



Update Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Katherine Isaacs – co-chair

BFUG meeting

Madrid, 16 November 2023

Set up of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- Currently 3 Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Italy, Albania (Co-chair from European Commission retired)
- **17 members** take part (Albania, Austria, Belgium/Flemish Community, Belgium/French Community, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, UK)
- **6 organisations** (EI-ETUCE, ENQA, ESU, EUA, European Commission, UNESCO)

Meetings of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- First meeting on 7 June 2021
 - Second meeting on 13 January 2022
 - Third meeting on 1 June 2022
 - Fourth meeting on 24 October 2022
 - Fifth meeting on 16 January 2023
 - Sixth meeting on 6 March 2023
 - Seventh meeting on 26 May 2023, Rome
 - Eighth meeting on 27 September 2023, Rome
 - Ninth meeting to be held 30 November, The Hague
 - Tenth meeting to be held 17-19 January, Barcelona
- ⇒ In between work in the subgroups and follow-up of work plan

Composition and focus of the subgroups

- 2 functional subgroups:
 - Tirana Global Policy Forum: chair Linda Pustina (AL), in her role as Vice-Chair of the BFUG, members are the Netherlands, UK, France, EUA
 - Drafting the GPD Statement: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), with Belgium/FL, Belgium/FR, France, Holy See, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK, EC and ETUCE as members
- 3 regional subgroups:
 - Asia: chair Liesbeth Hens (BE/FL), members are Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, The Netherlands, EC, EUA, ESU, and UNESCO
 - Africa: chairs Elizabeth Colucci (EUA), members are Austria, Belgium/FR, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, the Netherlands, European Commission, ENQA, and UNESCO
 - Americas: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), members are Austria, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, EC and UNESCO

Outcomes of the subgroups

- Each of the regional subgroups has had numerous meetings
- All three continue their ongoing mapping exercises:
 - Contact list global partners
 - Mapping of regional events & activities
 - Mapping of topics/themes and regions (looking for synergies between ongoing processes)
- Policy brief for UNESCO World Higher Education Conference on 'Promoting Policy Dialogue among the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the other world higher education regions' was submitted, May 2022:

<https://whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf>

Outcomes of the subgroups

Focus on Africa

- Reflections on the new AU-EU innovation agenda (a set of reflections as part of the public consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda launched at the EU-Africa Business Forum in February 2022), June 2022
- Preparation of 3 EHEA conversations: online events/webinars with 3-4 experts from the EHEA and Africa, representing regional organisations. Duration: 1,5-2 hours.
- Theme: recognition
- Start by inviting regional representatives, later go to more practical implementation at institutional level.
- First “Conversation” webinar, on Academic Recognition held on 12 December 2022
- Second “Conversation” webinar on “*Recognition for Lifelong Learning*” and including digital learning, prior learning, micro-credentials held on 6 June 2023
- Article on the first ‘Conversation’ sent to BFUG members and to partners in Africa, and published on ehea.info
- At present: Publication of a second article and preparation of third hybrid Conversation and Joint meeting of the CG and HAQAA event, Barcelona 17-19 January 2024

Outcomes of the subgroups

Focus on Americas

- DAAD Bologna Hub event, “Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials: Initiatives and Perspectives on Small Learning Units from around the World”, 23 June; co-chair K. Isaacs lead of Americas section
- First Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, 5/12/2022, in Montevideo, hosted by Uruguay, with representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, topic “Enhancing Global Policy Dialogue on Higher Education”
- CG/EHEA Session at the CHEA (US accreditation body) Annual Conference in Washington DC on 25 January, topic “Let's Talk: fostering global dialogue about diversity in a common framework”
- Participation in EU-LAC Summit, Santiago de Compostela, 4-5 May 2023
- Planning meeting with UNESCO IESALC and regional UNESCO representatives on occasion of the first Assembly of the UNESCO Global Recognition convention
- Second Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, planned early spring 2024
- Participation in regional CESPE +5 meeting, Brasilia

Outcomes of the subgroups so far

Focus on Asia

- Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education «Central Asian Higher Educational Area: regional cooperation, national reforms», 18 June 2022; 2 co-chairs participated (K. Isaacs & L. Pustina),
 - Expanding the Bologna Process in the Central Asian Countries: Forms, Methods
 - Trends in the Development of Higher Education in the Bologna Process
- EU-SHARE conference on micro-credentials, 20-21 July 2022, Bangkok; 1 co-chair and 2 group members joined (M. Soenen, EUA and Germany)
 - Micro-Credentials – the European Perspective
- ASEM process: ISOM meeting 24-25 November 2022, Malta -> looking for synergies, to be further discussed among group members
- ASEM expert group on Recognition and balanced mobility, 13 February 2023 online
- Invited speakers to CG meeting from CAHEA (Central Asian Higher Education Area and from ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- Joint meeting of the CG with ASEF in Rome, September 27-29 2023.

Plans and on-going work of the CG

Regional Subgroups continue their various activities

Functional Subgroups are working:

- GPForum subgroup has met; a draft program was discussed at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting, and an updated version is now presented.
- GPStatement subgroup has met frequently and presented its Draft 3 Statement for discussion at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting. A 3x draft, updated on the basis of that discussion, is now presented.
- The regional subgroups are drafting lists of invitees for the Forum.

A functional workstream dealing with communications, invitations and content fine-tuning will need to be set up.

Plans and on-going work of the CG

Plans are being made for other ‘**regional**’ **conferences** in early spring 2024, supported by IN-GLOBAL, in addition to the Joint meeting with ASEF in September 2023 already held.

A new regional subgroup for **Arab states/Middle East and North Africa** is proposed: a regional meeting organized in conjunction with UNESCO is planned for the spring (to be followed by a regional conference after the Tirana ministerial)

The CG has proposed organizing dialogue/meetings on matters of common interest between **global interlocutors** and the **EHEA WGs**. The first meeting, between the Co-chairs of the Social Dimension WG and the USA «Institute for Evidence-based change» (IEBC) was held online on 7 July.

Other WGs are invited to use this opportunity!!

Plans and on-going work of the CG

Consultation and findings:

A large-scale consultation on perceptions of the EHEA and ideas about collaboration with it, involving stakeholders, authorities and private persons – students and teachers – in the countries outside of the EHEA has been held, thanks to the support of IN-GLOBAL (along with the similar consultation carried out within the EHEA for the Task Force EKS).

Elaboration of the results has begun, but requires further work. A preliminary evaluation seems to show, with some exceptions, a low degree of knowledge about and interest in the EHEA. This finding would tend to confirm the **current strategy of the CG GPD and the Forum**: to promote dialogue among macro-regions, rather than offer the EHEA as a blueprint for others.

Draft text proposed to the Tirana Drafting Committee

We recognize that the BFUG's Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG GPD) has made notable progress in building more frequent contact and constant productive dialogue with countries beyond the EHEA and with other world higher education macro-regions. In the general framework of our common efforts to reach the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we see a number of areas in which global cooperation can be usefully enhanced. These include reciprocal referencing of Qualifications Frameworks and credit systems, ratification of the UNESCO ratification of the UNESCO Global and Regional conventions on recognition of higher education qualifications, and measures to promote compatible digital systems for communicating students' records. We register increasing interest in Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes compatible with the ESG. Joint efforts are developing to strengthen student-centred learning, improve inclusion and retention of students from all parts of society, and to create the premises for increased intra-regional and inter-regional mobility. The inclusion in the CG GPD's activities of promoting dialogue with appropriate international interlocutors with the other BFUG working groups is commendable. We ask the CG GPD to continue and extend its work, and to organize appropriate procedures for acknowledging the countries and regions that evidence their desire to become "EHEA Global Dialogue Partners".



Thank you!
The CG GPD Co-chairs