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Ministry of Science
and Education

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MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
OF UKRAINE

WG1 Report on developing the Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR), 2020

1 Context

WG1 held four meetings (July and November 2018, July 2019, and January 2020) to follow up on the Paris Communiqué request:

"We mandate the BFUG to develop a Bologna Process Implementation Report assessing the main developments in the EHEA since the Bologna Process began, including to what extent we have fulfilled the mobility target agreed in Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve in 2009."

The 2020 report was developed in line with the following principles:

- 1) Focus on main developments & trends in the EHEA as a whole – and not on all issues in all countries.
- 2) Make use of existing data, and limit collecting and analysing new data as far as possible.
- 3) Embed indicators within a clear narrative that is focused on discussing key changes over time.

In line with these principles, the report combines three types of information: qualitative data – provided by the BFUG; quantitative data, gathered through Eurostat and a specific data collection for non European Statistical System countries; and narrative texts on the main policy developments throughout the Bologna period. As with the previous editions of the Bologna Process Implementation Report Eurydice (EACEA A7) has been responsible for the overall technical coordination of the report.

2 Finalisation of the Bologna Process Implementation Report

At the time of completing this report (16 March 2020) the normal procedures for the finalisation phase are being adapted in light of the measures being taken to restrict the spread of the covid 19 virus. Inevitably there will be some disruption as most work will be done away from an office setting and without physical meetings between colleagues.

The report – which is complex and relies upon the work of many contributors using a variety of source information – has kept on track throughout the production phase. The first draft of the report was sent to the BFUG for discussion in the Kyiv BFUG, and all BFUG and Working Group 1 members have the opportunity to submit written comments to the report (deadline 16 March with some extensions accepted).

Checking of the accuracy of information in the report has been assured as follows:

2.1 Qualitative data:

BFUG members received drafts of all qualitative indicators for checking. These indicators will be used to show the current state of play on key policy commitments. They include the scorecard indicators, and also cover all aspects of the three key commitments agreed in the Paris Ministerial Conference (three cycle degrees, recognition and quality assurance). Where information initially submitted through the questionnaire was unclear, questions were asked to countries, and the final published indicators should be as reliable as it is possible to be through this methodology.

2.2 Statistical data:

Statistical indicators have been produced under the guidance of WG1. The aim is to show main, long-term trends where possible.

The collection, production and analysis of statistical data has been undertaken via a contract managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). As in previous reports Eurostat data will be the main source of statistical figures, with specific data being collected from countries outside the European Statistical System.

2.3 Narrative texts

As well as qualitative and quantitative data, the 2020 report will contain sections presenting the evolution of main thematic issues throughout the lifetime of the Bologna process. A narrative section on the development of quality assurance systems has been drafted by EQAR in cooperation with ENQA, a similar section on the development of the social dimension has been written by Eurostudent, while a section on the development of internationalisation in higher education has been written by ACA. Further narrative sections have been written on degree structure reforms and recognition.

3. Remaining work

While the remaining tasks to finalise the report are clear, the conditions in which the work will be undertaken are challenging. Checking and finalisation of indicators and text will need to be done through telework conditions – and there is some potential for errors to occur given that such working conditions have never before been experienced. Some countries are understandably also submitting comments late as a result of their own difficult work conditions.

In contrast to the rest of the report, the last chapter is written looking forward - providing an “evidence-based projection” of some issues to be considered in the future development of the EHEA. Working Group 1 members have provided advice to authors on issues to be picked up for this chapter.

The Working Group agreed that this 2020 edition of the report is the main output of the work of the group. The evidence underpinning the picture of change that it presents may justify the policy recommendations that will be made in the Rome Communiqué. However, the working group will not be seeking to inject specific recommendations into the Communiqué text.