

Higher Education Quality Assurance in Estonia

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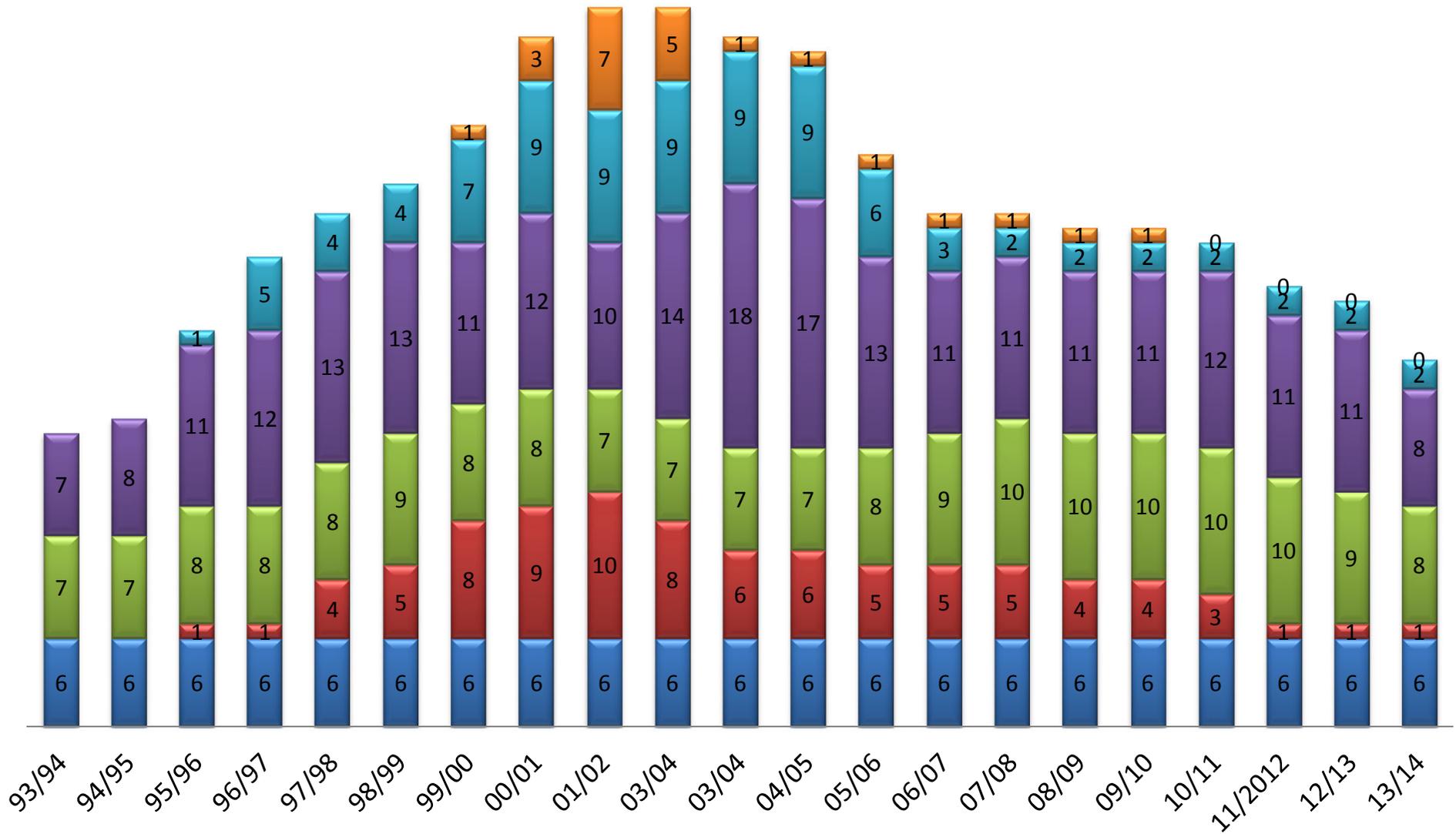
23.02.2016



EESTI KÕRGHARIDUSE
KVALITEEDIAGENTUUR

Dynamics in HE Area

- Public universities
- Private universities
- State prof HEI
- Private prof HEI
- State VET inst
- Private VET inst



Main challenges in Estonian HE 2010+



- Resources
- Motivation (teaching staff, students)
- Graduation rate
- Internationalisation
- Cooperation

Higher Education Quality Assessment System in Estonia

1997-2009

Accreditation of study programmes
STATE RECOGNITION

Institutional accreditation
(voluntary)

Registration of study programmes by the Ministry of Education and Research

2009-2011

TRANSITIONAL EVALUATION

2011 ...

Quality assessment of a study programme group
at least once every 7 years

Institutional accreditation
at least once every 7 years

STATE RECOGNITION:
The right to conduct studies in a study programme group

Purpos and assessment areas of IA



The purpose of IA is to support the development of strategic management and culture of quality in HEIs, inform stakeholders of the outcomes of the main activities thereof, and enhance the reliability and competitiveness of Estonian higher education.

Areas of assessment:

- organisational management and performance
- teaching and learning
- research, development and/or other creative activity
- service to society.

Quality assessment of SPG



Quality assessment of SPGs focuses on study programmes, the content and organisation of studies and on instruction-related development activities within a study programme group. These aspects are not evaluated in the course of institutional accreditation.

Assessment areas:

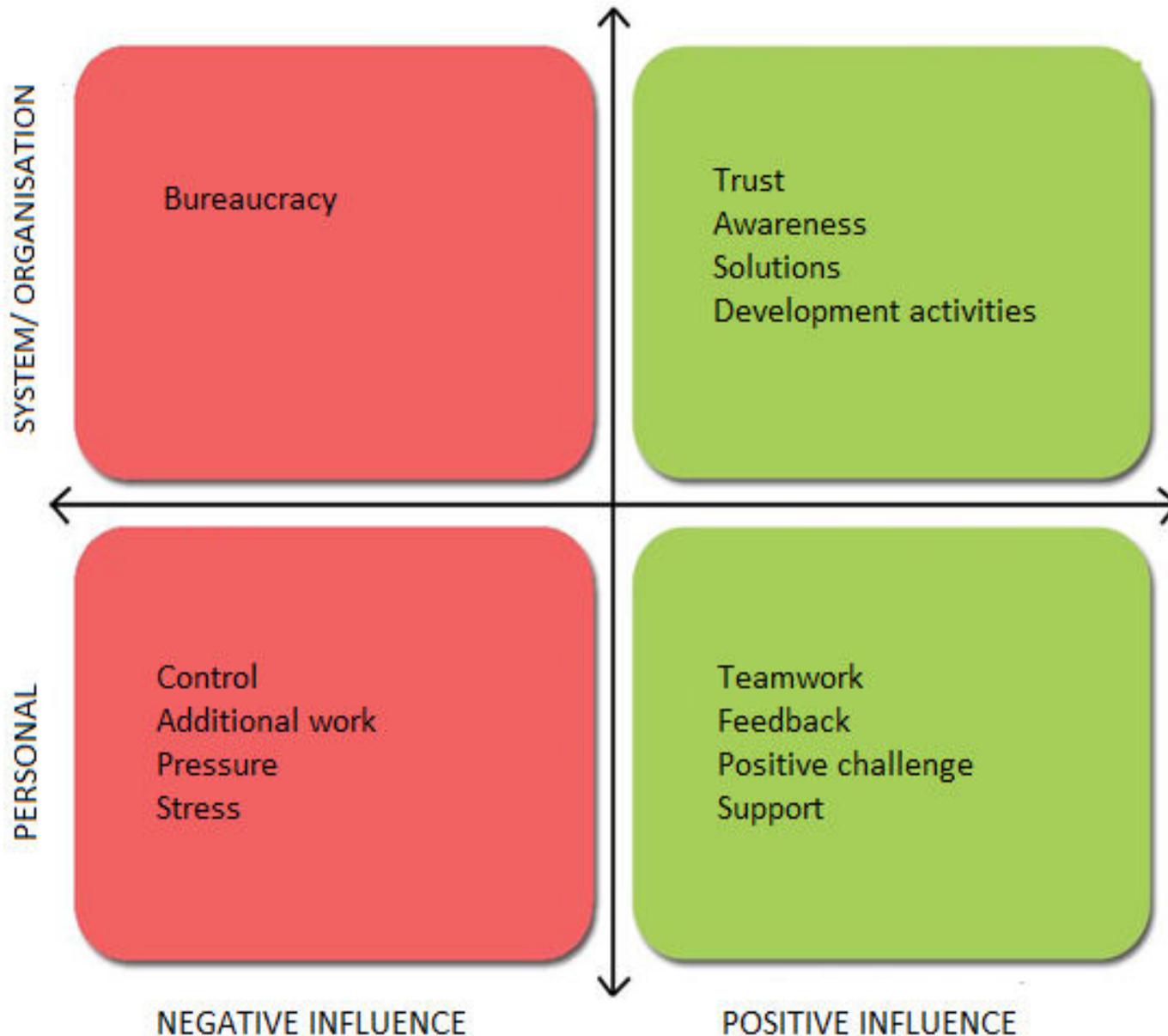
- study programme and study programme development
- resources
- teaching and learning
- teaching staff
- students

Main purpose of the QA of SPG



- Quality assessment of a SPG involves the assessment of the **conformity** of study programmes and the studies and development activities that take place on their basis to legislation, national and international standards and developmental directions
with the purpose of supporting the self-development of HEI and providing recommendations to improve the quality of studies.
- QA of SPG is **not followed by sanctions** – expert assessments should be considered recommendations.

The perceived impact of external evaluation: the organisation vs the individual (EKKAs survey 2014)



EKKA's mission



EKKA's mission is,
in cooperation with its partners,
to promote quality in the field of education
and thereby increase the competitiveness
of the Estonian society.

