Governance and thematic priorities after 2020
Outcomes of the online survey

BFUG Board Meeting
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THE ONLINE SURVEY - GENERAL INFORMATION

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/63a9891e-b9dc-7ef0-5fec-7ef5ddb9a288

- Online survey carried out in October 2018 under the aegis of BFUG Co-chairs Austria and Switzerland

- Invitation sent to BFUG members and Consultative members

- 40 answers received (32 members, 8 consultative members)

PRIORITIES TO PURSUE IN THE NEXT DECADE

- 36 responses + 4 no answers
- Different types of answers:

  - no selection of priorities
  - ranking among priorities
  - selection of priorities
  - additional priorities

Many suggested additional issues may be linked to the proposed priorities

Some are isolated quotations

Three themes were suggested more often

Five priorities received many mentions (small numerical differences):

- Linking EHEA and ERA
- Supporting students from non-traditional background
- Using digital technologies
- Promoting active and responsible citizens(hip)
- Enhancing teacher support

Limited number of mentions for "Improving professional recognition"

Possible additional priorities
- Innovation in Learning & Teaching
- Fundamental/core values
- Mobility

QUANTITATIVE GOALS FOR 2030

- About **half of the respondents** did not quote quantitative goals or stated that such goals should not be set

➢ Main motivation: too many external factors and national context-related features to be considered

- Three goals were more frequently mentioned as quantifiable (no specifications):
  - Mobility
  - Non-traditional background students
  - Teacher support

- Some respondents emphasized that any identification of quantitative goals should be coordinated with possible indicators identified by the EU for the next decade (if any).

MODIFICATION OF WORKING METHODS AND WORKING STRUCTURE

- Responses stating that **no substantial modification should occur** (including no answers) <u>slightly</u> prevail over those quoting modifications to be made

- Suggestions for changing specific aspects prevail over general changes

- More frequent suggestions:
    - Greater involvement of stakeholders, researchers, practitioners
    - Bologna seminars/events open to different audiences
    - More space for peer review activities
    - BFUG meetings based on more interactive working methods
    - Creation of online workspaces for WG/AGs

- Further suggestions:
    - Opportunity and feasibility of a permanent BFUG Secretariat
    - Time enough to carry out national consultations before the BFUG meetings

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG BOARD

- **Most respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**

- Proposals related to (very) specific aspects were largely prevailing

- The following proposals were made more than once:
  - Reduce the number of Board members
  - More coordination and decision-making power to the Board, to relieve the BFUG of work on details
  - Organize online/virtual meetings to increase opportunities for discussion

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG SECRETARIAT

- **Most respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**
- Some proposals (half of the proposals made) focused on creating a multinational and professional permanent Secretariat:
  - Pros/cons identified
  - Suggestion of a Task Force to investigate the feasibility of the proposal

- Further proposals:
  - Increasing the number of the Secretariat Staff
  - Ensuring Europe-wide composition of the staff
  - Open and transparent selection and recruitment

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BFUG

- **More than half of the respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**
- Some proposals focused on the role of the BFUG as such:
  - Reducing/avoiding procedural discussions
  - Focusing on long-term strategies and policies

- Some proposals focused on the organisation of the BFUG meetings:
  - Organising discussions in small groups or parallel sessions, to promote in-depth discussions
  - Inviting stakeholders to the meetings
  - Facilitating the sharing of information and synergies among WG/AG/CG/TPGs

- Recommendation: members participate actively, and have a clear mandate to take positions and make decisions

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE CHAIRING ARRANGEMENTS

- **A very large majority of the respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**

- Several respondents assessed the current chairing arrangements as very efficient

- A few respondents suggested some revision of the role of the vice-chair:
  - Different pro & cons (e.g.: continuity vs power given to a single country)
  - A third co-chair instead of a vice-chair (no further indications given)

- A recommendation: strong commitment of co-chairs also in the pre- and post-chairing semester

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM

- **Half of the respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**
- Some comments and proposals pointed out weak points of the BPF experience:
  - Focus and scope unclear (difficulties in identifying issues and targets of common interest)
  - Continuity hindered by the lack of targeted resources for the follow-up
  - Different ways of cooperation with non-EHEA countries to be identified

- The idea of involving regions and transnational organisations, not just individual countries, gathered a broad consensus

PROPOSALS TO OPTIMIZE THE EHEA GOVERNANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE BOLOGNA POLICY FORUM

- **Some proposals focused on the work plan of the BPF:**
  - Action plan (themes, priorities) to be defined and implemented as a follow-up of each BPF
  - Preparation of a next Forum based on regional events, involving stakeholders and experts
  - National delegations to the BPF broadened to academic staff

TIMING OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

- Most respondents did concrete proposals about timing
- **Clear preference expressed for holding Conferences every three years**
- Shorter or longer intervals were suggested by a limited number of respondents (longer intervals slightly prevailing)

SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE FRUITFUL CONNECTIONS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS

- **Most respondents made concrete suggestions**

- Suggestions for measures at EHEA level:
  - **Regular consultation of practitioners** to be included in the BFUG working method (e.g. thematic sessions in meetings open to practitioners, practitioners invited to PLAs, BICG/Thematic groups
  - **Bologna events open** to/targeted on practitioners, practitioners' events recognized as Bologna Events
  - **E-platform** based on lists of national practitioners to support communication and cooperation
  - **Enhancement of the use of social media** for communication and dissemination among practitioners

SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE FRUITFUL CONNECTIONS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS

- Suggestions for measures at **national level:**
  - **Involvement of practitioners** in national implementation/dissemination activities
  - **Re-invigoration of Bologna expert teams** (widespread positive assessment of the model) for dissemination and PLAs at national and sub/regional level
  - **National practitioners as country representatives** in the WG/AG/CG/TPGs
  - **Two BFUG country representatives**: ministry + national expert

SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE BOLOGNA EVENTS BETWEEN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

- **Most respondents support the idea of more Bologna events** (at EHEA/national level)

- A minority of respondents are against the idea:
  - The current work plan is broad enough
  - unsustainable additional workload and resources

- Suggested formats for Bologna events:
  - Workshops/seminars, practically oriented and involving practitioners/stakeholders
  - Workshops/seminars focused on the priorities emerging from the Communiqué and the BFUG workplan
  - Peer learning activities
  - Virtual conferences

- Further suggestion: Bologna events in non-EHEA countries, related to the BPF workplan

FORMAL INCLUSION OF OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

- **Half of the respondents did not answer or did not make proposals**
- Suggestions for inclusion at national level prevail
- More frequent suggestions:
  - **Involve stakeholders better through communication** and dissemination activities (EHEA/national level)
  - **Inclusion through participation in events** and appointment as national co-representatives (national level)
- Further suggestions for the inclusion of:
  - ENIC-NARIC Network
  - Employers
  - Students

ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR
THEMATIC AND PROCEDURAL INNOVATIONS AFTER 2020

- **Most respondents did not answer or did not suggest additional ideas**
- Part of the responses basically confirmed issues already mentioned
- Ideas for procedural innovations:
  - Enhancing digital collaboration
  - Adopting electronic consultation and decision
- Ideas for thematic innovations: paying more attention to
  - Arts and humanities
  - Future skills for new jobs.

Thank you!