



Augstākās izglītības  
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# Quality Assurance Activities of AIC/ AIKA during COVID-19 period and for Distance Learning

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# Initial national restrictions [1]



# Initial adaptation

Licensing of study programmes continues, **only in remote form**

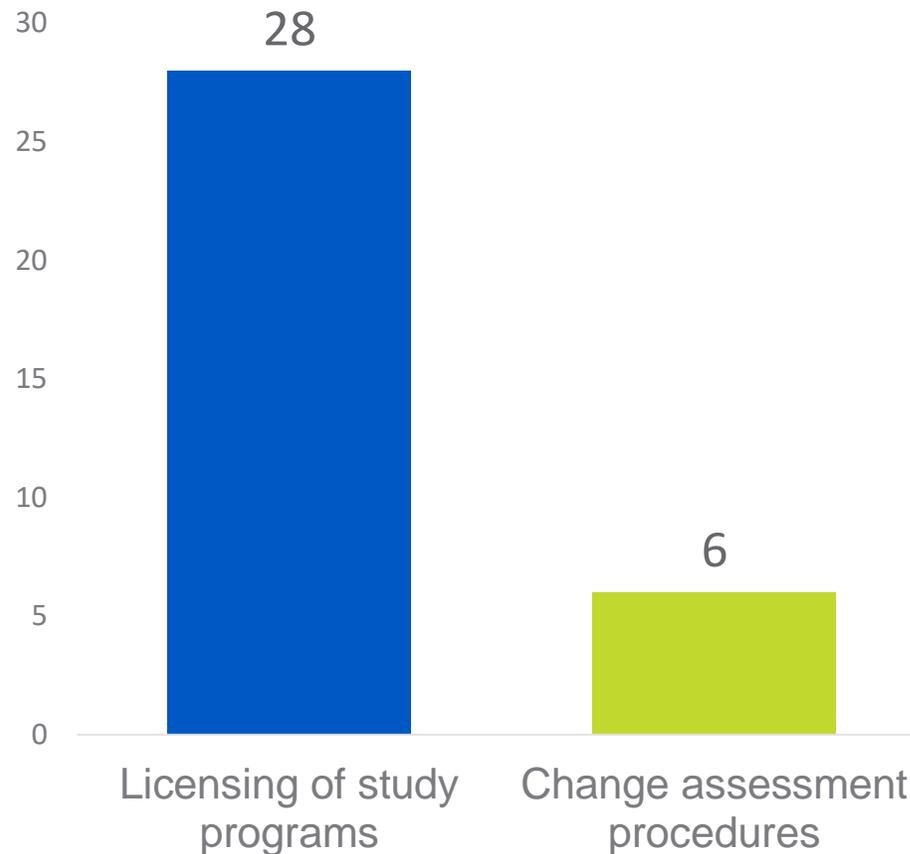


Due to the emergency situation and the set restrictions, the **assessment of study fields was postponed indefinitely**



**AIKA initiates amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions** in order to extend the term of accreditation of study fields. Amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions have been approved, **extending the accreditation terms by 6 months**

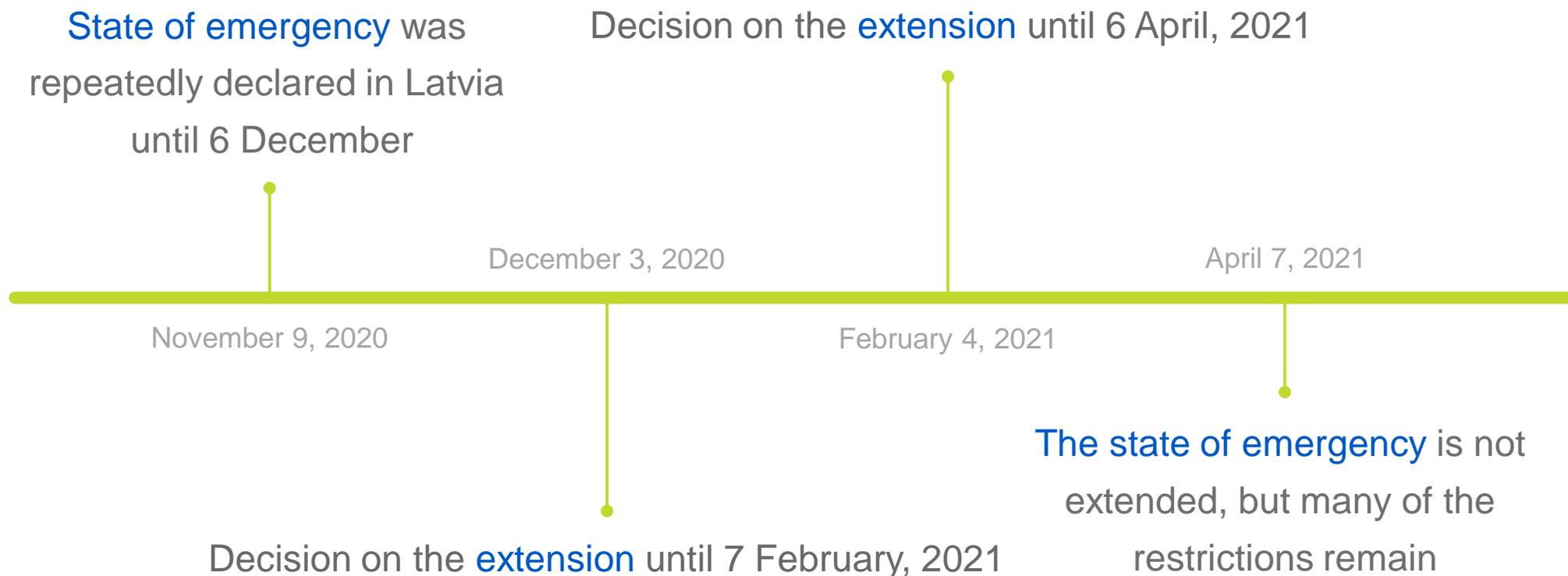
# Remotely organized assessment procedures March - July



- For study programme licensing procedure 3 experts are involved
- 1 expert is involved in the change assessment procedures

- For the organization of evaluation procedures and the training of experts largely was used the ZOOM platform
- To ensure that AIKA purchased ZOOM licenses

# National restrictions [2]



# Changes in methodology

## 1 Semi - remote evaluation visits

If it is not possible for one or more experts to attend the assessment visit in person (force majeure circumstances), then the expert participates in the assessment visit remotely, except for the head of the expert group or, in exceptional cases, the expert chairing the meetings

## 2 Fully remote evaluation visits

In cases where no expert is able to participate in the on-site visit (force majeure), all experts shall participate in the evaluation visit remotely and if possible only the evaluation coordinator shall participate in the on-site evaluation visit

Methodology for the Assessment and Accreditation of Study Fields

<https://www.aika.lv/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Methodology-for-the-Assessment-and-Accreditation-of-Study-Fields-amended-08.12.2020..pdf>

Methodology for Organising Licensing of Study Programmes

<https://www.aika.lv/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Methodology-for-Organising-Licensing-of-Study-Programmes-amended-08.12.2020..pdf>

# Changes in methodology [2]

- **Technical equipment requirements** for universities / colleges and experts have been set (for participating)
- Experts participating remotely should be able to evaluate the infrastructure and material-technical base

- Live feed tour
- HEI prepares in advance high-quality videos about their material and technical base



# Distance Learning

Requirement at national level - during pandemic, study process is organized remotely

HEIs are asked to describe the approaches and resources used in the distance learning study process

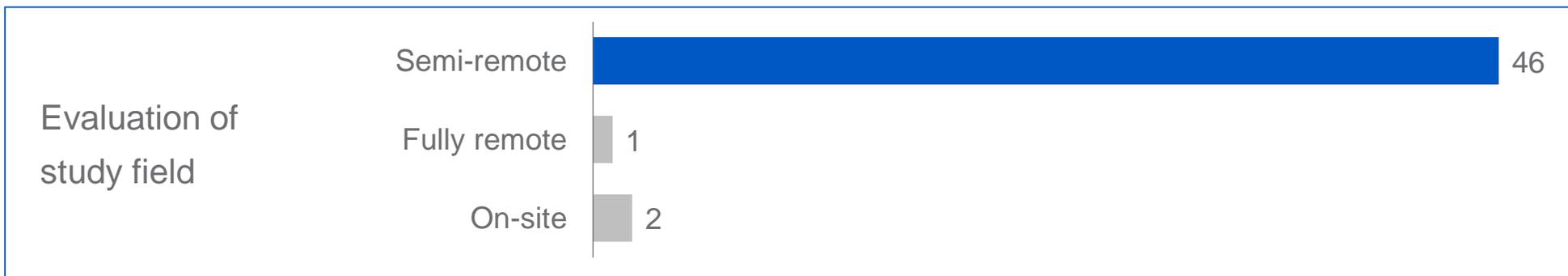
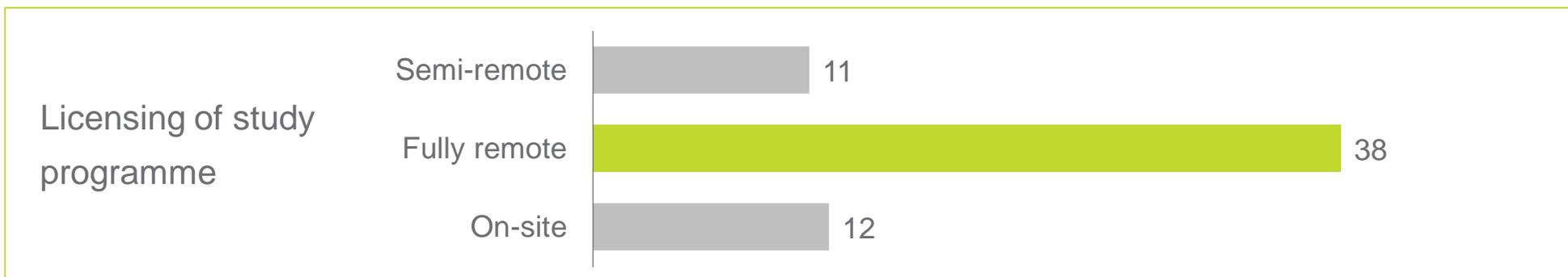
Integrated in methodology

Experts are asked to evaluate distance learning study process more closely

- Technical equipment for providing distance learning
- Teaching materials developed in accordance with distance learning
- Informative and methodological provision, including adapted descriptions of study courses
- Support mechanisms for teachers and students
- Organization of distance learning study process



# Expert visits March 2020 – April 2021



Licensing of study programmes was mostly organized remotely, but the Evaluation of study fields was mostly organized semi-remotely



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# AIKA challenges

Higher Education Institutions (HEI`s)



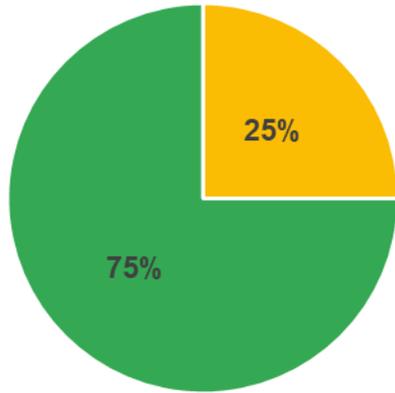
Quality Agency for  
Higher Education

Experts

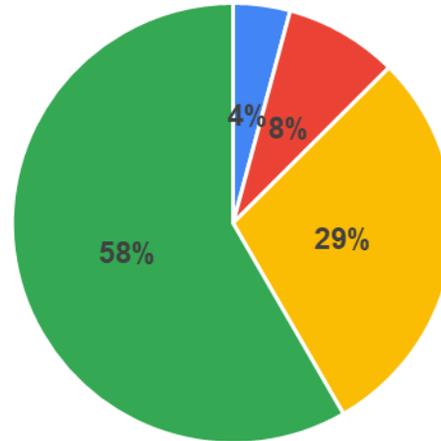
## Feedback from HEI

- - 4 (completely agree)
- - 3 (partially agree)
- - 2 (partially disagree)
- - 1 (completely disagree)

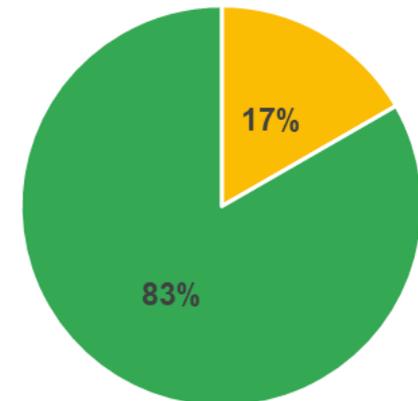
Changes in the methodology of assessment of study fields regarding the organization of the visit remotely / partially remotely were understandable



During the remote / partially remote visit it was possible to comprehensively demonstrate the material and technical base of the university / college

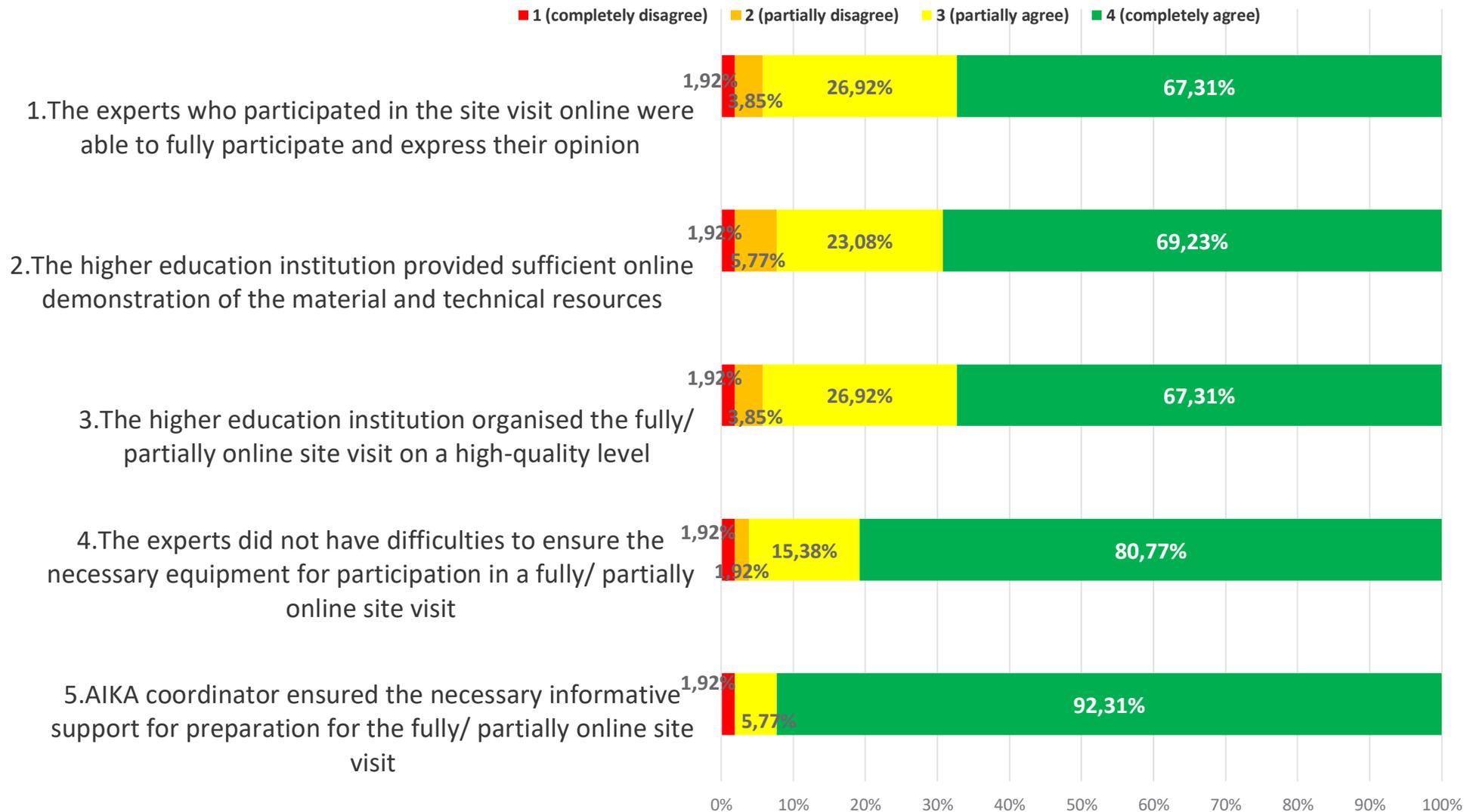


AIKA provided the necessary information on the preparation for the remote / partially remote visit and the course of the visit



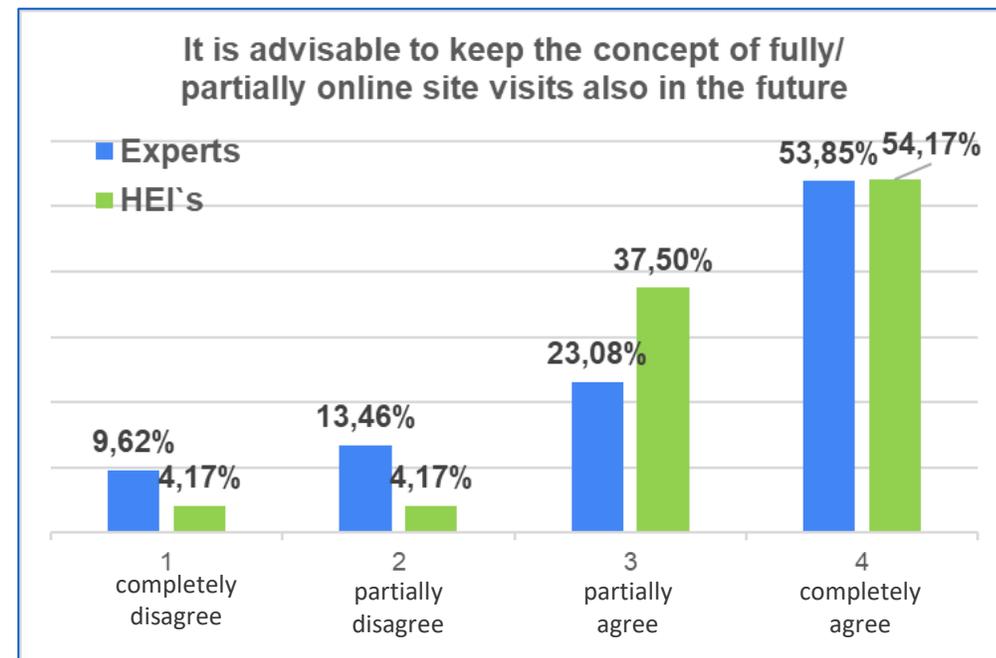
## Feedback from experts

Please evaluate each of the statements by giving a rating according to the 4-point scale



## Conclusions. Feedback from experts and HEI

- Additional requirements to provide the technical support.
- It is difficult to evaluate remotely the infrastructure and get/provide remote access to all materials.
- Ensure that all parties involved adhere to the principles of work and ethics set out in the methodology.
- Ability during online visit to identify participants and each HEI representatives.
- Uncertainties arose for foreign experts and, consequently, unfounded recommendations.
- Participants have different level, understanding and skills in working with ICT tools.
- There is a lack of human contact and a comprehensive understanding of the situation in HEIs.



**On-site communication is essential for a successful assessment process.**

## AIKA strong points

- Assessment visits on-site, remote, partially remote;
- AIKA E-platform additional possibilities testing and improving;
- Expert training online (several zoom meetings before the visit);
- Equipment technical check before the visit;
- Development of ICT skills and possibilities;
- Ability to adapt and develop various informative / teaching materials;
- Increasing of the quality of internal communication and mutual trust;
- Flexibility, proactive thinking;
- Open to contact, experience exchange and help;
- Feedbacks from HEIs, experts and coordinators using for better organization and management.





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