

# Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

Report to the

Board LXXXIX  
Holy See, Rome  
12 March 2024



# The Key Commitments



## Key Commitment 1

A three-cycle system compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA (QF-EHEA) and first and second cycle degrees scaled by ECTS

## Key Commitment 2

Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)

## Key Commitment 3

Quality assurance in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

Work period TPG: 2021 - 2024

## Erasmus+ Projects

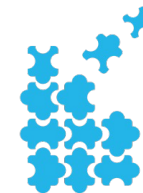
QUATRA – TPG A  
Qualification Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity

TPG-LRC CoRE  
Micro-credentials, digital technology for the recognition agenda, and quality of recognition

IMINQA  
Implementation and Innovation in Quality Assurance through peer learning

Work period umbrella projects: May 2022 – April 2025

# Thematic orientations of the TPGs



EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area



	Thematic Peer Group A (QFs)	Thematic Peer Group B (LRC)	Thematic Peer Group (QA)
Thematic orientations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-certification of the national qualification frameworks to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA;</li> <li>• Complete implementation of the ECTS User's Guide;</li> <li>• Short cycle higher education;</li> <li>• Multiple purposes and use of the qualifications frameworks by the stakeholders;</li> <li>• Study programmes outside of the Bologna three-cycle structure;</li> <li>• Relationship between the qualifications frameworks and quality assurance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC;</li> <li>• Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures;</li> <li>• Achieving automatic recognition;</li> <li>• Recognition of alternative pathways;</li> <li>• Qualifications held by refugees;</li> <li>• Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative framework in line with the ESG</li> <li>• Internal quality assurance</li> <li>• Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG</li> <li>• The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes</li> <li>• Cross-border Quality Assurance</li> <li>• Quality assurance of micro-credentials</li> <li>• Quality assurance of European Universities</li> <li>• Digitalisation of quality assurance processes</li> </ul>

# BICG – Conclusions



In a **generally positive context**, matters for discussion and consideration are:

- how to stimulate more active **participation** in the TPG activities by all countries
- how to **ensure** that **both** countries that believe they have completely implemented the Key Commitments and those that believe they need support participate fully and pro-actively
- **coordination among the various representatives (in different TPG) of each country is necessary but often problematic.**

The BICG's mission is to ensure that the **Key Commitments themselves** are at the **centre** of the TPGs' attention. Sometimes relevant but less central issues are at the forefront.

**Complete and compatible implementation of the 'Key Commitments'** is necessary for the realization of the other EHEA commitments – including new ones.

# BICG – Recommendation for the Tirana Communiqué



The Ministers register the progress made in implementing the Key Commitments. The work of the Thematic Peer Groups, under the guidance of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group, contributes to identifying challenges and finding solutions. After two work periods (2018-2020; 2021-2024), we note, that an implementation gap of these basic, and other commitments persists. Since the **full and compatible implementation of the Key Commitments is essential** for the EHEA to reach its envisaged potential, we **all** commit to

- **participate in all Thematic Peer groups (TPGs) where we have an implementation gap, as well as in those in which we can offer support;**
- **ensure that our nominees to TPGs are experts in the field, well informed about the policy level and about our country's higher education system;**
- **fully support our nominees and require them to communicate, coordinate and collaborate closely among themselves, and with our BFUG representatives;**
- **verify that the relevant laws and norms in our country are up to date, operational, and well known to the stakeholders.**

To close the **implementation gap** of these basic and other commitments made, we agree that after each ministerial Communiqué our country will devise a concrete **publishable implementation plan**, around which to coordinate ministerial actions and those of the working groups.

# BICG – Recommendation for the Tirana Communiqué



We acknowledge the valuable work and achievements (as shown in the BPIR) of the TPGs under the umbrella of the BICG.

In view of the still incomplete implementation of KCs, we commit to

- ensuring that we have, or will devise, and publish appropriate action plans to address any remaining implementation gaps.

# BICG – parallel session at the Ministerial



## **“Making Bologna work: challenges and success stories of the 3 Thematic Peer groups”**

- present challenges and success stories from each TPG

# BICG – ToR 2024 - 2027



**Under preparation – work in progress – to be developed**

**.... See relevant document**



# BICG – Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection



***The BI(C)G question is:***

**Do countries **want** to close the  
“implementation gap”?**

# Thank you for your attention!

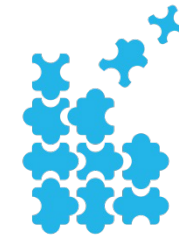


## On behalf of the BICG

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EUROPEAN  
Higher Education Area