

Exemption from academic studies based on non-academic studies - **The case in Israel**

Presentation for Conference "Recognition Culture
in Higher Education. International Perspectives
on Lifelong Learning and Student Mobility"

December 2023, Bonn

Batya Hekelman, In charge of Humanities, Arts and Education in
the Academic Division at the Council for Higher Education in
Israel



Higher Education in Israel

some basic data

Population: 9.8 milions

Number of Academic Students :
336,445 (average age: 22-24)

Education Budget* : 13% from state budget

Higher Education Budget: 2.6% from state budget

*not including higher education budget

Additional Facts:

% of Residents:

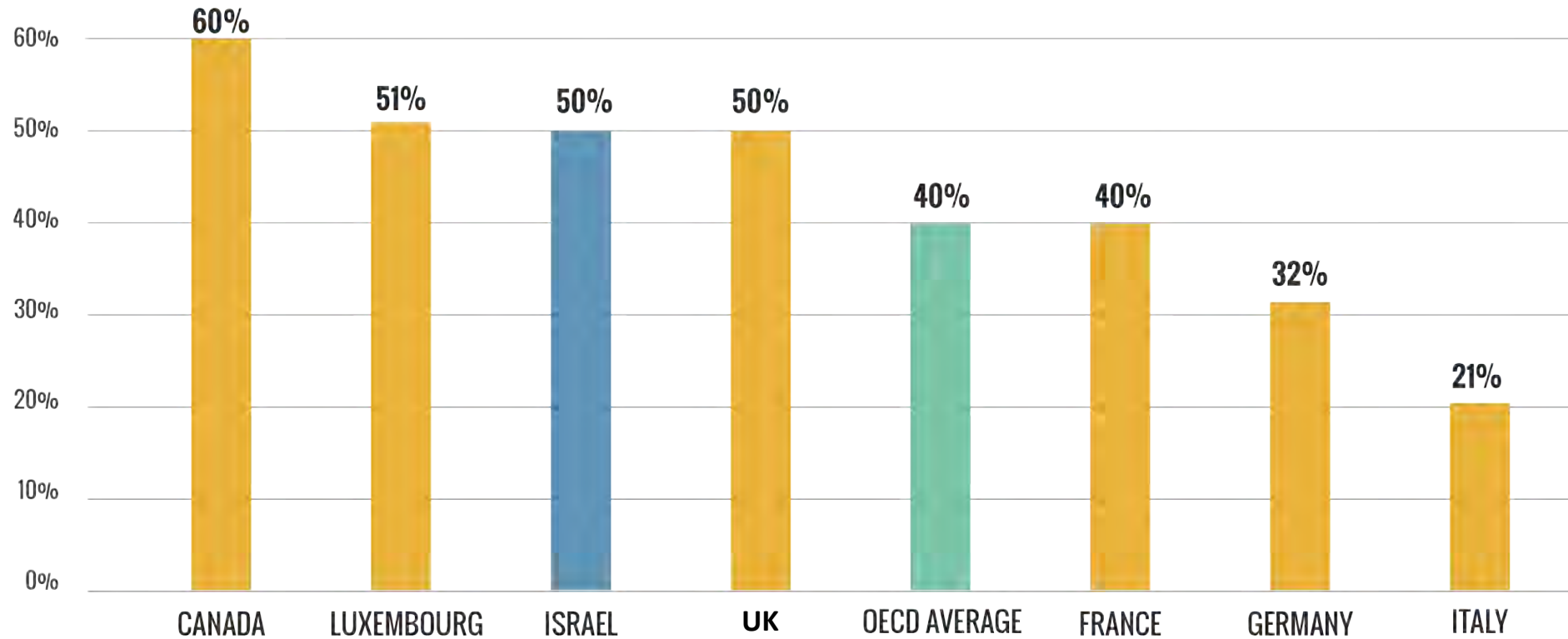
Jewish – 74%

Arab – 21%

Christian – 2%

Druze – 2%

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS (AGES 25-64) WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION



Higher education institutions and Vocational Training in Israel operate on several levels:

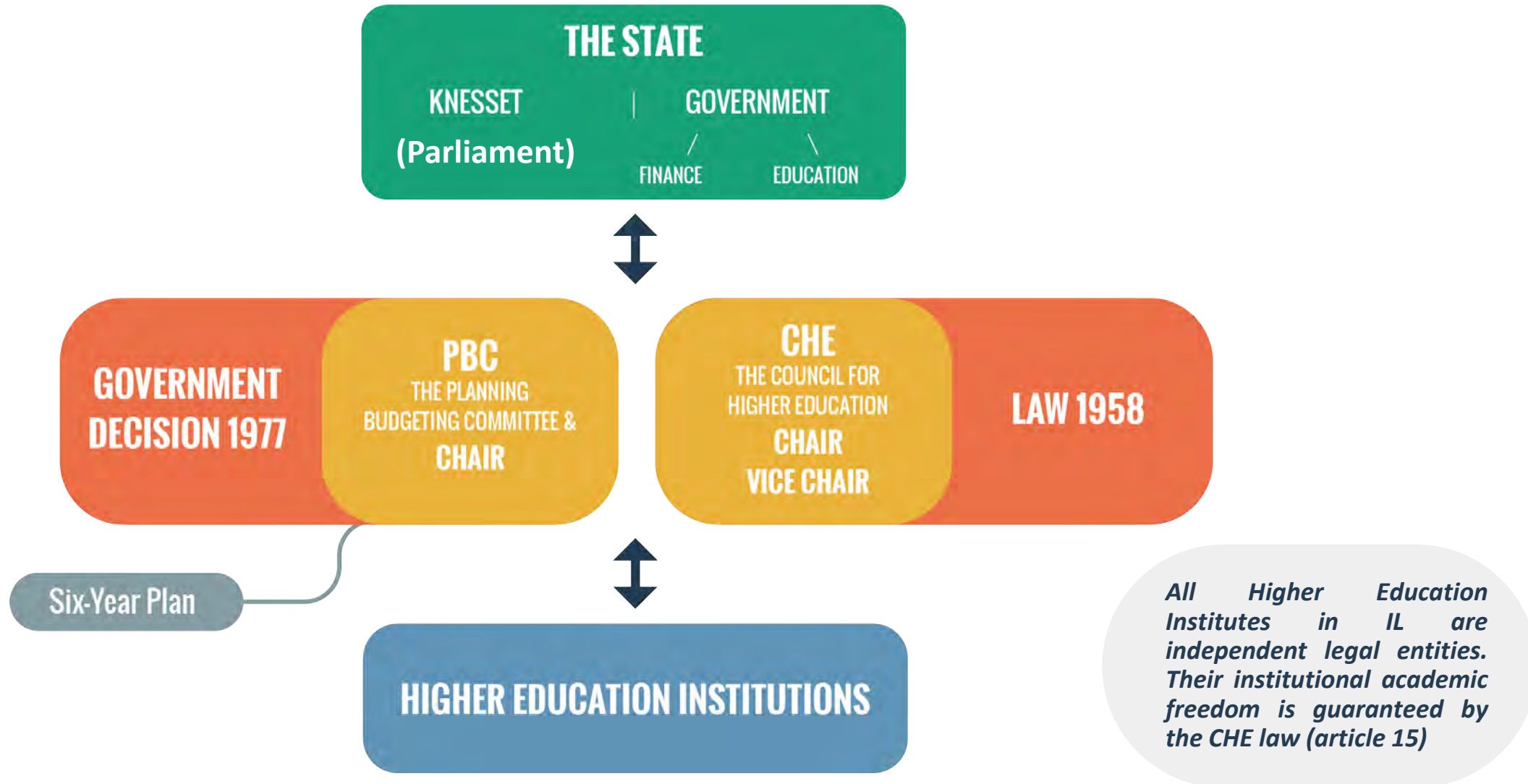
Universities are engaged in research and teaching for all academic degrees, in a variety of fields.

Academic colleges are engaged in teaching a specific set of disciplines. awards bachelor and master degrees.

Professional colleges provides training and certification in certain professions. Awards Professional certificate.



THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ISRAEL AND ITS INTERFACES



THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)

PROVIDES ACCREDITATION OF NEW DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

APPROVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INSTITUTIONS AND
LICENSING OF BRANCHES OF FOREIGN HIGH EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS

CONDUCTS QUALITY ASSURANCE

25 members:

Chair (Minister of Education)

HEI representatives (min. two thirds)

Public representatives (max. 6)

Student Union representatives (max. 2)

THE PLANNING AND BUDGETING COMMITTEE (PBC)

PLANS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGH EDUCATION SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

NEGOTIATES WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ON THE STATE BUDGET FOR HIGH EDUCATION

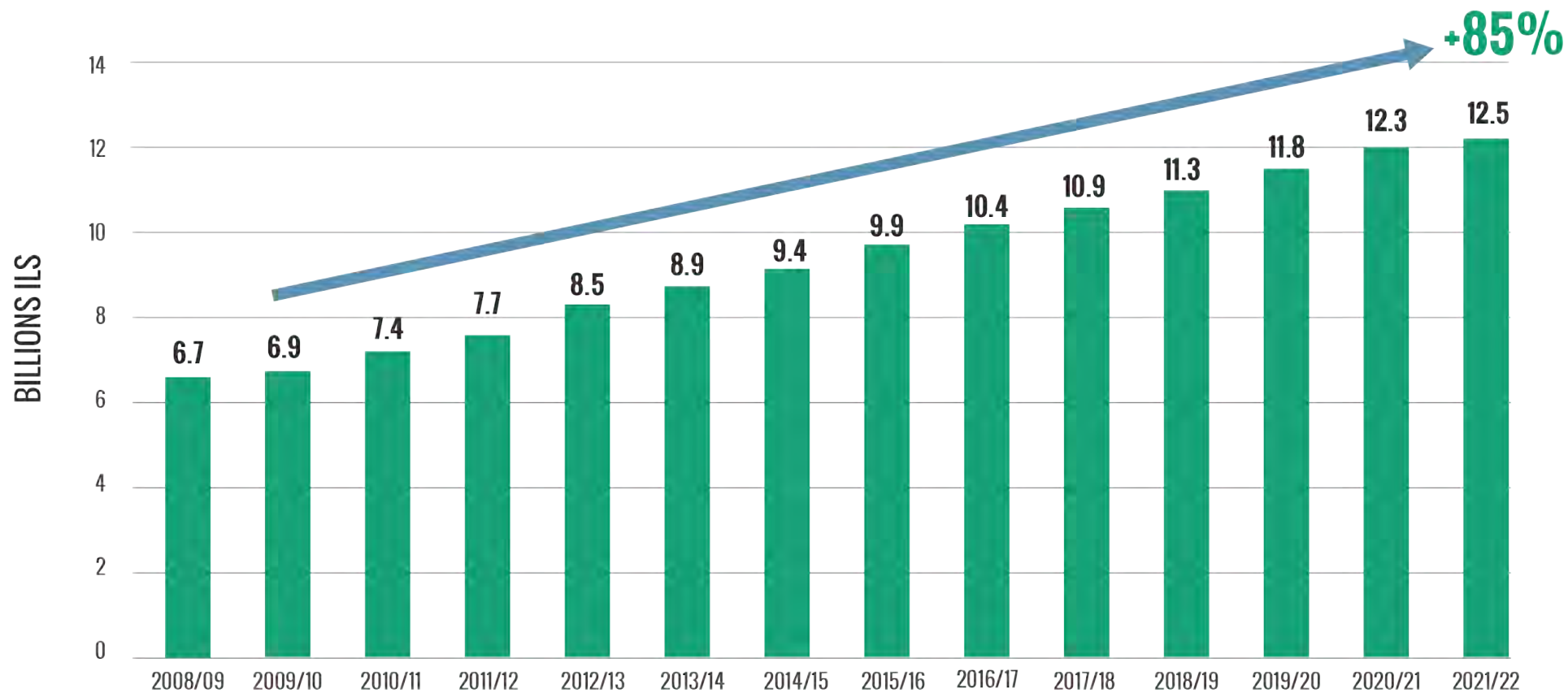
ALLOCATES THE BUDGET TO THE HIGH EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

ENSURES THAT INSTITUTIONAL BUDGETS ARE BALANCED

7 members:
5 HEI representatives (incl. Chair and one representative from a college)
2 representatives with specialization in economics

ISRAELI HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET

Total PBC Budget (ILS, current prices)



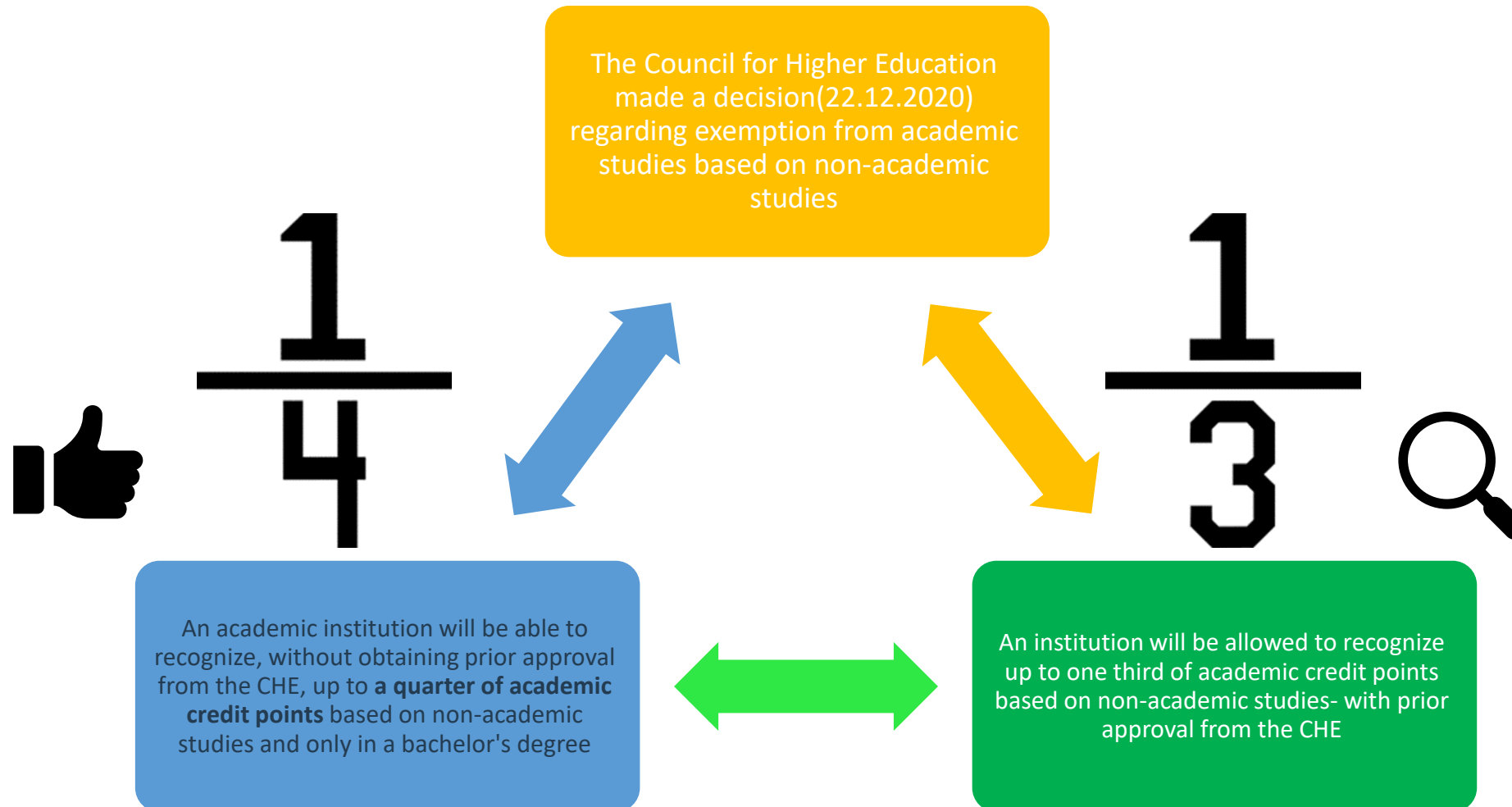
FACTS AND FIGURES 2021/22



| Institutions | Number of Institutions | Bachelor | Master | Ph.D | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Public Universities | 8 | 81,630 | 37,769 | 11,685 | 131,276 |
| Open Universities | 1 | 44,839 | 2,500 | - | 47,339 |
| Private University | 1 | 6,839 | 1,813 | 42 | 8,694 |
| Public Colleges | 20 | 63,919 | 5,864 | - | 69,783 |
| Private Colleges | 9 | 37,040 | 11,297 | - | 48,337 |
| Academic Colleges of Education | 20 | 21,714 | 9,302 | - | 31,016 |
| Total | 59 | 256,173 | 68,545 | 11,727 | 336,445 |



Exemption from academic studies based on non-academic studies (Israel)



Reasons for this

THE LACK OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN ISRAEL

THE COMPLEXITY OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM AND TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN ISRAEL



NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Currently no national system for validation exists in Israel.

A Government Resolution regarding the establishment of an NQF was adopted in 2015. An EU-Israel Twinning Project and Working Group have progressed in their tasks on defining the scope of the framework, number of levels and level descriptors, and some supporting tools.

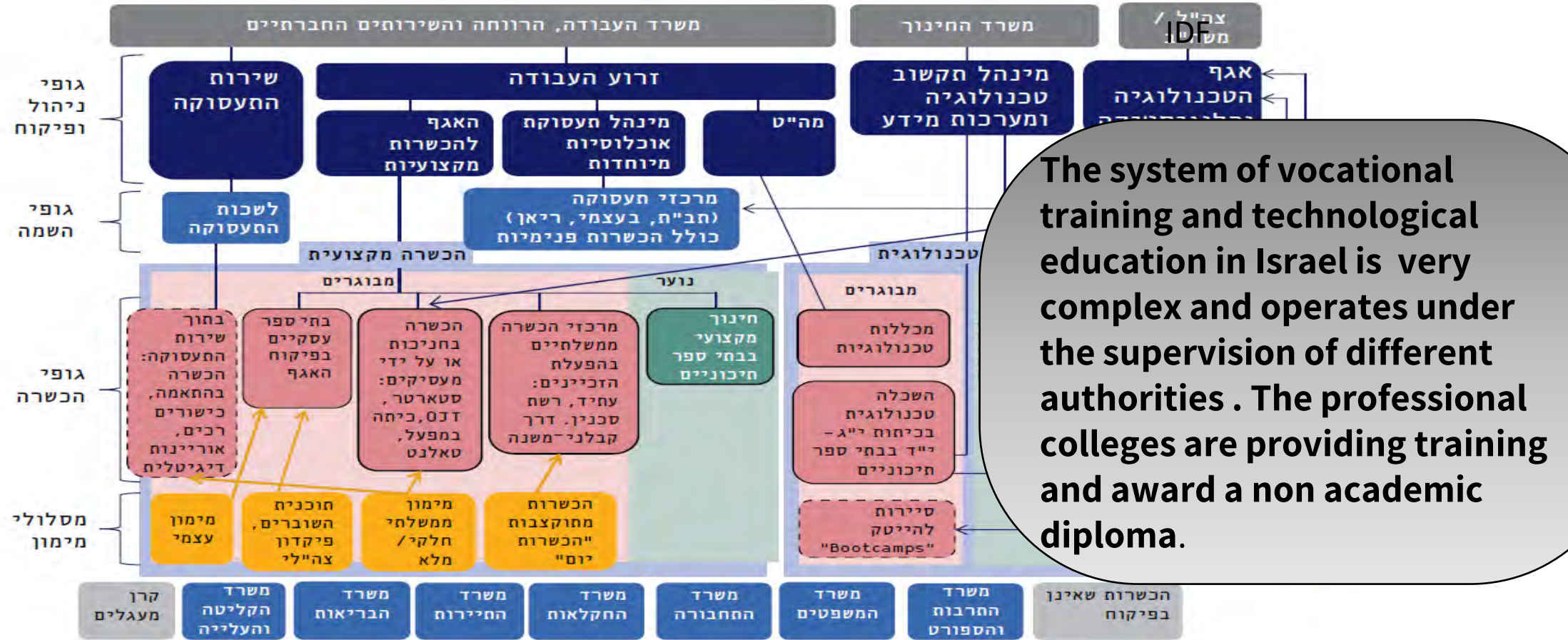
There is no uniform Credit Key in Israel (there is no nationwide credit system and Israel is not part of the Bologna process. The general rule is to allow academic freedom and each institution decides if it wishes to invest in ECTS translation). Generally Israeli HEIs calculate credits solely by the number of weekly hours a student will spend in class as part of the course – overall workload is not considered.

There is no credit system in VET

The main government ministries active in the field of professional training and the non-academic technological education in Israel

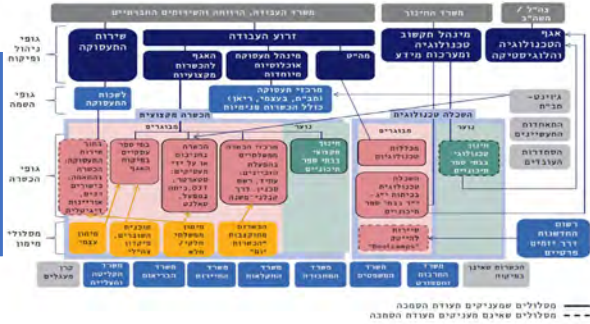
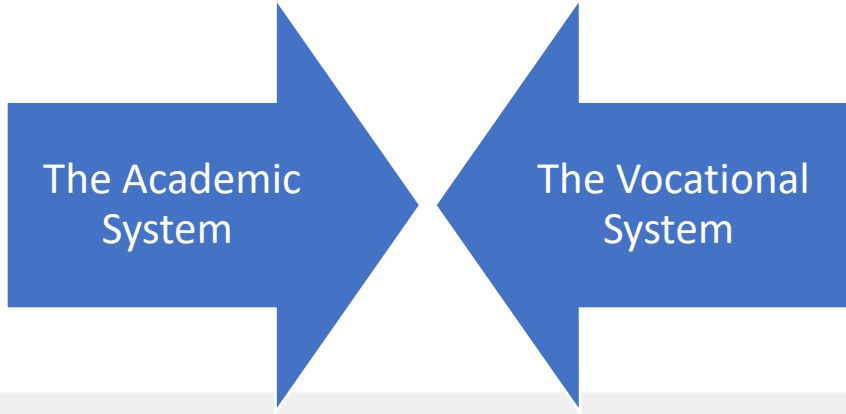
| Professional training | | Number of Students | Technological Education | Number of Students |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Youth (high school) | Vocational education under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor | 10,500 | Technological education under the supervision of the Ministry of Education | 155,000 |
| Adults | Adults vocational training courses Under the supervision of the training department of the Ministry of Labor. professionally and fully/partially financed of the state or self-financed | 46,300 | Technological education for engineers and qualified technicians in colleges under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor | 28,000 |
| | Professional training courses For soldiers under The ministry of security | | Technological education within grades 13-14 under the supervision of the Ministry of Education | 7500 |
| | | | Professional training courses For soldiers under The | |

The main government ministries active in the field of professional training and the non-academic technological education in Israel



The system of vocational training and technological education in Israel is very complex and operates under the supervision of different authorities. The professional colleges are providing training and award a non academic diploma.

— מסלולים שמעניקים תעודת הסמכה
 --- מסלולים שאינם מעניקים תעודת הסמכה

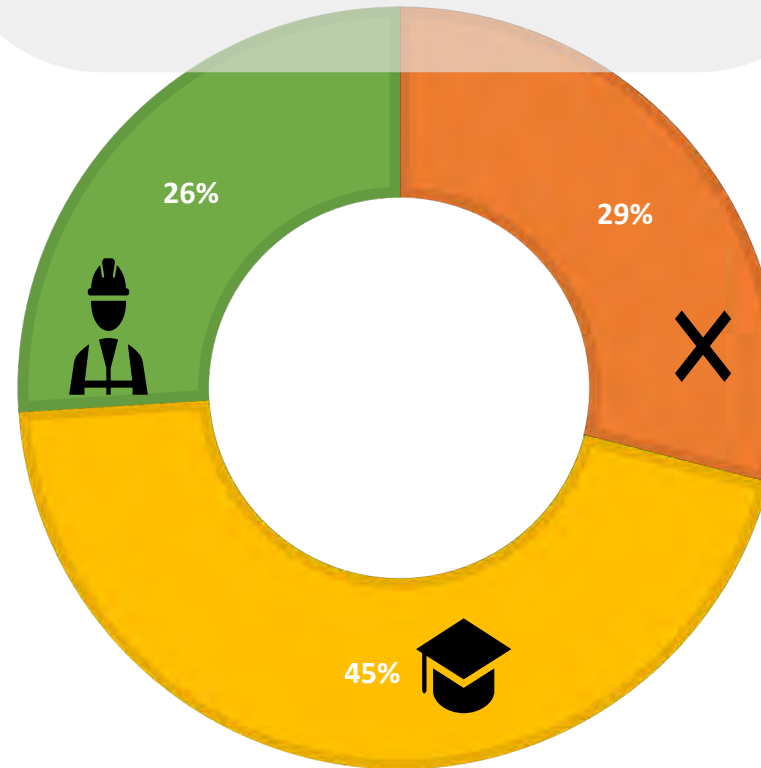


For comparison, the Academic System in Israel it Supervised only by the Council for Higher Education that serve as the only official national authority on all issues related to higher education in Israel.

Unlike in Israel, In other countries due to certain factors such as high salaries, scholarships, and the existence of National Qualification System- Vocational Training Programs have a positive image.

Due to all of those factor ,and from the comparison, it is evident that the transition possibilities between the professional to academic track in Israel is quite limited, contrary to what is common in other countries in Europe.

A great difficulty of switching from a professional track to an academic track deters many from choosing to begin with the professional path.



- Studying for an academic degree in higher education institutions that financed by the state
- Are not participating in any training after high school
- training and Professional Technological Education that financed by the state



THANK YOU