

Endorsed: 15.03.2013

**Terms of reference  
of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the  
Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide**

<b>Name of the (ad-hoc) working group</b> <b>Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide</b>
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<b>Composition</b> Armenia, Austria, Belgium/Flemish Community, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Moldova, Sweden, Ukraine, UK, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA  A number of external experts may assist the Working Group.
<b>Purpose and/or outcome</b> To prepare a revised version of the ECTS Users' Guide by mid-2014, by reflecting on policy development and implementation in the area of ECTS and learning outcomes since the previous revision of the ECTS Users' Guide in 2009, giving consideration to issues such as the following (and including in its scope further issues to be identified in consultation with the Working Group and external experts): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linking ECTS credits with student workload and learning outcomes</li><li>• Using ECTS in short-cycle provision, in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle programmes of different length and in 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle</li><li>• Linking desired learning outcomes and assessment procedures</li><li>• Reflecting the developments in the area of the recognition of prior learning</li><li>• Reflecting on the revisions in the EU Directive on Professional Qualifications (due to be adopted in 2013)</li><li>• Reflecting on the use of the Grading table in Annex 3 of the current ECTS Users' Guide</li><li>• Reflecting on recognition procedures for credit transfer (Annex 2 of the current ECTS Users' Guide)</li><li>• Linking ECTS to other recognition and transparency tools, for example the Lisbon Recognition Convention, the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance, ECVET (European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training) or Qualification Frameworks</li></ul>

### **References to the Bucharest Communiqué**

To consolidate the EHEA, meaningful implementation of learning outcomes is needed. The development, understanding and practical use of learning outcomes is crucial to the success of ECTS, the Diploma Supplement, recognition, qualifications frameworks and quality assurance – all of which are interdependent. We call on institutions to further link study credits with both learning outcomes and student workload, and to include the attainment of learning outcomes in assessment procedures. We will work to ensure that the ECTS Users' Guide fully reflects the state of on-going work on learning outcomes and recognition of prior learning."

### **Specific tasks**

- to identify in consultation with experts the key items to be reviewed
- to develop a revised version of the Guide
- to liaise with the Structural Working Group for their input
- to consult with external stakeholders
- to present a finalised draft to the Structural Working Group and the BFUG for adoption

### **Reporting**

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available by the Bologna Secretariat.

BFUG Structural Working Group will receive regular reports and updates.

Progress reports will be submitted before the meetings of the Structural Working Group mid-2013 and end 2013/early 2014. The final report will be presented together with the revised ECTS Users' Guide mid-2014.

### **Meeting schedule**

Location of the meetings: Brussels

First meeting: February 2013

Second meeting: April 2013

Third meeting: May 2013

Fourth meeting: October 2013

Fifth meeting: January/February? 2014

Sixth meeting: April 2014

### **Additional remarks**

These terms of reference may be reviewed in the light of progress of the work, in agreement with the Structural Reforms Working Group