



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
TƏHSİL NAZİRLİYİ

Task Force Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in EHEA

Second Meeting, Online*
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
13:00-16:00 (CEST)

Minutes

List of Participants

No	Country	Name	Last Name
1	Albania (Co-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
2	Belgium Flemish Community	Magalie	Soenen
3	ESU - European Students' Union	Jakub	Grodecki
4	European Commission	Kinga	Szuly
5	EUA - European University Association	Gohar	Hovhannisyan
6	Germany	David	Akrami Flores
7	Italy (Co-Chair)	Luca	Lantero
8	Italy	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
9	Malta	Adam	Liwak
10	The Netherlands	Robert	Wagenaar
11	Romania (Co-Chair)	Daniela Cristina	Ghițulică
12	Romania	Horia	Onita
13	United Kingdom	John	Reilly
14	BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Oltion	Rrumbullaku
15	BFUG Secretariat	Kristina	Metallari
16	BFUG Secretariat	Patrik	Bardhi

EQAR and EURASHE did not attend the meeting.

1. Welcome remarks

The Co-Chairs welcomed everybody to the second meeting of the 2021-2024 work period and underlined the main objective of this meeting to finalize the draft Action Plan, to be submitted to the BFUG.

During the tour de table the members introduced themselves and informed the group on their respective roles within the institutions they represented.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

For more detailed information, please see [TF Knowledge Sharing FR AZ 2 Agenda](#)

3. Information on recent developments

Luca Lantero (Co-Chair) presented an overview of the discussions at the BFUG Meeting 78 on December 1-2, 2021, where it was explained that the Terms of Reference (ToR) were distributed to BFUG members and consultative members, comments were received, and the ToR were changed accordingly, with the TF duration being for the entire working period until 2024. Consequently, the BFUG decided to ask the TF to draft an action plan, and to discuss and decide on the TF's duration at the next BFUG meeting.

Cristina Ghitulică (Co-Chair) and Linda Pustina (Co-Chair) emphasized the need of presenting the Work Plan first, to determine activities to be completed with respective deadlines, and decide on the TF duration consequently.

4. Presentation of the "Bologna teacher" competition

Horia Onița introduced himself as President of the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANOSR) and provided an overview of the organization, and of its activities related to the implementation of the Bologna Process in Romania.

Mr. Onita presented the "Bologna Teacher Gala" project, aimed to promote student-centered learning and good practices regarding Learning & Teaching, and to create a community of professors actively involved in promoting the Bologna process principles and tools.

This initiative was greatly perceived by the members, specifically as it involved students from the beginning of the process until the end. Several recommendations were offered to take such a project forward within the context of this TF and the Bologna Process:

- Consider examples of teacher prizes from other countries or initiatives of European Commission to further develop the concept;
- Carefully reflect on how the initiative could be expanded to a European concept, including considerations about the need of funding and administration of such an initiative;
- Conveying information on the components/tools/liberties provided by the Bologna Process on a national level, as students today lack visibility and sufficient knowledge of the Bologna Process concept and what it offers on an institutional and national level;
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- In addition to the Commission's assistance via Erasmus+ calls and large-scale promotion, countries ought to take ownership of the Bologna Process and complete the required steps in-house to promote the Bologna Process communication.

Cristina Ghitulică (Co-Chair) underlined key aspects to be retained when developing and/or proposing different types of actions. Different actors ought to be involved in one activity (i.e., students, professors). A suggestion is for the European Students' Union – ESU to lead such an initiative on the European level. Secondly, the actions to be developed should not focus on promoting the Bologna Process in general terms. Instead, focus should be placed on identifying and promoting specific policies, actions and activities associated with the process. When a project is developed with a defined goal and logo, it gains individuality and a focus on certain target groups, allowing it to be implemented on a much bigger scale. It's also worth noting that there's a sense of continuity after the prizes are given out, with professors being part of a community that continues to discuss Bologna Process-related matters.

For more information, please see: [ANOSR: Bologna Teacher Competition](#)

5. Presentation of the draft Action Plan: Discussions

Cristina Ghitulică (Co-Chair) provided an overview of the draft Action Plan, which considered the tasks from the Terms of Reference, as well of activities that have been included in the IN-GLOBAL project proposal, which was presented in the previous meeting.

The tasks to be completed require the involvement of TF members, as well as BFUG members and consultative members. As the IN-GLOBAL project proposal includes funding for several activities in the draft Action Plan, such as the data, communication, and higher education expert, if it is not approved, some activities would be removed, amended or completed at a smaller scale. It was underlined that the action plan needs to be finalized and presented at the next BFUG meeting.

The tasks listed in the draft Action Plan were reviewed and potential activities were proposed respectively:

1. Map national approaches and practices of collaboration and sharing knowledge related to the development and implementation of Bologna policy goals, to identify successful actions.

A survey was held in the 2018-2020 working period on "The Future of the EHEA", with the participation of BFUG members and consultative members. The previous BFUG Secretariat had produced a report based on the survey results, which the TF opted to build on by reviewing and conducting an in-depth analysis.

The Co-Chairs proposed to develop a survey to be sent to BFUG members and consultative members by April 2022, with the goal of gathering information and examples of good practice, and determining areas that the TF can provide support. Further, TF members would work on building an inventory of different studies/articles/reports that are not directly related to the Bologna Process but rather on how the BFUG is seen at various levels, as well as presenting activities targeted at increasing Bologna Process awareness. Finally, a report based on the survey outcomes and inventories would be delivered with a June 2022 deadline for presenting findings and a November 2022 as the deadline for finalizing the report.

"The Future of the EHEA" findings would have to be summarized in a way that's reverential of the privacy agreements among countries made at that time. It was also stressed that this action is a precursor and should be completed preferably sooner than the initial deadline (June 2022). Thus, a short review that would be explicitly focused on feeding into the second and third tasks could be delivered ahead of schedule.

In order to avoid overlapping with the activities of the BICG and TPGs, it was suggested to include in the survey those parts of the Bologna Process that are not necessarily and/or completely connected to the Key Commitments.

Information regarding the country's reforms and initiatives, as well as how they are being implemented, might also be included in the survey questions. It was also suggested that the survey be conducted on a national and institutional level.

A remark was made in regards to the survey of member countries, that it might not be the ideal way to obtain data as there is a discrepancy between what is offered in the Bologna Process and what is implemented at the national level. With countries not presenting the exact challenges, the level of transparency may become an issue, resulting in a failure to collect reliable and valid data from the survey. Subsequently, it was proposed that, in addition to surveys, focus groups that include stakeholders be organized under task 2.

2. Explore how 'Bologna' and the EHEA are perceived by the various stakeholders in the national contexts.

In relation to the first activity of this task, namely the development and application of an online survey aimed at individuals (i.e., students, academic staff, researchers, HEI management, employers, etc.), it was proposed to create pilot focus groups to help structure and develop the online survey.

It was mentioned that the target groups of the respondents to the survey should be reviewed, as collecting large amounts of data may not be feasible for the TF, given the potential resources to be invested, as well as the impact and use that such responses may have.

The online survey' focus was highlighted, to share best practices and models in regards to the implementation of the Bologna Process instruments. For instance, capacity building initiatives (e.g., with BFUG experts, DAAD, etc.) could be prioritized to organize trainings and conferences for institutions and countries. Moreover, through the identification of challenges that stakeholders and national authorities face, the TF can offer means of support at a European level.

3. Propose to the BFUG ways to make the Bologna Process and its reform goals better understood and more transparent at national, institutional and individual level.

Based on the conclusions derived from Tasks 1) and 2), Ms. Ghitulica added that recommendations to the BFUG members will be prepared to encourage active participation of the academic community, while also taking into account the specific needs of countries. As a result, once the data from the preceding tasks has been gathered, the TF will develop these recommendations.

It was advised that this activity be started earlier, on an experimental basis, rather than wait for the report from Task 1 to be entirely completed. Based on the information acquired along the way, the TF could prepare interim reports and provide recommendations to the BFUG members. The deadline for this activity was changed from July 2023 to end of 2022, as a potential completion date.

4. Identify measures to enhance collaboration between individual countries and groups of countries that enable them to learn from and support each other in sharing knowledge more effectively within the EHEA community.

It was emphasized that recommendations for BFUG members will be produced, taking into account specific aspects related to regional cooperation, based on reports submitted in Tasks 1) and 2), with this activity expected to be completed by 2023.

5. Organize events or initiatives aiming at spreading information and creating dialogue about the Bologna process and/or support members in organizing such events at national or transnational level.

The Co-Chairs encouraged TF members to propose new activities, aimed at disseminating information and creating dialogue about the Bologna process:

- Enlisting the support of the networks of Bologna Process experts to assist in the dissemination of Bologna Process information in their local and national communities;

- Targeted consultation (i.e., training series, targeted meetings) with stakeholders/ministries to be conducted also at a local level, with the help of the governments;
- Newsletter regarding developments, events etc. related to the Bologna process.

The translation of the Rome communique into all EHEA languages was discussed as not being measurable in terms of effective benefits. It was explained that this activity was included within the IN-GLOBAL project, thus if the project proposal is rejected, the completion of this activity will have to be assessed.

It was suggested that podcasts be included as a new item to Activity 3 (Series of TV/radio reportages on topics related to the Bologna Process), due to the opportunity to choose numerous topics and enabling more flexibility. The support required from the BFUG Secretariat was underlined in order to implement some of the activities.

For more information, please see: [Draft Action Plan](#)

6. Conclusions & AoB

It was established that the Action Plan will be reviewed by the Co-Chairs, and a revised version will be sent via email to the members to work on electronically.

The Co-Chairs and the BFUG Secretariat arranged to discuss on potential activities and subsequent tasks to undertake jointly, to enhance the work of the TF.

As no other business was brought forward, the second meeting of the TF on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA was concluded.