

Task Force on
Enhancing Knowledge
Sharing in the EHEA
community

Meeting 9

Recommendations for BFUG members
to enhance knowledge sharing within the EHEA
community

09 November 2023



Action plan



A1. Development of recommendations for BFUG members, including practical and hands-on guidance, destined to encourage active involvement of the academic community in the sharing of knowledge about the present and future goals of the EHEA and exploring collaborative ways to address them

- ☑ *Analysis of the data resulting from the 2018 survey to BFUG members and Consultative members*
 - **Brief Report on the outcomes of the survey**
- ☑ *Analysis of the material resulting from the BFUG 2019 consultation on "The Future of the EHEA" and of specific literature about how the Bologna Process is perceived and understood.*
 - **Brief Report to the EKS Task Force on the 2019 Consultation**
- ☑ *Analysis of stakeholders' perception of the EHEA at the national level*
 - **Relevant data from the 2023 Survey**



Findings feed into the recommendations

Action plan



A1. Development of recommendations for BFUG members, including practical and hands-on guidance, destined to encourage active involvement of the academic community in the sharing of knowledge about the present and future goals of the EHEA and exploring collaborative ways to address them

Analysis of the existing good practices, tools and projects related to EHEA

- Three focus groups:
 - **Governments** (5 May): representatives from 7 countries
 - **ENIC-NARICs and QA agencies** (11 September): representatives from 10 countries – 5 QAA, 2 QAA and ENIC-NARIC, 3 ENIC-NARIC
 - **HEI and students** (22 September): representatives from 10 countries – 4 NUS, 6 HEIs and NRCs, EUA, ESU



Findings feed into the recommendations

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the EHEA level

Information provision about the Bologna Process

- Ensure active participation and contribution of the HE stakeholders to the policy making process to instil ownership and take responsibility for the policy implementation.
- Create easy-to-read materials explaining the history of the BP, what it is about and what it strives for.
- BFUG member countries to translate the Ministerial Communiqués, after the adoption, in their respective languages to improve the understanding of the commitments by a wider audience.
- Organise online information sessions about the main messages of the Ministerial Communiqué.
- Build on existing structures and networks and ensure there is synergy between projects, initiatives, and organisations to maximise the impact of Bologna-related activities.
- Further develop systematic and structured mechanisms to support and promote the BP-related initiatives and practices across institutions at the national and international levels.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the EHEA level

Umbrella organisations

- National HE stakeholders to participate in the events and activities organised and advertised by the E4 and other umbrella organisations; to participate in consultations; to subscribe to their Newsletters and to follow closely their websites for news and publications.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the EHEA level

The Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) and its working structures

- Ensure greater involvement of higher education stakeholders including researchers and practitioners in the BFUG working structures as well as in meetings and consultations. Appoint them as country representatives in the BFUG working structures (i.e. working groups, coordination groups and thematic peer groups).
- Ensure good communication between the various BFUG working structures.
- Organise parallel sessions in the BFUG meetings with practitioners to discuss in depth specific thematic issues.
- Include in the BFUG working methods regular expert consultations with practitioners.
- Consider creating thematic networks of practitioners for specific issues.
- Organise online/virtual meetings to increase opportunities for discussion.
- Ensure that the documents for the BFUG meetings are made available well in advance the BFUG meetings to allow enough time for wider consultations with stakeholders at national level.
- Create materials for new member countries' representatives in the BFUG containing core information about the BP, the BFUG working structures, the decision-making process and explanation of the relevant acronyms.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Role of the Ministry and other national organisations

- Consider establishing a dedicated body or unit at the ministry or mandate an existing organisation to coordinate and organise activities related to BP and ensure good and continuous dissemination of information.
- The national coordinating body(ies) to organise regular and ad hoc meetings, events and consultations with all the HE stakeholders including practitioners, thus creating space for deeper and meaningful discussions.
- Reflect on whether there is a need to establish a dedicated BP/BFUG group with representation from various national stakeholders to ensure information dissemination among stakeholders.
- Apply for EU funded projects whenever there is a call related to BP to secure additional funds for activities and communication, but also allocate funds from the national budget to secure continuity.
- Develop a national strategy dedicated to the BP implementation in collaboration with stakeholders. Include periodic monitoring of the impact of certain decisions, laws, tools implemented in HE, a communication strategy and a plan for organising trainings and support activities for different stakeholders.
- Develop a National Bologna Process Implementation Report.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Representatives of the BFUG member countries

- Ensure that the national BFUG members communicate/report about the discussions at the BFUG level to their respective stakeholder leaders and ministry to have a clear mandate to take positions.
- Ensure communication between the representatives engaged in BFUG working structures to synchronise efforts and exchange updates from their respective structures.
- Consider to appoint two national BFUG members: ministry and national Bologna expert guaranteeing that practitioners' view is captured in the BFUG and national discussions.
- Ensure good flow of information and communication regardless of the frequency of change of the national representatives in the BFUG working structures.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Role of Bologna Experts and/or Bologna Promoters

- Consult the national stakeholders and decide whether there is a need to re-activate the Bologna expert teams for dissemination of information and knowledge sharing about the BP among practitioners and for organising peer-learning activities.
- Consider the Erasmus+ projects as a potential way to finance the national Bologna expert teams.
- Provide guidance for re-activating the Bologna expert teams and for collaboration with existing Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE).
- Consider establishing national Bologna hubs that would facilitate information dissemination and sharing, deep discussions on the BP topics and propose recommendations to the HE authority.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Role of the QA agencies and ENIC-NARIC centres

- QA agencies to continue the good work on dissemination of information and communication with stakeholders as well as organisation of events.
- QA agencies to make sure to organise discussions with practitioners not only on theoretical but also practical level.
- QA agencies and the ENIC-NARIC centres to communicate and collaborate more to find common ground on topics of mutual interest. This could mean, among others, inviting each other to events, organising joint events, and conducting joint research and consultations.
- ENIC-NARIC centres and HEIs to strengthen the link between the centres and the recognition practitioners at the HEIs level.
- Strengthen the collaboration between the academic community, government and ENIC-NARIC centre/QA agencies.
- Involve more the ENIC-NARIC centres in the national and international HE discussions to ensure that informed decisions are taken at the policy level.
- Consider the possibility for the ENIC-NARIC centre to train HEIs' recognition experts and raise awareness of all recognition-related matters.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Role of National Student Unions

- Involve students systematically in discussions related to the BP implementation.
- Consider students as equal stakeholders in the HE decision-making process.
- National student unions to continue organising events, working groups, conducting studies and consultations related to students' perceptions of the BP, participating in international projects and debates with students and other actors, and engaging the student body in activities related to the BP.

Recommendations



Role of various structures and stakeholders

At the National level

Role of Higher Education Institutions

- Ensure more and continuous communication between governments and HEIs including universities of applied sciences, thus making use of all HEIs' valuable experience.
- Involve practitioners from HEIs in the policy discussions which set a certain direction and priorities for HE.
- Ensure a smooth and direct communication between the ministry and different levels of HEIs' hierarchy.
- National HEIs umbrella organisations to make sure that the information reaches always all HEIs.
- HEIs to ensure good information sharing within the institution towards all institutional actors when relevant.
- HEIs to continue initiating and organising actions and activities related to knowledge and information sharing within the institution, particularly in the context of the BP.
- HEIs to organise regular practice-oriented meetings involving academic staff and other HE representatives.

Recommendations



Ongoing practices and activities

National consultations

- Conduct consultations whenever relevant, using various tools such as emails, online-questionnaires, in depth interviews, focus groups or other forms of discussions.
- When the consultation requires the view of the whole sector, all relevant stakeholders should be involved.

Recommendations



Ongoing practices and activities

Projects related to the Bologna Process

- Bologna Process knowledge sharing dedicated financing schemes to be available at EHEA and national level.
- HE stakeholders to apply for and participate in national and EHEA level projects to gain more knowledge and contribute to the development of certain aspects.
- Stakeholder organisations to offer training opportunities on project applications for staff.
- Projects to build on each other's findings and results in order to have a long-lasting impact and use resources wisely.
- Streamline and optimise activities and create a comprehensive mapping of the ongoing initiatives to identify areas of overlap and ensure coordination.
- Project consortiums to share information on projects, their activities, outcomes and consortium composition on dedicated websites, thus, informing stakeholders and the public.

Recommendations



Ongoing practices and activities

Peer-learning activities and peer reviews

- Organise PLAs, including in online or hybrid format, to enhance participation from different countries.
- Create more space for peer review activities in the work models of the BFUG working structures.
- Use the peer review model to enhance the exchange of knowledge and experience among various actors.

Recommendations



Events related to the Bologna Process

- Consider organising more practically oriented Bologna events at EHEA and national level.
- Ensure greater involvement of stakeholders, researchers and practitioners in the BP-related events organised at EHEA or national/regional level.
- Organise events labelled as Bologna aiming at facilitating exchange between BFUG and the HE sector.

Recommendations



Communication channels

- Increase the frequency of updates of the website (a new „News” section was proposed), both in the effort to answer as many questions as possible about the BP and to increase the search engine ranking of the website.
- Create either a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section or a forum within the website, as a gateway to inviting people to create content, answer questions and create conversations from which valuable data can be extracted.
- Ensure a constant frequency of the newsletter, while signing up new email addresses voluntarily (using acquired mailing lists makes the emails prone to end up in the spam folder). For this, it is important to create a sign-up button on the website.
- The TF should assemble a team specialised in creating content – both video and text. As all social media services rank user’s visibility according to the frequency of content production and distribution. Forming the organisational habit of creating constant content and updates about the topics of interest is the best way (and the one with the lowest budget impact) to ensure social media visibility.
- Consider using all the social media channels for posting more long-form content, as this kind of content ranks best and is the hardest to find in today’s informational ecosystem.

THANK YOU!

