



Ministry of Education, Culture and
Science of the Netherlands



Ministry of Education
of the Republic of Moldova

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Terms of Reference

of

the Working Group on New Goals – Policy development for new EHEA goals (WG 3)

<p>Name of the Working Group</p> <p>Working Group on New goals – Policy development for new EHEA goals</p>
<p>Contact persons (proposed Co-Chairs)</p> <p>Andreas KELLER – EI/ETUCE (andreas.keller@gew.de)</p> <p>Fernando GALAN – ESU (fernando.galan@esu-online.org)</p> <p>Jean Pierre FINANCE – France (Jean-pierre.finance@cpu.fr)</p> <p>Nadezda KAMYNNINA – Russian Federation (kamyninan@gmail.com)</p> <p>Albin GAUNT – Sweden (albin.gaunt@gov.se)</p>
<p>Composition of the WG</p> <p>Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium Fr, Belgium VL, Bulgaria, Croatia, EI/ETUCE, ESU, EU Commission, EUA, EURASHE, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Netherland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom.⁽¹²³⁾</p>
<p>Purpose and/or outcome</p> <p>To explore potential new priorities for the future of the EHEA beyond 2020 starting from the goals mentioned in the Yerevan Communiqué, the WG coordinates a programme of actions (conference, seminar, pathfinder group, workshop, etc) on topics focussed on new ideas with a European perspective that are organised by countries, institutions and/or organisations. The actions shall contribute to policy development and may provide policy recommendations. The Working Group shall discuss the outcomes of the different actions and produce policy recommendations.</p>
<p>Reference to the Yerevan Communiqué</p> <p>➤ Today, the EHEA faces serious challenges. [...] The EHEA has a key role to play in addressing these</p>

¹ Liaison with AG 3 on “Dealing with non-implementation”

² Liaison with WG 2 on “Implementation – Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments”

³ Liaison with AG 1 on “EHEA international cooperation”

challenges and maximizing these opportunities through European collaboration and exchange, by pursuing common goals and in dialogue with partners around the globe. We must renew our original vision [...].

➤ **A renewed vision: our priorities**

[...] We will support higher education institutions in enhancing their efforts to promote intercultural understanding, critical thinking, political and religious tolerance, gender equality, and democratic and civic values, in order to strengthen European and global citizenship and lay the foundations for inclusive societies. We will also strengthen the links between the EHEA and the European Research Area.

➤ **Enhancing the quality and relevance of learning and teaching** is the main mission of the EHEA. We will encourage and support higher education institutions and staff in promoting pedagogical innovation in student-centred learning environments and in fully exploiting the potential benefits of digital technologies for learning and teaching. We will promote a stronger link between teaching, learning and research at all study levels, and provide incentives for institutions, teachers and students to intensify activities that develop creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Study programmes should enable students to develop the competences that can best satisfy personal aspirations and societal needs, through effective learning activities. These should be supported by transparent descriptions of learning outcomes and workload, flexible learning paths and appropriate teaching and assessment methods. It is essential to recognize and support quality teaching, and to provide opportunities for enhancing academics' teaching competences. Moreover, we will actively involve students, as full members of the academic community, as well as other stakeholders, in curriculum design and in quality assurance.

➤ **Fostering the employability of graduates throughout their working lives** in rapidly changing labour markets - characterized by technological developments, the emergence of new job profiles, and increasing opportunities for employment and self-employment - is a major goal of the EHEA. We need to ensure that, at the end of each study cycle, graduates possess competences suitable for entry into the labour market which also enable them to develop the new competences they may need for their employability later in throughout their working lives. We will support higher education institutions in exploring diverse measures to reach these goals, e.g. by strengthening their dialogue with employers, implementing programmes with a good balance between theoretical and practical components, fostering the entrepreneurship and innovation skills of students and following graduates' career developments. We will promote international mobility for study and placement as a powerful means to expand the range of competences and the work options for students.

➤ **Making our systems more inclusive** is an essential aim for the EHEA as our populations become more and more diversified, also due to immigration and demographic changes. We undertake to widen participation in higher education and support institutions that provide relevant learning activities in appropriate contexts for different types of learners, including lifelong learning. We will improve permeability and articulation between different education sectors. We will enhance the social dimension of higher education, improve gender balance and widen opportunities for access and completion, including international mobility, for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We will provide mobility opportunities for students and staff from conflict areas, while working to make it possible for them to return home once conditions allow. We also wish to promote the mobility of teacher education students in view of the important role they will play in educating future generations of Europeans.

➤ We will [...] enable those [countries] who wish to go further to do so.

➤ We ask the BFUG [...] to involve higher education practitioners in its work programme [...].

- We [...]take this opportunity to underline the importance of all members and consultative members participating fully in the work of the BFUG and contributing to the EHEA work programme.
- [We commit] to establish a group of volunteering countries and organizations with a view to facilitating professional recognition.

Specific tasks

- To specify a range of topics in agreement with the BFUG, by taking into account the Yerevan communiqué and “The Bologna Process revisited” paper;
- To gather and coordinate actions (and events) organized by countries, institutions and organisations (conferences, workshops, seminars, etc...);
- To guide and assist countries, institutions and organisations in organizing actions;
- To ensure and foster the involvement of national, European and international stakeholders in the organization of the events, the attendance of the events and /or active participation;
- To ensure the dissemination of upcoming activities and their emerging results;
- To produce a policy recommendation paper;
- To report back regularly to the BFUG on policy recommendations, feedback, results of actions taken and on reflections on the WG concept.

Topics

- In a perspective of the renewed vision and goals, explore new priorities for the future of EHEA beyond 2020 in the light of foreseeable developments, including the following topics: Learning and teaching innovations, including use of digital technologies;
- Links between higher education and research;
- Building more inclusive systems;
- Lifelong learning, employability and the role of Higher Education in economy;
- Professional recognition
- Active citizenship and EHEA’s response to current societal challenges.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to the BFUG.

The co-chairs will present regular updates on upcoming and past activities (updates may include upcoming dates, policy recommendations, feedback, and results) to the BFUG.

In between meetings, updates should be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail. A streamlined report on the results, feedback and reflections on the WG concept will be presented and discussed at the BFUG meeting at the latest in the second half of 2017.

Meeting schedule:

[meeting schedule is just tentative, will be decided by the working group at a later stage]

1st WG meeting: February 2016 - discussion on proposals received from countries, institutions and organisations. Proposal of topics to focus on and translated into action.

2nd WG meeting: fall 2016

3rd WG meeting: spring 2017

4th WG meeting: September 2017 – Reflect on the concept and framework; summing-up of events and finalizing reporting

5th WG meeting (if necessary): January 2018

2016 - July 2017

Upon agreement with the BFUG:

- organization of events
- feedback to organisers,
- coordination, guidance, follow-up, taking stock, analyse feedback and results of activities,
- preparation of reports and policy recommendations for the WG and the BFUG.

September 2017 – Reflect on the concept and the framework; Summing-up of events and finalizing reporting

January 2018 (if necessary)

Liaison with other WGs' and/or advisory groups' activities

- AG 3 on “Dealing with non-implementation”
- WG 2 on “Implementation – Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments”
- AG 1 on “EHEA international cooperation”

Additional remarks

- Given that drawing a strict line between topics of the WGs on “Implementation” and on “New goals” is difficult, events of both WGs shall be tightly coordinated by the co-chairs in order to avoid overlaps or to collaborate, if applicable.
- The topics mentioned above do not lead to groups being set up for each topic, but will lead to concrete actions with a view to contributing to policy development on new EHEA goals.
- These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the BFUG.