

Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)

Ninth meeting, Hosted by Austria, Online
26 March 2024
10:00 – 11:30 (CET)

Minutes of Meeting

List of Participants

Delegation	First Name	Family Name(s)
Austria (BICG Co-Chair)	Helga	Posset
Belgium Flemish Community (TPG C Co-Chair)	Liesbeth	Hens
Bulgaria (BICG Co-Chair)	Ivana	Radonova
Co-chair of TPG A (Austria)	Karin	Riegler
EURASHE	Jakub	Grodecki
European Commission	Svein	Hullstein
European Commission/ Eurydice	David	Crosier
Italy (BICG Co-Chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Romania	Madalina	Matei
BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Edlira Adi	Kahani Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Blerina	Caslli

Albania, EUA and Co-chair of TPG B did not participate in the meeting.

1. Welcome from Co-Chairs and approval of the agenda

Ann Katherine Isaacs (BICG Co-Chair) welcomed all participants to the ninth BICG meeting on behalf of the Co-Chairs. The agenda was reviewed and approved without modifications, and the minutes from the eighth meeting were also approved.

For more information, please see: [Agenda of the meeting](#)

2. Update from the Secretariat

Edlira Adi Kahani Subashi (Head of BFUG Secretariat) presented the work of the Secretariat during the final semester of the working period. The work primarily involved supporting various BFUG working structures, especially in finalizing their reports for the upcoming BFUG meeting in April. Additionally, the Secretariat assisted the Albanian Ministry in sending out invitations for the EHEA Ministerial Conference and the Global Policy Forum (GPF), along with related documents such as draft agendas and practical information. A comprehensive final report is also being prepared, summarizing the Secretariat's work, detailing support provided to all working structures, and including statistics on meetings held during this period.

3. Update from the BICG Co-chairs (developments since the meeting in January)

Helga Posset (BICG Co-Chair, Austria) provided an update on progress since the last BICG meeting, in January, and the subsequent Board Meeting in Rome. She informed the participants that the BICG report



has been completed and submitted for comments and updates. During the BFUG meeting in Brussels, the group's recommendations were presented, and suggestions were made to revise the text of the Communiqué.

She acknowledged the challenges faced by the BICG, as well as its accomplishments. The discussion also covered future work plans, terms of reference, and potential changes in the TPGs, taking into account the Erasmus+ call regarding the implementation of the EHEA. Initially anticipated for the summer, the EHEA call according to some members might be postponed to September.

The BFUG's letter on the three main priorities was appreciated, and the necessity of consulting with the WG members was acknowledged. However, it was noted that the short timeframe makes it difficult to discuss the outcomes with the members. It was recommended that in the future the focus of the BICG should be placed squarely on the key commitments, which sometimes have slipped out of focus. These commitments are crucial for the functioning of the EHEA, and the effectiveness of the Bologna Process depends on their complete and compatible implementation. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize the key commitments and address other associated tasks and topics accordingly.

It was proposed to discuss micro-credentials from the perspectives of the three TPGs. Concerns were expressed about the number of subgroups, suggesting the possibility of reducing their number or focusing on one priority.

Helga Posset stated that the BICG Co-Chairs will draft a proposal for the group, highlighting the key commitments and breaking them down into practical topics, before sending the recommendation to the Secretariat and the BFUG Co-Chairs.

4. Tirana Communiqué

Helga Posset (BICG Co-Chair, Austria) requested suggestions on the Tirana Communiqué from the participants, who recommended waiting for the final version of the Communiqué before providing proposals and feedback.

5. Program of the Ministerial Conference and GPF (possible update of the input from the BICG and the TPGs)

Helga Posset (BICG Co-Chair, Austria) presented a summary of the proposals for the Program of the Ministerial Conference and GPF. Suggestions were put forward for one of the four parallel sessions foreseen for the first day of the Ministerial. It was agreed that this should communicate the importance of clear commitment to the KCs and to achieving normative change where needed. It was felt that the practical effects of KC achievement or the lack of it should be made clear. Further, the importance of presenting examples of good practice was emphasized, and participants were highly encouraged to propose case studies that show the challenges encountered and ways to address them, in such a way as to make the importance of the general themes clear and concrete.

The discussion also touched on the importance of leaving enough time during the session for questions and discussions, and of stimulating them by a mix of examples of best practice and more general considerations. Overall, the discussion highlighted the potential for an engaging and informative session and emphasized the need for a competent moderator.

The usefulness of scheduling the presentation of the Bologna Process Implementation Report findings before the parallel sessions was underscored, as it can serve as a foundation for the presentation of the BICG's work. Additionally, there was emphasis on establishing a call to action for ministers and general directors to commit to full implementation, with sessions tailored for both political and expert levels. The focus was on achieving long-term objectives and demonstrating commitment for the future, particularly



for the upcoming working period. There was also discussion about the probable need for an additional one-and-a-half-hour meeting of the BICG itself to discuss the program of the Tirana Ministerial Conference.

6. BICG, TPGs: the way forward – BFUG WP 2024 to 2027

Participants emphasized the significance of taking a systemic approach not only towards ministries but also toward HEIs themselves, where normative change, practical experimentation and implementation connect. Addressing common challenges, such as the difficulties facing European University alliances, as a stimulus to implement key commitments, was also highlighted. Concerns were raised regarding the necessity of reconsidering the involvement of industry, questioning whether the concept of degree cycle is actually considered relevant, and whether a better understanding of the three cycles needs to be pursued. It was suggested that it would be important to present the necessity of implementing all three KCs together, rather than focusing solely on the challenges of individual TPGs for member countries.

7. AoB

Helga Posset (Co-Chair of the BICG) reiterated the intention to formulate a proposal and share it with BICG members to gather their suggestions regarding future priorities before forwarding the results to the BFUG troika. A proposal for a one-hour session at the Ministerial Conference will also be presented, and a doodle date will be circulated for scheduling a possible meeting about this. Recommendations for the Tirana Communiqué will be provided as soon as the final version becomes available. Additionally, updates of the BICG report from TPG Co-Chairs were requested.

The meeting concluded with gratitude extended to all members for their active participation and valuable contributions.

