



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
OF UKRAINE

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Draft Concept for the Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference

The following e-mail was sent to the BFUG on 5 June 2020:

Dear BFUG Members, Consultative Members and partners,

The Italian Delegation and the BFUG Secretariat wish to share with you some elements to prepare the discussion of point 10 of the Agenda for the [upcoming BFUG meeting](#) "Rome 2020 Ministerial Conference and Bologna Global Policy Forum":

Unfortunately, as we are all aware, we may continue to have problems related to COVID-19 in November. The indications we receive at both national and global level point to uncertainty. Under these circumstances we wish to clarify the following:

- Italy does not want to postpone the Ministerial Conference and the Global Policy Forum a second time: it is our intention to hold the two events during the dates now established, 19 and 20 November 2020. We believe that a further postponement would be of detriment to the work of the BFUG and the progress of the EHEA in general. The Coordination, Advisory and Working Groups have made substantial progress, including important achievements and recommendations for the future. It is important for the EHEA to be able to finalize the programme for the coming years and for the work to continue. The new objectives and new priorities show the way forward, and need the approval of the EHEA Ministers.*
- That said, we would like to postpone the connected Global Summit on Higher Education to a date to be decided in 2021. Thus we hope to have the possibility to host all the participants and also to have the time and opportunity to reflect in greater depth on the contents and format of the event with the BFUG.*
- Furthermore, we wish to inform you that we are investigating the possibility of organizing the Ministerial Conference and the Global Policy Forum in a blended modality: this would entail a small number of participants coming to Rome in person (for a maximum total of about 200/250), respecting all the security standards, and the possibility for the others to follow the entire meeting online using the most advanced solutions (virtual reality, augmented reality, holograms, etc.). This would allow us to create one of the first examples of a forward looking and alternative way of holding such an official meeting. If it proves to not be possible to organize the meeting "in presence" for the limited number of participants, we will hold both, the Conference and the Forum, in a virtual format for everyone. In this case also we will use the most advanced technological solutions.*

It is of course a great disappointment for us not to be able to carry out our initial plans and host everyone in Rome.

*We thank you for your understanding and send our best regards,
The Italian Delegation and BFUG Secretariat*