

Last modified: 23.11.2018

BFUG MEETING
Vienna (Austria), 27 / 28 September 2018

Minutes

List of participants

Delegation	First Name	Surname
Albania	Linda	Pustina
Andorra	María del Mar	Martínez Ramírez
Armenia	Gayane	Harutyunyan
Armenia	Samvel	Karabekyan
Austria (BFUG Co-chair)	Gottfried	Bacher
Austria (BFUG Co-chair)	Stephan	De Pasqualin
Azerbaijan	Shahin	Bayramov
Belarus	Elena	Betenya
Belgium Flemish Community	Magalie	Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline	Hollela
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Petar	Maric
Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
Croatia	Ana	Tecilazić Goršić
Cyprus	Andreas	Papoulas
Czech Republic	Karolina	Gondkova
Czech Republic	Lucie	Trojanova
Denmark	Trine Bolette	Svensson
EI-IE	Robert	Copeland
EI-IE	Agnes	Roman
ENQA	Christoph	Grolimund
ENQA	Clara Maria	Kelo
EQAR	Colin	Tück
EURYDICE	David	Crosier
Estonia	Janne	Pukk

ESU	Adam	Gajek
ESU	Katrina	Koppel
ESU	Robert	Napier
EUA	Michael	Gaebel
EURASHE	Michal	Karpíšek
EURASHE	Stéphane	Lauwick
European Commission	Vanessa	Debiais-Sainton
European Commission	Klara	Engels-Perenyi
Finland	Maija	Innola
Finland	Jonna	Korhonen
France	Denis	Desprésaux
France	Hélène	Lagier
Georgia	Ioseb	Katsitadze
Georgia	Maia	Margvelashvili
Germany	Frank	Petrikowski
Germany (Länder)	Barbara	Lüddeke
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
Hungary	Ernő	Keszei
Iceland	Una	Strand Viðarsdóttir
Ireland	Joseph	Gleeson
Italy (BFUG Vice-chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Italy	Vincenzo	Zara
Kazakhstan	Assem	Koishybayeva
Kazakhstan	Almagul	Kultumanova
Kazakhstan	Rauza	Mendaliyeva
Kazakhstan	Banu	Narbekova
Latvia	Daiga	Ivsina
Liechtenstein	Daniel	Miescher
Lithuania	Andrius	Zalitis
Luxembourg	Corinne	Kox
Malta	Tanya	Sammut Bonnici

Montenegro	Biljana	Misovic
Netherlands	Tessa	Bijvank
Norway	Tone Flood	Strøm
Poland	Maria	Boltruszko
Portugal	Pedro	Esteves
Romania (incoming BFUG Co-chair)	Cristina	Ghițulică
Romania (incoming BFUG Co-chair)	Mihai Cezar	Haj
Russian Federation	Igor	Ganshin
Russian Federation	Nadezda	Kamynina
Serbia (outgoing BFUG Co-chair)	Vanja	Nedeljkovic
Slovak Republic	Jozef	Jurkovič
Slovenia	Erika	Rustja
Sweden	Martin	Persson
Switzerland (BFUG Co-chair)	Muriel	Meister-Gampert
Switzerland (BFUG Co-chair)	Silvia	Studinger
“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (incoming BFUG Co-chair)	Borco	Aleksov
Ukraine	Olexandr	Smyrnov
UNESCO	Peter	Wells
United Kingdom	Pamela	Wilkinson
United Kingdom (Scotland)	Edward	Thomson
United Kingdom (Scotland)	Michael	Watney
BFUG Secretariat	Filippo	Benedetti
BFUG Secretariat	Giovanni	Finocchietti
BFUG Secretariat	Luca	Lantero
BFUG Secretariat	Vera	Lucke
Previous Head of the BFUG Secretariat	Françoise	Profit
External (BICG Co-chair, Austria)	Helga	Posset
External (Peer Group B Co-chair, Italy)	Chiara	Finocchietti

External (Moderator of a parallel session, Austria)	Regina	Aichner
External (Moderator of a parallel session, Croatia)	Marina	Crnčić Sokol
External (Moderator of a parallel session, Hungary)	Márton	Beke
External (Moderator of a parallel session, Ireland)	Sinead	Lucey
External (Moderator of a parallel session, Portugal)	Maria Madalena	Pereira
External (Moderator of a parallel session, Sweden)	Anders	Ahlstrand
External (Speaker)	Josef	Leidenfrost

Apologies from Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Spain and Turkey.

Welcome and introduction by Austrian Minister of Education, Science and Research

Minister Heinz Faßmann welcomed the BFUG members, recalling that the EHEA is the largest area in the world centred on Higher Education and mentioned the successful cooperation among governments to increase its quality and attractiveness. He quoted the first paragraph of the Paris Communiqué and highlighted Austria's commitment to support the further development of the EHEA. The Minister concluded his introduction underlining the very ambitious list of objectives for this meeting, and expressed his hope that the representatives would work together successfully, being inspired by the Bologna spirit to find positive and peaceful solutions in case of divergent opinions.

1. Introduction

1.1 Information by the outgoing BFUG Co-chairs: Bulgaria/Serbia

The outgoing Serbian Co-chair, Vanja Nedeljkovic, also on behalf of the Co-chair of Bulgaria, Ivana Radonova – who sent her apologies – expressed her gratitude for the climate of cooperation experienced during the semester of co-chairing, while looking forward to further cooperation with the current Co-chairs.

1.2 Welcome by the current BFUG Co-chairs: Austria/Switzerland

The Co-chair for Austria, Gottfried Bacher, and for Switzerland, Silvia Studinger, thanked the outgoing Co-chairs and underlined their resolve to proceed with the same spirit of cooperation and that efficient time management was an important success factor for meetings. The Co-chairs introduced the BFUG Secretariat. They stated that in this meeting the work programme for the upcoming two years would be discussed and hopefully adopted and stressed that there was not much time until the next Ministerial Conference.

1.3 Welcome by the BFUG Vice-chair (Italy)

The Vice-chair (Italy), Ann Katherine Isaacs, introduced herself and underlined the positive atmosphere of collaboration and the importance of further progress as a joint effort, based

on the good practices and resources that have been developed over the years. She stressed the importance of the goal of organizing the Rome Conference in 2020 and of a close coordination of the BFUG as such, of the Co-chairs and Vice-chair, with the support of the BFUG Secretariat.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification. The time schedule was slightly changed during the meeting for more efficient time management.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_2a Draft Agenda

BFUG_AU_CH_63_2b Draft Annotated Agenda

3. Feedback from the last meetings

3.1 Results from the BFUG meeting in Sofia, 24/25 April 2018

The Swiss Co-chair mentioned some comments sent via e-mail by the outgoing BFUG Co-chair (Bulgaria) (justifiably absent). No further comments were made, and the minutes were adopted.

BFUG_BG_RS_60 Minutes

3.2 Report from the Board meeting in Zürich, 3 July 2018

The Co-chair (Switzerland) said that the focus of the Board meeting in Zurich was on the work plan 2018-2020 emphasizing the crucial and useful discussion that took place, the results are well reflected in the minutes. No further comments were made, and the minutes were adopted.

Board_AU_CH_61 Minutes

4. Evaluation Report of the Paris Ministerial Conference

The Head of the previous French BFUG Secretariat, Françoise Profit, reported on the activities of the Secretariat, the EHEA Ministerial Conference Paris 2018 and the ex-post evaluation of the event. The Conference was attended by 42 ministers (32 EHEA countries, 10 non-EHEA countries), 12 deputy ministers, 8 delegations of EHEA consultative members, 6 partners and technical experts of the EHEA, and 23 international organizations. Total participants were 646 from 74 countries (47 EHEA countries, 27 non-EHEA countries), including a number of university students in Communication Science as supporting staff, and 44 press and media representatives. These figures show that participation in the 2018 Paris Conference was the highest compared to previous Ministerial Conferences. Ms. Profit emphasized the high number of non-EHEA countries, international organisations and students, which she considered very positive as the Bologna Process is made for students. She also showed the main results of the satisfaction survey carried out at the end of the event; the survey is based on the responses of 160 participants (approximately 25% response rate).

The BFUG congratulated and thanked the French organisers for their work. It was underlined that the Conference agenda was appropriately focused on both technical and political issues. The CoE commented that the high number of ministers attending the Conference was very positive and that we should learn for the future from the evaluation and consider how to get so many ministers to attend. Nevertheless, the moderator's skills appeared to be inadequate for the task, and it was noted that it would be preferable for the hosting minister to chair the Ministerial Conference.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_4a Activity Report French Secretariat

5. Information by the BFUG Secretariat

The Head of the BFUG Secretariat 2018-2020, Luca Lantero, introduced the Secretariat members attending this meeting. He thanked the BFUG members for their trust and explained the role of the Secretariat, which has the mandate to serve the Bologna Process and its objectives under the authority of the BFUG, in a neutral capacity. The Secretariat is the result of a joint initiative of four Italian institutions (Ministry for Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), CIMEA and Studiare Sviluppo srl); those institutions will also collaborate in the organisation of the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference. He also recalled that the Italian Government has invested seven million euros for the organisation of the EHEA Ministerial Conference in Rome in 2020, for the event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Bologna Declaration to be organised in Bologna in 2019 and for the Italian Secretariat. Finally, he announced that a new BFUG website will be finalised in the coming months, replacing the current one. Measures to make communication more effective (increasing the use of social media, updating the mailing lists, using different systems for the circulation of documents) were suggested by participants in the following discussion. It was also suggested to add a sentence on the handover of the EHEA's website from one Secretariat to another with all the technical background, including the source code, in order to smoothen the transition. The BFUG Secretariat's Terms of Reference (ToR) were approved without amendments.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_5 ToR Secretariat

6. Rules of procedure BFUG Secretariat and BFUG 2018-2020

The Swiss Co-chair introduced the Rules of Procedure document and explained that most of the annexes were provided for historical information. Annex 9 was already approved (see 5. *BFUG_AU_CH_63_5 ToR Secretariat*) and Annex 2 was expected to be approved at the next point of the agenda. The BFUG was invited to focus on the core document.

Some BFUG members commented that the hand-over of the website needs to be added to the Rules of Procedure and that the term "similar groups" needs to be adapted to what will be adopted in the work plan.

The Rules of Procedure were adopted with the following amendments:

- Addition of a sentence on the handover of the EHEA website from one Secretariat to another with all the technical background in order to smoothen the transition;
- Adaption of the term "similar groups" to what the BFUG adopts in the adoption of the work plan.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_6 Rules of Procedure Secretariat

7. Presentation of work plan for the BFUG 2018-2020

The BFUG discussed the work plan introduced by the Austrian Co-chair making the following observations:

- The BICG (Bologna Implementation Coordination Group) had been established and the three Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs) are very important because the envisaged peer exercise is extremely relevant for making the EHEA work;
- The WG1 on Monitoring is well established and further countries should be able to become members of this Working Group. A reference to the issue of fundamental values should appear in the ToR of this group;

- The formula of an Advisory Group (AG) appears the most appropriate to deal with the topic of Social dimension;
- The Coordinating Groups (CGs) will operate under the responsibility of the Vice-chair Italy (CG1 Global Policy Dialogue - GPD) and the EUA (CG2 Learning and Teaching, incl. digital provision - L&T);
- The topic of the interaction between EHEA–ERA would be dealt with under agenda point 11.7;
- The inclusion of the EHEA Network of National QF correspondents in the work plan was welcomed;
- The Drafting Committee will start its work in 2019. The set-up of this group is clear and the idea to include other consultative members will be discussed in the next Board before being submitted to the BFUG for decision;
- The future of the EHEA also be discussed at the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary in Bologna in June 2019.

The adoption of the Work Plan 2018-2020 was postponed to agenda item 11.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_7 Work Plan 2018-2020

8. BICG update: composition of peer groups

One of the three BICG Co-chairs (Ana Tecilazić Goršić) presented the working structure and summarised the work done, the collected survey results and the work to be carried out in the near future. The BICG met three times after the Paris Ministerial Conference, the co-chairs were chosen and three peer groups – each based on one of the three key commitments – were proposed. The expressions of interest of the countries to participate in the PGs were collected by a survey, and the results were reported in a letter to the BFUG members. The countries were also encouraged to form smaller thematic groups to work on specific themes, which could contribute to the PGs overall outcomes. Draft guidelines and proposed subtopics (thematic orientation) for the PGs were prepared. The BICG Co-chair (Croatia) announced the networking session after lunch.

The BFUG was called to adopt the BICG Co-chairs (Austria, Bulgaria and Croatia), the proposed composition of the TPGs (see *BFUG_AU_CH_63_8d BICG Presentation*) and the following Thematic Peer Groups Co-chairs, ensuring that groups are co-chaired by at least one EU and one non-EU country:

Group A on QF: Czech Republic, Finland, Kazakhstan

Group B on LRC: Albania, France, Italy

Group C on QA: Belgium-Flanders, Cyprus, Georgia

Some comments were made on this topic, and the following was agreed:

- Even if the timeline is restricted, the countries wishing to apply for other PGs will be given the possibility to do so;
- The Co-chairs of the three TPGs will be the first contact-persons for the components of those groups and for the BICG;
- The TPGs will agree a working method to assure equal contribution among all participants;
- One Co-chair for each of the TPGs will join the BICG, which will then have ten members overall;
- The TPG Co-chairs report to the BICG and the BICG reports to the BFUG.

The European Commission gave an update on the restricted call EACEA/35/2018 (launched on 23 August 2018 with the deadline for project proposals on 23 October 2018) to support

the implementation of the three key commitments. Upon request of the BFUG members, the possibility of moving the deadline by one month was considered, since there is general agreement that more time is needed to collect interest and develop feasible and effective project proposals (Note: the deadline was later postponed to 20 November 2018). The European Commission also announced that a new call was envisaged in 2019.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_8a BICG Report
BFUG_AU_CH_63_8b BICG Guidelines
BFUG_AU_CH_63_8c BICG Letter
BFUG_AU_CH_63_8d BICG Presentation

9. Erasmus+ Key Action 3: Examples of good practice from previous projects

Participants split into five groups that discussed the good practices emerging from the following projects funded by Erasmus+ - Key Action 3:

1. Austria: Promoting Mobility, Fostering EHEA Commitments in Austria
BFUG_AU_CH_63_9a Austria
2. Croatia: Educa-T Project: Emphasis on developing and upgrading of competences of academic teaching
BFUG_AU_CH_63_9b Croatia
3. Ireland: Enhancing mobility of access students
BFUG_AU_CH_63_9c Ireland
4. Netherlands: Facilitating the use of Bologna tools (for HE institutions and QA organisations)
BFUG_AU_CH_63_9d Netherlands
5. Sweden: The academic value of mobility & Conference: Refugees' impact on Bologna Reform - RPL and inclusion in the light of increased migration
BFUG_AU_CH_63_9e Sweden

10. Networking time to discuss possible peer projects

Participants split into three groups, one for each of the key commitments; each of them making two discussion rounds, to allow members to join in more than one group. This networking exercise was carried out to facilitate the formation of consortia to present project proposals on specific topics.

11. Discussion on thematic areas and working structure of the BFUG

11.1 Monitoring and the Bologna Process Implementation Report 2020

The Co-chairs of WG 1 on Monitoring informed that the 2018 Report has proved to be quite popular and that additional copies could be requested from Eurydice. National translations are welcome and can be put online. The 2020 Bologna Implementation Report should have a different format from the previous ones as agreed by the BFUG in Malta in May 2017; it was proposed to focus on the key topics and the long-term changes in the EHEA, making use of existing data. Due to the limited time available, making accurate comparison across time, as well as having an inclusive approach with all stakeholders would prove difficult. Thus, the proposal was to combine narrative text addressing the achievements of the Bologna Process with statistical data and qualitative indicators. Detailed information on member countries would not be provided, which would also mean less work for national correspondents. Stakeholders might be invited to draft some of the narrative sections.

The question on how to address the topic of “fundamental values across the EHEA” in the WG and in the 2020 Report was raised: it was proposed to mandate the task to a specific sub-group involving the Magna Charta Observatory and other interested organisations and countries. It should be decided whether the proposed sub-group should report to the BFUG or the results should be presented in the Ministerial Conference directly. WG1 will concretize this proposal at its next meeting in November. It was decided to add the wording “fundamental values” to the ToR of the WG and to upload the updated ToR to the website. In the discussion the issue of whether further countries could join the WG was raised. Belarus expressed its interest to be part of this WG as this could be beneficial for the implementation of its National Strategy and Action Plan: it was decided to insert Belarus in the country list of the WG within the ToR.

With reference to the issue of fundamental values and the proposed sub-group, it was observed that further topics could be included in the monitoring, among them the issue of funding that is closely connected with that of institutional autonomy. In response to a specific question, ESU stated its availability to contribute to the work of this group, in addition to what is already done through the publication of "Bologna With Student Eyes". Since the event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Bologna Declaration to be organised in Bologna in 2019 is called “The Bologna Process goes Global: fundamental values of the EHEA beyond 2020” it was proposed that those involved in the task, like the WGs, AGs, CGs and similar groups that work on these topics, should take the opportunity to join the event. The ToR of the WG Monitoring were adopted with the following amendments:

- Addition of a sentence regarding “fundamental values” in the text of the ToR;
- Addition of Belarus in the country list.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11a WG1 ToR

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11b Monitoring 2020 Report

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11f Monitoring Presentation

11.2 Learning and Teaching

EUA introduced the proposal for the BFUG work on Learning and Teaching (L&T) in the period 2018-2020, inviting the BFUG to discuss and agree on the issues to be undertaken, including, among others: tasking EUA to revise and further develop the European principles for the enhancement of L&T (for endorsement by the Ministers in 2020); tasking ENQA to draft a reference document on the QA of digital and blended education; the possibility of establishing of a coordination group to ensure broader discussion on these topics, including also student-centered learning, work-based learning and fostering pedagogical competences of HE teachers. Different comments, remarks and proposals were made:

- The initial proposal for a Coordination Group was welcomed as this would be a light structure with no additional meetings as work would be organised via virtual exchange. The presence of both countries and organizations would be appropriate. Some countries and organizations expressed an interest in being part of it;
- The proposal to adopt the name of "Advisory Group" was supported, being considered more coherent with the role it should play;
- It was proposed to give greater visibility to the theme of innovation in L&T, explaining that there is a potential for further innovation to be developed and linked to research on innovation and to the topic of professional development of teachers;

- It was proposed to include a point on the role of governments and policy-making with reference to the topic of L&T: an approach focused on the role of HE institutions could enhance their interest in the Bologna Process by reaching out to the institutions more directly. On the other hand, there is the risk that governments would not feel involved in an approach too heavily based on the point of view of HE institutions and sector stakeholders.

EUA and Iceland agreed to quickly write a revised ToR proposal for an Advisory Group to help identify the role of HE institutions and governments to support the L&T enhancement, including the topics of research on innovation and of quality student learning. The proposal will be sent to the Secretariat to be shared in the BFUG Board and later sent to all BFUG members. A written consultation via e-mail will be carried out in order to finalize and quickly adopt the revised ToR for this AG to start working before the next BFUG meeting in April 2019.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11c L&T

11.3 Social Dimension

The Austrian Co-chair introduced the item and informed the BFUG that ESU had submitted a proposal. ESU proposed to modify the Terms of Reference with the aim to produce principles and guidelines and a focus on peer learning activities. ESU proposed to open the AG to 5-10 countries and to an external technical expert. ESU offered its competences to chair the group together with one BFUG member country. Several BFUG members and Consultative members had a discussion and agreed on the new proposal. Belgium Flemish Community, Croatia, Lithuania and Romania expressed their interest to participate in this AG. The German representative suggested the EUROSTUDENT network as external expert. The Austrian Co-chair invited the ESU representative to send the new proposal of the draft ToR to the Co-chairs and the Vice-chair for a first review and then to all the BFUG members and Consultative members for electronic consultation. It was decided to realize the work in an advisory group structure.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11d Social Dimension

11.4 Global Policy Dialogue

The Austrian Co-chair introduced the item and asked the Vice-chair to present the proposal. The Vice-chair said that the basis for the proposal is the Paris Communiqué and the past Bologna Policy Forums. To move forward in this endeavour the Vice-chair suggested to coordinate a small number of willing and committed people to resume and extend dialogue with the non-EHEA countries and then to refer to the BFUG. The Vice-chair also suggested to use as an immediate starting point the activities already implemented by the BFUG members and the Consultative members in the run-up to the Paris Ministerial Conference. Furthermore, she suggested that it would be useful to structure efforts in view of establishing a platform for dialogue among equals, focusing more on the macro-regions than on single countries. Belgium Flemish Community, Belgium French Community, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, United Kingdom, UNESCO, EUA, EI-IE, and the EC representatives declared their interest in supporting the work of this Coordination Group. The Vice-chair was invited to send a proposal of ToR for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue to the Co-chairs for a first review and then to all the BFUG members and Consultative members for electronic consultation.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11e Global Policy Dialogue

11.5 Belarus Strategy and Action Plan

The Austrian Co-chair asked the Belarus representative to report on the recent developments in the country, as listed in the Workplan for Implementing EHEA tools in the Higher Education System of the Republic of Belarus. Developments and progress in the implementation of this strategic plan will be described in Annual Reports with the first one being finalised and submitted by the end of the calendar year 2018. Some BFUG members took note of the update and welcomed the steps forward, including the representation of Belarus in WG1 and the three TPGs. At the same time BFUG members expressed concern that the work plan did not clearly establish deadlines, and that there were no measures to implement the student and teacher participation (including independent organizations) in the national WGs on Bologna implementation, as well as no actions for the mobility of the students, or actions related to social dimension. It was agreed that the 2018 Annual Report will be sent to the BFUG Board to be distributed, commented and assessed in time for the next BFUG meeting. The BFUG Board will have the possibility to ask the Belarus representative to give further details on specific items in their Annual Report.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11f Belarus

11.6 Governance and thematic priorities after 2020

The Swiss Co-chair proposed not to establish a specific group on this item but to entrust the BFUG Board with the elaboration of a discussion paper that will be presented at the next BFUG meeting. Then the Co-chairs informed the BFUG that the Secretariat would send an email with a few concrete questions about this topic till mid-October in order to collect written proposals from all the BFUG members and the Consultative members until the end of November. The results will be presented in the next BFUG meeting in April. The Swiss Co-chair suggested addressing this topic in the agenda of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Bologna Declaration. The BFUG agreed to this proposal.

11.7 EHEA-ERA synergies

The Swiss Co-chair recalled that the Paris Communiqué mandated the BFUG to develop the relation between EHEA and ERA: the BFUG agreed that this task would be initially carried out by the Board and the European Commission. The European Commission representative underlined the importance of having a commitment and an agreement from ERA before discussing synergies. ERA, according to its decision process, began a procedure to revise the ERA advisory structure that should be concluded by the end of November. In addition, the EC informed about several upcoming initiatives that will discuss this topic in-depth. The representative from Luxembourg recalled that “WG3 on Policy Development for New EHEA Goals” discussed this topic in the previous working period. Some representatives asked to include other BFUG members in this dialogue although without creating a specific group on this topic. The representative from Albania underlined that not all EHEA countries were included in the pilot initiative of European universities. The Swiss Co-chair concluded that the Board would address the topic during its next meeting.

11.8 EHEA Network of National Qualifications Frameworks Correspondents

The CoE presented the item giving an update on the network, which should be included again in the EHEA work plan. 37 countries participated in the annual meeting in September, instead of the average attendance by 20-25 countries. This network should provide a platform for those working in Higher Education with Qualifications Frameworks. One purpose

of this network is the discussion on how to incorporate the short cycle in the Bologna Framework adopted in 2005. The BFUG adopted the ToR.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11g NQF Correspondents Network

BFUG_AU_CH_63_11h NQF Network ToR

At the end of item 11 the new version of the Work Plan 2018-2020 as updated during the meeting, was presented by the BFUG Secretariat to the BFUG and it was adopted (Working Group on Monitoring, Advisory Groups on Teaching and Learning as well as Social Dimension and a Coordination Group on the Global Dimension, together with the BICG with three Thematic Peer Groups, the EHEA network of QF correspondents and the Drafting Committee).

12. Proposal/Presentation Ombudsmen

The representative of ENOHE illustrated the Ombudsmen's activities in the EHEA countries and underlined the importance of their work for students and academic institutions. The Austrian Co-chair underlined the importance of this activity and he proposed to insert this issue in the AG for the Social Dimension. Several BFUG members and consultative members commented and supported this proposal.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_12a Ombudsmen

BFUG_AU_CH_63_12b Ombudsmen presentation

13. Update from the Consultative Members

The Swiss Co-chair introduced the topic asking for any comments on the updates that the BFUG had received. The Co-chair communicated that the BFUG Secretariat had received ESU's update that would be uploaded on the web site after the meeting. EQAR is updating the description of National Quality Assurance systems and will contact all the countries soon to double-check the data. The EURASHE representative communicated that they will send an update for the next BFUG meeting. EI-IE communicated a brief update in addition to the written one underlining that for the Unions the following elements were important: how the academic teaching is organized at each national level, the impact of digitalization, and the necessity of a supportive working environment in connection with the increasing phenomena of precarious contracts. The Swiss Co-chair concluded the item thanking the Consultative members.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_13a CoE Update

BFUG_AU_CH_63_13b EUA Update

BFUG_AU_CH_63_13c ETUCE Update

BFUG_AU_CH_63_13d UNESCO Update

BFUG_AU_CH_63_13e ESU Update

14. BFUG membership

The Co-chair (Switzerland) introduced the item informing the members that the BFUG Secretariat received a letter in June from Eurodoc asking for a change of its status from Partner to Consultative member. In the Board meeting of Zurich, it was decided to ask for more concrete information about the relevance of their contribution to the work of the BFUG and the real added value of their change in membership status. Depending on their answer the item will be on the agenda of one of the next BFUG meetings and on the basis of the assessment and with the advice of the BFUG the final decision will be taken at the next

Ministerial Conference. The ESU representative communicated that ESU will contact Eurodoc to strengthen the collaboration.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_14 Letter Eurodoc

15. Information by the incoming Co-chairs (Dates and agenda for BFUG Board and BFUG meetings spring 2019)

BFUG Board meeting in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (12 February 2019)

The incoming Co-chair (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) communicated that the next Board meeting will be hosted in Skopje on 12 February 2019 and presented the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's higher education system.

BFUG meeting Romania (3-5 April 2019)

The incoming Co-chair (Romania) communicated that the next BFUG meeting will be hosted in Bucharest between 3-5 April 2019. The Romanian representative gave also some logistical information for the meeting and a short presentation of the country.

BFUG_AU_CH_63_15 BFUG in Romania

16. AOB

Conference Host 2020 (Italy)

The BFUG Secretariat communicated that the Roma Convention Center - La Nuvola has been reserved for the next Ministerial Conference in the fourth week of June 2020 (22-28 June 2020).

20th anniversary of the Bologna declaration

The BFUG Secretariat also informed the BFUG members about the organization of an important event by the Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, jointly with the Italian Ministry for Education, Universities and Research, under the aegis of the Observatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bologna declaration. The celebration will be held in Bologna on 24 and 25 June 2019. The invitation to this Conference will be sent out soon.

Additional communication to the BFUG

San Marino has informally contacted the BFUG Secretariat with the request to become a BFUG member country. The Secretariat is going to send information on the procedure to San Marino and will keep the Board and BFUG updated.

The Austrian Co-chair thanked the Swiss Co-chair , the outgoing Co-chairs from Bulgaria and Serbia, the incoming Co-chairs from Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the new Secretariat, the new Vice-chair, the previous BFUG Secretariat and all the helping hands that helped to prepare and run this meeting. The Vice-chair thanked the Co-chairs. The BFUG Meeting ended with warm thanks to the Co-chairs and to the hosts.