

Task Force Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community 9th meeting

9 November 2023
Online

Minutes of meeting

List of participants

Country	Name	Last Name
Albania	Bizena	Bijo
Belgium Flemish Community	Liesbeth	Hens
European Commission	Svein	Hullstein
ESU	Tamara	Ciobanu
EURASHE	Pascale	De Grotte
Germany	Tim	Maschuw
Italy	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Malta	Adam	Liwak
Montenegro	Dunja	Bulajic
Netherlands	Robert	Wagenaar
Romania	Daniela Cristina	Ghitulica
United Kingdom	John	Reilly
In-Global Project External Expert	Elena	Cirlan
In-Global Project Expert	Alin Marius	Matei
BFUG Secretariat	Kristina	Metallari
BFUG Secretariat	Xhulia	Balla

European University Association (EUA), EI-ETUCE, EQAR did not attend.

1. Welcome by the Host

Cristina Ghitulica (Co-Chair, Romania) and Bizena Bijo (Co-chair, Albania) welcomed all participants to the 9th Meeting of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing (TF on EKS) in the EHEA community. The meeting was convened in order to discuss the TF's Recommendations for the upcoming BFUG Meeting in Madrid and the contribution for the draft Communique.

2. Tour the table

Cristina Ghitulica underlined that new representatives from EURASHE and the European Commission were appointed to the TF. All participants introduced themselves.



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3. Discussion on the TF on EKS recommendations to the BFUG

Elena Cîrlan (ENQA) provided an overview of the sources of information used to draft the recommendations: materials resulting from the BFUG 2019 consultation and the assessment of stakeholders' perceptions run with the IN-GLOBAL project support. A formal report on this analysis is not available yet, but the next draft will incorporate additional data.

It was highlighted that findings from the survey and consultation were echoed in the three focus groups, which gathered government representatives, ENIC-NARICS and quality assurance agencies, and Higher Education Institution (HEI) representatives and students. The aim was to capture perspectives from all sides of the HE stakeholders.

Mrs. Cîrlan explained that the initial part of the report focused on presenting the gathered data, followed by sections containing recommendations.

Regarding the recommendation on the Communiqué translations by each country, a suggestion was made that in addition to translation, Communiqués should be explained in the national contexts following consultation and discussion.

It was proposed to condense the report, emphasizing the importance of conveying key messages concisely within a maximum length of two pages which should be complemented by additional documentation providing support and detailing the work conducted by the TF to produce it. However, it was emphasised that a longer detailed report is essential, as the public tends to understand the content better when presented with an entire narrative rather than only conclusions. The objective is to create a comprehensive set of recommendations, from which individual countries or institutions can draw those relevant for their context.

The members agreed to adopt a strategic approach, to have a limited number of overarching recommendations, followed by key actions, making the report more action-oriented. An annex with best practice examples from Austria and the Netherlands was agreed upon. It was suggested to add an executive summary or a concise and meaningful introduction to the report that serves as an effective opening, providing context for the entire document.

It was agreed to include a summary noting the communication tools and guidelines developed by the TF, such as events, guidelines for Bologna experts, Bologna hubs, the use of podcasts, and context on their utility to supplement the recommendations by offering practical tools for implementation.

The discussion continued on categorizing recommendations into strategic, overarching, and specific action points. It was emphasized that the aim is to build on the activities in the TF and provide guidance on how to implement the recommendations.

The TF report will showcase the three years' work include annexes, reports from focus group consultations, event guidelines, all documents the TF produced.



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2021-2024



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It was also noted that breakout sessions were scheduled for the BFUG meeting in February to finalise and discuss the document with members. In these breakout sessions, BFUG members will discuss points such as policies, past successes, failures, future perspectives on the BP. The conclusions will be presented to the BFUG.

The content of the document thus far was agreed. It was agreed to wait until after the BFUG meeting and the drafting committee instructions for further progress on the recommendations and input to the Communiqué, to avoid unnecessary effort.

4. Contribution to the Tirana Communiqué

The drafting committee at the next BFUG will focus on determining the direction of decisions that will be taken by the ministers, as well as highlighting key topics for the next working period, so it is imperative that the TF's recommendations are reflected.

Transforming the task force into a coordination group at the EHEA level was suggested, stressing the necessity for continuous international collaboration in disseminating and coordinating policies related to the EHEA. The proposal recommended establishing a central EHEA group and national groups in each country to foster an international network, minimising isolated efforts. The coordination group would represent countries and serve as the implementation and follow-up body for multi-level governance, ensuring alignment and supporting other groups.

Establishing coordination groups and a formal international network of BP experts for promotion, dissemination, and mentoring was determined crucial. It was agreed that it will be included in the proposal for the Communiqué as a crucial element for the future of the Bologna Process.

5. Next meeting

An in-presence TF meeting within the period of January 8-12, 2024 was discussed, preceding the board meeting on January 22-23, but remained to be confirmed. It was decided that contributions by TF members should be sent in November, to be followed by a review in December and by mid-December, the next version for review should be sent prior to the January meeting.

6. AOB

No other discussion points were raised. The 9th TF on EKS meeting was successfully concluded.



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