



Ministry of Education, Culture and
Science of the Netherlands



Ministry of Education
of the Republic of Moldova

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Terms of Reference

of

the Advisory Group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement (AG 4)

<p>Name of the Advisory Group</p> <p>Advisory Group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement</p>
<p>Contact persons (Co-Chairs)</p> <p>Linda PUSTINA – Albania (Linda.Pustina@arsimi.gov.al) Antonela TOMA, Mihai Cezar HAJ – Romania (toma.antonela@medu.ro; cezarhaj@gmail.com ; cezar.haj@uefiscdi.ro)</p>
<p>Composition</p> <p>Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, BusinessEurope, Council of Europe, EI/ETUCE, ESU, European Commission, EUA, EURASHE, Finland, France, Italy, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, UNESCO, United Kingdom ¹. A number of external experts may assist the Advisory group. TBC: Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, ENIC/NARIC Network</p>
<p>Purpose and/or outcome</p> <p>The Advisory Group on the Revision of the Diploma Supplement is mandated to support the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO in reviewing the Diploma Supplement, in cooperation with stakeholders. A proposal for a revision should be presented for consultation to the BFUG by 2017. The original Diploma Supplement was adopted within two different frameworks, the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee (LRCC) and the EU Europass Decision. The revised DS will have to be adopted within the same frameworks. The BFUG can advise on the revised version, but cannot adopt it.</p> <p>The Advisory Group should give consideration to issues such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring it reflects the recent developments in higher education; - Taking account of the revision of the ECTS Users' Guide; - Reflecting on the digitalization of the Diploma Supplement;

¹ Liaison with the WG 2 on "Implementation – Fostering implementation on agreed key commitments" (person TBD)

- Basing it more closely on Learning Outcomes, increasing its usefulness in recognition procedures;
- Ensuring coherence between a review of the Diploma Supplement and the possible development of a “Doctoral Supplement” within the European Research Area;
- Ensuring close cooperation with the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO;
- Following up on the adoption of the same revised version of the Diploma Supplement within the framework of the Lisbon Recognition Convention as well as that of the European Union (Europass) and taking account of relevant developments in other parts of the world.

Reference to the Yerevan Communiqué

- Finally, we take note with approval of the reports by the working groups on [...], Structural reforms,[...].

Reference to the report by the structural reforms working group

- The SRWG suggest that in Yerevan the Ministers:
 - ✓ ask that the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO review the Diploma Supplement, in cooperation with stakeholders and taking account of developments in other regions of the world, with a view to ensuring it reflects recent developments in higher education, including the development of learning outcomes and qualifications frameworks, is relevant and up to date for the purposes of mobility and the recognition of qualifications as well as promoting employability and that it takes into account the possibilities for providing up to date information offered by modern information technology, including the digitalization of the Diploma Supplement itself;
 - ✓ ensure the adoption of any revised version of the Diploma Supplement, in identical versions, within the framework of the Lisbon Recognition Convention as well as that of the European Union (Europass) and taking account of relevant developments in other parts of the world;
 - ✓ ensure coherence between a review of the Diploma Supplement and the possible development of a “Doctoral Supplement” within the European Research Area.

Reference to the report of the pathfinder group on automatic recognition

- The PfG recommends to EHEA Ministers
 - ✓ to increase the usefulness of the Diploma Supplement for recognition decisions mandating a working group to review the template, promoting a DS model which is based more closely on Learning Outcomes.

Specific tasks

- to develop a proposal for a revised version of the Diploma Supplement;
- to consult with external stakeholders;
- to inform the Working group on fostering implementation of agreed key commitments on

its progress;

- to present to the BFUG a finalised draft for consultation by its members;
- for the Council of Europe, European Commission and UNESCO to report back to the BFUG on the adopted version of the revised Diploma Supplement;
- to disseminate the adopted version of the revised DS and to promote its use.

Reporting

The BFUG will receive regular reports and updates.

Progress reports will be submitted before the BFUG meetings mid-2016 and end 2016/early 2017. The final report will be presented together with the proposal for a revised Diploma Supplement, for comments, mid-2017.

Meeting schedule:

[the timetable is just tentative, will be decided by the advisory group at a later stage and concerted with the Council of Europe , UNESCO and the European Commission]

First meeting: January 2016

Second meeting: April 2016

Third meeting: June 2016

Fourth meeting: September 2016

Fifth meeting: March 2017

Sixth meeting: September 2017

Liaison with other WGs' and/or AGs' activities

- WG 2 on "Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments"

Additional remarks

- These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the BFUG.