

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) builds on the Bologna Process, a voluntary intergovernmental approach, through which its members and consultative members jointly develop policies, adopted by the competent public authorities of its Member States and implemented within each education system, in collaboration and consultation with the higher education community of institutions, students and staff.

In the BFUG meeting in Brno on November 2022, the BFUG decided to mandate a Task Force to develop a proposed set of rules and regulations for the governance of EHEA and its bodies, in particular the BFUG, the BFUG Board and the Secretariat, Working Groups and similar.

So far, different options have been discussed regarding the way of organization of the BFUG Secretariat that are summarized below, including questions raised for each of them during discussions in the meetings of the Task Force, BFUG Board and BFUG. For these options there is no consensus within the TF RoP, therefore the TF RoP has decided to address the BFUG for consensual decision-making on the main points of discussion, with the aim of moving forward with a more detailed development of the proposal, if there is a consensus in the BFUG for each of these points.

Topics	Actual Arrangement	Proposed Arrangements
Type of BFUG Secretariat	BFUG rotating Secretariat changes every work period and is hosted by the EHEA country hosting the next Ministerial Conference	Permanent Secretariat hosted by the country in which the Private Entity Law would be established, detached from the hosting country of the next Ministerial Conference
Fees	No Fees for BFUG members (actual costs for the BFUG Secretariat are covered by the host country plus the European Commission Grant)	7,500 – 30,000 Euro/year (21,500 – 90,000 Euro/three year period) proposed fee for each BFUG member plus the European Commission Grant
Form of Organization	Technical and neutral entity of the BFUG, established by the Ministry of Education of the hosting country, independent from the host authority, with accountability to the BFUG	Private Law Entity established by the laws of the host country (the type of entity has to be defined in detail)
Number of experts	15-17 experts	8 experts
Responsible Authority for selection procedures	Ministry responsible for Higher Education of the hosting country follows the legal procedures for the establishment and hiring of the experts of the Secretariat, based on national laws and according to the profiles needed, following grant management	BFUG approves the Head of the Secretariat (by consensus), proposed by the BFUG Board, while Head of the Secretariat selects the experts. Staffing foresees 1-2 secondments for experts by the host country of the next Ministerial Conference

Based on the information from the table above, the BFUG representatives are asked to forward to the BFUG the official position of their country on the above by answering the following questions:

- Are you unhappy with the current arrangement of a rotating Secretariat? Yes No
- If yes, what kind of problems bother you most?
 - a) deadlines for publication not met Yes No
 - b) delays in providing reports Yes No
 - c) quality of reporting Yes No
 - d) overlapping appointments/meetings Yes No
- Are these shortcomings due to problems that will be remedied by the transformation from a rotating to a permanent Secretariat?

- Do you agree on new arrangements on applying fees from BFUG Members to finance the Secretariat? Yes No
- If yes, do you agree to have different fees or a unique amount for each country?
 - System of different fees
 - Same fees
- Do you agree on form of organization of a permanent Secretariat (private law entity) Yes No

Comments:

- Do you agree on the new proposal for the form of organization of the Secretariat? Yes No

Comments:

Considering all the elements expressed, please indicate one of the following options:

- 1) we agree to establish a permanent Secretariat.
- 2) we agree to maintain the actual rotating system.
- 3) We agree to discuss the form of the Secretariat in the next period.