



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Science
and Education

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MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
OF UKRAINE

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BFUG MEETING LXIX

4-5 March 2020

Kyiv (Ukraine)

Minutes

List of participants

Delegation	First Name	Surname
Andorra	Jordi	Llombart
Armenia	Samvel	Karabekyan
Belarus	Elena	Betenya
Belarus	Vadim	Bogush
Belarus	Serhei	Kasperovich
Belgium French-Community	Caroline	Hollela
Belgium Flemish Community	Magalie	Soenen
Croatia	Loredana	Maravić
Croatia (BFUG Co-chair)	Leonardo	Marušić
Croatia (BFUG Co-chair)	Ana	Tecilazić Goršić
Czech Republic	Tomáš	Fliegl
Denmark	Jonas	Johannesen
Estonia	Janne	Pukk
European Commission	Klara	Engels-Perenyi
European Commission	Vanessa	Debiais-Sainton
Finland	Maija	Innola
Finland	Jonna	Korhonen
Georgia	Khatia	Tsiramua
Germany	Peter	Greisler
Germany	Frank	Petrikowski
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
Hungary	Ernő	Keszei

Delegation	First Name	Surname
Iceland	Una	Strand Viðarsdóttir
Ireland	Joseph	Gleeson
Italy (BFUG Vice-chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Kazakhstan	Khanat	Kassenov
Latvia	Daiga	Ivsina
Liechtenstein	Isabelle	Wiebach
Lithuania	Andrius	Zalitis
Luxembourg	Isabelle	Reinhardt
Malta	Louise Ann	Sammut
The Netherlands	Tessa	Bijvank
North Macedonia	Borco	Aleksov
Norway	Joakim	Bakke
Portugal	Afonso	D'Oliveira Martins
Portugal	João	Queiroz
Romania	Cristina	Ghițulică
Romania	Mihai Cezar	Haj
Russian Federation	Nadezda	Kamynina
Russian Federation	Boris	Zhelezov
Sweden	Robin	Moberg
Ukraine (BFUG Co-chair)	Kateryna	Suprun
Ukraine (BFUG Co-chair)	Olexandr	Smyrnov
United Kingdom	Pamela	Wilkinson
United Kingdom (Scotland)	Michael	Watney
AG1 on Social Dimension Co-Chair (Croatia)	Ninoslav	Šćukanec Schmidt
WG1 on Monitoring Co-chair (EURYDICE)	David	Crosier
Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
EI/ETUCE	Andreas	Keller
EQAR	Colin	Tück
ESU	Gohar	Hovhannisyán

Delegation	First Name	Surname
ESU	Sebastian	Berger
ESU	Robert	Napier
EUA	Michael	Gaebel
EUA	Tia	Loukkola
EURASHE	Michal	Karpíšek
EURASHE	Stéphane	Lauwick
UNESCO	Peter	Wells
EUROSTUDENT	Kristina	Hauschildt
EURODOC	Iryna	Gubeladze
EURODOC	Anna	Tolstanova
BFUG Secretariat	Rocío	Iglesias de Ussel Rubio
BFUG Secretariat	Edlira Adi	Kahani Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Luca	Lantero

Due to the Covid-19 situation and the restrictions in many countries for participants to travel, the host exceptionally offered the possibility to watch this meeting online and comment via e-mail. Many of the missing BFUG members and Consultative members – here in the list of apologies – followed this meeting online.

Apologies from Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, ENQA and BUSINESSEUROPE.

1. Welcome and introduction

Mr. Yegor Stadny, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine welcomed all BFUG participants at the LXIX meeting in Kyiv, proudly mentioning that for the first time in the history of EHEA such meeting takes place in a non-EU country. Mr. Stadny emphasized that the ambition to create common higher education architecture throughout Europe has come a long way until translated into the Bologna Declaration just before the dawn of the new millennium. European citizenship, shared values, belonging to a common social and cultural space and human growth all became the building blocks of the Bologna Process (BP). Ukraine joined the EHEA in 2005, explicitly committing itself to enhancing European values, to amplifying European dimension, and to building a Europe of Knowledge. A Europe of Knowledge that recognizes the role of academia in developing stable, peaceful and democratic societies. In the face of hybrid threats to global peace and security, amidst the growing turmoil and unease, universities no longer have a moral right to sit idle as an ivory tower. Violation of international law shall not be tolerated. Universities

shall become the agents of change and advocate for adherence to the rule of international law. Coordinated joint efforts are required if we want to preserve academic freedom as one of the core values of the BP. A Europe of Knowledge that provides its citizens with quality learning to result in public externalities. Knowledge economy continues to be the driving force in developing global communities and local societies. Today there is a need for sustainable higher education that benefits both professional aspirations of the individual and wider objectives of the society. A Europe of Knowledge that facilitates brain circulation and mutually beneficial cooperation. Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the EC for its efforts in promoting interconnectedness of higher education stakeholders and welcome its commitment to increasing social dimension in the next Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027. Ukraine expresses its deep concern over that some higher education systems across the EHEA undeservingly remain *terra incognita* for international students and calls for equitable academic mobility in the upcoming Erasmus+ framework. A Europe of Knowledge that takes notice of all its members' needs and allows them equal chances to succeed. Ukraine welcomes the efforts of the BICG in tackling uneven implementation via the peer support method and hopes it continues its work after 2020. All the while, diversity in meeting the Bologna Key commitments among the EHEA countries persists. Ukraine asks the BFUG to create governance and working methods for the next decade that allow for cohesive development of the BP in all its member countries. Legal shortcomings, financial limitations and management inefficiencies shall not prevent any country of the European Higher Education Area from unleashing its full potential. The BP has achieved a lot, due to diligent and conscientious work of its members, profound expertise of the Consultative Members, novel ideas of partners, and constant support of the BFUG Secretariat. The commenced decade will definitely bring challenges, but also opportunities to revisit hardened beliefs and proceed with building a Europe of Knowledge with renewed vigour. On this way, Ukraine is a credible partner committed to intensity the intergovernmental cooperation within the EHEA.

The Croatian BFUG Co-chair welcomed participants and thanked the Ukrainian BFUG Co-chairs for jointly co-chairing the semester, organizing the meeting and the warm hospitality. She also appreciated the fact that the Ukrainian Co-chairs managed to organize the web streaming for this meeting.

The BFUG Vice-chair gratefully thanked the Ukrainian Co-chairs for the organisation of the meeting and emphasized the good spirit and optimism to the unexpected current changes, due to many not participating, showing again the spirit of cooperation and that the BFUG/EHEA is resilient and creative even to last minute developments. She invited those not attending the meeting physically, but were following the discussions online, to participate and have their say to the discussions via e-mail.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_1_Deputy_Minister_speech

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without change. At the end of the discussions of item 7 on the agenda, as per request of several delegations, with no objection from the BFUG, items 8,

9 and 10 were moved to the end of the first day of the BFUG meeting. The draft annotated agenda was updated accordingly and uploaded on the web site.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_2a_Draft_Agenda

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_2b_Draft_Annotated_Agenda

3. Feedback from the last meetings

The outgoing Finnish Co-chair thanked the BFUG for the good discussions during the BFUG meeting in Helsinki, also on behalf of the outgoing Turkish Co-chairs. She informed the participants on the fact that the BFUG Secretariat has prepared the Minutes of the [BFUG meeting in Helsinki](#). These Minutes are approved, since there were no objections to the latest version.

The Croatian BFUG Co-chair informed the BFUG about the outcomes of the [Board meeting in Zagreb](#), on 6 February 2020. At the Board meeting it was agreed that at this BFUG meeting the groups will present their final reports, except from the ones that are still finalizing the drafting of their reports. It was agreed that the CG1 on GPD will not prepare a report, considering that their aim is to prepare the Bologna Global Policy Statement and Forum. The draft Communiqué was also discussed in the Board meeting; the Board gave guidance to the Drafting Committee on particular issues, which would be also raised in the BFUG meeting according to the agenda. The Board also discussed the item on governance, and recommends that BFUG discuss and approve the document presented on the procedures to be followed if it should happen that a country selected to host the next BFUG Secretariat and Ministerial Conference, and therefore holding the BFUG Vice-chairmanship, should also have its turn to co-chair.

Attachment: <http://ehea.info/page-BFUG-meeting-67>

Attachment: <http://ehea.info/page-bfug-board-meeting-68>

4. Information from the BFUG Secretariat

The BFUG Secretariat informed the BFUG that due to current developments and travel restrictions, 18 BFUG Members and two Consultative Member were not attending the BFUG meeting in Kyiv, and that the [Rules of Procedure](#) do not foresee a minimum number of countries to attend a BFUG meeting. Thanks to the quick response of Ukrainian BFUG Co-chairs, web streaming has been enabled for those not attending this BFUG meeting. Comments of those attending the BFUG meeting through web streaming should be sent to the BFUG Secretariat and the coming day the BFUG will be informed about the feedback received on the following day.

The request from Germany in regard to its Autumn 2020 BFUG Co-chairmanship with the United Kingdom was approved via electronic consultation and they are now incoming Co-chairs. The BFUG should discuss the procedures to follow in the case of an EU country wanting to host the BFUG Secretariat and Ministerial Conference during the period it also holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU. With regard to the call to host the 2020-

2023 BFUG Secretariat and the 2023 Ministerial Conference, it was announced that on 26 February 2020, Albania sent the BFUG Secretariat an application, signed by the Minister of Education, Research and Sports. The Albanian representative, although absent from this BFUG meeting because of COVID-19 related travel restrictions, has approached the BFUG Secretariat, asking them to forward to the BFUG the message that in case Albania's application is approved, Albania agrees to have their turn in the non-EU co-chairmanship list be postponed. Albania's application was forwarded to the BFUG Co-chairs and BFUG Vice-chair and will be shared with the BFUG as well. Since the call is still open, with its deadline is set for 15 March 2020, the BFUG calls on other countries to apply if they are interested, and this topic was brought to the attention of BFUG for information purposes only.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_4_Information_BFUG_Secretariat

5. Final reports and draft recommendations from AGs, CG, and WG1.

5.1 Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

The Croatian BICG Co-chair presented the up-to-date report on the outcomes of the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs). In the BFUG meeting in Split on 4-5 May 2020, there would be space for the TPGs to present the outcomes of their work and the proposals for the future of the peer learning approach. The BICG's final report will be presented then, and it will include the recommendations of the BICG for the Rome 2020 Communiqué. The BICG Co-chair informed that a survey has been sent to all TPG participants, with deadline on 31 March 2020, asking for their feedback on the peer support approach. The findings will constitute part of the BICG final report and will include examples of good practices. The activities of the TPGs are still ongoing, with the TPG B on LRC having planned its final meeting on March 10, 2020 in Paris, which will be followed by the BICG meeting on 11 March 2020 [*Comment post BFUG meeting: these meetings were postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic*]. Regarding the peer support model in general, it seems to be of clear added value and enhances communication and interaction between the countries on the three Bologna key commitments. It was suggested to involve more external stakeholders in the future and to propose new topics in case the peer support approach is to be continued in the next workplan. Two questions were raised for discussion and the BFUG was asked to give suggestions:

1. How should the work of the groups be presented in the Communiqué? Only as part of the Rome Communiqué text; or also as an annex (document adopted by the Ministers), or background document (document acknowledged by the Ministers)?
2. Does the BFUG need a Bologna Implementation Coordination Group for the next period? It has been seen that the peer approach should continue, but is it useful to have a coordinating group?

The main outcomes of the three TPGs were presented.

TPG A on QF

- Awareness about the NQFs and the importance of their implementation has increased. However, it would be important to have up-to-date information on EHEA website concerning self-certification especially.
- Further work needs to be done in the area of the implementation of ECTS in line with the ECTS Users' Guide.
- Co-operation with the EQF structures has been sought throughout the work: Referencing/self-certification as one process.
- A concrete result is the submission of the self-certification report of the Kazakhstan NQF with reference to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

TPG B on LRC

- The role of stakeholders in the implementation of LRC (students, students' unions and associations, ministries, Higher Education Institutions, ENIC-NARIC offices, LRC Bureau, QA agencies) has been emphasised in various events held in cooperation with the stakeholder organisations.
- The role of digitalisation and the application of new technologies (*blockchain*): digitalisation is a key aspect also in linking mobility, recognition and quality assurance, with perspectives of simplifying the verification of accreditation – use of DEQAR database in the recognition process.

TPG C on QA

- The content discussed in the peer group is very broad and linked to the six main subtopics (Regulation of legal frameworks; European approach on accreditation of joint programs, stakeholders' engagement, External QA, Internal QA, Cross border QA)
- Challenges related to innovative learning and teaching, short courses, e-learning, MOOC's, validation and recognition of prior learning. Accumulation of these into larger credentials in the lifelong learning context is challenging.
- All these forms of learning and teaching should be recognized appropriately throughout the EHEA. We should explore whether the ESGs are ready to be used for new kinds of Learning & Teaching methods and strive to have all agencies EQAR-registered.

The feedback from the BFUG to the work of the BICG and the TPGs was positive, especially on the peer support approach taken by the TPGs. It was suggested that, in addition to the TPGs' reports, the BICG could try to analyse and give an advice on what has worked with the peer system and what has not, with an emphasis on the positive aspects and the way forward. Also, it should provide some reflections on peer learning as a working method, on how it might work for other areas and how it can help to implement the fundamental values approved by the Ministers. The main message is that the peer support approach has been successful and has enhanced ability to work together. Therefore, it should be continued, and its advantages made visible for Ministers. It is

important to present to the public the good results of this peer approach, as they were achieved notwithstanding considerable scepticism because of the short time available to carry out the work. The EC is contributing to funding the peer support initiative and it is important to have feedback whether this funding was useful for the countries to enhance implementation. The results of the survey should provide insights on peer support and peer learning. Several countries shared their experience of the peer support approach i.e. Belarus, which stated that the TPG work is important as have helped them to finalize and adopt their NQF, revise their legislation on ECTS making it more clearly aligned with the ECTS guidelines, as well supporting discussions on how to develop new legislation on recognition. Contributions emphasised the usefulness of the method, the importance to follow up national action plans; acknowledged the heavy workload which lies with the co-chairs of the peer groups and asked the BICG to suggest ways how this workload could be eased in the next working cycle. It was requested to preserve the inclusive character of peer groups. The Erasmus+ funding gives in many cases the backbone of peer support activities. While this is welcome, it is important that countries also contribute to the success of peer support, by funding activities. The added value of stakeholders in the work of the peer groups was appreciated. In terms of concrete developments, EQAR clearly sees the impact, in the number of country membership and in the number of registered agencies.

It was agreed that the BICG Report should appear as a background document rather than as an annex to the Rome Communiqué.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_1_BICG

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_1_BICG_presentation

5.2 Advisory Group on Social Dimension (AG1)

The Croatian AG1 Co-chair presented the first part of the report, focusing on the “Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA” (PAGs), their structure and definition. These definitions should not be taken as legal definitions but rather as working guidelines for countries when addressing the Social Dimension aspect. As agreed in the BFUG meeting in Helsinki, while the starting points for the definition of social dimension were the 2007 London, 2015 Yerevan and 2018 Paris communiqués, in the new PAGs, a glossary of terms has been added, and as agreed, the definition is being broadened, introducing a new element. Social dimension encompasses the creation of inclusive environments in higher education that foster equity, diversity, and are responsive to the needs of local communities. Social Dimension should be integrated in the core higher education mission and governance. The ESU AG1 Co-chair informed the BFUG about the new cycle of consultations, following the discussions at the BFUG meeting in Helsinki and feedback received from 9 members of the BFUG. The suggestions were taken into consideration and included in the PAGs, which were presented and well received at the AG1’s 5th meeting in Copenhagen as well as by the Board at its meeting in Zagreb. AG1 has worked at a fast pace to put the PAGs together and suggest some recommendation for the future. For the 2020-2023 period, AG1 should be established as a

group in which peer support can be implemented, and the adopted PAGs be monitored. Another recommendation by the AG1 regards thematic country review on the Social Dimension. The AG1 recommends organizing a conference on the Social Dimension at the end of the next working period in order to make sure that the PAGs are not only adopted now by the ministers, but also implemented in the coming years. The Social Dimension has been on the EHEA agenda for a long time, but the results have not been satisfactory so far.

Discussants appreciated the fact that even though the Social Dimension has been a topic for a long time, this time there is significant improvement as the PAGs are a practical step forward and the glossary part of the PAGs was welcomed. It was suggested that AG1 revise Principle 7 and principle 9 (editorial rewriting). Principle 4 was discussed in regard to data collection and the privacy laws, suggesting the rewording of the Principle, by adding “within the national regulation”. The definition of underrepresented students, as appears on the PAGs, was discussed and it was suggested that it should be explicitly mentioned. All discussants were kindly asked to forward their comments to the AG1 Co-chairs, in order to facilitate their inclusion in the PAGs. The revised final report of the AG1 should be submitted to the BFUG, indicating the revisions clearly, and approved without needing to include it as an item on the agenda for the BFUG Meeting in Split on 4-5 May 2020.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_2_AG1

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_2_AG1_PAGs

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_2_AG1_presentation

5.3 Advisory Group 2 on Learning and Teaching (AG2)

The AG2 Co-chair (The Netherlands) presented the state of the work of the AG2 on Learning & Teaching and the three themes included in the Recommendations presented: a) make student centred learning a reality; b) foster the continuous enhancement of teaching and c) strengthen institutional and systems' capacity to enhance learning and teaching. All three topics include recommendations at institutional and national level. AG2 asked the BFUG not to close the discussions on the Recommendation document in this meeting, considering that AG2 would like to have their final discussions internally prior to forwarding the final report to the BFUG. In its meeting in Zagreb, the Board recommended that AG2 shorten their Report, in order to annex it to the Communiqué. Therefore, AG2 presented two versions of the Report to the BFUG. The document is still a work in progress. AG2 is proposing also a workshop on L&T at the Global Summit on Higher Education in Rome, presenting the Recommendations. AG2 asked the BFUG to agree on including the Recommendations as Annex to the Communiqué, with a short reference made to it in the text of the Communiqué.

The BFUG welcomed the idea of a shorter version of the Recommendations, giving a clear and precise message. The document is a step forward and many issues in it are identified as important. For some discussants, however, the shorter version has not become more concrete than the previous one which contained better, more concrete recommendations.

There is a need to stress more in the Recommendations the role of teachers and the importance of their being supported by the entire higher education system. It is necessary to begin a continuous process as well as to foresee a review in three years to make sure the Recommendations are understood and implemented. The reference to future skills and open education are welcomed in order to improve learning and teaching and better including disadvantaged groups in lifelong learning. Pedagogical skills received insufficient attention and their being mentioned in the Recommendations is welcome. Best practice examples should be broadened to cover the entire EHEA, including examples from as many countries as possible. AG2 should take advantage of the discussions in order to reintegrate what has been erased. In regard to student-centred learning, AG2 was asked to note that the Draft Communiqué is stronger than the prepared recommendations in several aspects, while the Communiqué and the Report should support each other. The longer version of the document should be presented as a background document. AG2 should submit the final report to the BFUG meeting in Split, on 4-5 May 2020 for discussion.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_3_AG2

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_3_AG2_Annex_Communique

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_3_AG2_presentation

5.4 Working Group 1 on Monitoring (WG1) including the Task Force for future monitoring of values

WG1 Co-chair (EURYDICE) presented the work of WG1, focusing on the preparation of the 2020 BPIR report, a draft of which had been sent two weeks before to the BFUG. It is still work in progress and needs to be further developed. The current version showed what the final version would look like, with 6 chapters focusing on: key data and issues in the EHEA: degree structure, QA, recognition, social dimension, internationalization, and future challenges. The report will give not only a snapshot of the present situation but also a view of its background, providing historical, narrative, statistical, and qualitative indicators for the last 20 years. WG1 has been planning, guiding and overseeing the development of the report during the brief 2018-2020 period. Corrections and comments from the BFUG are welcome, within the deadline. Several BFUG countries were asked to review their national data, which has been forwarded to WG1. WG1 cannot correct the data taken from Eurostat, which is supplied by national statistical offices, as this is beyond the control of the WG1. The draft with integrated comments will be ready as a prefinal version for the BFUG meeting in Split, while the final version will be published the week of the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference in June 2020 [*Comment post meeting: postponed to November due to Covid-19 pandemic*].

Overall, the BFUG praised the work completed and the quality of the report, even though it was compiled in a short time. A point raised for discussions regarded the key findings on internationalization, which seems to be negative, especially when considered in the light of both the social dimension and mobility. Internationalization has made higher education more attractive although this may not be clear from the data.

The EURYDICE Co-chair of WG1 also presented the work of the Task Force (TF), a subgroup established by the BFUG under the WG1 having three objectives; a) consider how fundamental values can be clearly understood across the EHEA and suggest a common understanding, b) propose a methodology for future reporting, c) recommend indicators for fundamental values, the evidence required to assess them, and the source for the evidence.

As was agreed in its 1st meeting, the work of the TF focused on the fundamental values specified in the Paris Communiqué. Among the fundamental values, the TF chose to prioritize establishing a common understanding of academic freedom, given the short time until the Rome Ministerial Conference and the fact that this is the least well explored of the values indicated in the Paris Communiqué. The TF proposed the inclusion of a short text in the Communiqué, reaffirming the commitment to promoting and protecting the fundamental values through dialogue, development of a framework for effective monitoring, adopting a common understanding of academic freedom supported by an explanatory statement to be annexed to the Communiqué. The TF Report was drafted based on the proposals made and was received positively at the BFUG meeting in Helsinki. The TF also discussed what the approach to future work should be and proposed that the TF should become a working group rather than a subgroup. The TF report presented in the BFUG meeting in Kyiv is the same as the one presented at the BFUG meeting in Helsinki, and TF asked the BFUG to adopt the report as it is.

The report was commented on as being pioneering in many ways. One member commented that the text, which would become an annex to the Communiqué, was too long and should be shortened and restructured to avoid repetitions. Another suggestion regarded the definition of “reprisal” with a request to add “financial implications”; the suggestion was not taken on board because the word ‘reprisal’ itself includes financial implications. The TF was asked to comment on the question of the ESG and QA agencies with regard to the fundamental values: this is addressed in the long version of the report but not in the short one. As no comments had been given at the Helsinki BFUG meeting, the Task Force had decided to resubmit the text unchanged to the Zagreb Board meeting, where there had also been no comments. The BFUG now adopted the text as presented. Neither those present nor those participating through web streaming objected to this suggestion.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_4_WG1

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_4_WG1_TF_Report_to_the_BFUG

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_4_WG1_TF_Progress_Report

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_5_4_WG1_presentation

6. Rome Ministerial Communiqué and Bologna Global Policy Statement

6.1 Discussion on micro-credentials

A short paper on micro-credentials was presented by the European Commission, which also informed the BFUG about a two-year project led by the Belgium-Flemish Community,

and which will have its first meeting on 30 March. The information was appreciated by the BFUG, which nevertheless discussed whether the topic of micro-credentials should be included in the visionary Communiqué, which is expected to set the main topics for the next decade and to address the urgent needs already existing in higher education institutions. Some delegations thought it may be too soon to include it – especially as there is no commonly agreed definition for it – and many countries do not yet know how to implement micro-credentials, how to handle them with regard to the ESG and QF, and how they should be recognized. Others felt micro-credentials should be mentioned and that the need to explore how micro-credentials should articulate with other EHEA tools should be emphasized. Wording to this effect were suggested under the discussion of the draft Communiqué, item 6.2.

It was suggested to propose in the Communiqué a working group on micro-credentials which, in the next working period (2020-2023) can contribute to understanding how these smaller pieces of learning can be included in the EHEA, whether the Bologna tools (ESG, ECTS and QF) can describe them and support their uptake and recognition. and how EHEA tools used for them or adapted for them. UK (Scotland) expressed the will to contribute in further discussions as micro-credentials are already implemented in their country.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_6_1_Micro-credentials

6.2 Draft 2020 Rome Communiqué

The BFUG Vice-chair, in her capacity of coordinator of the Drafting Committee (DC), informed the BFUG about the work carried out so far by the DC on introducing Draft 2, sent out to BFUG for comments and proposals on 19 February 2020. The main points raised regarded the “vision” section of the Draft Communiqué: some delegations indicated that this section should be shorter, better connected to the rest of the text; there was discussion as to whether some parts of the current version should be shifted to the Implementation section; it was generally accepted that only the PAGs on Social Dimension of the AG1 and, if accepted in the final form, the Recommendations of the AG2 on Learning & Teaching should be added to the Communiqué as annexes, while the reports from other groups should be added as “background documents”. All the general and particular comments made on the screened document, and the ones received in written form by the participants that could not attend the meeting, were to be discussed and taken into account during the DC meeting the following day for the elaboration of Draft 3.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_6_2_Draft_2_Rome_Communique

6.3 Draft Bologna Global Policy Statement

The BFUG Vice-chair as Co-chair of Coordination Group 1 (CG1) on Global Policy Dialogue informed that the document would certainly be modified considering that important suggestions had been presented after it had already been published on the EHEA website in view of the Kyiv BFUG meeting. During the discussion, the fact that the

people committing to this document would be different from the ones committing to the Rome Communiqué, should be made clear. Some participants suggested that the document should be in line with the Communiqué.

It was proposed to include in the document the 6 topics that will be discussed in the Bologna Global Policy Forum in Rome on 24 June 2020. [*Comment post meeting: postponed to November due to Covid-19 pandemic*].

The discussion hinged on whether the proposals for ensuring continuity were realistic; whereas the proposal to create a new status for the 'friends of Bologna' was considered unclear and likely to offend some non-EHEA countries. Comments on the wording and suggestions for small changes were made, and it was agreed that a new version will be made by the CG1 subgroup in charge of the work of this document after considering the points raised during the meeting.

Participants were asked to send the written proposals to the Secretariat, that will forward it to the Co-chairs of the subgroup in order to facilitate the redrafting work.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_6_3_Draft_Bologna_Global_Policy_Statement

7. Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference and Bologna Global Policy Forum

7.1 Tentative Programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference

The Head of the BFUG Secretariat presented the Draft Programme for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference that will be held in the mornings of the 24 and 25 June 2020 [*Comment post meeting: postponed to November due to Covid-19 pandemic*]. The programme for the Ministerial Conference as planned will give the opportunity to each EHEA participating Minister to have two minutes to address their message to the Ministerial Conference. The conference will be opened and chaired by the Italian Minister, and the Communiqué will be read. In addition, there will be several keynote speakers and the Consultative members will have a space for interventions, and the next BFUG Secretariat and EHEA Ministerial Conference 2023 will be presented.

The BFUG was informed that in order to register for the Conference, each BFUG delegation must mandate one representative who will receive a code for registering the entire delegation to the Ministerial Conference and the other activities taking place.

Attention was brought to the fact that the EHEA Ministers were invited by the former Italian Minister for Education, University and Research. The BFUG countries were kindly asked to inform the BFUG Secretariat in case their own Minister has changed, and an updated invitation is needed. The BFUG Secretariat also informed that the non-EHEA countries have been invited, based on the list of the countries agreed electronically by the BFUG. The official language of the Conference will be English, and interpretation will be made into French, Spanish and Russian, as the languages of the UNESCO Europe Region. Germany asked for interpretation to and from German. The BFUG Secretariat asked for an official letter in order to be able to take this request into consideration.

The discussion touched several aspects of the draft programme, such as the need for a structure that can guarantee interaction and encourage debate in the plenary session with the Ministers, and the need to divide the sessions according to theme. It is also necessary to explain clearly the number and the composition of the delegations in the registration form: a text describing the registration process should be circulated; a student representative should be added to each official delegation and funding provided for their participation; furthermore, research should be connected to the BP developments.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_7_1_Ministerial_Conference_2020_draft_programme

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_7_1_Ministerial_Conference_BGPF

7.2 Bologna Global Policy Forum

The Bologna Global Policy Forum will take place in the afternoon of the 24th June 2020 and Ministerial delegations from all over the world will be invited [*Comment post meeting: postponed to November due to Covid-19 pandemic*].

In this Forum the Bologna Global Policy Statement will be read and approved, and 6 parallel sessions will be organised on the following topics:

- Innovation, new skills and their link to employability.
- New (digital) ways of learning and teaching in a lifelong learning context.
- Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge.
- Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees.
- Inclusion as a driver for excellence.
- Building trust in a global context.

7.3 Global Summit on HE and other events

The Draft Programme of the Global Summit on HE was presented by the Head of the BFUG Secretariat. Around 20-30 workshops, divided in 4 Slots, will be organized in the afternoon of the 25th and the entire day of the 26th June 2020, back-to-back with the Ministerial Conference [*Comment post meeting: postponed to November due to Covid-19 pandemic*]. The parallel workshop sessions will be preceded by an opening session on the theme “On which values do we build our higher education?” and finalised by a closing session where the Consultative members presidents will be invited to speak and reflect on the next decade of the EHEA.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_7_3_Global_Summit_HE_draft_programme

8. Application from the Republic of San Marino to join the EHEA

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Group (Finland), gave an update on the meeting with the San Marino representatives on 19 February 2020 in Rome. The meeting was held in a positive atmosphere, enabling an open and constructive discussion on the issues missing in the national report received from San Marino, especially on the part regarding fundamental

values. The national report does not give enough information and needs to be revised on the basis of the group's advice by 24 March 2020. The Ad Hoc Group decided to update the National Report template so that it could be used for future applications as well. San Marino would join the EHEA 21 years the Bologna Process began and 10 years after the establishment of the EHEA, which means that the present EHEA has had a long time to develop its common objectives and goals. Discussions with San Marino raised the possibility of admission to the EHEA with a road map. The Ad Hoc Group will send a recommendation to the BFUG and a recommendation to Ministers on whether to admit San Marino should be made at the Split BFUG meeting.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_8_Ad_Hoc_San_Marino_Report

9. Report from the Bologna Process Researchers' Conference

The fifth edition of the Bologna Process Researchers' Conference, organized by the Romanian Ministry of Education with four Romanian universities., took place in January 2020. The conference was attended by around 170 participants from EHEA countries. The five themes were a) Furthering the internationalization of higher education: particular challenges in the EHEA, b) Access and success for every learner in higher education, c) Advancing learning and teaching in the EHEA: innovation, links with research, and cooperation with the ERA, d) The future of the EHEA – principles, challenges and ways forward, e) Bologna Process in the global higher education arena. Going digital?

The publication *European Higher Education Area: Challenges for a New Decade* will be an open publication, available to everyone interested. At the Conference there was a very interesting debate on all the topics and on different policies implemented at national and international level. The report will be circulated to the BFUG as soon as it is ready.

10. BFUG Co-chairing and Vice-chairing arrangements

The Head of the BFUG Secretariat presented the case outlined in the document presented, that is when a country providing the BFUG Vice-chair because it hosts the BFUG Secretariat and the Ministerial Conference, and therefore should also be a BFUG Co-chair during that period. The case already was discussed under agenda item 4, giving a solution in case of a non-EU country. The issue becomes more complicated in case an EU country presents its candidature for the BFUG Secretariat and the Ministerial Conference for a period in which it will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU. As agreed, if Albania is selected to host the 2020-2023 BFUG Secretariat and the 2023 Ministerial Conference, its co-chairmanship will slide down on the non-EU co-chairing list.

Attachment: BFUG_HR_UA_69_10_BFUG_Co_chairing

During the opening of the 2nd day of the BFUG meeting in Kyiv, the Croatian Co-chair informed the BFUG participants that as agreed one day before, the agenda was reshuffled and three feedbacks from BFUG members attending the meeting through web streaming had arrived to the BFUG Secretariat. The feedback of Italy regarded the items discussed during the 1st day while comments of France and Switzerland regarded the Draft

Communiqué. Both comments were forwarded to the Drafting Committee and would be considered in the meeting of the group the following day.

11. Updates from the Consultative Members (in writing)

The reports from the BFUG Consultative members are uploaded on the [EHEA web site](#).

12. AOB

As there were no other issues raised for discussion, the Ukrainian and the Croatian Co-chairs closed the meeting by thanking all participants for attending, for the fruitful discussions and active participation.