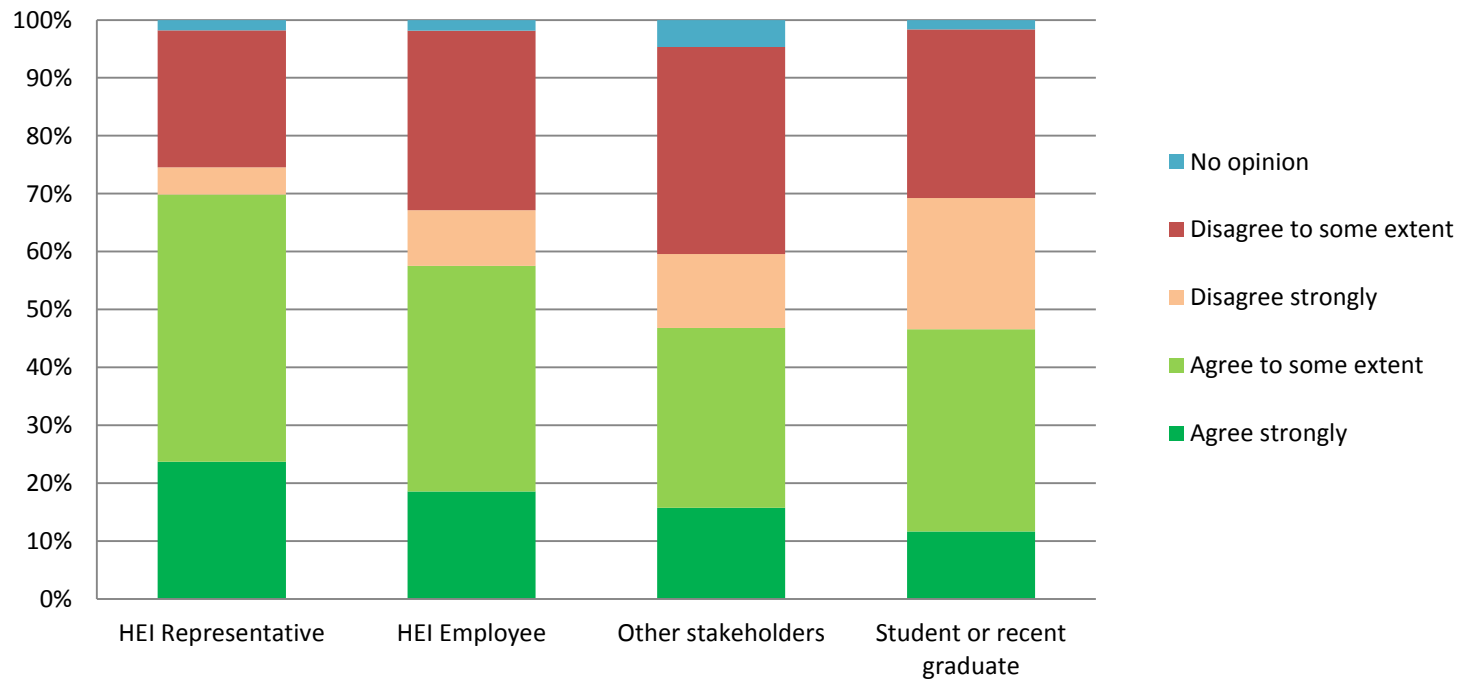
# Transferable skills?

*'Higher education courses are effective at helping students to develop "soft skills" like communication, problem-solving and working in teams'*



# HE and civic engagement?

*'Higher education courses help prepare students to contribute actively to society'*



# Priorities: teaching and learning

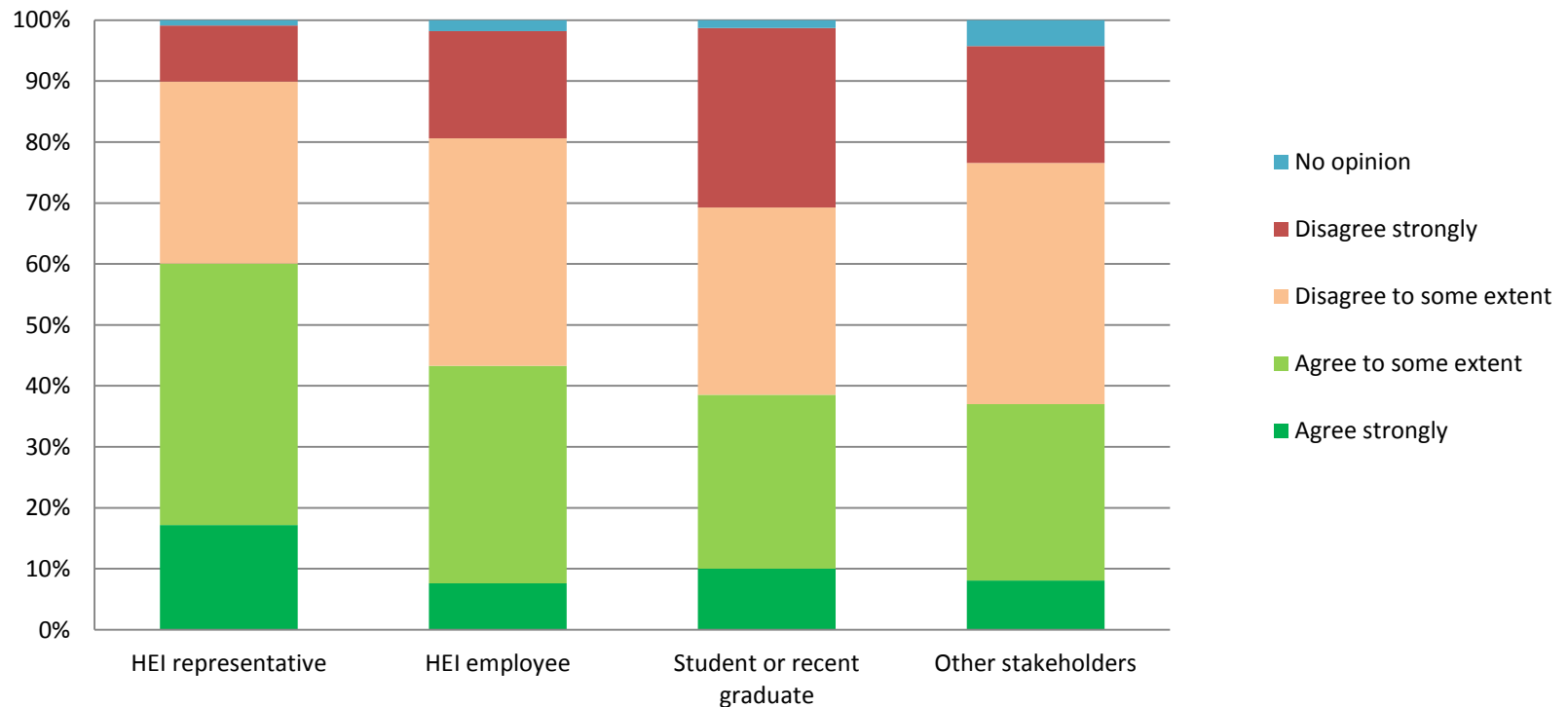
- Responding to growing **need for highly qualified people** (widening access)
- Responding to demand for "**Transversal**" skills as well as in-depth knowledge
- Responding to need for **ICT specialists** *and digital literacy* for all
- **Key tools:** Diversity of programmes; better guidance for students; support for teachers; cooperation across boundaries; mobility; flexible entry routes and programme types...

Looking specifically at:

# INNOVATION

# Creativity and innovation in HE?

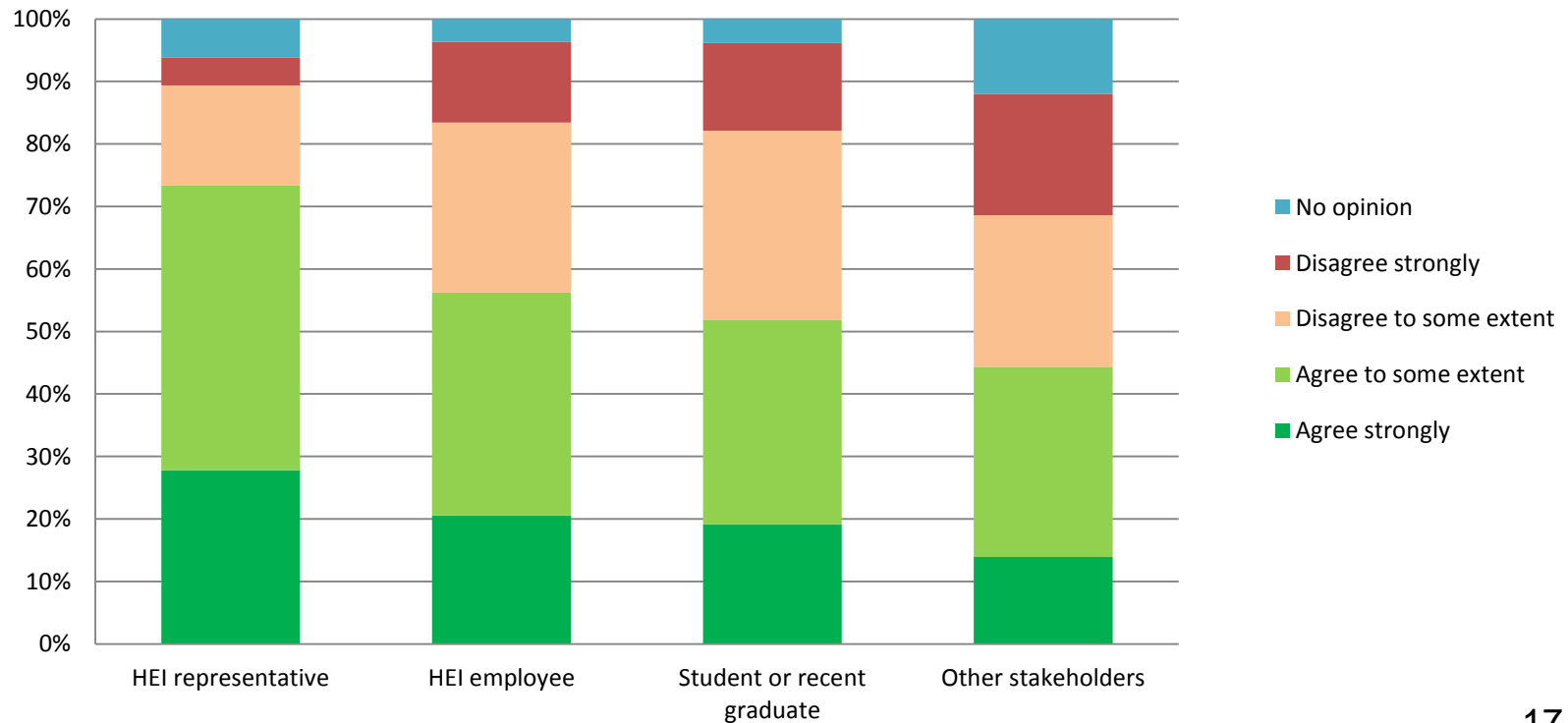
*"Higher education courses encourage students to be creative and innovative"*





# HEIs contribution to innovation?

*"Higher education institutions play a strong role in contributing to innovation at regional and national level"*



## Priorities: (regional) innovation

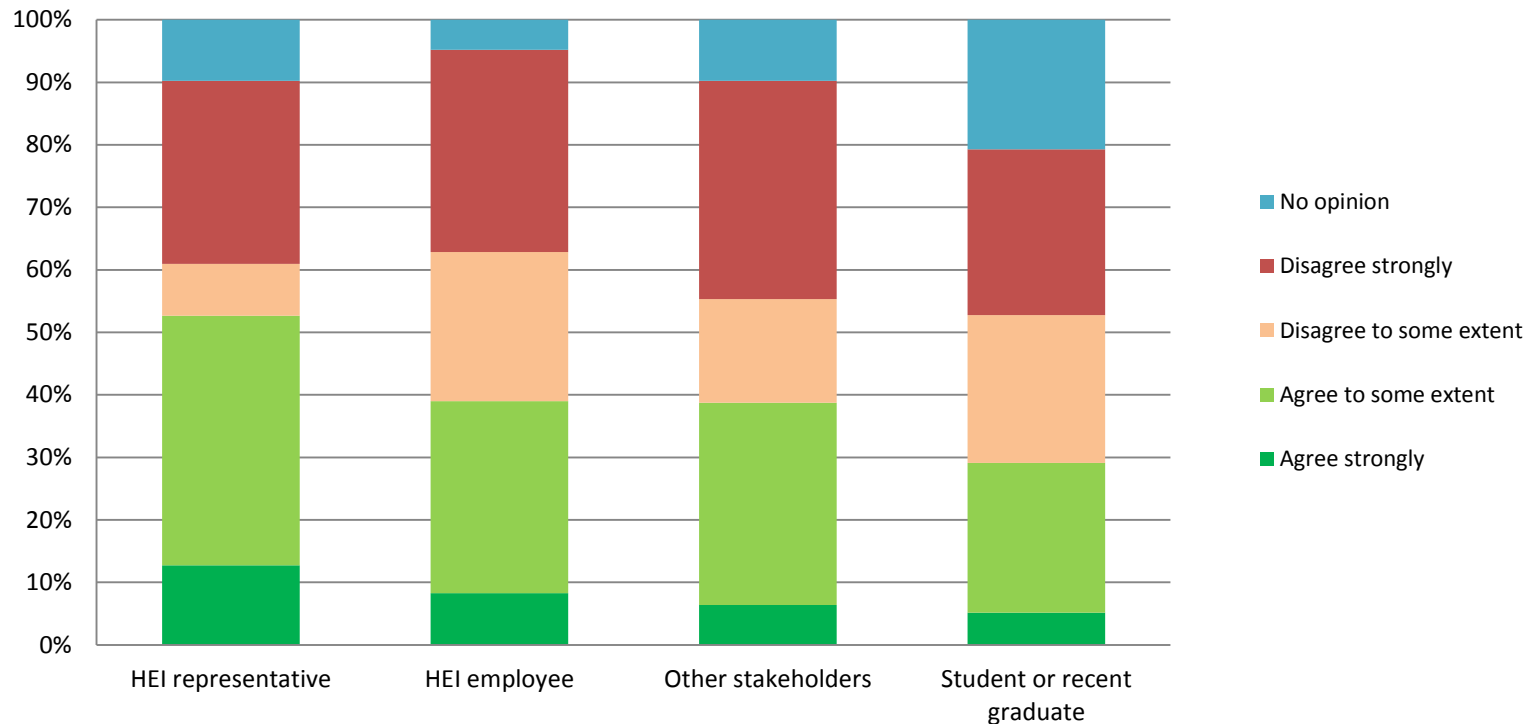
- Create environments where students encouraged to be **creative and entrepreneurial**
- Overcoming challenges to **translating this ambition into reality** in existing higher education structures
- **Increasing cooperation** between higher education and business and other outside organisations

Looking specifically at:

# **RESEARCH AND ITS INTERACTION WITH TEACHING & INNOVATION**

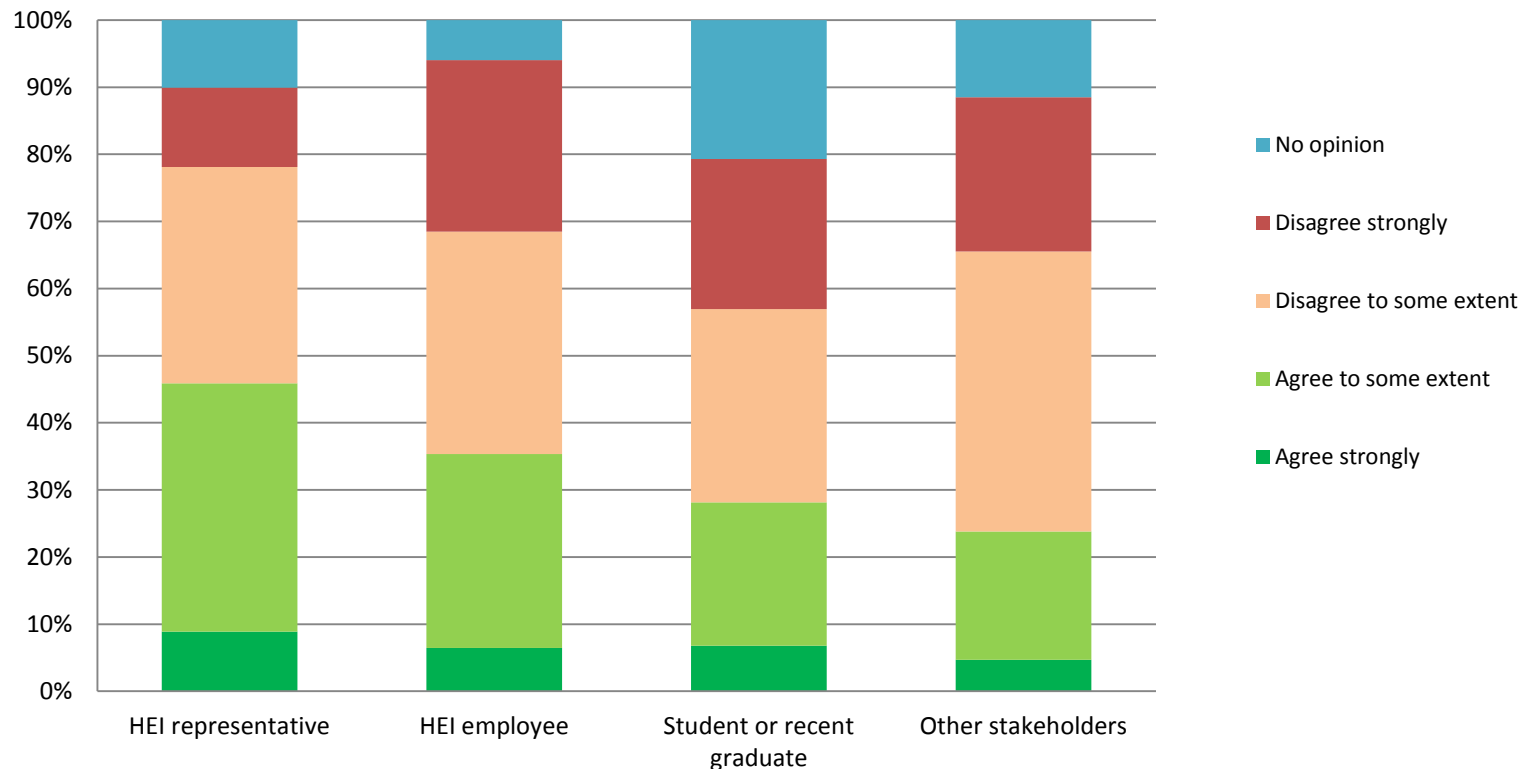
# Supporting researchers?

***"Researchers receive the support that they need from their institutions to reach their potential"***



# Inter-disciplinary research?

*"The value of inter-disciplinary research is appropriately recognised and rewarded"*



## Priorities: research and links

- Deliver effective **doctoral and post-doctoral training** relevant for careers outside of academia
- Foster **inquiring mind-sets** more generally – including in schools
- Achieve a better **interaction between research and teaching** on the ground and in the frameworks that govern these two areas of HE activity

## EU added value

Broad support + some specific suggestions for:

- More / better development + sharing of **comparable information and evidence**
- Cooperation and **peer exchange** between governments
- Support for **cooperation** between HEIs, employers and others
- Calls for **additional mobility** of students, staff and researchers
- Better **academic recognition**

## Next steps

Work progressing around three main priorities:

- 1. Enhancing skills development for all** – curriculum design, graduate tracking etc
- 2. Supporting teachers and researchers** – training, career structures, incentives and funding etc
- 3. Strengthening local and regional innovation** – economic and social innovation, building links etc





European  
Commission

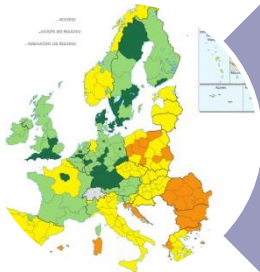
# A renewed modernisation agenda



**Helping students get the right  
knowledge and skills**



**Making teaching and research work  
better together**



**Ensuring higher education institutions  
contribute to regional innovation**

# Addresses

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[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/migration/higher-education-refugees\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/migration/higher-education-refugees_en.htm)