WORKING GROUP 3 – NEW GOALS

Progress Report November 2016

1. Work plan and meetings

During the reporting period three meetings of the WG3 have been held, i.e.
- February 2016 – Moscow (Russia);
- June 2016 – Paris (France);
- November 2016 – Stockholm (Sweden)
- April 2017 – Brussels
- September 2017 – TBD

Between these meetings several face-to-face and web/telephone meetings of co-chairs have been held.

2. Topics

General topics of the WG were defined following the 1st meeting in Moscow. They were decided as follows:

- *New Learners,*

- *Relevance of Competences,*

- *Digital Education,*

- *Teacher Support,*

- *"ERA-EHEA"*

Later on it was decided to add "Active Citizenship" as a sixth topic. The topic "Professional Recognition" will be dealt with separately.

3. Working method

Every topic is dealt with separately by the Working Group in the form of a discussion seminar. The aim of each seminar is to produce a set of recommendations. The Working Group will finalise these recommendations during the last meeting in September 2017.

4. Draft conclusions of the topics so far

- *New Learners*

  - We encourage European higher education institutions to continue to draw on best practice, to permanently adapt to development and become learning institutions themselves.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote the development of a virtual Erasmus to provide an alternative in addition to physical international mobility.

- The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to provide flexible study paths in terms of study pace, study aim and learning methods and agree to review and adapt higher education support systems, qualifications frameworks, credit systems and quality assurance, to provide the conditions for such increased flexibility.

- The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers initiate a European "Higher Education Teaching Academy" to share knowledge and experiences among education institutions, academics and administrators. The Academy would also provide training for members of the institutions and an open educational resources platform to share best practices.

- The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- *Relevance of competences (First draft – Conclusions to be further discussed in the Working Group)*

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote the idea of society open for both formally and informally obtained competences.

  - We encourage European higher education institutions to continue to develop recognition mechanisms, especially for new learners.

  - We encourage European higher education institutions to drive definition of competences on university level.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers could work to formulate generic competences at national policy level.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote the idea of society responsible for development of sustainable learning environment which is both friendly and clearly open for different types of learners and different categories of teachers' competency in the field of active citizenship oriented towards "Digitalisation".

- *Digital education (First draft – Conclusions to be further discussed in the Working Group)*

  - We encourage European higher education institutions to share materials in open education resource depositories, in a way that they are used in open science.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to invest in their campuses with a strategy of capacity building in a broader digital strategy including learning, continuous professional development, research, administration strategies, but also links to society.

    - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers promote digitalisation of the Bologna process. All tools and instruments of the Bologna process should be (re)considered in light of new technology. Digitalisation should be an aspect of all higher education processes and co-operation between higher education institutions.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to be digitally accessible. Digital technology should be used for pre-courses, utilised to create more flexible learning paths and in student-centred learning and for lifelong learning opportunities.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers amend national systems/legal frameworks to acknowledge digital education and the respective degrees. We encourage European quality assurance agencies to develop capacities and methods to assess digital education and suitable criteria.

  - The BFUG should recommend that EHEA Ministers encourage higher education institutions to offer joint online courses and establish learning agreements for digital programmes.