

# **Task Force on the Review of the Rules and Regulations for the Governance of the EHEA (TF RR)**

Two main discussion issues:

- **Revised Rules of Procedure – issues for decision**
- **Decision in favour or against a long-term EHEA Secretariat**

# Task Force mandate

<b>Set of Rules and regulations for the governance of the EHEA</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>RoP proposal</b>
•Identify decision making bodies EHEA and their competence	√	EHEA Rules
•Consider which levels of rules and regulations are required	√	2 layer structure
•Consider decision making and key supporting procedures and modalities including decisions between the ministerial conferences as well as extraordinary meetings	√	BFUG Rules
•Translate these into a set of principles, processes and key procedures	√	Entire RoP
•Restructure historical information that accompanied RoP	?	Not addressed
<b>TF is invited to propose recommendations on any reforms of EHEA structures</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>Concept note on the Secretariat</b>

# EHEA Rules of procedure

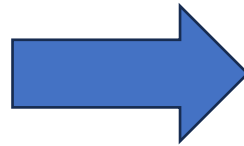
- One document - with two interrelated parts
  - Rules of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) – to be adopted by Ministers
  - Rules of the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG) - to be adopted by the BFUG
- Clarification of existing rules and practices – more explicit, less ambiguous
- Harmonisation of terminology
- Section on the Secretariat
- Comments received post-Madrid

Explanatory note - some key points to be decided:

- Exemption of certain issues from voting
- Exclusions and/or suspension of members

# Concept note: Long-term EHEA Secretariat

- **Feasible as a private law entity** (NGO or foundation)
- “long-term” = at least 2 periods
  - evaluate
  - ability to adjust to needs
- resources that the BP deserves
  - fit for purpose
  - 8 FTE skilled & experienced international staff
  - sufficient resources
  - institutional memory
  - Neutral & professionally committed
- Cost shared among BFUG members & possible grant by the EC (see indicative budget proposal)
- fully accountable to the BFUG
  - Head of secretariat selected by the BFUG structure
  - Governance of the structure linked to the BFUG
- visibility – within Europe, internationally



## Principles

- 4.1 Independence and Accountability
- 4.2 Sustainability
- 4.3 Staff requirements
- 4.4 Location
- 4.5 Non-profit Principle

## Positive feedback

- majority of the BFUG members expressing their view support the “long-term” Secretariat
- Some dissent views

# Suggestion for the Tirana communique

After almost three decades, we wish to put the European Higher Education Area on a firmer footing. We therefore:

- **adopt the Rules of Procedure for the EHEA** and invite the BFUG to adopt Rules of procedure of for its own work in due course;
- **decide to modify the arrangements for the EHEA Secretariat according to the principles and the schedule set out in the Roadmap (Appendix X)**, so that the Secretariat can operate for at least two working periods and engage staff from different EHEA countries.
- **agree that the financial support for and the governance of the Secretariat shall be shared among the members of the EHEA.**

We mandate the **BFUG to ensure that the new secretariat arrangements are effective as of 1 July 2027** and are thoroughly reviewed after the completion of the 2030-33 work programme.

# Proposed roadmap to 2027 launch

- Ministers' agreement – communique
- Location: Call for host country / organisation (2024-2025)
- Shortlisting & fine-tuning proposals (2025)
- Selection of the hosting country / organisation (2026)
- Establishment of the new entity
- Preparation (statutes, by-laws, link to the BFUG...) (2026)
- Appointment of the Head of the Secretariat / entity (2026/27)
- Preparation for the launch including staff (2027)
- Full operation (immediately after the ministerial conference 2027)