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Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Report to the BFUG Helsinki 12-13th November 2019

General lines of action and reflection:

The remit of the Coordination Group (CG) is to promote more **constant dialogue** with other parts of the world (countries, macro-regions, organizations) on matters of common interest and concern relating to higher education. The Coordination Group is also responsible for organizing the first Bologna “**Global Policy Forum**”, which will take place in June 2020 in conjunction with the EHEA Ministerial Conference. To accomplish this, the CG has attempted to reestablish contact with the countries invited to the Paris Bologna Policy Forum, whether or not they attended, and with all other countries, as potentially interested and willing to share ideas about their interests and priorities. The CG has found so far that the most useful links can be achieved with regional and world organizations and focusing on countries that have a relevant role in the macro-regions.

The CG has two subgroups: one to identify countries and organizations with which to collaborate; the other to draft the Global Policy Statement to be agreed upon in Rome, in collaboration with the BFUG Drafting Committee that prepares the draft for the future Ministerial Communiqué. Fortunately, it will be possible to invite almost all countries and all relevant organizations to the Rome GPF

During the week of the ‘Festival of Diplomacy’ (22nd October 2019), the CG, in collaboration with the EU Representation in Rome, and the Italian Ministry of Education Universities and Research, has organised a meeting for the technical (culture and education) attachés of the all the embassies present in Rome, and a ‘soirée’ for the Ambassadors, to present and discuss the Global Policy Forum, and identify the topics the forum can most usefully address. A flyer on the Bologna Process and the Global Policy Dialogue was distributed on both events. In addition to the CG members, about 30 persons from 25 other countries attended the meeting with the technical attachés. A general evaluation indicated that the intention and plan, as well as the presentations and the panel were useful: in fact the discussion yielded a number of good ideas about the points to focus on in the GPF. It was however to be difficult to attract the number of people we expected during the diplomacy week, because there turned out to be many other different activities organised during the same days and during the same time slot. We should however keep the contact with the embassies and a good communication is needed between now and June. The powerpoint should be sent to all embassies, together with the flyer. About 100 persons were present at the soirée. There have been numerous individual contacts between the co-chairs and representatives of many significant non-EHEA countries.

Together with the invitation letter for non-EHEA ministers to the conference in June, the flyer could also be added (ANNEX I to this report).

Proposed structure of EHEA/GPD:

- Tuesday evening: reception for all participants (social event)
- Wednesday morning: early BFUG
- Wednesday morning: EHEA (without right to speak for non-EHEA), communiqué
- Wednesday afternoon: Global policy forum (with right to speak right for everyone) – plenary, parallel, plenary sessions
- Thursday morning: EHEA (without right to speak for non-EHEA) – Plenary for everyone – Global Policy Statement, EHEA ministerial communiqué, group photo (EHEA + non-EHEA)
- Time for bilateral meetings for ministers

Proposed topics for the Global Policy Dialogue:

As umbrella topic we propose to focus on the SDG's. Furthermore, we propose 6 parallel sessions, with good practices from non-EHEA countries. The topics are based on the input for the CG members and the attendees of the Rome event.

- Innovation, new skills and their link to employability
- New (digital) ways of learning and teaching in a lifelong learning context
- Mobility of persons, minds and knowledge
- Untapped talent: opening up higher education and career opportunities to refugees
- Inclusion as a driver for excellence
- Building trust in a global context

Possible items to be included in the Ministerial Communiqué:

On the basis of the work of the CG so far, we may foresee that the items useful for the Ministerial Communiqué will most likely reflect and take up central themes of the GPF Statement:

These might be:

- Confirmation of the vital role of HE in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the necessity of global collaboration to do so effectively;
- Confirmation of the necessity of reinforcing constant dialogue at global level, and of the EHEA's responsibility to endow itself with the necessary means of coordination to foster and participate in this dialogue;
- Confirmation of the emphasis placed in the Paris BPF Statement on the 'Social Dimension', but understood in a broad sense, as the Universities taking up their societal role with new vigor. Pay attention to creating links with schools and communities, including those of non-typical learners, in order to prepare them and include them in learning experiences at higher education level;
- Confirmation that focus on inclusion should not only be placed at the time of access to HE, but also in the phase of retention, success and employability;

- Confirmation that mobility is one of the most important keys to global understanding and to excellence in higher education;
- Shared awareness of the importance of putting into contact and reciprocally referencing the several Qualifications Frameworks and Qualifications Reference frameworks now functioning or being prepared
- Shared awareness of the importance of SCL and its implications regarding the usefulness of credit systems or reference systems based on Learning Outcomes and student time.

In addition to working to achieve existing commitments and aims more fully, the CG underlines the need to ensure trust in the increasingly globalized context of higher education. The CG also emphasizes the importance of digitalization to enable innovation in teaching and learning as well as greater transparency, better communication and more flexibility, as will be required in the future

In addition, the CG hopes that the EHEA Ministers will agree to include the possibility of recognizing the interest in the Bologna Process and the EHEA of non-European countries, regions and institutions outside, if possible, creating a 'status' for them, such as 'Bologna dialogue partner' or similar.

Concrete to do's:

- Create new list of contact persons for the individual countries.
- Save-the-date for non-EHEA countries should be sent out as soon as possible. Suggestion for the standard composition of the delegations of non-EHEA countries: minister, universities, students
- Complete list of international and regional organisations to invite to the EHEA MC and GPD.

④ Website of the European Higher Education Area
www.ehea.info

④ Website of the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference
and Bologna Global Policy Forum
www.eheaz020rome.it

④ E-mail of the BFUG Secretariat 2018 - 2020
secretariat@ehea.info

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA)



The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

The EHEA Ministerial Conference
Rome, 24 - 25 June 2020

The Bologna Global Policy Forum
Rome, 25 June 2020

Towards a Global Dialogue



The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area

The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is a unique international collaboration on Higher Education and the result of the political will of 48 countries with different cultural and academic traditions. Twenty years ago, Ministers in charge of Higher Education met together and, signing the Bologna Declaration, started the Bologna Process setting an ambitious goal: the creation of the EHEA. Since then EHEA has grown from 29 to 48 countries (involving also European organisations as consultative members and partners) and put into practice a common set of commitments: structural reforms and shared tools.

These 48 countries agree to and adopt reforms on Higher Education on the basis of common key values: freedom of expression, autonomy for institutions, independent student unions, academic freedom, and free movement of students and staff. Through this process, countries, institutions and stakeholders of the EHEA continuously adapt their Higher Education systems, making them more compatible and strengthening their Quality Assurance mechanisms. For all these countries, the main goal is to increase staff and students' mobility and to facilitate employability.

The EHEA Ministerial Conferences

Ministerial Conferences are organised every two or three years in order to assess the progress made within the EHEA and to decide on the new steps to be taken. Ministers discuss and decide about the central aspects of the EHEA, including its further developments and commitments by its member countries. Ministerial Conferences also decide on new applications for membership to the EHEA, as well as any other main changes to the process. A final Communiqué is adopted at each Ministerial Conference, outlining the decisions taken by the Ministers.

The next EHEA Ministerial Conference will be held in Rome on 24 - 25 June 2020. It will be open to the EHEA delegations and will include a Global Policy Forum that is an opportunity to pursue a dialogue between EHEA and other regions in the world.

The Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and the BFUG Secretariat

The BFUG is the executive structure supporting the Bologna Process in-between the Ministerial Conferences. The BFUG is entrusted with the implementation of the commitments agreed by the EHEA Ministers during the Ministerial Conference. In order to fulfill its tasks, the BFUG develops and implements work plans that also includes the preparation and organisation of the next Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum.

The overall follow-up work is supported by the BFUG Secretariat, provided by the country hosting the next Ministerial Conference. Italy is holding the BFUG Secretariat for the time period 2018 - 2020.

From the Bologna Policy Forum to the Global Policy Dialogue

Since 2009, the Bologna Policy Forum (BPF) is aimed to a more systematic and sustainable cooperation between EHEA and other regions in the world. Cooperation needs to take account of the diversity across regions, including the different domestic social and political contexts of Higher Education and its wider geopolitical dimension. BPF agree realistic goals that can be achieved in a spirit of exchange and mutual learning and define common issues including quality, academic freedom, student participation, social inclusion, and status, autonomy and wider role of Higher Education Institutions.

The BPF has initiated a Global Policy Dialogue to improve regular cooperation with other regions and international organisations on matters of common concern and relevance for Higher Education.

This dialogue should focus on promoting mutual learning and joint initiatives on issues of common interest, such as social inclusion and the wider role of Higher Education.

The Bologna Global Policy Forum and Statement

The next EHEA Ministerial Conference will take place in Rome on 24 - 25 June 2020; on that occasion all countries will be invited to take part in the first Bologna Global Policy Forum on 25 June 2020.

The Conference and the Forum will be followed by events, seminars and symposia of great interest for Higher Education in the world, giving rise to a Global Higher Education Summit.

The Bologna Global Policy Forum will present a final Statement, to be agreed upon and signed by the participating countries, regions, and organisations.

