

Update Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

BFUG Board meeting
Vatican City

12 March 2024

Set up of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- Currently 3 Co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Italy, Albania (Co-chair from European Commission retired)
- **17 members** take part (Albania, Austria, Belgium/Flemish Community, Belgium/French Community, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, UK)
- **6 organisations** (EI-ETUCE, ENQA, ESU, EUA, European Commission, UNESCO)

Meetings of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

- First meeting on 7 June 2021
 - Second meeting on 13 January 2022
 - Third meeting on 1 June 2022
 - Fourth meeting on 24 October 2022
 - Fifth meeting on 16 January 2023
 - Sixth meeting on 6 March 2023
 - Seventh meeting on 26 May 2023, Rome
 - Eighth meeting on 27 September 2023, Rome
 - Ninth meeting on 30 November, The Hague
 - Tenth meeting on 17 January, Barcelona
 - **Eleventh meeting on 1 March**
- ⇒ In between work in the subgroups and follow-up of work plan

Composition and focus of the subgroups

- 2 functional subgroups:
 - Tirana Global Policy Forum: chair Linda Pustina (AL), in her role as Vice-Chair of the BFUG, members are the Netherlands, UK, France, EUA
 - Drafting the GPD Statement: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), with Belgium/FL, Belgium/FR, France, Holy See, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK, EC and ETUCE as members
- 3 regional subgroups:
 - Asia: chair Liesbeth Hens (BE/FL), members are Cyprus, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, The Netherlands, EC, EUA, ESU, and UNESCO
 - Africa: chairs Elizabeth Colucci (EUA), members are Austria, Belgium/FR, France, Germany, Holy See, Romania, the Netherlands, European Commission, ENQA, and UNESCO
 - Americas: chair Kathy Isaacs (IT), members are Austria, Holy See, Ireland, Malta, Spain, the Netherlands, EC and UNESCO

Outcomes of the subgroups

- Each of the regional subgroups has had numerous meetings
- All three continue their ongoing mapping exercises:
 - Contact list global partners
 - Mapping of regional events & activities
 - Mapping of topics/themes and regions (looking for synergies between ongoing processes)
- All three have developed various activities in or with the macro-regions they are responsible for, and they continue to plan future activities
- Policy brief for UNESCO World Higher Education Conference on 'Promoting Policy Dialogue among the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the other world higher education regions' was submitted, May 2022

<https://whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf>

Outcomes of the regional subgroups

Focus on Africa

- Reflections on the new AU-EU innovation agenda (a set of reflections as part of the public consultation on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda launched at the EU-Africa Business Forum in February 2022), June 2022
- Preparation of 3 EHEA conversations: online events/webinars with 3-4 experts from the EHEA and Africa, representing regional organisations. Duration: 1,5-2 hours.
- Theme: recognition
- Start by inviting regional representatives, later go to more practical implementation at institutional level.
- First “Conversation” webinar, on Academic Recognition held on 12 December 2022
- Second “Conversation” webinar on “*Recognition for Lifelong Learning*” and including digital learning, prior learning, micro-credentials held on 6 June 2023
- Article on the first ‘Conversation’ sent to BFUG members and to partners in Africa, and published on ehea.info
- **Article on second ‘Conversation’, published on ehea.info**
- **Third ‘Conversation’: Joint meeting of the CG and HAQAA event, hybrid, Barcelona 17-19 January 2024, publication in progress.**

Outcomes of the regional subgroups



Focus on Americas

- DAAD Bologna Hub event, “Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials: Initiatives and Perspectives on Small Learning Units from around the World”, 23 June; co-chair K. Isaacs lead of Americas section
- First Colloquium between CG/EHEA and Latin American countries, 5/12/2022, in Montevideo, hosted by Uruguay, with representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, topic “Enhancing Global Policy Dialogue on Higher Education”
- CG/EHEA Session at the CHEA (US accreditation body) Annual Conference in Washington DC on 25 January, topic “Let's Talk: fostering global dialogue about diversity in a common framework”
- Participation in EU-LAC Summit, Santiago de Compostela, 4-5 May 2023
- Planning meeting with UNESCO IESALC and regional UNESCO representatives on occasion of the first Assembly of the UNESCO Global Recognition convention
- Session at CHEA/CIQG conference in Washington DC, Co-Chairs TF EKS and CG GPD «The role of quality assurance in building the European Higher Education Area», 30 January 2024
- **Recognition in the European Higher Education Area, the Bologna Process and cooperation within the ENIC-NARIC Networks presented at the First Regional Network of National Recognition Structures in Havana, Cuba, on 8-9 February 2024.**



Outcomes of the regional subgroups

Focus on Asia

- Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education «Central Asian Higher Educational Area: regional cooperation, national reforms», 18 June 2022; 2 co-chairs participated (K. Isaacs & L. Pustina),
 - Expanding the Bologna Process in the Central Asian Countries: Forms, Methods
 - Trends in the Development of Higher Education in the Bologna Process
- EU-SHARE conference on micro-credentials, 20-21 July 2022, Bangkok; 1 co-chair and 2 group members joined (M. Soenen, EUA and Germany)
 - Micro-Credentials – the European Perspective
- ASEM process: ISOM meeting 24-25 November 2022, Malta -> looking for synergies, to be further discussed among group members
- ASEM expert group on Recognition and balanced mobility, 13 February 2023 online
- Invited speakers to CG meeting from CAHEA (Central Asian Higher Education Area and from ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
- Joint meeting of the CG with ASEF in Rome, September 27-29 2023.



Plans and on-going work of the CG

Functional Subgroups:

- **GPForum subgroup** has met; a **draft program** was discussed at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting, in the 9th and 10th CG GPD meetings. **The results and some questions** were presented to the BFUG Board hosted by the Holy See on 23 January 2024, and **were presented to the Brussels BFUG by the chair of the subgroup and Vice-chair of the BFUG, Linda Pustina.** The proposed topics were discussed by the CG GPD during its meeting on 1 March 2024 and further suggestions formulated.
- **GPStatement subgroup** has met frequently and presented its Draft 3 Statement for discussion at the 8th CG meeting and in the Joint CG-ASEF meeting. A 3x draft, updated on the basis of that discussion, was presented to the Madrid BFUG. A Draft 4, still 'in progress, was presented to the Board on 23 January. It had been discussed in the 9th and 10 CG GPD meetings and in the Joint CG GPD HAQAA meeting on 18-19 January 2024. **On the basis of the comments received the Draft 5 was presented to the Brussels BFUG; on the basis of the comments by the BFUG and those received from the CG GPD itself, Draft 6 is presented to the Board on 12 March.**

The regional subgroups have prepared and presented **lists of proposed invitees** for the Forum, which have been **reviewed by the Albanian authorities, and sent to the BFUG.**

Plans and on-going work of the CG

During the spring months of 2024, contacts continue the countries and organizations with which work has gone on until now. A possible regional meeting (on line) with **Arab states/Middle East and North Africa has been proposed** in conjunction with UNESCO (to be followed by a regional conference after the Tirana ministerial)

The CG has proposed organizing dialogue/meetings on matters of common interest between **global interlocutors** and the **EHEA WGs**. The first meeting, between the Co-chairs of the Social Dimension WG and the USA «Institute for Evidence-based change» (IEBC) was held online on 7 July; the **TPG B and TPG C Co-chairs** participated in the Joint HAQAA and CGGPD meeting in Barcelona, 17-19 January 2024.

Other WGs are invited to use this opportunity!!

Plans and on-going work of the CG

Consultation and findings:

A large-scale consultation on perceptions of the EHEA and ideas about collaboration with it, involving stakeholder organizations, authorities and private persons – students and teachers – in the countries outside of the EHEA has been held, thanks to the support of IN-GLOBAL (along with the similar consultation carried out within the EHEA for the Task Force EKS).

Elaboration of the results seems to show that, with some exceptions, there is worldwide a low degree of knowledge about and interest in the EHEA. This finding would tend to confirm the **current strategy of the CG GPD and the Forum**: to promote dialogue among macro-regions, rather than offer the EHEA as a blueprint for others.

Final Report

Pre-final draft presented

The CG GPD prepared a pre-final draft of its Final Report which was submitted to the first Brussels BFUG.

Further details, such as information about the meeting held in March have now been added to the version submitted to the second Vatican Board.

Further meetings are planned in the imminence of the Forum; details and documents (the Global Policy Statement and the programme for the Global Policy Forum) will be updated for the final version.

Recommendations (as per the prefinal Report)

The CG GPD recommends that in the future 2024-2027 work period it be asked to:

- continue and strengthen its efforts to consolidate dialogue with appropriate countries and macro-regional organizations.
- continue and strengthen its efforts to create contacts and links between the BFUG working structures and appropriate international dialogue partners.
- organize a future Global Policy Forum in 2027.
- prepare the Global Policy Statement.

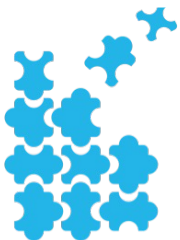
The CG GPD also hopes that the future call by the European Commission for funding to support the BFUG working structures can be formulated in such a way as to permit inviting guests from and travelling to/contributing to events outside the EHEA

Further recommendations are being discussed.

Thank you for your attention and
your input

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The CG GPD Co-chairs



EUROPEAN
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