



Ministry of Education and  
Science of Georgia

**Task Force Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community**  
**7<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**10 - 11 July 2023**  
**Bucharest, Romania**

**List of Participants**

Country	Name	Last Name
Albania (Co-Chair)	Bizena	Bijo
Belgium Flemish Community	Liesbeth	Hens
EI-ETUCE	Petri	Mantysaari
EQAR	Magalie	Soenen
ESU	Tamara	Ciobanu
Italy	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Malta	Adam	Liwak
Netherlands	Robert	Wagenaar
In-Global Project External Expert*	Colin	Tück
In-Global Project Expert	Sibeles	Chiari
In-Global Project Expert	Teresa	Morales
In-Global Project Expert	Vera	Lucke
In-Global Project Expert	Alin Marius	Matei
Polytechnic University of Bucharest (UPB)	Luciana	Mihai
Polytechnic University of Bucharest (UPB)	Horia	Necula
In-Global project Expert	Oana	Stefanescu
Romania	Madalina	Matei
BFUG Secretariat	Edlira Adi	Kahani Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Jora	Vaso
BFUG Secretariat	Manjola	Hasa

\*Online attendance

European University Association (EUA), European Commission, Germany, United Kingdom, Ukraine could not attend.

10 July 2023

1. Visit to EURONEWS Romania Headquarters and VODAFONE Innovation Hub

The meeting commenced with a visit to the EURONEWS Romania Headquarters, at the Polytechnic University in Bucharest campus. The educational channel, developed in the last year, aims to educate the public and reduce sensationalism in the news by introducing important scientific and other relevant topics in an attractive infotainment format.

EURONEWS Perspective, a talk show of EURONEWS channel affiliates, was discussed, along with an interest in collaborating with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The importance of creating a common space for professionals, while also considering the need for mobility among students, was emphasized. These topics can be shared with the niche audience of the education channel.



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The network of five affiliates in Europe was brought to attention, and it was noted that sharing a single format within the five countries is feasible. A key aspect of EURONEWS programming includes a 14-minute mini-documentary aired every week which features scientific innovations and educational content.

2. Next, the visit continued to the VODAFONE Innovation Hub, located within the Polytechnic University of Bucharest Innovative initiatives created and developed in the hub were introduced to the TF EKS members and a potential future collaboration was discussed.
3. The visit to UPB Campus and its research centers included presentations on high-level scientific research activities in computer engineering and medical engineering.
4. Discussion on the communication strategy (website enhancement, social media engagement, newsletter) Edlira Adi Kahani Subashi (Head, BFUG Secretariat), TF EKS members, and In-Global project members discussed the development of an EHEA newsletter which can serve to update all working groups on one another's progress. It was decided that the Secretariat will send out a request to various working groups, seeking input for its content. A consensus was reached that a triannual distribution of the newsletter is appropriate. The necessity of well-defined deadlines and clarity in guidelines, including format, word count, and content, were emphasized. It was stated that content review may be available to WG members prior to publishing but the possibility of a second revised version was not advised. To engage readers effectively, it was proposed to incorporate concise teasers with links to more detailed information. The consideration of adding a Subscribe button on the website for the newsletter was raised. The Secretariat committed to diligently enhancing the website throughout the summer. A decision was made that the Secretariat would be responsible for the Newsletter, with a potential pre-autumn distribution in accordance with the mandate received from the BFUG in its meeting in May 2023 in Stockholm.

Improvements to the EHEA website were discussed. Vera Lucke (IN-GLOBAL Project stated that she would facilitate the sharing of previous meetings minutes archives, so that the archive can become functional on the website. The need to place interlinks between working groups where appropriate, such as between BICG and the TPGs, was emphasised. The feasibility of a chat box was ruled out, and a glossary inclusion on the website was confirmed. Other comments included technical issues with accurate labeling and ensuring that all website functionalities work properly.

#### 11 July 2023

##### 1. Welcome – 11 July 2023

All participants were welcomed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community. Due to the absence of Cristina Ghitulica (Co-Chair, Romania), the meeting was co-chaired by Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy) and Bizena Bijo (Co-Chair, Albania).

##### 2. Tour de table

A tour de table followed, during which participants introduced themselves and explained their respective roles within the institutions/bodies they represented.

##### 3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without changes.

##### 4. Approval of minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting



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The decision was made to defer the approval of the April meeting minutes. Though the meeting minutes were before the meeting, the members had not had an opportunity to review them. It was decided that the Secretariat would redistribute the minutes and request suggested changes by a new deadline.

#### 5. Information on recent developments

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Italy) provided an update on the Task Force's progress since its last meeting in April of 2023. She announced that the report presented by Mrs. Cristina Ghitulica during the recent BFUG meeting in Stockholm, including both the written report and an extensive PowerPoint presentation, has been made accessible on SharePoint. Additionally, regarding the TF's action plan, the questionnaire on the perception of the EHEA was shared with stakeholders in June and the first focus group session, as part of the action plan's Activity 1, has been held.

#### 6. Update from the IN-GLOBAL project

Vera Lucke (IN-GLOBAL Project ) began with an update on the activities undertaken by IN-GLOBAL in alignment with the task's force. A significant part of the discussion centered around the issue of translating the Rome Communiqué. This matter was deliberated at length, particularly in light of the stance taken by specific countries, including German and Dutch-speaking nations, Finland, and Sweden, which expressed scepticism about the utility of translation.

TF members recognised that this issue deserved further attention because the Rome Communiqué holds substantial significance, as it directs attention towards the future, beyond the next ministerial conference. Also, because the TF's objective to enhance knowledge sharing extends beyond the higher education sector to encompass a broader community. Translating the Communiqué into national languages was deemed beneficial in this context, aiding comprehension for a wider audience.

An observation highlighted that the present staff of EHEA ministries, often relatively young and less familiar with the Bologna Process and its tools, would greatly benefit from an explanation, rather than simple translation, of the Communiqué in the national language. Suggestions included incorporating translation notes or a glossary where further clarification is necessary. Discussions also revolved around strategies to promote the Rome Communiqué, including the creation of various promotional materials like a concise one-pager or a flyer, which can serve to elucidate why the Rome Communiqué is important to individual stakeholders.

On a practical note, a few members expressed concerns about not being aware of when documents are uploaded on the TF's Sharepoint platform. To mitigate this, it was agreed that said documents should be disseminated via email to all members in addition to being shared on the platform.

Colin Tück presented an update on the ongoing survey concerning perceptions of the EHEA and shared insights into the distribution of individual and organizational responses, highlighting several key findings: the survey attracted a higher number of responses from non-EHEA countries compared to EHEA member countries; a remarkable 95% of total responses originated from Iraq, leading to an imbalanced representation; the survey yielded no more than two respondents from any other individual country; within the EHEA, the majority of individual respondents identified as academics; among EHEA organizational respondents, the predominant category consisted of HEI management and institutions.





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Responses had been received from EHEA countries such as Romania, Albania, Italy, Germany, and Sweden. Still, the discussion acknowledged the need to address the skewed participation from Iraq and to encourage broader representation from various EHEA countries.

Mr. Tuck emphasised the importance of a balanced and comprehensive dataset to ensure meaningful insights. To ensure active participation, Colin announced the strategy for the upcoming stages of the survey. A reminder communication was planned for mid-July to prompt participants to complete the questionnaire. A final reminder would be dispatched in mid-August, offering a last chance for engagement. The possibility of extending the deadline until September 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> with last minute reminders, was discussed. A decision was made to mobilise the TF members to share the survey link through multiple channels, emphasising on reaching out to personal networks. It was underlined that the questionnaires were intended as a consultation rather than conventional surveys and that the insights gathered would extend beyond quantitative data.

## 7. Implementation of the Action Plan

Bizena Bijo (Co-Chair, Albania) delivered a presentation on the outcomes of the first Focus Group held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The group discussed effective practices of knowledge sharing at the national level, strategies to engage a broader higher education (HE) community, and the identification of stakeholder needs. Challenges of communication were also addressed. It was highlighted that two additional Focus Groups are scheduled for autumn 2023. Insights were provided from Austria, which used a hierarchical approach in sharing BFUG-related information at the national and international level, and Sweden's approach, which involves a ministry-based contact point for engagement at the European level. Ukraine's great efforts during these challenging times were mentioned.

It was decided to postpone the analysis of the survey results from the first Focus Group until the conclusion of the remaining two sessions in September, as it was acknowledged that a comprehensive dataset from all three groups is necessary to form the basis for the TF's recommendations. It was suggested to put forth recommendations to be tested in Focus Groups 2 and 3. For Focus Group 2, the IN-GLOBAL project includes ENIQ NARICs with good practices, excluding the ones that are located in countries represented in the TF.

Vera Lucke (IN-GLOBAL Project Expert) and Anne Katherine Isaacs (Italy) presented on the specific tasks of the Action Plan.

*Task 1 - Breakout sessions:* There was lengthy discussion on the setup of the breakout sessions during the upcoming Madrid BFUG meeting. The preferred duration was one hour, in addition to the time required for transitioning to and from the breakout rooms. 4 or 5 groups, consisting of around 20-25 participants each, were agreed upon. The breakout rooms should be arranged where feasible to accommodate flexible seating arrangements. It was determined that each group should be led by one designated chair and facilitated by one rapporteur. Possible breakout session topics were discussed, including sharing knowledge practices, understanding helpful practices per country, ensuring HEI personnel engagement in Bologna objectives, creating awareness of Bologna Process accomplishments, and improving policy and university dynamics.

The importance of informing participants about the topics in advance, to facilitate thoughtful contributions, was highlighted. An informational 'one pager,' will be prepared to stimulate discussion. The document will feature clear objectives for the breakout session, accompanied by a boxed section presenting three pertinent questions. Additional contextual information will be provided, potentially drawing from insights derived from focus groups and surveys. A proposal was put forth to have the breakout sessions on the first day of the BFUG meeting and, on the second day, to hold a panel session, lasting approximately 25 minutes, where rapporteurs can elaborate on the three questions based on the group discussions. The rapporteurs would



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then provide written summaries of the discussions. It was decided that volunteers would be recruited for the roles of chairs and rapporteurs.

*Task 2 – Capsules:* It was explained that script developers presented draft proposals for capsules and requested member feedback. Several members from the TF were assigned to collaborate with script producers by providing key messages related to their designated topics, including internationalisation at home, micro-credentials, and fundamental values, among others. Additionally, the co-chairs of the Social Dimension Working Group were identified as potential contributors for the “inclusion” capsule. The objective is to create four capsules by November.

*Task 3 – Reportages:* It was confirmed that the upcoming series of reportages produced by EuroNews will serve as the pilot. The plan is to share podcast files and a set of accompanying questions. Shorter video segments that will be reconfigured as needed were also discussed. Additionally, the possibility of joining the individual capsules to create a more extended video format—specifically, the potential to merge the four three-minute capsules to form a consolidated 12-minute video was discussed.

*Task 4 – Event series guidelines and proposal:* A document outlining event organization guidelines was presented, encompassing suggestions for both single and multi-day events. The document features an event checklist, budgeting considerations, and comprehensive details. Attendees discussed enhancing the final version, suggesting improvements such as categorisation, functional links, and improved user-friendliness. These preliminary drafts are open for feedback, and members were encouraged to contribute with their input.

*Task 5 – Developing concept and organizing sessions and side events during BFUG meetings:* Discussions focused on hosting a side event during the spring BFUG meeting in Brussels, where the TF's results could be showcased through capsules and video reportages. The concept included arranging a table for distributing handouts, featuring looping videos and capsules on a screen, and inviting attendees to engage by creating capsules on the spot or participating in interviews.

*Task 6 – Website improvements:* Suggested improvements for the EHEA website included adding a chatbot for use as a search engine, a QA and community building section. The idea of utilising the chatbot for data collection was also deliberated. Insights were shared regarding ongoing work by the Secretariat on the website, scheduled over the next two months. TF members considered feasible enhancements that could be implemented without additional budget. A detailed plan would be presented to the Secretariat if additional budgetary resources were required. Attention was drawn to the nearly completed glossary, with the consensus that it could be incorporated into the recommendations as an achieved milestone.

*Task 7 – Collaborate with other organizations at national regional level:* The implementation of key commitments at the regional level was highlighted. Albania expressed its intent to take the lead in organizing Berlin Process meetings, adhering to the guidelines formulated in point 4. It was emphasized that once the guidelines are established, the responsibility for this task would be assumed by Albania.

*Task 8 – Bologna hubs or experts:* TF members were in agreements that the activation of Bologna hubs would be beneficial. They discussed including this as part of the Communique as it can help tackle challenges like generational turnover and the absence of a pan European framework. The proposal can be formulated for the national level, taking into consideration that it can become pan European. It was concluded that relevant information will be gathered from focus groups and the proposal of the Bologna hubs and experts will take shape from these results. A proposal to update the ECTS user's guide with new developments was brought forth but, ultimately, it was decided that a rationalisation or explanation of the existing is a more feasible and





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effective option. The final version of the ECTS user's guide and its explanation is projected for the next ministerial.

*Task 9 – Newsletter:* There was agreement to begin with a pilot newsletter to be distributed by the BFUG Secretariat. The format and guidelines would be provided by the TF while the Secretariat would be responsible of collecting information from all WGs and circulating the newsletter among them. The Secretariat was tasked to contact WG co-chairs for information provision on respective achievements and updates. Additional content suggested to be included is the BFUG calendar and new events. It was agreed that the TF members, the Secretariat and In-Global Consortium and experts would finalize a pilot template to be presented at the next BFUG meeting, which, if approved, will be further developed by the Secretariat.

#### 8. TF final report

TF members reiterated that there is a need to give substance to the report by making meaningful recommendations including a possible proposal on the Bologna Experts, guidelines on event organization, a newsletter that can be implemented, as well as aid in streamlining and updating some of the existing tools.

#### 9. Next Meeting

It was confirmed that a meeting would take place on October 9-10, 2023 with location to be confirmed.

#### 10. Conclusion

It was reiterated that sharing information within the TF should henceforth be done by submitting material in the Sharepoint platform and by sending a simultaneous email notification so that information is not dormant.

#### 11. AoB

Edlira Adi Kahani Subashi (Head, BFUG Secretariat) requested a deadline for the work on the newsletter and reminded all that the deadline to submit the TF documents to the Board meeting and BFUG meeting documents is Sept 17<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, respectively.

#### 12. End of Meeting

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community was successfully concluded.