Update from the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)
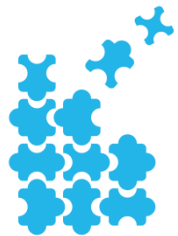
BFUG Meeting LXXX
Strasbourg
11,12 April 2022

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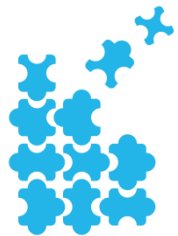Higher Education Area

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Summary

The BICG (composition, aims, meetings)
The TPGs (composition, aims, actions, meetings)
Challenges and concerns (matters for discussion and reflection)

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The BICG (2021-2024): Composition

Co-chairs
Austria, Bulgaria, Italy

Members
Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; European Commission; Italy; Romania; EUA - European University Association; EURASHE, plus one Co-chair of each of the following:
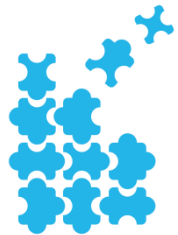
      Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework and ECTS;

      Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention and DS;

      Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance;

An observer from the Working Group on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process participates in the meetings.

The BICG is to be composed in a way representing the diversity of the EHEA and ensuring a balance of expertise across all key commitments.

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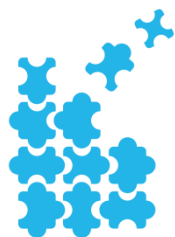process

From the Terms of Reference of the BICG:
http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_PT_AD_ToRs.pdf

Overall purpose: "The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the three Key Commitments**"**

In order to do this: the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, 'keeps an overview', and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs

Its activities and those of the Thematic Peer Groups build on the accomplishments and findings of the previous work period and the recommendations formulated in 2020.

The BICG "reports to the BFUG on overall progress", suggests any further actions to falicilitate full implementation of the Key Commitments, and in due time will formulate further recommendations.

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Meetings of the BICG 1/2:

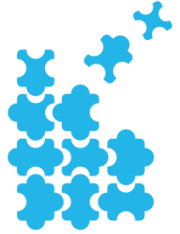**1. First Meeting of the BICG, 10 May 2021, online**
The 2021-2024 Work Plan (Terms of Reference, deliverables and meeting schedule);
The draft Guidelines for the TPGs; Status Quo Implementation of KCs; European
Commission support for TPGs under the Erasmus+ Program; Next steps.
http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG%20_PT_AD_1_Agenda.pdf

2. Second Meeting of the BICG, 1 October 2021, online
Update 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/.
http://ehea.info/Upload/BICG_SI_AM_2_Agenda.pdf

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Meetings of the BICG 2/2:

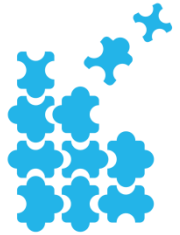**3. Third Meeting of the BICG, 21 January 2022, online**
Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Umbrella Projects and update on EC support, update from the TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' workplans/discussion
[BICG_3_21_01_2022 Agenda -converted.pdf (ehea.info)](BICG_3_21_01_2022 Agenda -converted.pdf)

4. Fourth Meeting of the BICG, 29 March 2022, online
Update from the Secretariat, the BICG Co-Chairs; Update on EC-Support on TPG Umbrella projects, Update from TPGs Co-Chairs; TPG Countries' workplan, discussion
[Draft Agenda BICG, Fourth meeting.pdf (ehea.info)](Draft Agenda BICG, Fourth meeting.pdf)

Next meeting: 4 October 10-13, 2022, online

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

The Thematic Peer Groups: overall state of affairs:

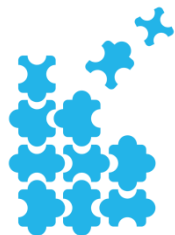Composition and the structures of each Peer Group have been established

Terms of Reference and guidelines approved

Meetings held: first and second meetings held, next meetings in May, June 2022.

All TPGs submitted Umbrella Projects for EC support → all TPGs receive support; grant agreements to be prepared

All TPG workplans were submitted by end of October

Countries were to submit their workplans by January 2022: most have done so.

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TPG A

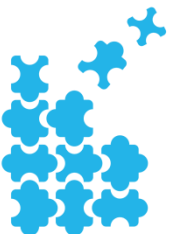**Co-chairs:** Austria, Georgia, Latvia

Members – 35

30 countries
5 organisations

Umbrella Project: QUATRA –TPG A Qualifications Frameworks for Trust, Transparency and Diversity

Partners:
Academic Information Centre (Latvia) – Coordinator,
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (Austria) – Partner,
Agency for Education and Internationalization (Austria) – Partner,
Ministry of Education and Research (Estonia) – Partner,
National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement (Georgia) – Associated Partner
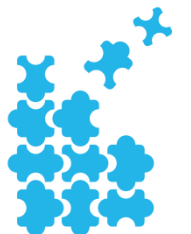
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TPG A:

Specific thematic indications include:

Self-certification of the national qualification frameworks to the overarching Qualifications Framework of the EHEA,
Complete implementation of the ECTS User's 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,
micro-credentials,
learning outcomes,
databases, registers, digitalization.

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

TPG A - actions

4 TPG A meetings – June 2021, November 2021 (online), May, June 2022 (face-to-face),
Autumn 2022, Riga, Latvia

4 PLA meetings:
Micro-credentials and use of QF by stakeholders – Autumn 2022, Riga, Latvia
Implementation of Qualification Frameworks and ECTS – Focus on Learning Outcomes – Spring
2023, Vienna, Austria
Self-certification – Autumn 2023, Tblisi, Georgia
Assessment of learning outcomes on programme level – Spring 2024 - Tallinn, Estonia
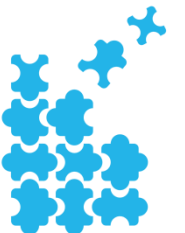
3 working groups:
Micro-credentials
Self-certification
Short Cycle Higher Education

Survey among members of TPG regarding work plans
Work plans submitted so far: 18 of 29/30

TPG B

Co-chairs: Albania, France, Italy

Members – 46

38 countries
8 organisations
Umbrella project: TPG-LRC Constructing Recognition in the EHEA **(TPG-LRC CoRE)**
Partners: CIMEA – Italy,
Albania – associated partner,
HARNO – Estonia,
FEI – France,
Nuffic – Netherlands,
Swedish Council for Higher Education – Sweden,
ESU,
EQAR,
EUA

TPG B

Specific thematic indications include:
- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC;
- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures;
- Achieving automatic recognition;
- Recognition of alternative pathways;
- Ensuring the fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees;
- Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.

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

TPG B - actions

- Seven TPG B meetings -   sharing of achievements reached so far and further steps
- **Three public seminars** – facilitating stakeholder engagement and improving cooperation
- **Ad-hoc peer support** and **staff mobility** - based on the needs expressed by the TPG members
- **Survey** among members of TPG regarding work plans – **38** country profiles **completed**

First Meeting: 14 September 2021, online
Second Meeting: 18 January 2022, online
Third Meeting: 8-10 June 2022, Paris/Sèvres/FR (Consortium and TPG B meeting, public seminar on RPL/validation of non-formal learning)

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

TPG C

Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Romania, Kazakhstan

Members – 47

40 countries
7 organisations

Umbrella project: IMINQA – Implementation and Innovation in Quality Assurance through peer learning
Partners: Be/FL,
ARACIS – Romania,
ENQA, EQAR,
KAZ Co-chair - involved as expert;
other experts from EUA and Romania

TPG C

Specific thematic indications include:

Legislative framework in line with the ESG

Internal quality assurance

Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG

The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Cross-border Quality Assurance

Quality assurance of micro-credentials

Quality assurance of European Universities

Digitalisation of quality assurance processes

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

TPG C

6 TPG meetings for all members (4 physical, 2 online meetings): 30 June 2021 – online, 17,18 May 2022, Leuven, Be-FL, November 2022 – online

3 PLAs:

Aligning the legal framework with the ESG, Sept. 2022, Be-FL),

Cross-border QA (CBQA) and QA of transnational education (TNE), March 2023, RO

Cross-border QA of the European Approach and QA of joint programmes, Sept. 23, BE

3 Thematic WPs:

QA of Micro-credentials (ENQA) -> establishment WG April-May 2022, first meeting Sept 2022 (BE), guiding documents for HEIs and QAA, DEQAR
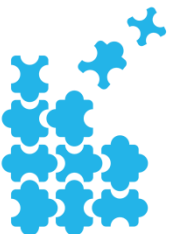
QA of European Universities (BE) -> establishment WG April-May 2022, first meeting June (BE, online), analysis of legal obstacles, feasibility study, 2PLAs

Digitalisation of QA processes (RO) -> start mapping April-May 2022, thematic workshop to discuss outcomes

Staff mobility programme – call for proposals May, June 2022; match-making September 2022, mobilities Nov. 2022 – Feb. 2024

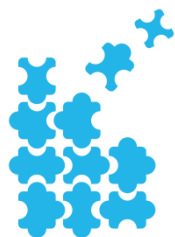Survey among members of TPG regarding **work plans** (26 of 43 sent work plans)

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

Challenges, topics of discussion and reflection

In a generally positive context, matters for discussion and consideration are:
  - how to **improve participation** in the TPG activities
  - how to **stimulate less active countries**
  - how to **ensure**
      - that **both** those **needing support** and those **willing to give** it participate fully and pro-actively
      - that the **'basics' of the Key Commitments** continue to be at the **centre** of the TPGs' attention, while not stifling the natural desire to focus on 'trendy' (but also relevant and important) side issues
      - **coordination within countries**

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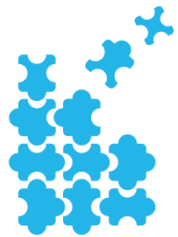Higher Education Area

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On behalf of the BICG

Helga Posset (Austria)
Ivana Radonova (Bulgaria)
Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy)

Thank you!

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