

# Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

BFUG Meeting LXXVIII

1,2 December 2021, Ljubljana (online)



# The BICG

## Composition (2021-2024)

### Co-chairs

- ❖ Austria
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Italy

### Members

**(6 + the 3 TPGs Co-chairs and the Monitoring WG)**

- ✓ Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; European Commission; Italy; EUA - European University Association; EURASHE; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention; one Co-chair of Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance; one Co-chair of Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process.
- ✓ The BICG is composed in a way representing the diversity of the EHEA with ensured balance of expertise across all key commitments.



# The BICG - meetings

## First Meeting of the BICG, 10 May 2021, online

[http://eha.info/Upload/BICG%20\\_PT\\_AD\\_1\\_Agenda.pdf](http://eha.info/Upload/BICG%20_PT_AD_1_Agenda.pdf)

- The 2021-2024 Work Plan (Terms of Reference, deliverables and meeting schedule);
- The draft Guidelines for the TPGs;
- Status Quo of Implementation of KCs;
- The European Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program;
- Next steps.

## Second Meeting of the BICG, 1 October 2021, online

[http://eha.info/Upload/BICG\\_SI\\_AM\\_2\\_Agenda.pdf](http://eha.info/Upload/BICG_SI_AM_2_Agenda.pdf)

- Updates from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-chairs and the TPGs Co-chairs;
- Umbrella Projects, EC support;
- Work Plans of TPGs /discussion of Templates for Work Plans/.

## Third Meeting of the BICG, 21 January 2022, online

*Regular pre-meetings of the Co-chairs are also held.*



# The BICG - ToR

## Terms of Reference - content

- Name of the Working Group, Contact persons, Composition
- **Purpose and/or outcome**
- Reference to the Rome Communiqué
- **Specific tasks**
- Reporting
- Meeting schedule, Liaison with other WGs' and/or AGs' activities
- Additional remarks on the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)

[http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG\\_PT\\_AD\\_ToRs.pdf](http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf)



# The BICG - ToR

## Purpose and/or outcome

- **facilitates** coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments.
- **coordinates** the work of the TPGs, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs
- **follows** the peer support activities and **reports** to the BFUG on overall progress and any necessary revision of the peer support approach or methodology.

Work builds upon work and the results/achievements of the BICG in the period 2018-2020 and the outcomes of and recommendations for the work of the TPGs presented in the BICG Report.



# The BICG - ToR

## Specific Tasks

- ▶ **Coordinate** the work of the TPGs;
- ▶ **Follow-up peer support** activities
- ▶ Seek to **improve the Peer Support Approach** for implementation of KCs
- ▶ **Identify synergies** in the work of the TPGs
- ▶ **regular updates** to the **BFUG** on progress and effectiveness of the PSA for the implementation of the KCs
- ▶ **Prepare analytical reports** to the BFUG on the activities of the different TPGs and the support for the implementation of KCs
- ▶ Prepare **recommendations for further actions to improve implementation** for BFUG
- ▶ **Provide an assessment of the usefulness** of TPGs as a working method, including whether they should be extended to other policy areas within the BFUG competence



# The Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)

- ✓ **3 Thematic Peer Groups**
- ✓ **Established compositions and structures - including the terms of references and the guidelines**
- ✓ **First meetings held**
- ✓ **Umbrella projects submitted**
- ✓ **Work plans - by the end of October 2021 - submitted**
- ✓ **Countries' work plans - by January 2022**



# TPG A - Qualification Frameworks

## Co-chairs

- ❖ Austria
- ❖ Georgia
- ❖ Latvia

## Members - 34

- ✓ 30 countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium /Flemish Community/, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, EC, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malta, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom/Scotland.
- ✓ 4 consultative members: CoE, EI-ETUCE, ESU, EURASHE





# TPG A - work plan, topics

## *Specific thematic indications include:*

- ▶ **Self-certification** of the national qualification frameworks to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA
- ▶ **Complete implementation** of the ECTS Users' Guide
- ▶ **Short cycle** higher education
- ▶ **Multiple purposes and use** of the qualifications frameworks by the stakeholders
- ▶ Study programmes **outside** of the Bologna **three-cycle structure**
- ▶ **Relationship** between the **qualifications frameworks** and **quality assurance**
- ▶ **Microcredentials**

First Meeting of the TPG A on QF, 7 June 2021, online

Second Meeting of TPG A on QF, 4 November 2021, online



# TPG A - actions

- ▶ 4 TPG A meetings
- ▶ 4 PLA meetings:
  - ▶ Linkage of QF and Micro-credentials
  - ▶ Learning outcomes and ECTS
  - ▶ Self-certification
  - ▶ Assessment of learning outcomes on programme level
- ▶ 3 working groups:
  - ▶ Micro-credentials
  - ▶ Self-certification
  - ▶ Short Cycle Higher Education
- ▶ Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-A-QF>



# TPG B - Lisbon Recognition Convention

## Co-chairs

- ❖ Albania
- ❖ France
- ❖ Italy

## Members - 46

- ✓ 39 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium /Flemish Community/, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, EC, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania; Russia, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- ✓ 7 consultative members: CoE, EI-ETUCE, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, UNESCO



# TPG B - work plan, topics

## *Specific thematic indications include:*

- Optimizing the potential of **digital technology** for the recognition agenda and the **Diploma Supplement**
- Recognition of **alternative pathways**
- Achieving **automatic recognition**
- Establishing the **distribution of work and responsibilities** among the **competent institutions**
- Ensuring the fair recognition of qualifications held by **refugees**
- Establishing the **legal framework** to allow the **implementation of the LRC**
- **Transversal subtopics:**
  - cooperation with HEIs,
  - synergies with relevant initiatives (EU-funded projects, Bologna co-funded activities),
  - cooperation with other TPGs



## TPG B - actions

- ▶ Seven TPG B - meetings
- ▶ ad hoc seminars
- ▶ Staff mobility
- ▶ Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans

**First Meeting of the TPG B on LRC, 14 September 2021, online**

**Second Meeting of the TPG B on LRC, 18 January 2022, online**

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC>



# TPG C - Quality Assurance

## Co-Chairs:

- ▶ Belgium/Flemish Community
- ▶ Romania
- ▶ Kazakhstan

## Members:

- ✓ 43 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium Flemish Community, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, EC, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom/Scotland
- ✓ 6 consultative members: EI-ETUCE, ENQA, EQAR, ESU, EUA, EURASHE



## Work plan, topics

- ▶ Legislative framework in line with the ESG
- ▶ Internal quality assurance
- ▶ Enhancement oriented use of ESG
- ▶ The European Approach for quality assurance of joint programmes
- ▶ Cross-border Quality Assurance
- ▶ **Further topics:** quality assurance of microcredentials, quality assurance of European Universities, digitalisation of quality assurance processes → **Mixed working methods:** Sub-groups, feasibility study, mapping



## TPG C - actions

- ▶ 6 TPG meetings for all members
- ▶ 3 PLAs:
  - ▶ aligning the legal framework with the ESG
  - ▶ Cross-border QA (CBQA) and QA of transnational education (TNE)
  - ▶ Cross-border QA of the European Approach and QA of joint programmes
- ▶ Staff mobility
- ▶ Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans

<http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>





# Challenges

- ▶ Attendance in TPG meetings
- ▶ Continued online provision of meetings (no physical meeting possible yet)
- ▶ Erasmus+ EHEA call
- ▶ Starting date of EHEA Erasmus+ projects



On behalf of BICG:

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Thank you for your attention!